ARCHIVES AND INFORMATION PHILOSOPHY

INVITATION AND INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Version 1.0, June 2015

Stichting Archief Publicaties

Koninkijke Vereniging van Archivarissen Nederland

Society for the Philosophy of Information

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INVITATION TO AUTHORS

Dear reader,

This document contains information about the publication of the Stichting Archiefpublicaties (S@P) of a book on Archives and Information Philosophy. You are cordially invited to consider to make a contribution for this book. You are cordially invited as well to inform your network about the book and make suggestions about possible co-authors!

In this document you find general information about the aim and the backgrounds of the book as well as the organization and other practical issues.

We as Editorial Board would feel much obliged if you could let us know by September 2015 whether you are willing to make a contribution. Please contact us if you want more information.

Best regards,
Frans Smit, Rienk Jonker and Arnoud Glaudemans.

MAIN TOPIC

The goal of the publication – consisting of a collection of essays and articles - is to give a broad review of archival concepts and principles from perspectives of information philosophy (IP):

What are implications of the current information revolution for records and their functions in society on philosophical (fundamental), logical (structural) and ethical (practical) level; how can archival concepts, principles and practices adapt to this situation?

As to the philosophy of information, the 'semantic approach' of Floridi is taken as starting point, for reasons of limitation and (first) orientation, but also because of the relative simplicity and thus (re)usability of Floridi's conceptual framework.

As to archival theory, it is taken as an *applied* science which concerns the *practical* (ethical) goal of recording and curating information having an archival function.

The publication aims to reach out to the archival world as well as to the world of information philosophy. However, a broader, both professional and academic, audience might be foreseen, since archiving has close links to for example organizational development, politics and IT.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

Publisher will be the Stichting Archiefpublicaties (Society for Archival Publications, S@P). S@P is a part of the Royal Society for Archivists in the Netherlands (KVAN). S@P closely cooperates with the Flemish counterpart of KVAN, the VVBAD.

The editors are Rienk Jonker (city archivist of Leeuwarden and archival theorist), Arnoud Glaudemans (records management inspector of Hilversum and philosopher) and Frans Smit (information policies advisor of Almere and historian). Each editor will be responsible for a specific part of the book (*see below*), but the editorial board as a whole is responsible for the entire publication.

The publication is endorsed by Luciano Floridi, Professor of Information Philosophy at Oxford University (*see separate attachment*). January 2015 a digital issue of Archievenblad was published containing two articles (in Dutch) on Floridi and PI and an extensive interview with Floridi.

The editors aim to closely cooperate with the Society for the Philosophy of Information (SPI) and with theorists in the fields of information theory and archival theory. There are four primary advisors;

- **Patrick Allo**, Researcher at the Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science (CLWF) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and chairman of the SPI;
- **Geert-Jan van Bussel**, Professor Digital Archiving & Compliance at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and owner of Van Bussel Document Services;
- **Agnes Jonker**, senior lecturer and archivist at University of Amsterdam;
- **Martijn van Otterloo**, independent artificial intelligence researcher.

The structure of the book will follow a classical division: philosophy (fundamentals), logic (structure) and ethics (practice). For each of these areas a list of related topics from both PI and archival theory is given, in order to outline the content of essays and articles in the publication. The list of PI-topics was reviewed by Luciano Floridi.

Authors might pick one of the PI-concepts to write about, **but**: new ideas, different perspectives and other topics within the main topic sketched above are most welcome. To get a basic definition of archival concepts used, click the hyperlinks in the text below, linking to the multilingual archival terminology of the International Council on Archives (ICA).

PHILOSOPHY (FUNDAMENTALS)

Arnoud Glaudemans

Philosophy of information	Archival theory
infosphere	-
General Definition of Information (GDI), semantic content and semantic information	record, archives, document, file, information, register
truth, truthfulness	trustworthiness
(diaphoric) data	data
-	principle of provenance, and of original order, respect des fonds
Method of Levels of Abstraction (interface)	provenance, archival bond, diplomatics, context, records continuum

Interesting questions in this area might be:

- Can archives / records be taken as simply semantic content / information, more or less accidentally having an archival function? Or are we talking a *specific* branch of information to be (re)defined?
- Does PI adress the inherent historicity (temporality) of archives adequately, if it does überhaupt? If so, how? If not, should it, and how?
- What does Floridi's concept of data as *diaphora (*distinctions that make a difference*)* imply as to the concept of a*rchives*?
- How do truth (or truthfulness) and archives relate?
- Does the loss of physical fixedness in digital information bring a need to (re)define the basic concept of an archive?

LOGIC (STRUCTURE)

Rienk Jonker

Philosophy of information	Archival theory
entropy	appraisal, disposal, selection
analogue and digital information	medium, analogue, digital
information life cycle	life cycle, records continuum
reversability	conversion, migration, transformative migration (*substitution,* in Dutch also *vervanging*), backward compatibility, interoperability
recoverability	Security (ICT), preservation, conservation, data integrity, obsolesence
(information) quality	reliability, authenticity, integrity, effectiveness, accuracy, completeness, evidential value, fixity, metadata, accessibility
transdiegesis (onlife)	context

Interesting questions in this area might be:

- Given the fact that digital information obviously does not come with material fixedness of semantic content (as opposed to analog): what are implications on a logical, structural level for archival practice, if any?
- Will the distinction between information (archives) and meta-information (or –data) hold in the long run? What are alternatives, if any?
- Supposing reversibility and recoverability is a good thing for archival information: can metadata do the job? Or do we need different methods?
- Which structural transformations and transitions of information – and thus of archives and archival practice - are to be expected during the 4th Revolution?
- Assuming that one essential goal of archiving is to bind time: what digital structures can do the job?
- Are there any concepts to be found in the area of philosophy of information quality that are useful for archival purposes?

ETHICS (PRACTICE)

Frans Smit

Philosophy of information	Archival theory
agency (enveloping)	(information) governance, accountability, custody, transaction
(eco)poiesis	appraisal (in Dutch *brede waardering*), sampling, selection
-	original
availability	accessibility (!),persistence
accessibility	accessibility, public record(s)
privacy, right to be forgotten	privacy
ownership and rights	copyright, intellectual property rights
open data (usability for who)	open data (in Dutch also *actieve openbaarheid*)
big data(repurposing)	register, repurposing, sampling

Interesting questions in this area might be:

- According to Floridi the difference of "*historical*" and "*hyperhistorical"* stems from the different use of ICTs: recording / transmitting vs. processing. What does this imply for the current archival practice of *recording* and *curating* information?
- Does a collective memory – a substantial part of which archives use(d) to take care of - remain a basic need of *hyperhistorical* man (*inforg*)? Or is it an obsolete concept?
- Given the quickly extending quantitative vastness of digital information nowadays: does philosophy of information deliver concepts or principles useful for a defendable method of macro-appraisal of archives?
- Can we organize the time-binding of information through imitation of analogue recording techniques (e.g. PDF/A), or do we (also) need other methods – given the different and presumably more diverse structure (syntax) of digital information?
- How will the exponential growth of volume and granularity of data affect the relationship between archives and individuals?

PLANNING

The general planning for the publication is as follows

- 2014: decision making about the publication by S@P board, and start-up of the editorial board
- 2015: selection of advisors and authors
- 2016-2017: production of the contributions
- 2017 or 2018: publication

INFORMATION ON WRITING ESSAYS AND ARTICLES

Authors are asked to deliver one or more contributions that comply with the following rules. The manuscript should:

- Be in English;
- Be formatted in RTF or MS Word (doc, docx);
- Contain a maximum of 10.000 words (excluding annotations etc.);
- Have a title page listing title of the essay/article, name(s) of the author(s), institutional and email address(es);
- Have an introduction stating background, scope and aim;
- Have annotations, list of literature and glossaries;
- Be accompanied by an abstract (350 words) and a short bio;
- Obviously be on a topic as outlined above and be of sufficient quality.

The copyrights will be owned by S@P, which mean that essays and articles will be published online as well on the website of S@P.

ATTACHMENTS

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM PROF. LUCIANO FLORIDI

See separate PDF/A-file in attachment

ARCHIVE IS …: AN ARCHITECTURE OF AN ARCHIVE AND ITS FUNCTIONS

Architectural schemes on Archives and its Functions are available on :
http://labyrinth.rienkjonker.nl/verhaal/tafelgesprek-archief

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TOPIC-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

The list below is limited to a. basic reading in the philosophy of information (PI) and b. philosophers or mediatheorists that we know of that *explicitly* address archives.

For a more extensive bibliography on the philosophy of information see the list of references at page 211 - 220 of socphilinfo.org/sites/default/files/i2pi_2013.pdf (cited below). This list mainly contains **Anglo-Saxon** (analytical) thinkers, but a short history of **French** thinkers in the PI-area (Deleuze, Foucault, Baudrillard, Saussure (swiss)) can also be found (page 21 – 26). For an overview of **German** thinking concerning media in a broad sense see Wikipedia-entries on Medientheorie and Medienphilosophie.

Pieter Adriaans en Johan F.A.K. van Benthem (eds.), *Philosophy of Information (Handbook of the Philosophy of Science)*, 2009.

Jacques Derrida*, Mal d'Archive: Une Impression Freudienne (Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression), 1995.*

Luciana Duranti and Patricia C. Franks (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Archival Science*, 2015.

Wolfgang Ernst, *Digital Memory and the Archive* (Electronic Mediations), 2013.

Michel Foucault, *L'archéologie du savoir (The Archaeology of Knowledge**), 1969.*

Luciano Floridi, *Information – A Very Short Introduction*, 2010.

Luciano Floridi, *The Philosophy of Information*, 2011.

Luciano Floridi, *The Ethics of Information*, 2013.

Luciano Floridi, *The Fourth Revolution – How the infosphere is reshaping human reality*, 2014.

Luciano Floridi and Phyllis Illari (eds.), The *philosophy of information quality*, 2014.

Ken Herold (Ed.) *Exploring Philosophies of Information, Library trends vol. 63 number 3, 2015 (*abstracts available at https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/library_trends/ *).*

Mrs. S. Muller Fz., J.A. Feith en R. Fruin Th. Az .*Handleiding voor het ordenen en beschrijven van archieven : ontworpen in opdracht van de Vereeniging van Archivarissen in Nederland*, 1898 (partially available in Dutch at archiefwiki.org/wiki/Handleiding).

Stephan Kucklick, *Die Granulare Gesellschaft*, 2014.

π Research Network, *The Philosophy of Information - A Simple Introduction, 2013 (*available at socphilinfo.org/sites/default/files/i2pi_2013.pdf).