E-Depot & Usuability: Scrolling Back Through Time

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Abstract

In this paper current archival institutions are criticized for both their (lack of) response and their way of (not) adapting to an increasingly digital world. Many of the efforts that have been undertaken by current archival institutions are proven to be efforts to enforce 'the paper way of doing things' onto a digitizing world, causing a constant friction between the two. The author of this paper tries to take a leap of faith by establishing a revolutionary vision on the future of archival institutions and the act of archiving in general. Old 'paper views', such as expecting records to be of a singular nature, have a limited (active) life-span, a pre-defined form and a rigid archival bond and context are challenged by introducing new concepts such as 'the never-ending and ever-multiplying record'. By re-inventing, renewing and transforming old concepts into new ones, such as 'fluent metadata', the author finds new ways to protect the authenticity and reliability of these modern records over time, as well as enabling them to be part of a new and spectacular end-user experience, which seems to be left out of the current programs focusing on the development and implementation of E-depots in the Netherlands.

You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one...

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Introduction

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Explaining the Classic Archival Landscape and Institutions

2.1 Classic landscape

2.1.1 Life-cycle landscape

The current Dutch archival landscape is based upon the lifecycle model.

2.2 Classic Front-Office

2.2.1 A limited, well-known public

The main focus of the front office is on serving the main customer: the public. This public used to exist mainly out of two groups: historically oriented researchers and genealogists.

2.3 Classic Back-Office

2.3.1 Checking up on friends

2. EXPLAINING THE CLASSIC ARCHIVAL LANDSCAPE AND INSTITUTIONS

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The current vision(s) of the future, and why they are lacking

3.0.2 Werkgroep Voorbereiding Implementatie E-Depot

3.0.2.1 Handboek rollen - taken - verantwoordelijkheden en competenties

3.0.2.2 Opleidingsplan

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3.0.5.1 ED3

3.0.6 Current Record Professionals

3.0.6.1 McLeod: ”records professionals may be part of the problem”

-McLeod: their demands may be unrealistic or too constraining

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Challenging the future: Reuniting the Front- & Back Office and re-establishing contact with the general public via the E-Depot (evolution vs revolution)

4.1 E-Depot: requirements for digital Front-Office tasks

4.1.1 A new focus on usability: building a digital community with the unknown public

4.1.1.1 McLeod: It will be automatic, ubiquitous and intrinsic without being a burden

4.1.1.2 McLeod: Embed information management in human behavior using easy solutions and simple processes

4.1.2 A new task: becoming a data mediator

4.2 E-Depot: requirements for digital Back-Office tasks

4.2.1 E-Depot developmental phase

4.2.1.1 Multidisciplinarity

-McLeod: problem with record managers: * isolation of records professionals ? going it alone and not involving others early enough in process * Assuming IT have same knowl-

edge/understanding of what is meant by ERM as yourself * leave it solely to [records managers] as they will develop an idealised version for the idealised user. McLeod: there is no ?one-size-fits-all? approach to successful ERM

4.2.1.2 McLeod: RM principles need to be used at the systems design / conception phase

4.2.2 Towards a new level of cooperation: learning from and challenging friends

4.2.2.1 Samen werken of samenwerken? Jantine Ploeg

4.2.3 Introducing: fluent records

4.2.3.1 McLeod: records management principles are fundamentally sound and appear to be applicable for ERM, although some may be questioned e.g. what is a record?

-McLeod: As the nature of records changes in line with rapid changes in the nature of information and communication technologies used to create them, so must our strategies for managing them.

4.2.3.2 Introducing: fluent metadata

4.2.4 Protecting authenticity of fluent records

4.2.4.1 Self-archiving: the wiki-way

4.2.5 Protecting reliability of fluent records

4.2.5.1 Scrolling back through time: record time machines

4. CHALLENGING THE FUTURE: REUNITING THE FRONT- & BACK OFFICE AND RE-ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC VIA THE E-DEPOT (EVOLUTION VS REVOLUTION)

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Conclusions

5. CONCLUSIONS

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Discussion

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