**ILS 604 (“topics”) and 765 (doctoral)**

**Spring, 2017**

***Seminar in Documents and Documentation***

**Tuesday, 9:30-12:15**

**Ron Day, Department of Information and Library Science, IUB**

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**Office hours: By appointment and when I’m in (which is nearly every day)**

***Syllabus subject to change***

**Introduction:**Documents are collections of meaningful inscriptions for human beings, used for gaining understanding and for performing actions. They can be in paper or electronic form, pre-coordinate or post-coordinate in their assemblage through paper or electronic mediation and publishing. They are traditionally seen to ‘fix’ meaning and allow for the distant broadcast of meaning. In the neo-documentalist perspective, they are seen as producers and products of evidence.

            In modernity, documents have often been associated with scientific and historical activities: they are seen as producers and evidence of empirical and historical ‘facts.’ Many recent studies of documents, such as those by Drucker, Gitelman, Latour, and others, have emphasized the ‘material’ means of inscription and production of facts.

            In the modern documentary tradition, the abstract representation of texts and other meaningful objects becomes important. These abstracts act as surrogates to the object itself and are built in order to allow “efficient” searching and retrieval of the original objects. In classic documentary systems, they utilize metadata or metalanguage surrogates to represent the objects before the objects are indexed. In electronic systems, these objects can also be more easily indexed ‘on the fly’ using statistical methods and algorithms for creating such surrogates and their indexes.

            This class attempts to widen and question the epistemological and genre assumptions of modern documentation. The attempt of such a broad scope is not to recreate the claims of European documentation as being a meta-science or meta-knowledge (as occurs in Otlet’s work), but rather, to explore the many different events and genre modes by which ‘information’ in many various forms is produced through presentations of ‘fact.’ Without such a broad inquiry, as Buckland has argued, our understanding of information and documentation are severely limited (Buckland, 1991, “Information as Thing”).

**Course Objectives:** This course is an historical and social survey of the various types of collections of documents and their construction and use. The course will be composed of readings and their class discussion and of visits to various documentary organizations at the Indiana University-Bloomington campus. It is a seminar, so student attendance and participation is mandatory. A final paper and a final presentation of it will be due at the end of the course. Doctoral students also have the additional responsibility of leading one class during the course.

            The purpose of this course is to give students an intercultural understanding of the documentary tradition in its various mediums and various institutional forms, as well as to give students a broad understanding of the creation and use of documents across a variety of physical mediums and institutions.

**Course requirement**: Student attendance and participation (30%); 20 page final paper and final presentation and leading the readings in one class (together, 70% of grade) on the topic within.

**Seminar format and attendance:** Since this is a seminar course, you are expected to attend all class sessions, do the readings, and participate. Much of the class will be discussion of the readings. Attendance and participation is 30% of the grade.

Required text: Bernasconi, R. and Lott, T.L. *The Idea of Race*

**Class 1.  Jan. 9th, introduction**

***Part One: Naming and Classification***

**Class 2. Jan. 16. Philosophical Background: Naming and Inscription**

Heidegger, M. (1953). “The Question Concerning Technology”

Heidegger, M. (1966). “The End of Philosophy and the Task of Thinking.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qouZC17_Vsg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcm05b8m6tQ&t=86s>

**Class 3. Thursday Jan. 25 10:00 *(special meeting day and time—visit by Professor Geoffrey Bowker, UC-Irvine)*.**

**Classification and Society-1**

Bowker, G., and Star, L. (1999). *Sorting Things Out: Classification and its Consequences*, Chapters 1, 6, and 9 (IUB libraries)

Bowker, Geoffrey C., All Together Now: Synchronization, Speed and the Failure of Narrativity, History and Theory, 2015, 563-576.  
  
Bowker, Geoffrey C., Just What Are We Archiving? in Limn: 6 Special Issue on the Total Archive, 2016. <http://limn.it/issue/06/>  
  
Bowker, Geoffrey C., Temporality, in Hannah Appel, Nikhil Anand and Akhil Gupta (eds), The Infrastructure Toolbox. Journal of Cultural Anthropology, 2016. <http://culanth.org/fieldsights/725-the-infrastructure-toolbox>

**Class 4. Jan. 30. Classification and Society-2**

Browse, Diderot’s *Encyclopedia*. [http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/ (Links to an external site.)](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/)

Foucault, M. (1966). *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*, Part 1, Chapter 5: “Classifying.” (IUB libraries)

Pratt, M.L. *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*, p. 24-37. (IUB libraries)

***Part 2: Modern Documentation***

**Class 5.  Feb. 3th— Modern European Documentation: Otlet, Briet, and Bataille**

Otlet, P. (1906). “Something about Bibliography” in [Rayward, W. Boyd (Links to an external site.)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warden_Boyd_Rayward), Otlet, Paul, [International Organization and Dissemination of Knowledge: Selected Essays (Links to an external site.)](https://archive.org/details/internationalorg00otle), Amsterdam, [Elsevier (Links to an external site.)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elsevier), 1990. [https://archive.org/details/internationalorg00otle (Links to an external site.)](https://archive.org/details/internationalorg00otle)

Briet, S. (1951). *What is Documentation?* (part 1) [http://ella.slis.indiana.edu/~roday/briet.htm (Links to an external site.)](http://ella.slis.indiana.edu/~roday/briet.htm)

Buckland, M. K. (1997). “What is a document?” *Journal of the American Society for Information Science, 48*(9). 804-809.  [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/inside/units/bibcontrol/osmc/bucklandwhat.pdf (Links to an external site.)](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/inside/units/bibcontrol/osmc/bucklandwhat.pdf)

Rayward, B. (2007). The march of the modern and the reconstitution of the world’s  knowledge apparatus: H.G. Wells, encyclopedism and the world brain. *European modernism and the information society: Informing the present, understanding the past*, Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing. 223-240.

Frohmann, B. (2008). “The Role of Facts in Paul Otlet’s Modernist Project of Documentation.” *European modernism and the information society: Informing the present, understanding the past*, Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing. 75-88. [http://www.fims.uwo.ca/people/faculty/frohmann/Documents/Role%20of%20Facts\_proof.pdf (Links to an external site.)](http://www.fims.uwo.ca/people/faculty/frohmann/Documents/Role%20of%20Facts_proof.pdf)

***Class 6. Feb. 13. Visit to Kinsey Institute Library: documentation in special collections***

**Class 7, Neo-Documentation**

Buckland, M. K. (1991). “Information as Thing.” *Journal of the American Society for Information Science, 42*(5). 351-360. [http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~buckland/thing.html (Links to an external site.)](http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~buckland/thing.html)

Buckland, M.K. (2015). “Document Theory: an introduction” *Records, Archives and Memory: Selected Papers from the Conference and School on Records, Archives and Memory Studies, University of Zadar, Croatia, May 2013*. Zadar: University of Zadar, 2015. 224-237. [http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~buckland/zadardoctheory.pdf (Links to an external site.)](http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~buckland/zadardoctheory.pdf)

Buckland, M. (2014). “Documentality Beyond Documents.” The Monist 97(2), Special issue on Documentality. 179–186. [http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~buckland/docbeyond.pdf (Links to an external site.)](http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~buckland/docbeyond.pdf)

Drucker, J. “What is a Document?” in *What is?: Nine Epistemological Essays*.

[http://www.johannadrucker.com/pdf/Excerpts\_and\_Entanglements.pdf (Links to an external site.)](http://www.johannadrucker.com/pdf/Excerpts_and_Entanglements.pdf)

Lund, Niels Windfeld. “Document theory.” *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology* 43 (2009). 399-432.

Maurizio Ferraris, “Documentality” in *Documentality: Why it is Necessary to Leave Traces*, p. 247-296.

Frohmann, B. (2009). “Revisiting ‘What is a ‘document’?” *Journal of Documentation*65(2). 291–303. [http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.476.7862&rep=rep1&type=pdf (Links to an external site.)](http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.476.7862&rep=rep1&type=pdf)

***Part 3: Classifying Otherness***

**Class 7. Feb. 20. Racial Classification**

Bernasconi, R. and Lott, T.L. (2000), *The Idea of Race*, chapters 1-10

Gaukroger, S.  (2016) “The Natural History of Man” (chapter 5 of \_The Natural & the Human: Science and the Shaping of Modernity, 1739-1841.

(IUB libraries)

**Class** **8. *Special meeting date and time: Friday,*** *03/02/18,* ***Lecture by******Laura Foster IU, Department of Gender Studies (time TBA),* on indigenous knowledge, patent law, and biotechnology in South Africa**

**Class 9. March 6. Documentaries and Visual Anthropology**

**Documentation: Colonial and Post-colonial Inscriptions**

Mignolo, W. (2003).“The Materiality of Reading and Writing Cultures: The Chain of Sounds, Graphic Signs, and Sign Carriers,” chapter 2 of *The Darker Side of the Renaissance*: *Literacy, Territoriality, & Colonization.*

Corbey, R.  (1993). Ethnographic Showcases, 1870-1930. *Cultural Anthropology*, 8(3).

Duarte, M.E., and Belarde-Lewis, M. (2015).  “Imagining: Creating Spaces for Indigenous Ontologies.” *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 53(5-6).

Boast, R. (2011). Neocolonial collaboration: Museum as Contact Zone Revisited. *Museum Anthropology*, 34: 56–70

[Supplementary readings on visual anthropology:

Bataille, Georges. “The Big Toe.” *Documents*(6), 1929, p. 297-302.

English translation (without photographs)

(Original French (with photographs): [http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k32951f.image.swf (Links to an external site.)](http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k32951f.image.swf)

Brigard, Emile de. “The History of the Ethnographic Film.” In P. Hockings, *Principles of Visual Anthropology*, third edition. NY: Mouton de Gruyter. (IUB libraries)

Scherer, Joanna Cohan (2003). “Ethnographic Photography in Anthropological Research.” In P. Hockings, *Principles of Visual Anthropology*, third edition. NY: Mouton de Gruyter, 2003. (IUB libraries)

Rouch, Jean.  “Our Totemic Ancestors and Crazed Masters.” In P. Hockings, *Principles of Visual Anthropology*, third edition. NY: Mouton de Gruyter. (IUB libraries)

Sorenson, E.R. “Visual Records, Human Knowledge, and the Future. In P. Hockings, *Principles of Visual Anthropology*, third edition. NY: Mouton de Gruyter. (IUB libraries) ]

***Part 4: Documentation and the Sciences***

**March 11-18th, spring break**

***Part 4: Documentation and the Sciences***

**Class 10. March 20. Documentation in the early sciences**

Findlen, Paula (1994)Possessing Nature : Museums, Collecting, and Scientific Culture in Early Modern Italy. Introduction and Chapter 2 (“Searching for Paradigms”)

Eamon, W. (1994). *Science and the Secrets of Nature: Books of Secrets in Medieval and Early Modern Culture*, Princeton University Press. Chapter 10 (“From the Secrets of Nature to Public Knowledge”).

Bowker, G. (2005) *Memory Practices in the Sciences*. Chapter 1: Synchronization and Synchrony in the Archive: Geology and the 1830s.

Shapin, S. (1984). “Pump and circumstance: Robert Boyle’s literary technology.”*Social Studies of Science*14. 481–520.  
  
Schaffer, S. (1998). “The Leviathan of Parsontown: literary technology and scientific representation.” In *Inscribing science: Scientific texts and the materiality of communication*, Stanford University Press. 182-222.

**Class 11. March 27. Documentation in the Modern Sciences**

**With Rob Montoya,**

Latour, B. (1987). *Science in Action*. Chapter 6 (“Centres of Calculation”). Harvard University Press.

Latour, B. (1996). “The Networks that Reason Ignores: Laboratories, Libraries, Collections” (English translation from instructor)

Börner, K. (2015). *Atlas of Knowledge: Anyone Can Map*. MIT Press. Chapters 1, 3, and 4 (IUB libraries)

Edwards, P. (2010). *A Vast Machine:* *Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming,*MIT Press*.* Chapter 10. (IUB libraries)

**Class 12. April 3. Visual, Sound, and Physical Documents**

**Special guest via skype: Professor Johanna Drucker, Breslauer Professor of Bibliographical Studies in the Department of Information Studies, UCLA**

Drucker, J. (2014). *Graphesis: Visual Forms of Knowledge Production*, Harvard UP. Chapter 3 (IUB libraries

Gitelman, L. (1999). “Making History, Spelling Things Out” (chapter 1 of *Scripts, Grooves, and Writing Machines: Representing Technology in the Edison Era*). Stanford University Press. 21-61 (IUB libraries)

Wright, S.J., 2012, 'I came like the thunder and I vanish like the wind': Exploring genre repertoire and document work in the Assemblea operai e studenti of 1969, *Archival Science* 12(4), 411-436.

***Part 5: Computational and social mediations of documents***

**Class 13: April 10. Neal Thomas, *Becoming Social in a Networked World* Chapters TBA**

**Class 14. April 17.**

**Algorithms and social networks II**

Gillespie, T. (2014). “The Relevance of Algorithms” *Media Technologies: Essays on Communication, Materiality, and Society,* MIT Press. 167-194. [http://www.tarletongillespie.org/essays/Gillespie%20-%20The%20Relevance%20of%20Algorithms.pdf (Links to an external site.)](http://www.tarletongillespie.org/essays/Gillespie%20-%20The%20Relevance%20of%20Algorithms.pdf)

Reider, B. “What is in PageRank? A historical and conceptual investigation of a recursive status index.” *Computational Culture*.

Crogan, P. and Kinsley, S. (2012) “Paying Attention: Towards a Critique of the Attention Economy”. *Culture Machine* (13).

Maurizio Ferraris, “Total Mobilization.”  The Monist, April 2014, 97(2), 200-221

**Class 15**. **April 24.** Presentations of final papers.

Required Statement on Plagiarism, Grading Rubric, and Citation style:

Plagiarism will end up with the student failing the course. Grading Rubric: “A”=excellent or outstanding work, “B”=Good work, “C” and below= unsatisfactory work. Students are expected to attend class, participate, and do the assignments to the best of their ability. Grading will be based on the success of doing these things.

Students can choose whatever citation system (ALA, MLA, Chicago) that they like; just be consistent in its usage in your paper(s).