

ICA Congress 2012  
in Brisbane

Trish O’Kane and Selena Smeaton





# Overview of conference

- Brisbane - huge convention centre
- Themes – Trust, Identity, Sustainability, ICA
- Mix of academic, lessons learned and projects undertaken, one loquacious Spanish judge (talking about Pinochet), real world use of archives
- Distinct split between Archivists and *the rest of us*
- Very international but only 1/2 expected number of participants
- Lots of French and big Chinese delegation very tall people from Netherlands...
- Great simultaneous translation service
- Too many streams and speakers, should have more streamlined





# Papers that you might find interesting....



## Rethinking archives

- Hans Hofman - Rethinking the archival function in the digital era
- Xiaomi An - Meta-synthetic strategies to digital recordkeeping: International trends and future directions
- Kate Cumming and Janet Knight - Can archives survive in a climate of change? Adapting to the modern recordkeeping crisis: Australian perspectives
- Jean-Baptiste Auzel - The French Archives and the commemoration of World War I
- Cassie Findlay- People, records and power: What archives can learn from WikiLeaks
- Larry Eiring - The impact of digital natives and social media on the management of information and the future of global society

## Cool ideas

- Alexandra Eveleigh - Crowdsourcing: prone to error?
- Jane Stevenson - Linking Data - Linking Lives: the creation and display of Linked Open Data for Archives
- Mitchell Whitelaw - Towards Generous Interfaces for Archival Collections
- Victoria Lemieux - Envisioning a Sustainable Future for Archives: A Role for Visual Analytics?
- Lei Wang - Approaching Archival Photographic Collections with Content-based Image Retrieval Technology
- Jorien Weterings - Changing theory into practice: playing the Metadata Game



**Hans Hoffman** National Archives Netherlands

Rethinking the archival function in the digital era

- <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12final00187.pdf>
- **Summarised issues, asked lots of questions.....**

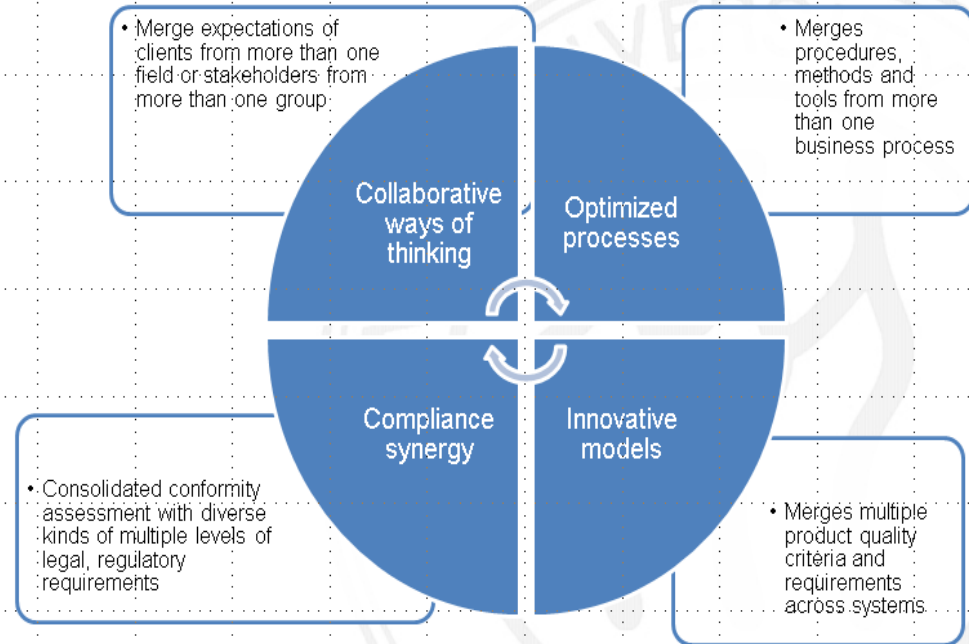
# + Xiaomi An Renmin University of China

## ■ Meta-synthetic strategies to digital recordkeeping: International trends and future directions

### Meta-synthetic

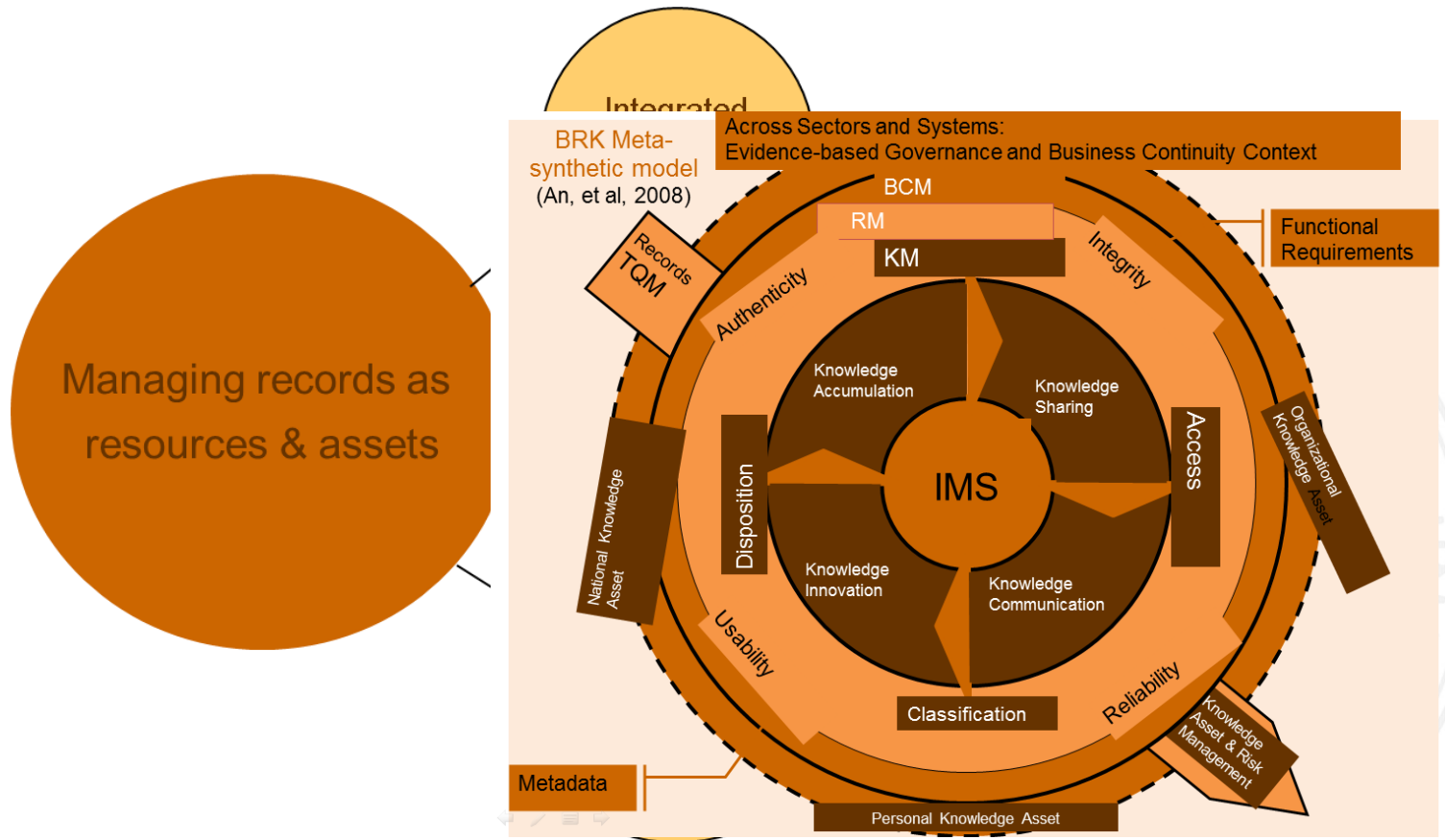
- **combing** people, knowledge and tools together
- **integrating** quantitative and qualitative methods, theories and practices, dynamic and static processes, macro and micro levels, centralized and distributed status, etc. together
- **a holistic and systemic approach** to bring together different independent parts as an integrated and unified whole

(Qian, et al 1990 ; Yu, 2005; Gu, 2007)



# + Xiaomi An

## Meta-synthetic strategies (2)





# Xiaomi An

## Meta-synthetic strategies (3)



- National strategies
  - Open government initiatives (U.S, UK)
  - E-government plan (China; Netherland, Canada).
- Strategic Direction and intent
  - Digital continuity action plan ( New Zealand 2009)
  - Digital continuity plan (Australia, 2011)
  - Managing digital continuity (UK, 2011)
- <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12final00020.pdf>
- **Email: anxiaomi@ruc.edu.cn**

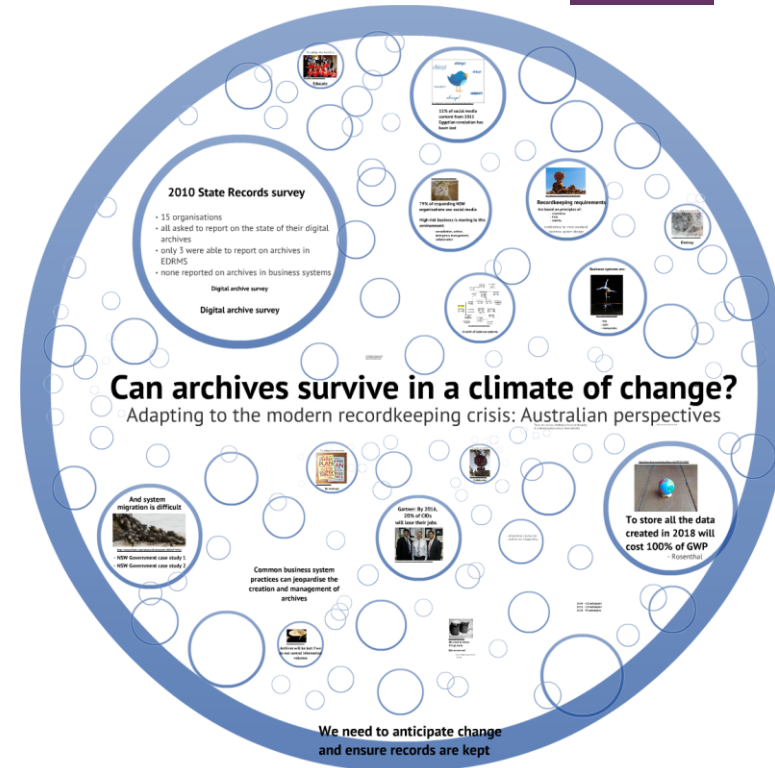


# + Kate Cumming and Janet Knight

State Records New South Wales

## Can archives survive in a climate of change? Adapting to the modern recordkeeping crisis: Australian perspectives

- Gartner: By 2016  
20% of CIOs will lose their jobs
- 2010 SRNSW Survey, 15 agencies
  - 3 could report on archives in EDRMS
  - 0 reported on archives in business systems
- Recordkeeping requirements based on
  - Redundancy, fixity, stability
  - Antithetical to most standard business system design
- All agencies using social media – high rate of loss
- Storage is NOT cheap –  
we have to get much better at timely destruction
- <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00393.pdf>



<http://futureproof.records.nsw.gov.au>



# Jean-Baptiste Auzel Archives de France

## The French Archives and the commemoration of World War I



- C'etait tout en Francais, mais...
- Huge project –
  - WW1 saw massive displacement of people into France
  - “Total war” so all archives of the time are facets of the war
  - 8 millions lists of birth records, **100 French departments**
- River of time – archivist goes upstream and downstream
- Sharing
  - Australia 400,000 soldiers – lists digitised
  - Dept of Somme in Picardy shares with Aus War Memorial
  - University of Melbourne holds letters from Aus soldiers in France
  - Letters translated into French, shared with villages mentioned

# + Jean-Baptiste Auzel

The French Archives and the commemoration of World War I (2)

- [www.archivesportaleurope.eu](http://www.archivesportaleurope.eu)
- [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)
- [www.archives.somme.fr](http://www.archives.somme.fr)



# Cassie Findlay State Records New South Wales

## People, records and power: What archives can learn from WikiLeaks

- “Effective democratisation can always be measured by this essential criterion: the participation in and the access to the archive, its constitution, and its interpretation”

- - Jacques Derrida, *Archive Fever* (1996)

- Three core aspects for archivists

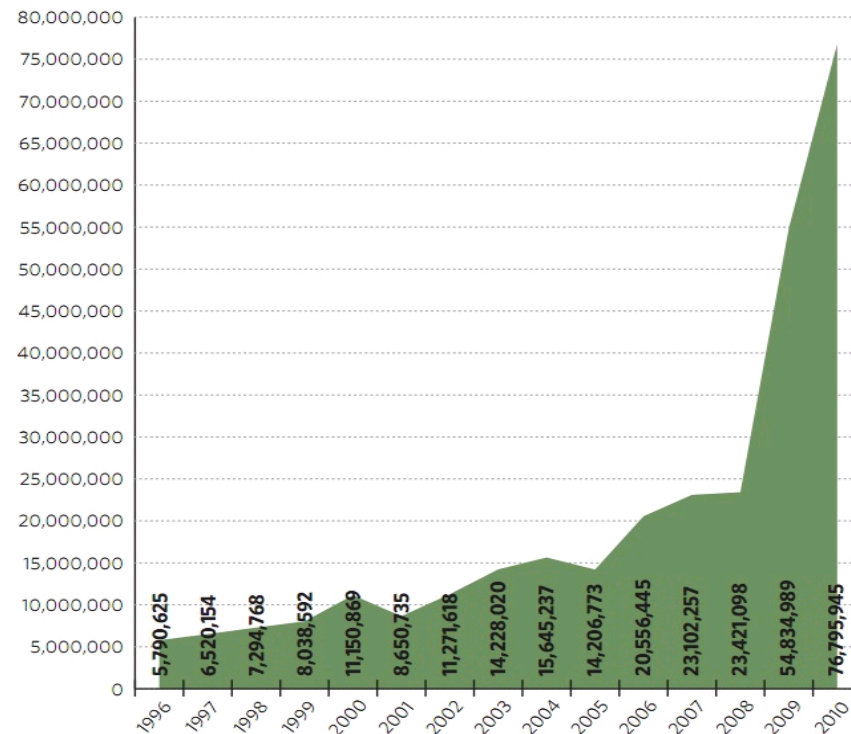
- **Appraisal**

- 1980 Cabinet documents withheld in 2011- “withheld withheld”

- **Access and use**

- **Trust and authenticity**

Combined Original and Derivative Classification Activity, FY 1996 - FY 2010



U.S. government classification over time (graph by the US Information Security Oversight Office).



# Cassie Findlay

## People, records and power: What archives can learn from WikiLeaks (2)

1. **That we would do a better - and more honest - job if we acknowledged and accommodated the fact that all of us working in recordkeeping are political actors.**
2. **That laws, culture and practices around access to records are dysfunctional.**
3. **That archival methods need some pretty fundamental reimagining.**

<http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00220.pdf>



# + Larry Eiring ARMA International

The impact of digital natives and social media on the management of information and the future of global society

- “All-digital native” generation members (**Generation 3C**)
- **Information individualism** will become the norm and drive the creation of a new global economic model.
- The expectation of **instantaneous, uninterrupted communication and unhindered access to information** will drive continual improvements in communication and information technology.
- Individual expectations of personal information privacy will be deemed unrealistic, excepting that information the individual maintains solely ***in their own mind***.



# Larry Eiring

The impact of digital natives and social media on the management of information and the future of global society (2)

- Records and information ***statutes and regulations will evolve***, influenced by the principles of the new “information individualism.”
- The creation of ***virtual communities of interest*** will link every human to every other, enabling knowledge sharing supporting collaborative solutions.
- In summary, Generation 3C will leverage their unique talents and world-view to introduce radical new approaches towards the management of information to improve almost every aspect of life and allow the creation of a singular, integrated and harmonious global society to become possible.
- <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ical2Abstract00383.pdf>

+ **Alexandra Eveleigh**, University College London  
**w/o Ellen Fleurbaay**, Amsterdam City Archives

Crowdsourcing: prone to error?



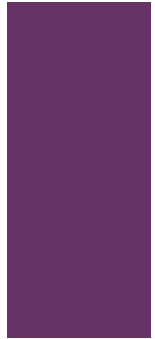
- 'VeleHanden - Public-private partnership between Amsterdam City Archives and Pictura, a commercial digitisation company in The Netherlands
  - Pictura actually owns the *VeleHanden* website,
  - An archive service has to pay a scaleable service fee to use *VeleHanden*,
  - Pictura develops needed functionality in dialogue with the archival institution.
  - The archive service retains control over digital images and any metadata created by the volunteers during the project.
- Crowdsourcing' information from archive documents



# + Alexandra Eveleigh, University College London

## w/o Ellen Fleurbaay, Amsterdam City Archives

### Crowdsourcing: prone to error? (2)



- 1389 volunteer members
- Over 9 months, 16 person-years contributed

#### VeleHanden Production Statistics

Project	Extent	Indexing Activity	Duration
Militia Registers	283,732 scans	1,532,643 records	253 days
Population Registers	236,640 scans	367,443 records	91 days
Missing Links	84.455 scans	22.485 records	36 days

**VeleHanden** *maken licht werk*

Home Projecten Leden Forum Nieuws Help

VeleHanden :: Projecten :: Missing Links

### Missing Links

Het project Missing Links is een initiatief van het Regionaal Archief Leiden. Het is heel anders dan de eerste projecten van Vele Handen, waarbij de nadruk ligt op het samen maken van een index. De naamindex op personen is namelijk al jaren op de site van het archief te vinden en sinds 2010 waren ook de scans van de delen integraal beschikbaar.

Wat ontbrak was een koppeling tussen de beide gegevens. Wel was er een koppeling tussen een record uit de index en het register waarin het record werd vermeld, maar het was noodzakelijk om het hele deel na te kijken.

Het doel van dit project is om de door vele vrijwilligers gemaakte database te koppelen aan de exacte afbeelding uit een register. Een onderzoeker zal daardoor direct bij het gevraagde record uitkomen.

Standaard van zaken

Totaal aantal scans: [redacted]

Dubbel ingevoerd: [redacted]

Totaal gecontroleerd: [redacted]

Totaal onbruikbaar: [redacted]

[Bekijk alle statistieken](#)

Aan de slag

[Download de invoerinstructies](#)

[Meedoen](#)

Laatste nieuwsberichten

# + Alexandra Eveleigh, University College London w/o Ellen Fleurbaay, Amsterdam City Archives

## Crowdsourcing: prone to error? (3)

VeleHanden Participants

	Men	Women	No sex	
<20	2	2	0	
20-50	143	141	18	
50-70	355	166	67	
>70	78	17	17	
No age	113	114	156	
Total	691	440	258	1389

- Quality control:
  - 2 people independently enter data (used to use 5 for entry)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> person checks
  - Escalate problems to project leader
- See Ben W. Branford  
“Quality control for crowd sourced transcription”, March 2012  
<http://manuscripttranscription.blogspot.co.nz/2012/03/quality-control-for-crowdsourced.html>
- Living with errors
  - Impossible years of birth – have to record accurately what was written (*hmmmmm*)
  - Go back to main purpose – help to find people and provide access
- A lot of IT design and build work to ease the process

# + Alexandra Eveleigh, University College London w/o Ellen Fleurbaay, Amsterdam City Archives

## Crowdsourcing: prone to error? (4)

### ■ Role of the archivist:

- Say “thank you” to volunteers (they are paid a pittance)
- Gatekeeper – facilitator
- Focus on the nature and purpose of archival description
  - Finding Aid – making sense of archives
  - Singular responsibility – coordination of a network of contributors
- Facilitate access and promote understanding
- Structuring, filtering and creating new knowledge around archives

<http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00271.pdf>



# Jane Stevenson University of Manchester

## Linking Data - Linking Lives: the creation and display of Linked Open Data for Archives

- Archives Hub <http://archiveshub.ac.uk/linkinglives/>
  - JISC funded service [www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk)
  - Descriptions of archives held across the UK
  - March 2010 JISC call for proposals to “expose digital content for education and research”
  - enable **structured data** to be made available on the Web, in particular Linked Data.
  - Intention to create “5 star” Linked Data  
<http://www.w3.org/DesignIssues/LinkedData.html>



### Linking Lives

*Using Linked Data to create biographical resources*



The Knowledge Warehouse Limited



# Jane Stevenson

## Linking Data - Linking Lives: the creation and display of Linked Open Data for Archives (2)

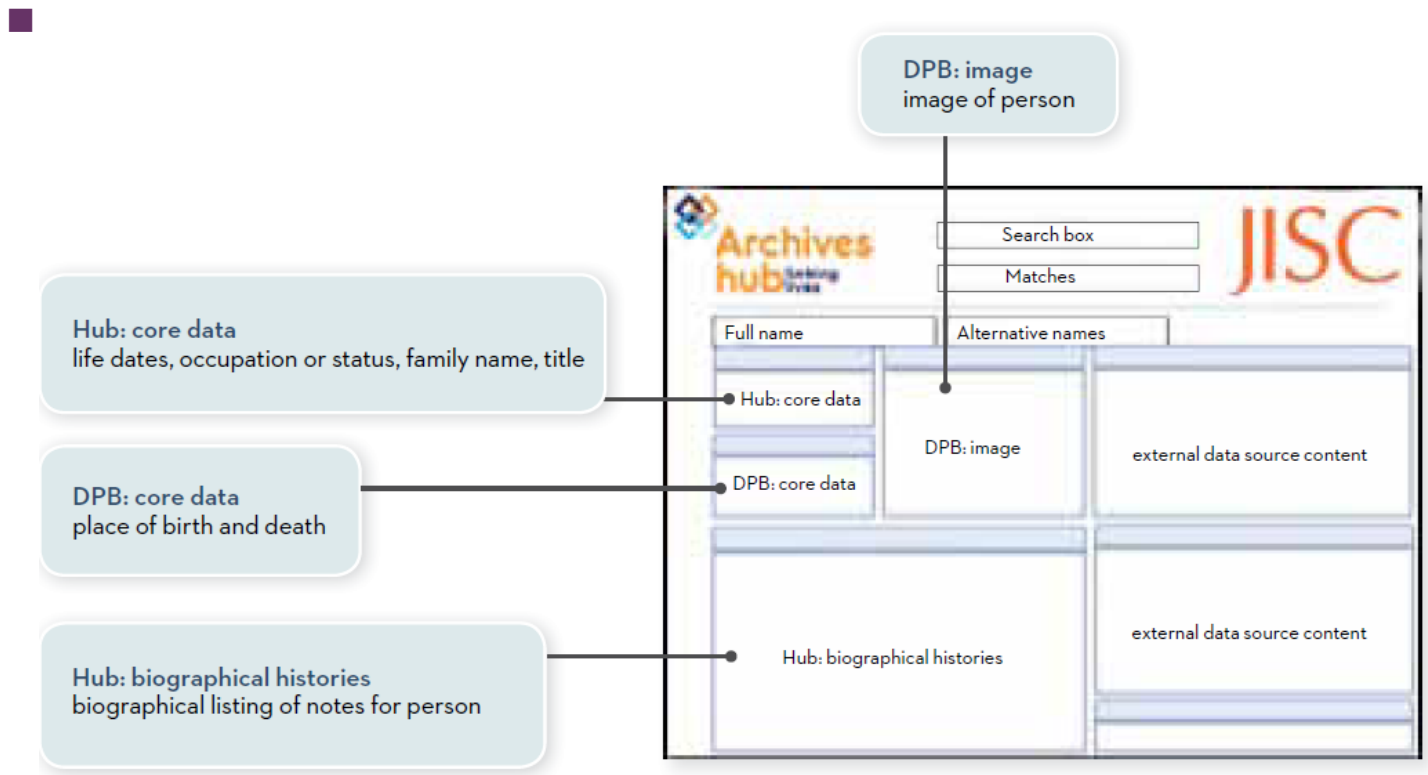


Figure 1: Wireframe for the Linking Lives interface



# Jane Stevenson

## Linking Data - Linking Lives: the creation and display of Linked Open Data for Archives (3)



### ■ Technical stuff:

- Used stylesheet to transform Archives Hub Encoded Archival Descriptions (EAD) into RDT XML
- Created LOCAH (Linked Open Copac and Archives Hub)
- The Technically inclined, should read:  
[www.niso.org/apps/group\\_public/download.php/9410/IP\\_Stevenson\\_LinkingLives\\_isqv24no2-3.pdf](http://www.niso.org/apps/group_public/download.php/9410/IP_Stevenson_LinkingLives_isqv24no2-3.pdf)

### ■ Used “Beatrix Webb” as an example

- URI for document/item
- URI for person
- Roles and Relationships – “creator of”, “knew”
- Data items: Life dates, Epithet, Family name,
  - From Wikipedia: Place of birth, death
  - From EAD: Biographical notes
- Outside own space
  - URI for repository
  - “is the same as” for same material in multiple places
  - Link to VIAF (Virtual Internet Authority File) which is already linked to Wikipedia
  - “SPARQL and point” does not = Job Done



# Jane Stevenson

## Linking Data - Linking Lives: the creation and display of Linked Open Data for Archives (4)

- 3 challenges with Linked Data
  - Persistence
  - Trust and provenance
  - Understanding – is the information more useful to the viewer or more confusing (e.g. linking to inaccurate information sources)
  
- ICA paper:
  - <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00029.pdf>
  
- Better version:
  - [http://www.niso.org/apps/group\\_public/download.php/9410/IP\\_Stevenson\\_LinkingLives\\_isqv24no2-3.pdf](http://www.niso.org/apps/group_public/download.php/9410/IP_Stevenson_LinkingLives_isqv24no2-3.pdf)





# Mitchell Whitelaw Canberra University, Australia

## Towards Generous Interfaces for Archival Collections

- Specialises in visualisations of digital collections
- Interfaces matter, a fan of Nicholas Belkin, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas\\_J.\\_Belkin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_J._Belkin)
- “Search is stingy”
  - Withholds rather than offering
  - Has attitude, “yes, what?”
  - Does not provide context – scope, extent, structure
  - Assumes a query







# Mitchell Whitelaw

## Towards Generous Interfaces for Archival Collections (2)

- Principles for generous interfaces
  - Show first, don't have to ask
  - Provide rich overviews
  - Offer samples
  - Provide context
    - macro connections,
    - micro (item to item)
  - Share high quality primary content
- Generous interfaces are possible now, it requires imagination

- <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ical2Final00423.pdf>
- <http://www.slideshare.net/mtchl/generous-interfaces>



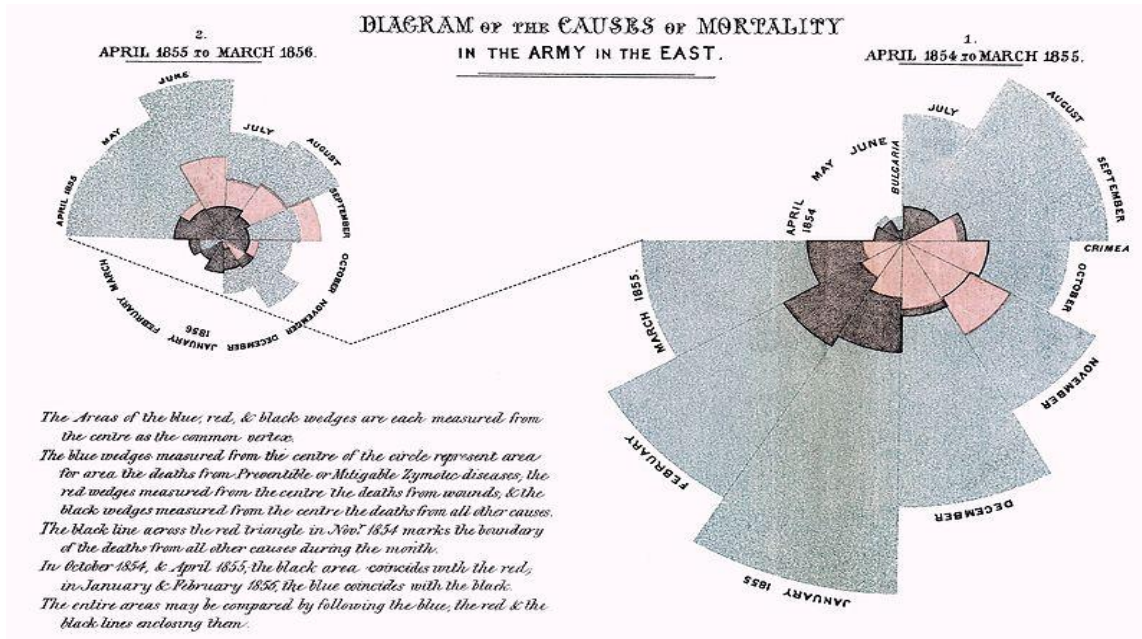
Figure 1. The Irish In Australia History Wall - National Museum of Sherratt.



# Victoria Lemieux University of British Columbia

## Envisioning a Sustainable Future for Archives: A Role for Visual Analytics?

- Very informative, but no visuals in the paper!
- Florence Nightingale's – causes of mortality in Crimean





# Victoria Lemieux

## Envisioning a Sustainable Future for Archives: A Role for Visual Analytics? (2)

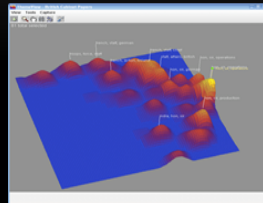
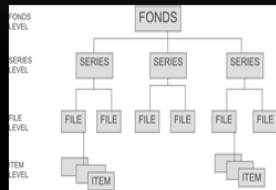
- Leverage human cognitive skills
  - The optic nerve is hardwired into the human brain – can process huge amounts of data
- 2005 – online funding of finding aids. Ian Anderson, University of Glasgow
- <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00239.pdf>



# Victoria Lemieux

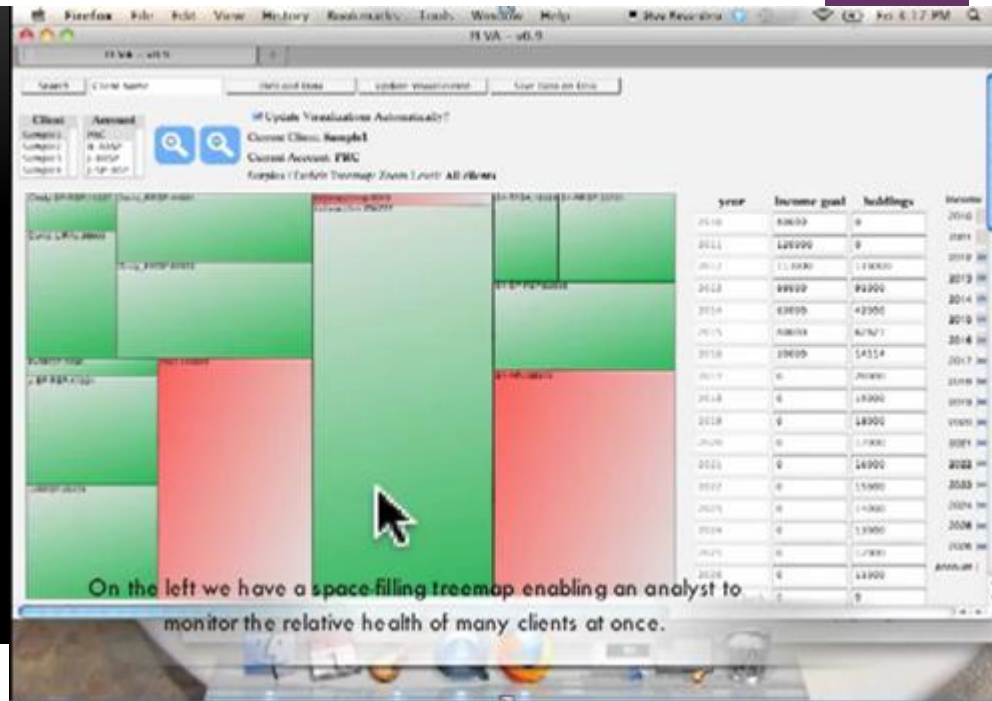
## Envisioning a Sustainable Future for Archives: A Role for Visual Analytics? (3)

### INFORMATION VISUALIZATION TO VISUAL ANALYTICS *IN THE ARCHIVES*



The Infographic:  
 Non-interactive  
 Visually Communicates  
*results* of analysis to researchers

Visual Analysis:  
 Highly Interactive  
 Supports visual *production* of  
 insight and analysis  
 -by researchers  
 -by archivists



- [vlemieux@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:vlemieux@mail.ubc.ca)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QiyCC0RjF0A>
- [http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12\\_Final00239.pdf](http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12_Final00239.pdf)

+ **Lei Wang** University of Wollongong

## Approaching Archival Photographic Collections with Content-based Image Retrieval Technology

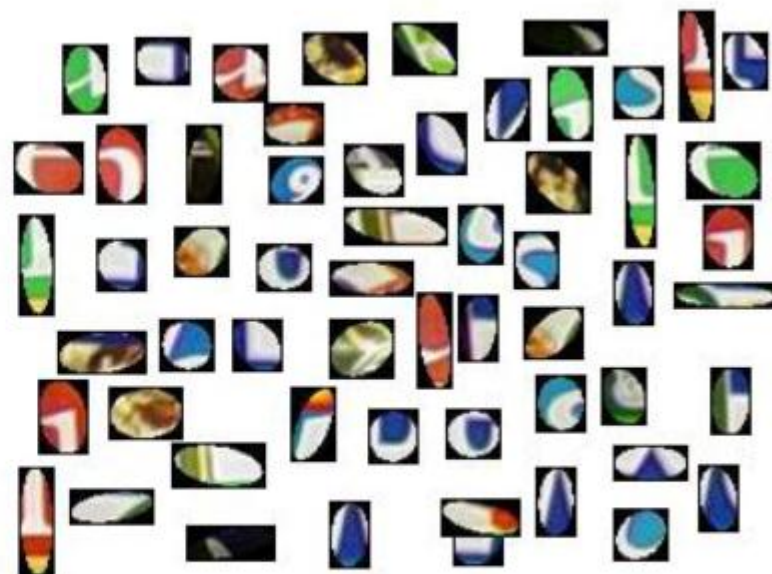


Figure 3: This figure shows some informative image patches sampled from an image.

# + Lei Wang

## Approaching Archival Photographic Collections with Content-based Image Retrieval Technology (2)

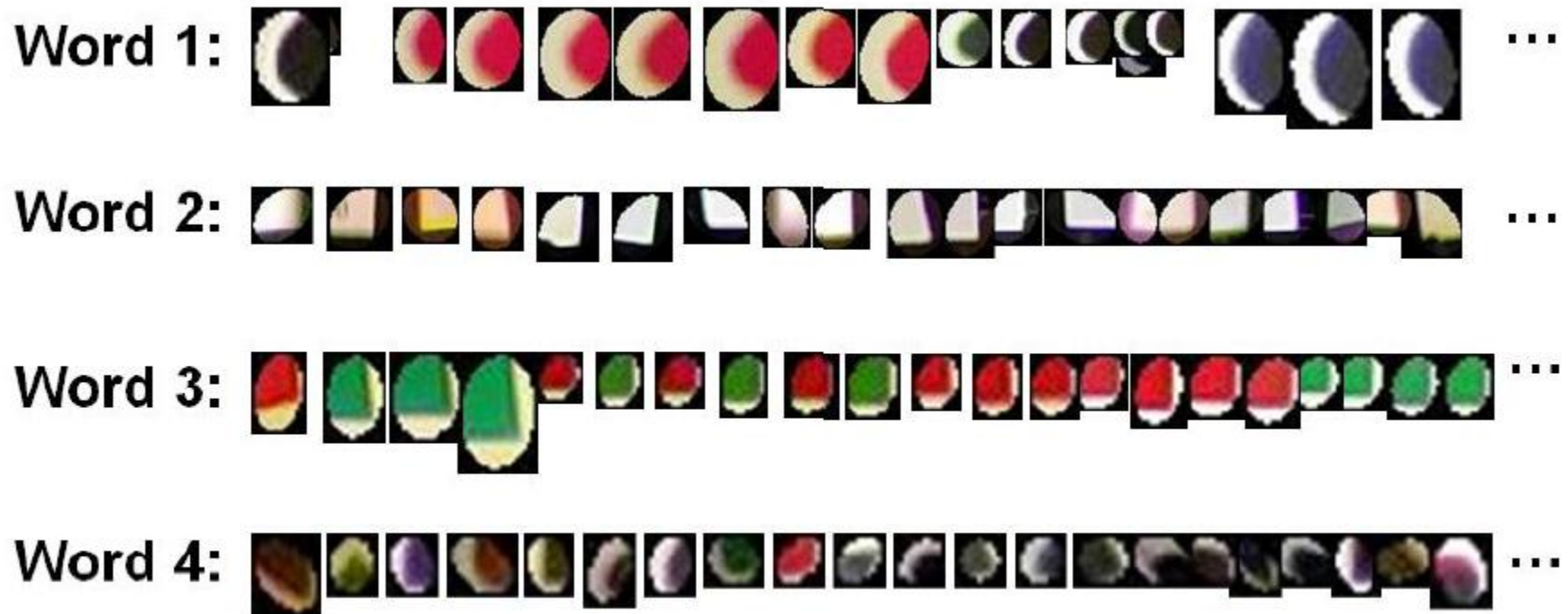


Figure 4: This figure shows examples of "visual words".

# + Lei Wang

## Approaching Archival Photographic Collections with Content-based Image Retrieval Technology (3)

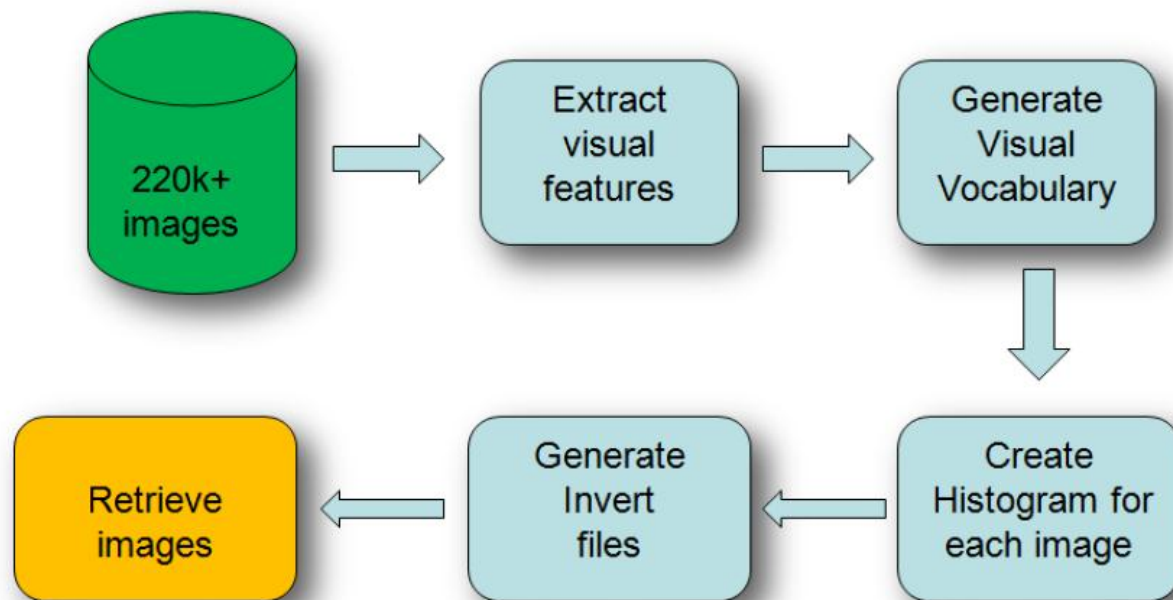


Figure 6: The key steps of building our CBIR system.

- <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00246.pdf>



# Jorien Weterings

National Archives Netherlands

## Changing theory into practice: playing the Metadata Game

- **MeDuSa: an XML-schema for the e-Depot**
- <http://www.ica2012.com/files/data/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00184.pdf>

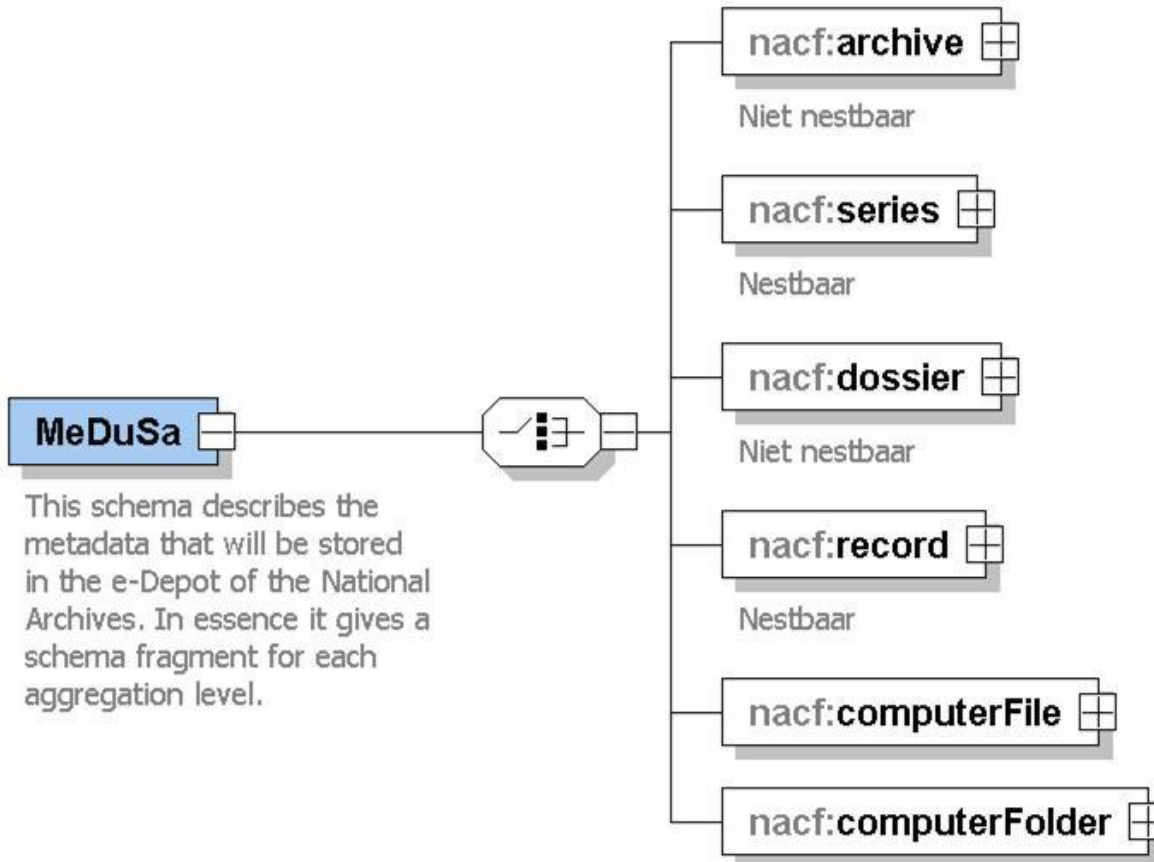




# Jorien Weterings

## Changing theory into practice: playing the Metadata Game (2)

### ■ MeDuSa: an XML-schema for the e-Depot



MeDuSa

This schema describes the metadata that will be stored in the e-Depot of the National Archives. In essence it gives a schema fragment for each aggregation level.

nacf:archive

Niet nestbaar

nacf:series

Nestbaar

nacf:dossier

Niet nestbaar

nacf:record

Nestbaar

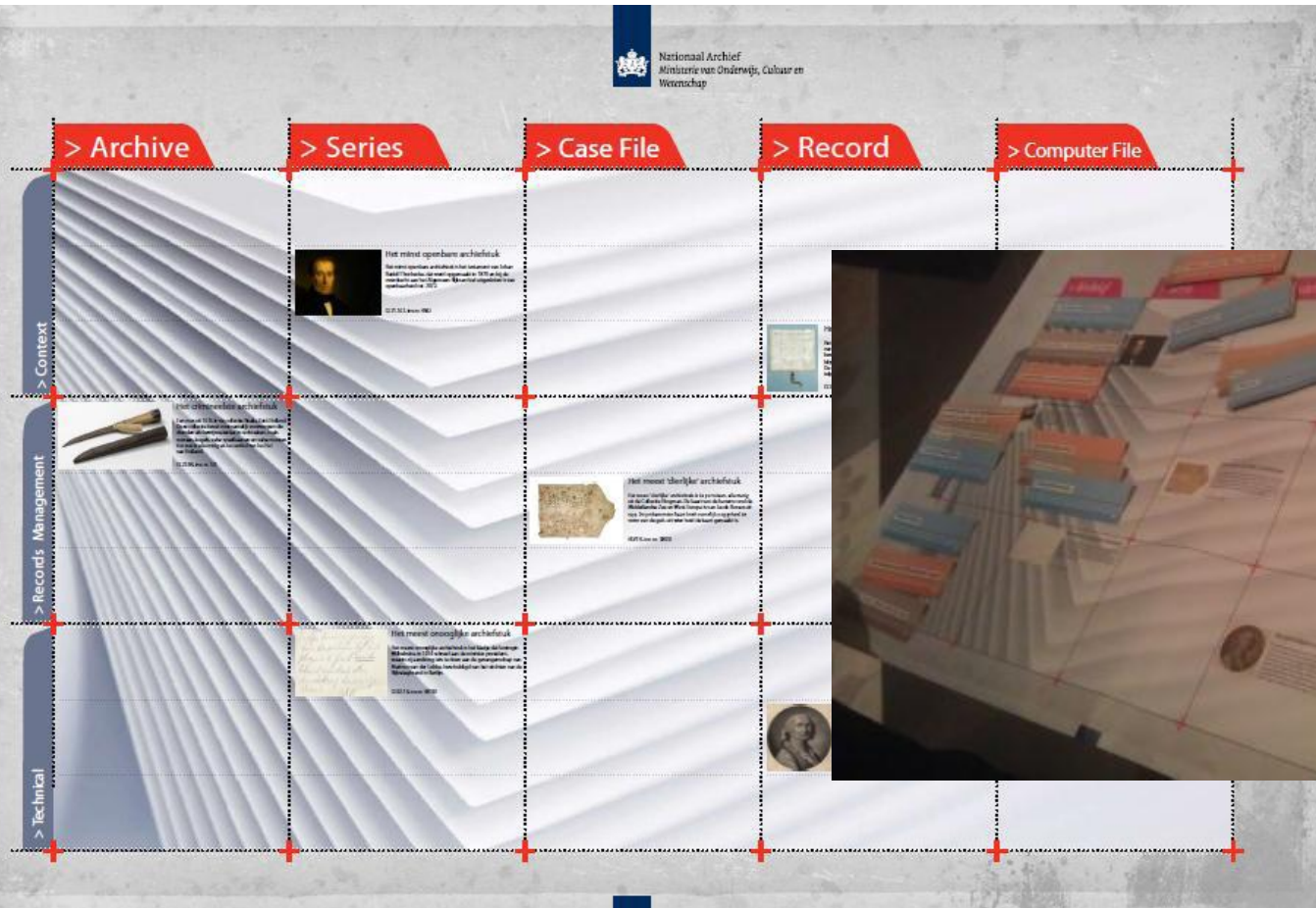
nacf:computerFile

nacf:computerFolder



# Jorien Weterings

Changing theory into practice:  
playing the Metadata Game (3)



+ Selena Smeaton, Trish O'Kane Knoware

Lisa Austin Archives New Zealand

High-value public sector information – A model to prioritise sustainability programs

- Simply brilliant!
- Contact us for the presentation



# Questions? and Links



Contact:

[Trish.O'Kane@knoware.co.nz](mailto:Trish.O'Kane@knoware.co.nz)

[Selena.Smeaton@knoware.co.nz](mailto:Selena.Smeaton@knoware.co.nz)

- Links to full papers and abstracts
  - <http://www.ica2012.com/program/full-papers.php>
  - Note: Presentations are not available yet!

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