SCOTT, PETER J.  
(ca. 1930)  
NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIAN  
COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION  
Academic degree in Linguistics

AREAS OF ARCHIVAL SPECIALIZATION  
Government records.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN ARCHIVAL FIELD  
In the early 1960s Scott and colleagues at the Commonwealth Archives Office of Australia proposed and further developed the function-based series system, which separates descriptive information about records creators from description of the records themselves. The most influential publication in this regard was probably Scott's article published in the American Archivist in 1966. All public records institutions in Australia and New Zealand have adopted the series system, and the system has been influential in the development of international archival descriptive standards.

CAREER HISTORY  
- Commonwealth Archives Office, later National Archives of Australia, ca. 1960-1990

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY  
Peter Scott is an influential Australian archivist, notable for his work in developing the ‘Series’ system for archival processing. His academic background is in linguistics, and he was first introduced to archives in 1954 when his grandmother gave him a box of old family letters.

PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTING BOOKS AND THEN ARTICLES  
- “The Record Group Concept: A Case Study for Abandonment” in The American Archivist vol. 29, no. 42, October, 1966  
- P.J. Scott, G. Finlay, C. Smith, 'Archives and administrative change: some methods and approaches (part 4) Archives and Manuscripts (Vol.8, No.2) December 1980  
(compilation of Scott’s work) Adrian Cunningham (editor), The Arrangement and Description of Archives amid Administrative and Technological Change: Essays by and about Peter J. Scott. Canberra: Australian Society of Archivists, 2010

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SECONDARY SOURCES FOR BIOGRAPHY
- Adrian Cunningham, Laura Miller, and Barbara Reed, “Peter J. Scott and the Australian ‘Series’ System: Its Origins, Features, Rationale, Impact and Continuing Relevance” from the International Congress on Archives, Brisbane, Australia, August 23 2012

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