

Seizing the Middle Ground



THE NEW ROLE OF THE ARCHIVIST: A PERSPECTIVE FROM YAD VASHEM

"Preserving Survivors Memories"

Berlin, 20-22, November 2012

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Cataloguing Department, Yad Vashem Archives



Testimonies Collections at Yad Vashem



Type	Collected by YV	Collected by others	Total
Written	19,600	12,000	31,600
Audio	7,700	4,200	11,900
Video	11,300	53,500	64,800
All	38,600	69,700	108,300



Topics



- Evolving technology and archival tasks
- The Impact of the technological change
- New challenges for the archivist
- Competing perspectives on the role of the archivist
- Yad Vashem's way forward



Evolving Technology and Archival Tasks



Pre-Computer Era



Early Computer Era



Progressive Computer Era



Pre-Computer Era



Catalogue

Card index

**Catalogue
criteria's**

Documentation

Physical Storage



Availability: limited

Actual presence in the archive is required



Accessibility: limited

Access to catalogue not to documentation



Interconnectivity: very limited

Keywords on card index

Evolving Technology and Archival Tasks



Pre-Computer Era



Early Computer Era



Progressive Computer Era



Early Computer Era

Catalogue

Computer

Catalogue
criteria's

Documentation

Physical Storage



Availability: limited

Actual presence in the archive is required



Accessibility: medium

Better access to the catalogue



Interconnectivity : medium

Searchable keywords

Evolving Technology and Archival Tasks



Pre-Computer Era



Early Computer Era



Progressive Computer Era



Progressive Computer Era



Catalogue

Computer

Catalogue
criteria's

Documentation

Digitization + Physical Storage



Availability: high

Access to archive through the internet



Accessibility: high

Access to catalogue & documentation



Interconnectivity : high

Searchable catalogue and documentation

Evolving Technology and Archival Tasks



Pre-Computer Era



Early Computer Era



Progressive Computer Era

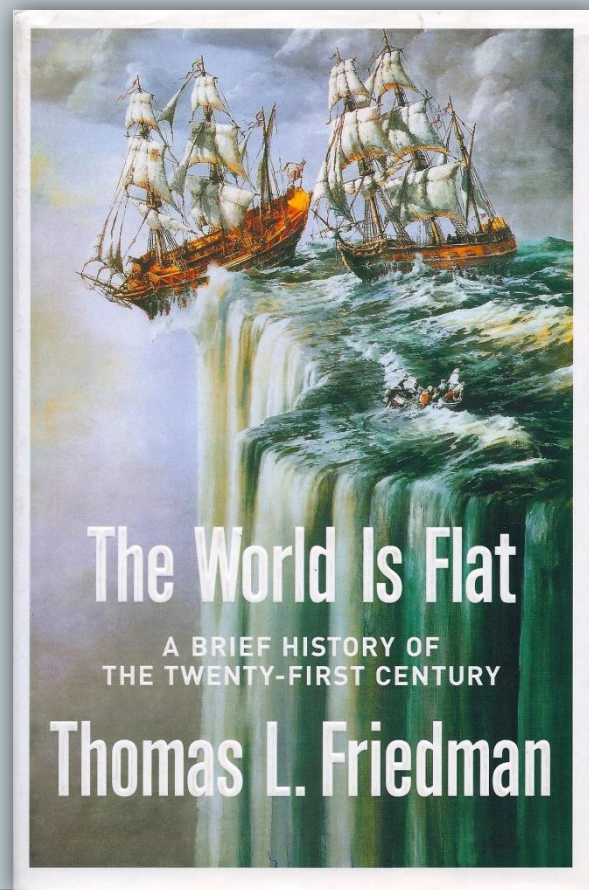


The Impact of the Technological Change



Along with new possibilities come some shortcomings:

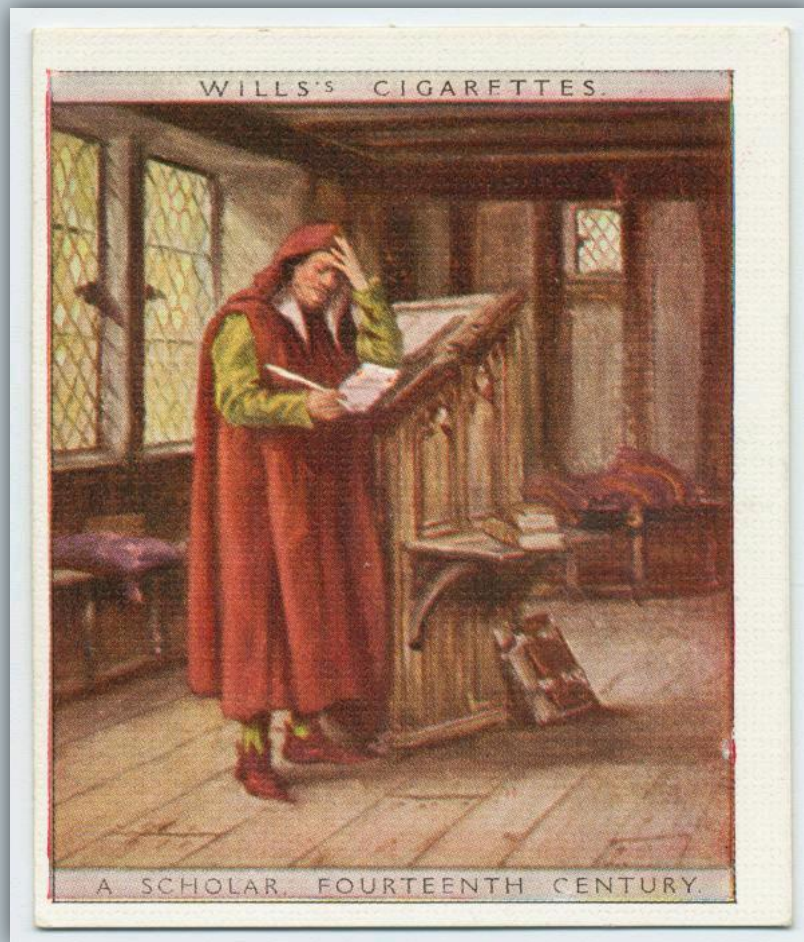
- **Loss of context**
- **Fragmentation**
- **Superficiality**



New Challenges for the Archivist



- How do we stay relevant?
- Who needs us?
- Are we still the gatekeepers of information?
- Do we still need to act as mediators or simply make the data searchable?



Two Competing Perspectives



The
Traditional

Our Solution:
**Seizing the
Middle
Ground**

The
Annologists



The New Role of the Archivist



Technological aspects:

- Providing accessibility to archival material
- Enhancing availability
- Enabling search on data



The New Role of the Archivist



YV Place
Names
Knowledge
base

(5422524) - Bratislava,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia

Main Add. Info. Links Dig. Assets **Thesaurus** Translation Log

Super category

uper categor		Field	Code		Description		
מקומות		שייך לנפה	5704043	...	<>,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		שייך לנפה	9243600	...	Ujvasarpusztá,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475516	...	Bratysława,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475515	...	Pozsony,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475507	...	Bratislava,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475512	...	Bratysław,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475508	...	Pozon,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475510	...	Presburg,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475511	...	Prasburg,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475513	...	Preszburg,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		
		Variant of Place	5475514	...	Pressburg,Bratislava,Slovakia,Czechoslovakia		

The New Role of the Archivist

Values for User Defined Tables - Update - (T95989) - Avraham

(T95989) - Avraham

Main Add. Info. Items Translation **Synonyms**

Field	Item ID	Title
Preferred First Name	T336088	Avremi
Preferred First Name	T336089	Avrhm
Preferred First Name	T336090	Avri
Preferred First Name	T336091	Avro
Preferred First Name	T336092	Avrocham
Preferred First Name	T336093	Avrohim
Preferred First Name	T336094	Avruhum
Preferred First Name	T336095	Avry
Preferred First Name	T336102	Avrahamle
Preferred First Name	T336103	Awremci
Preferred First Name	T336104	Awruam
Preferred First Name	T336105	Awrumciy
Preferred First Name	T121324	Havraham
Preferred First Name	T163449	Arahm
Preferred First Name	T163490	Avrahm
Preferred First Name	T163491	Avrem
Preferred First Name	T163492	Avreml
Preferred First Name	T163493	Avrogom
Preferred First Name	T163494	Avroh
Preferred First Name	T163495	Avroum

Total Instances

YV Names Knowledge base



The New Role of the Archivist



Content aspects

- Being minded to growing needs of different audiences
- Bringing context back
- Augmented interconnectivity



In Conclusion



The Environment

The Challenge

The Way Forward

In Conclusion



- Rapidly evolving technology
- Changing needs of diverse audiences

The Challenge

The Way Forward

In Conclusion



- Rapidly evolving technology
- Changing needs of diverse audiences

- Self reflection
- Adaptation

The Way Forward

In Conclusion



- Rapidly evolving technology
- Changing needs of diverse audiences

- Self reflection
- Adaptation

- New tools and methodology
- Interorganizational cooperation

In Conclusion



- Rapidly evolving technology
- Changing needs of diverse audiences

- Self reflection
- Adaptation

Relevant, Effective, interconnected