Managing archival and manuscript repositories

Society of American Archivists - Archival and Manuscript Description Committee (AMDECO)

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Manuscripts -- Management
Archives -- AdministrationManaging archival and manuscript repositories

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Guide to Anthropological Fieldnotes and Manuscripts in Archival Repositories

The third principle, life-cycle management, is paid considerable lip service in the profession, but the absence of integrated systems serves as testimony to its impotence. Archivists respect and seek to maintain the established relationships between individual items in groups of records and in personal papers. We confront a similar problem with geo-terminology, in which we can state that in principle one can map all of space along four dimensions, only to find that many geo-vocabularies defy explicit mapping, or are of a scale which so dwarfs other geo-concepts as to make their integration unwieldy.

Collections

The practical reasons are self-evident; the construction of a meta database it extremely costly and time consuming. Even academic users find out about our holdings by word of mouth and other informal means, rather than through published guides and national bibliographies, even after two decades of reporting to the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections.

Managing Archival & Manuscript Repositories by Michael J. Kurtz

How these archives will be stored and how we will retrieve from them is, as yet, unclear, but it is evident that wherever in organizations we hold them and whatever the technology of their storage, the immense size of the potential virtual database, its diverse authorial sources, and the range of its potential uses will present tremendous challenges to those who seek to provide access to it.

Finding Collections in U.S. Repositories

The second approach is to use semantic dues to dentify terms belonging to a common dimension, and then to exploit the knowledge of the user, and the learning ability of systems to effect the translation within a dimension between unlike views, and therefore unlike vocabularies.

Data Repositories

The category of agents employed in this query is a social construct, occupation, which is by no means the only social categorization available. For security reasons, researchers should not have access to collections storage areas, but should use the collections in separate reading areas, under

supervision. Still, it's a bit boring.

Archival Collections Portal

You can search for categories of persons by using Subject terms: Physicists, Women authors.

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WorldCat, ArchiveGrid, and Social Networks and Archival Context Project SNAC use Library of Congress Subject Headings LCSH. REFERENCE MATERIALS Nonaccessioned items maintained by an archival institution solely for reference use.

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