



# Cultural Data by Lev Manovich

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# The Islands & The Oceans

It can be argued that the digitization of cultural artifacts allows for a more equal playing ground between the “**typical**” and the “**exceptional**”. Do you believe that digitization eliminates the divide between the two and affords opportunities for smaller more “typical” pieces of art to be viewed and gain recognition by a larger audience?

# The Islands & The Oceans

Alternatively, do you believe that the digitization of this content actually creates a larger divide between the “**typical**” and the “**exceptional**”? Are we still creating islands of only a “few great men” and leaving the rest of the world out in the “ocean”? How do our previously ingrained biases and prejudices play a part in this?

# The Islands & The Oceans

What if bias is actually a deeper and more consistent way of classification itself? What if bias is always going to be a problem? What if bias is actually more of a feature than a bug of how AI and Big Data work?

# Libraries vs Museums

Cultural database navigation: How can we create a system that allows for cultural artifacts and art to be stored without being **fragmented**? Ex.: If you are looking for a specific piece of art - you have to navigate to that specific museum's index to find said artifact.

# Libraries vs Museums

The human visual culture exists with thousands of variations and combinations. How can we properly index an artifact that uses multiple mediums while keeping true to our **collective complexities**?

# Cultural Sampling

With the abundance of data that can be collected by sampling using social media and the web, do you believe focus groups and real -world sample groups are **obsolete**? or do they still have a place in data collection and sampling?

# Cultural Sampling

If we have specific goals with which we started off the research, to what extent do you think that the “**shapes**” of existing digital collections would affect the end results (given that we are completely aware of the goals the entire time)?



# Data Representation

Essentially, the information that's collected online is collected by large companies who only share a portion of their API's with the public. How can we ensure utilitarian use of our data? Legislation? Should we always have access to API's that store this type of data?

# Data Representation

Data gathered online is not necessarily representative of the world's demographic. Older generations aren't online as much as younger ones. As well - half of the world's population doesn't have access to social networks. What would be a **representative** way to gather data online?

# Data Representation

How we might realize digital libraries, archives, and museums as more socially just and hopeful knowledge infrastructures?

# Food For Thought

There seem to be multiple preservation strategies for the digital-born content but the resources available for the **analog-born** content are already contributing to the platform of enormous existing digital collections, that continue to be developed further..

How do we make it up for the content that was never recorded?