

The Pine Tree Foundation Lecture Series in Archives and Special
Collections

Presents:

“A Very Short Introduction to Archives”

Dr. Richard J. Cox, University of Pittsburgh



*A Collaborative Series Presented by the Queens College Libraries Department of
Special Collections and Archives, the Queens College Graduate School of
Library and Information Studies, and the Pine Tree Foundation*

Date/Time: Wednesday May 18, 2016 at 7pm

Location: Rosenthal Library, Charles J. Tanenbaum Memorial
Classroom (300i)

Richard J. Cox is Professor, Archival Studies, in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences. He has written extensively on archival, records management and historical topics. Dr. Cox was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 1989 and has won the Waldo G. Leland Award for the best book on an archival topic in a given year three times. Recently he was named Chair of a new Department, the Department of Information Culture and Data Stewardship, duties he will undertake in mid-Summer.

“A Very Short Introduction to Archives”

For years, Oxford University Press has been publishing a series, Very Short Introductions, offering concise descriptions of a variety of fields and topics intended to be “trenchant and provocative” and “balanced and complete.” Many of these brief volumes have reading guides to facilitate discussion. The series lacks a volume on Archives, the Archive, or Archiving, even though it has a number of titles closely related to this topic (including ones on museums and various documentary forms such as photography and film). What would such a volume include? What value would it have for the archival community? How could such a volume be used? This lecture considers these questions in the context of decades of archival advocacy efforts, major transformations from an analog to digital documentary world, a diversifying archival scholarship, intense debates about the archival mission, and a strengthened graduate education. The lecture also will reflect on why there is no volume on archives in this series.

The Pine Tree Lecture Series takes up the archive as a central site of interdisciplinary intersections across academic communities and society. In response to the ever-expanding range of stakeholders in the fate and future of archives, this inaugural lecture is intended to be the first in a series of events that bring disparate individuals and departments together to discuss and reflect upon the impacts of archives on culture, society, and history.