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The MPLP Approach to Processing

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THE MPLP APPROACH TO PROCESSING

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“It is time ... to
redefine what passes
for “standard”
processing, and to
make backlogs more
embarrassing to the
profession than failure
to remove paper
clips.”



American Archivist, Fall/Winter 2005

MPLP Overview

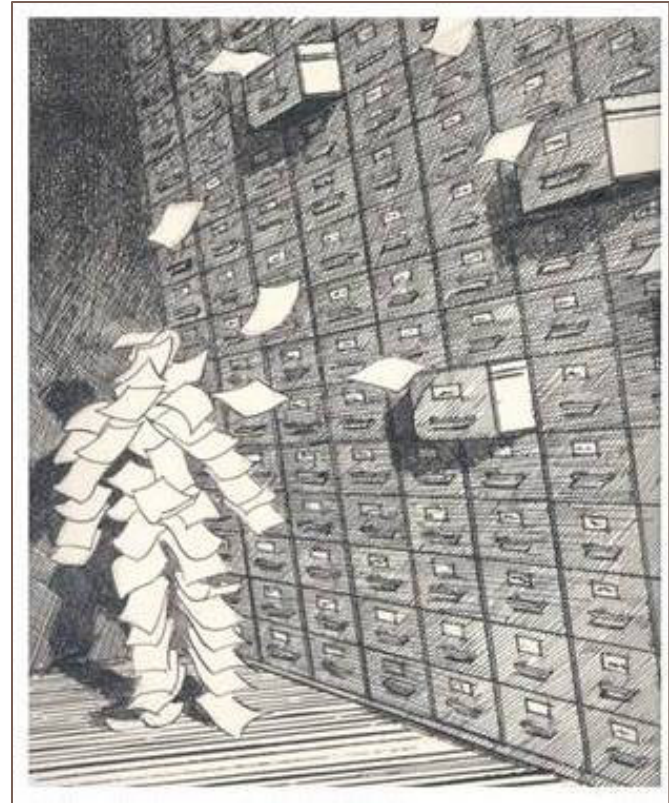
□ Background

- ▣ Who are Greene and Meissner?
- ▣ What is “MPLP”?

MPLP vs. Traditional Practices

□ Implications

- ▣ What happens when we use MPLP?
- ▣ What happens when we don't?



Andrzej Dudzki, "Archives Shaping Man." Hoover Institution Library and Archives, Stanford University.

Recommendations

- Five areas in which MPLP can be applied
 - ▣ Appraisal
 - ▣ Arrangement
 - ▣ Description
 - ▣ Preservation / Conservation
 - ▣ Benchmarks (Metrics)

MPLP: Making it Work

□ Goals

- ▣ Minimum standards processing
- ▣ Maximum collections availability for constituent use

How to MPLP

□ Applying More Product, Less Process

- Intellectual control
- Physical control
- Understanding and describing the “whole” collection
- Access provisions



David Bailin, "Apparition." Arkansas Art Council.

When MPLP Just Won't Do...



- Uneven applications of MPLP
- Types of collections for which MPLP may not work

What's Your Take?

- Which institutions are using MPLP?
 - ▣ Pros and cons
 - ▣ Individual outcomes
- Which institutions continue to follow traditional practices?
 - ▣ Perspectives on MPLP
- Which institutions are somewhere in between?

More Info, Please...



Greene, Mark A. and Dennis E. Meissner.
“More Product, Less Process: Revamping
Traditional Archival Processing.” *American
Archivist* 68.2 (Fall/Winter 2005): 208 -263.

Closing Remarks

- Many archivists have been using MPLP all along, in a variety of ways.
- Inflexibility and processing don't mesh! Processing decisions should be dependent on the collection at hand as well as what is deemed appropriate at that time ... not because something is “the professional thing to do.”



ASIFA: Hollywood Animation Archive

Something to Remember Greene and Meissner by...

“An archivist can get to know the forest pretty well without examining each tree, and perhaps more effectively – as a forest! – not as a confusing bunch of trees.”

Thank you for your participation...

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Image from *Scientific American*. Dennis Baron, "Technologies of the World: Reading and Writing in the Digital Age." Presented at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. September 30, 2004.

<https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/debaron/www/essays/wordtech.htm>