

**I'll tell you what I want, what I really,
really want!**

Archival Needs or Better Dialogue

Better dialogue

“Most dialogues with the eventual aim of collaboration focus on attempting to merge, homogenize, or somehow combine different empirical and theoretical perspectives.”

“there exists still the too-often unstated belief that the purpose of crossing the bridge, i.e., the goal of communication, is to find right answers or convince others of the rightness of our views.”

“When communicating with each other we can help each other do this kind of sense-making by asking questions that facilitate internal sense-making and not demanding that the other defend themselves in worlds of our own constructions.”

“In human memory, forgetting plays a crucial role for focusing on important things and neglecting irrelevant details. [...] we are currently facing a tremendous growth in volumes of digital content in the public, organizational and personal context. Thus, it becomes ever more important to focus, on the relevant and important content [...] Therefore, **the ForgetIT project introduces a concept of managed forgetting** as part of a joint information management and preservation management process in digital memories.”

“Supporting managed forgetting in a digital memory is a novel concept, **for which no former experience and best practices exist.**”

“many articles are so technical and specialized, and their language is so often couched in engineering and mathematical terms, that they completely discourage the newcomer to this field. A title or two will demonstrate this problem: "The Statistics of Structured Meaning," "Basic Postulates and Common Syntax," [etc.]”

“Too frequently in these writings [...] writers appear to be less concerned with informing and enlightening their readers than with impressing their professional colleagues with mathematical calculations intended to support particular interpretations of theoretical and technical problems.”

Barbara Fisher and Frank Evans,

<http://americanarchivist.org/doi/pdf/10.17723/aarc.30.2.w6tq055431l72736>

“Definition 1 The memory buoyancy of a resource r at a given time t is the function $MB_T(r,t)$ satisfying the following properties:

1. $MB_T(r,t) = 1$, if there is a user interaction with r at t
2. $MB_T(r,t_1) \leq MB_T(r,t_2)$, if $t_1 > t_2$ (t_2 is closer to the creation time of r)
3. $MB_T(r,t) \rightarrow 0$, if $t \rightarrow \infty$
4. $MB_T(r_1,t) \leq MB_T(r_2,t)$, if the last interaction of agent with r_1 is before the last interaction with r_2 , or if the amount of interaction of r_2 is higher than that of r_1 “

“We turn now from general matters to the consideration of specific types of application. Of these the one which most attracted archivists when they first become aware of the potential of the computer for their work was information retrieval [...] but the more experience they acquired, the more they became aware of the extent of the problems (not all of them technical) to be overcome.”

1975, Society of Archivists' Computer Applications Committee Report

“An interdisciplinary field concerned with the application of computational methods and resources to large scale records/archives processing, analysis, storage, long term preservation, and access with the aim of improving efficiency, productivity and precision in support of appraisal, arrangement and description, preservation and access decisions, and engaging and undertaking research with archival material.”

Working definition of Computational Archival Science

“Stripped of the jargon with which it has unfortunately become associated, automation is fundamentally a mechanical or electronic extension of traditional logic—or deductive and inductive reasoning—to problem solving and the performance of work. Since archivists and manuscript curators have always used logic in establishing physical and intellectual control over the research materials in their custody, they should have an active interest in the application of techniques of automated logic to these specialized information sources. This **common base in applied logic** can provide the archivist and the manuscript curator with an approach to what has sometimes been regarded as a special field that may be entered only by those with scientific and mathematical training.”

Barbara Fisher and Frank Evans,

<http://americanarchivist.org/doi/pdf/10.17723/aarc.30.2.w6tq055431172736>

“Contributing to the development of the theoretical foundations of a new trans-discipline of computer and archival science.”

Working definition of Computational Archival Science

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