



Oxford 18 July 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is my pleasure to recommend the project entitled *Archives in the Infosphere* by Rienk Jonker, Frans Smit and Arnoud Glaudemans. The project aims at publishing a book composed of articles by both philosophers and archivists, examining the relation of philosophy of information and archival theory, in 2017. The project is sponsored by the KVAN, the Royal Dutch Society of Archivists.

During my visit as keynote of the yearly KVAN-congress in June 2014 I got acquainted with the editors of the book during a lengthy interview covering several aspects of the relation between the Philosophy of Information and Archival Theory. I was deeply impressed by the quality and depth of their scholarship, and the insightful nature of the project. I am convinced that the editors involved are ideally placed to deliver a book on such an important subject. It is a timely and brilliant project, that fills a significant gap.

I believe that our fast developing information society is in great need of a well designed archival function which is, as of yet, virtually non-existent. The recent debate on the so-called "right to be forgotten" has emphasised the crucial importance of understanding how information stratifies in our digital age and what best practices can ensure such a process in the future. The real issues are not merely technical but mainly conceptual. A step towards a solution would be to adapt existing archival concepts to the quickly evolving new appearance and role of information in the digital age. Information Philosophers might be able to shed light on how to do this. The preliminary list of topics covered by the book, which I discussed with the editors, makes an excellent start.

I would be delighted to invite scholars to join the project and write an article. I remain at your disposal for any further questions or inquiries.

Yours faithfully,

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