



Digital Archive + Citizen Science

A brief analysis about an effective interaction



A look
at the opportunities
of a vivid cooperation

Agenda

- Who runs an digital archive
- Functions of a digital archive
- Complexity of a digital archive
- Types of archives
- Tasks of a museum
- About new sources
- Activate the work flow
- Recommendations

Who runs

a digital archive

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- **Private:** sm groups, collectors, small museums

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- **Semi private:** associations, companies
to document their own history

Who runs a digital archive

- **Private:** sm groups, collectors, small museums
- **Semi private:** associations, companies
to document their own history
- **Institutions:** archives, museums, municipalities

What type
of digital archive

- **Private:** sm groups, collectors, small museums
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externally managed

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externally managed

self-created databases

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expensive, high standards

externally managed

+

- free of cost

-

- data dislocated

- giving away rights

- no influence
on development

- does it comply with
european data protection
rules?

- Private: sm

- Semi private

- Institution

databases

museums

panies

own history

municipalities

expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases

- **Private:** sm groups, collectors, small museums
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- **Institutions:** archives, museums, municipalities

expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases

+

- free of cost (really even in long term perspective?)

-

- complicated to maintain

- rare knowledge

- often lack of standards

- **Private:** sm groups

- **Semi private:** a

- **Institutions:** arc

expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases

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expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases

- Private: sm groups

- Semi private: a

- Institutions: arc

- perfect maintenance
- standardized
- requires trained personnel

expensive, high standards

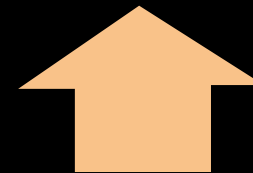
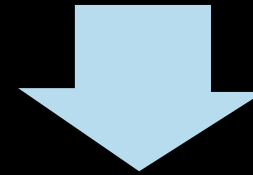
externally managed

self-created databases

expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases



expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases

searching for
a solution in between

expensive, high standards



externally managed

self-created databases

expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases

- low work requirements

expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases

- low work requirements
- for both laymen + science

expensive, high standards

externally managed

self-created databases

- low work requirements
- for both laymen + science
- necessary standardization

expensive, high standards

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self-created databases

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expensive, high standards

Useful for
both low end
and high end users

Functions

of a digital archive

Functions of a digital archive



Inventory

Functions of a digital archive



Inventory

- for internal use

It is complex and highly standardized

It is operated by trained personnel only

Functions of a digital archive



or
and

Inventory

- for internal use

It is complex and highly standardized

It is operated by trained personnel only

Functions of a digital archive



or
and



Inventory

Display

- for internal use

It is complex and highly standardized

It is operated by trained personnel only

Functions of a digital archive



Inventory

or
and



Display

- for public use
Its interface is easy to use

Functions of a digital archive



or
and



Inventory

Display

There hasn't been a combination of the two for a long time. Now, public interfaces are available, but still inventory and „showcases“ seem to stay different tasks.

Complexity

of a digital archive

Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



... means complexity, including thesaurus, indexing level, tags, date, place of storage, conservation status, legal matters & copyrights, licencing, insurance, tectonic of the archive, type of storage, responsibilities, material type, ISAAR conformity, directory unit, EAD, location, damage management, takeover status, master data indexing priorities, measures, ...

Complexity of a digital archive

example of complex interface

The image displays several overlapping screenshots of a complex digital archive interface. The top-left screenshot shows a search and filter interface for an archaeological collection, with a table listing items by date and damage type. The top-right screenshot shows a detailed record for an inventory item, including its number, date, and location. The bottom-left screenshot shows a 'Verwaltung' (Administration) window for managing data tables. The bottom-right screenshot shows an 'Importprotokoll' (Import Protocol) window with technical details and a preview of a historical photograph.

Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



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for laypeople



Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



... minimize to
thesaurus, indexing level, tags,
date, place of storage,
conservation status, legal
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master data indexing priorities,
measures, ...

for
laypeople



Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



... minimize to

- Dublin Core requirements
- on an easy to understand interface
- to promote motivation
- to enable a larger group of laypeople to work, that can handle the large amount of sources for digitization

for
laypeople



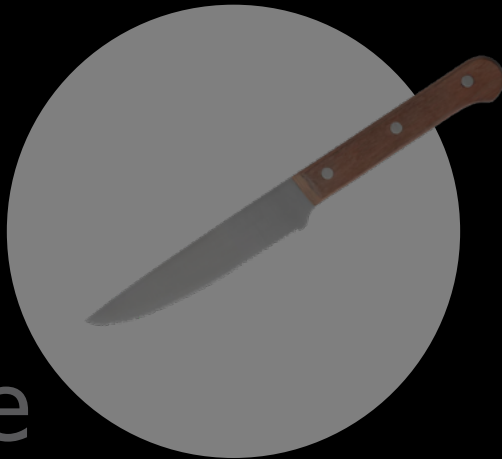
Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



Creates standardized and
such comparable data
also beyond archive boundaries

for
laypeople



Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



Creates standardized and such comparable data also beyond archive boundaries

for laypeople



Inconsistent quality of digitizing and metadata.

Results not scientifically proven.

Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



Creates standardized and such comparable data also beyond archive boundaries

for laypeople



Inconsistent quality of digitizing and metadata.

Results not scientifically proven.

Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



Draw a red line.



for
laypeople



Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



Draw a red line.
But just in description of data.

for
laypeople



Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



Draw a red line.
But just in description of data.



for
laypeople



And cross it with an interface.

Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



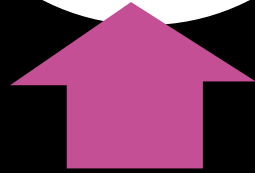
for
laypeople



Use an interface to
incorporate results
into the scientific database.

Complexity of a digital archive

scientific



Use an interface to incorporate results into the scientific database.

for laypeople



Filtering and indicating non scientific data

Tasks

of a museum

Tasks of a museum

Traditional core tasks of a museum:

- collecting
- preserving
- researching
- communicating („exhibiting“)

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can be done
outside the museum
by laymen

Tasks of a museum

- collecting



outside
by laymen

They

- locate private sources
- stimulate oral history
- enrich already existing data from local sources

Tasks of a museum

- collecting



outside
by laymen

side effects: They

- enlarge network
- expand outreach
- open up a new audience
- work effectively at home: no timelimits

Sources

to deal with

Sources to deal with

- institutional sources:

- very extensive

- How much of these has
already been recorded electronically?

Sources to deal with

- institutional sources:

- very extensive

- How much of these has
already been recorded electronically?

- private sources:

- in danger ...

Sources to deal with

New Sources
are difficult to capture

- private sources:

in danger ...

Sources to deal with

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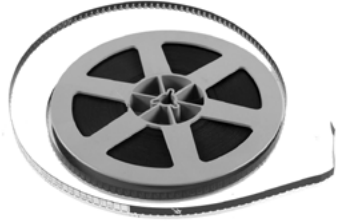
New Sources
are difficult to capture

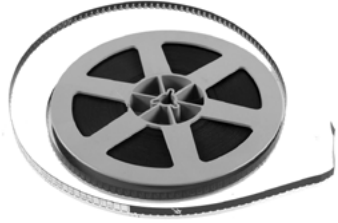


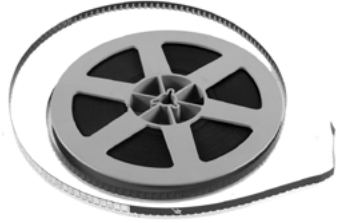


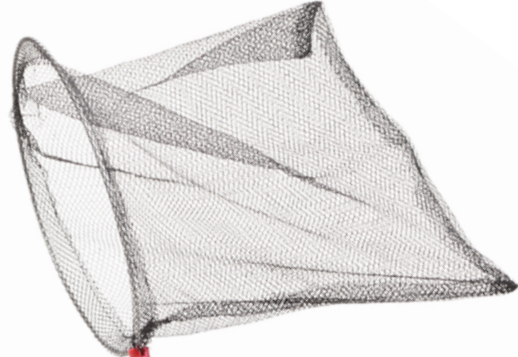
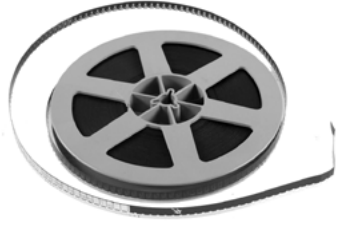


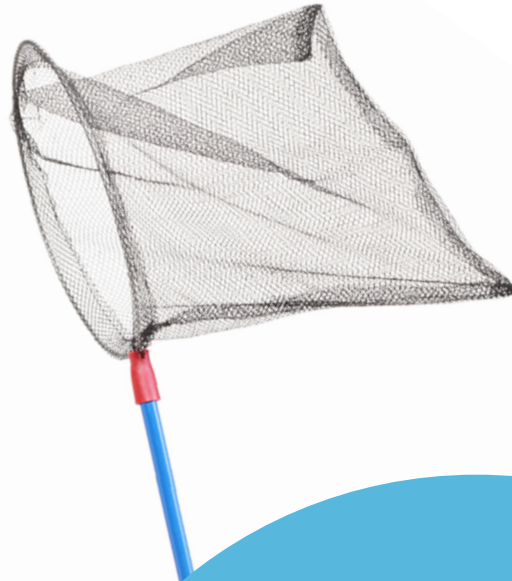
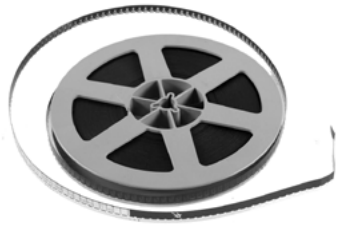




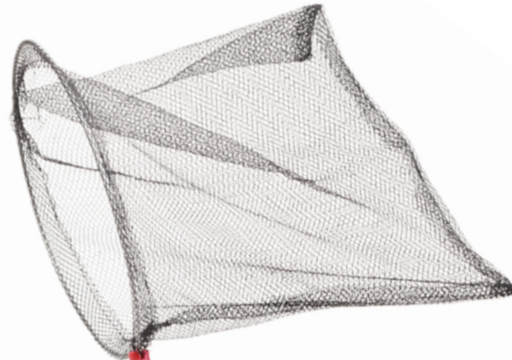
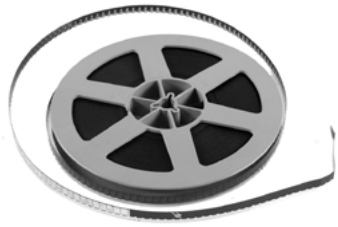






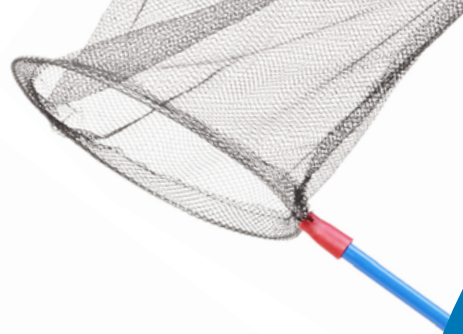
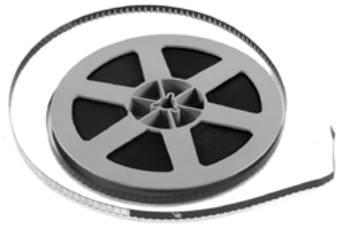


private Collectors



private
Collectors

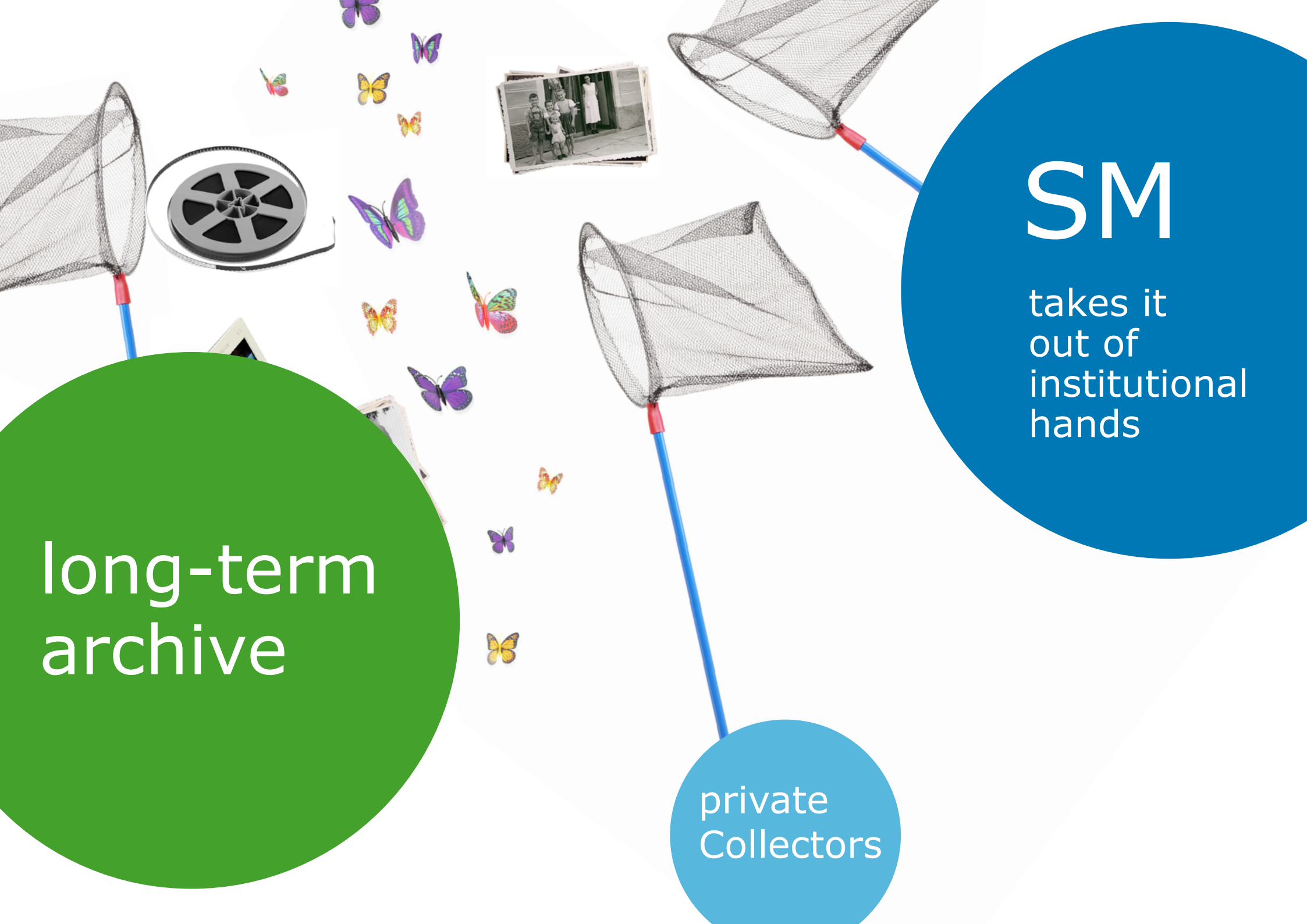
refuse access



SM
takes it
out of
institutional
hands

private
Collectors





long-term
archive

private
Collectors

SM

takes it
out of
institutional
hands



SM

takes it
out of
institutional
hands

private
Collectors



SM

takes it
out of
institutional
hands

in case of house clearance

private
Collectors

New sources

Private collectors

- Have the potential to acquire sources that are unreachable for institutions
- They often do not allow access

> Try to get these collectors on board. Maybe with competences and responsibilities for them.

New sources

Households

- Amount of private sources is huge
- In case of instant house clearing the sources are disposed
- If they are handed over to an institution, the collection will be searched for thematic pieces matching the institution. What with the rest?

>Institutions should not reject new material based on their subject matter.

New sources

Social Media

Some institutions use SM groups for collecting digitized private items.

> What happens if ...?

> Institutions should have their digital holdings in their own hands.

> Ask group members to provide their digitized material also for the digital archive run by your institution.

New sources

Social Media

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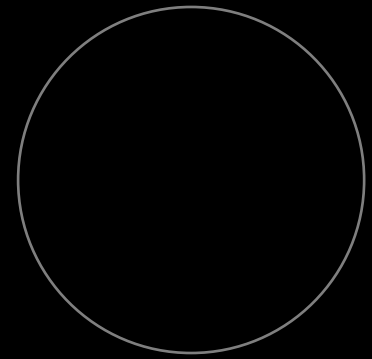
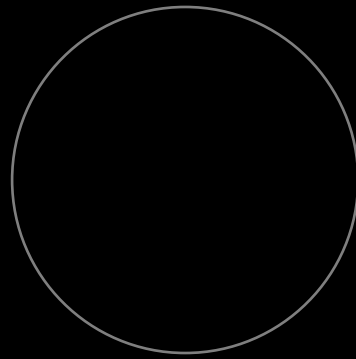
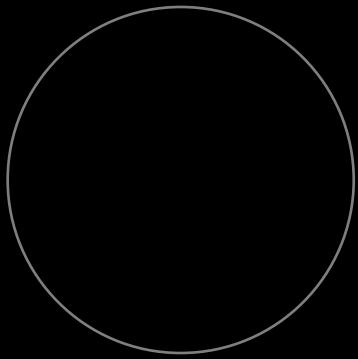
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Activate

the work flow

Activate the work flow

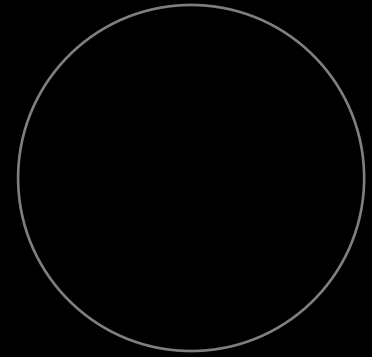
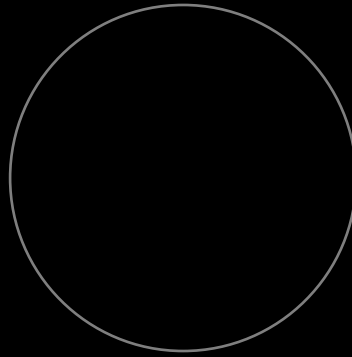


The players

Activate the work flow



Residents



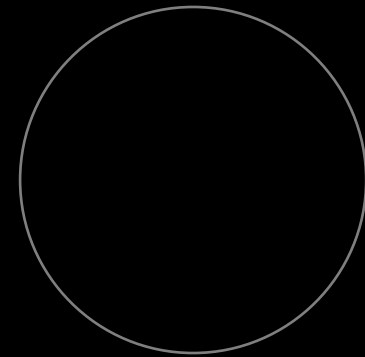
Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



Institutions
Administrations

Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



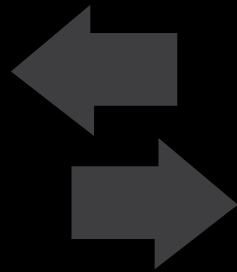
Institutions
Administrations

The roles

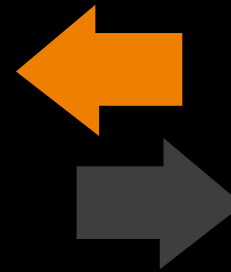
Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



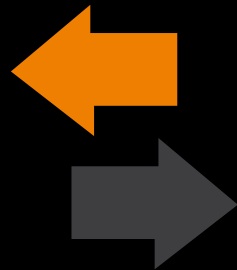
Institutions
Administrations

- authorize Citizen Scientists
to work for the archive

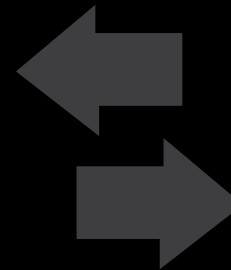
Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



Institutions
Administrations

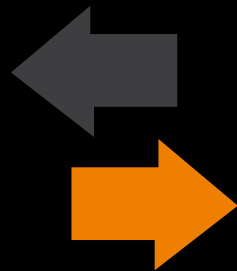
- activate residents

Activate the work flow

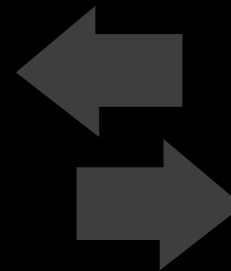


Residents

- provide sources
and information



Citizen Scientists

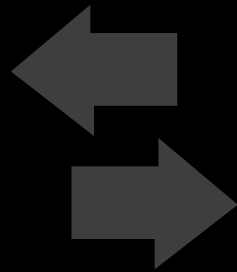


Institutions
Administrations

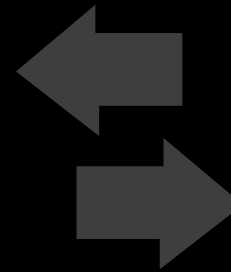
Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



Institutions
Administrations

- digitize
- collect informations
- incorporate the objects into the database

Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



Institutions
Administrations

- responsibility for publication
- patronance
- publicity

Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



Institutions
Administrations

The benefits

Activate the work flow



Residents

- get involved in workflow
- are proud to be part of history or even remembrance
- social effects



Citizen Scientists



Institutions Administrations

Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists

- social role
- benefit for personal knowledge



Institutions
Administrations

Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



Institutions
Administrations

- enrichment of available digital material
- profit by voluntarily work
- obtaining analog material
- key to new audiences

Activate the work flow



Residents



Citizen Scientists



Institutions
Administrations

Good cooperation creates a
deep-rooted historical network on behalf of the public

Recommendations

Recommendations and opportunities

Activate the work flow

- Set up a Citizen Scientist group outside the museum.
- Provide them with an easy-to-work tool.
- Give them guidelines but allow individuality.
- Keep in mind, that motivation and praise are the motors of vounteer work. Keep money out.
- Separate between source identification and scientific work.
- Accompanying SM helps in keeping loyal followers.
- Offer visible patronance for the CS group.



Let the crowd work!

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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR ARCHIVAL RESEARCH



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 Federal Ministry
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Arts, Culture,
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