

# *Greenlandic Archives*

*From colony to self-government - and beyond*

*Panel: Archives Across Northern  
Borders: Reconfiguring Archives in the  
Wake of Shifting National, Political and  
Cultural Contexts in the North Atlantic  
and Scandinavia.*

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# Greenland –Denmark

- 1721-1953 - Danish colony
- 1953 to 1979 – Status as a Danish county/region
- 1979 – 2009 - Home Rule (within the Danish Realm)
- 2009 – present - Self Government (within the Danish Realm)
  
- Greenlandic law on archives passed in 1982

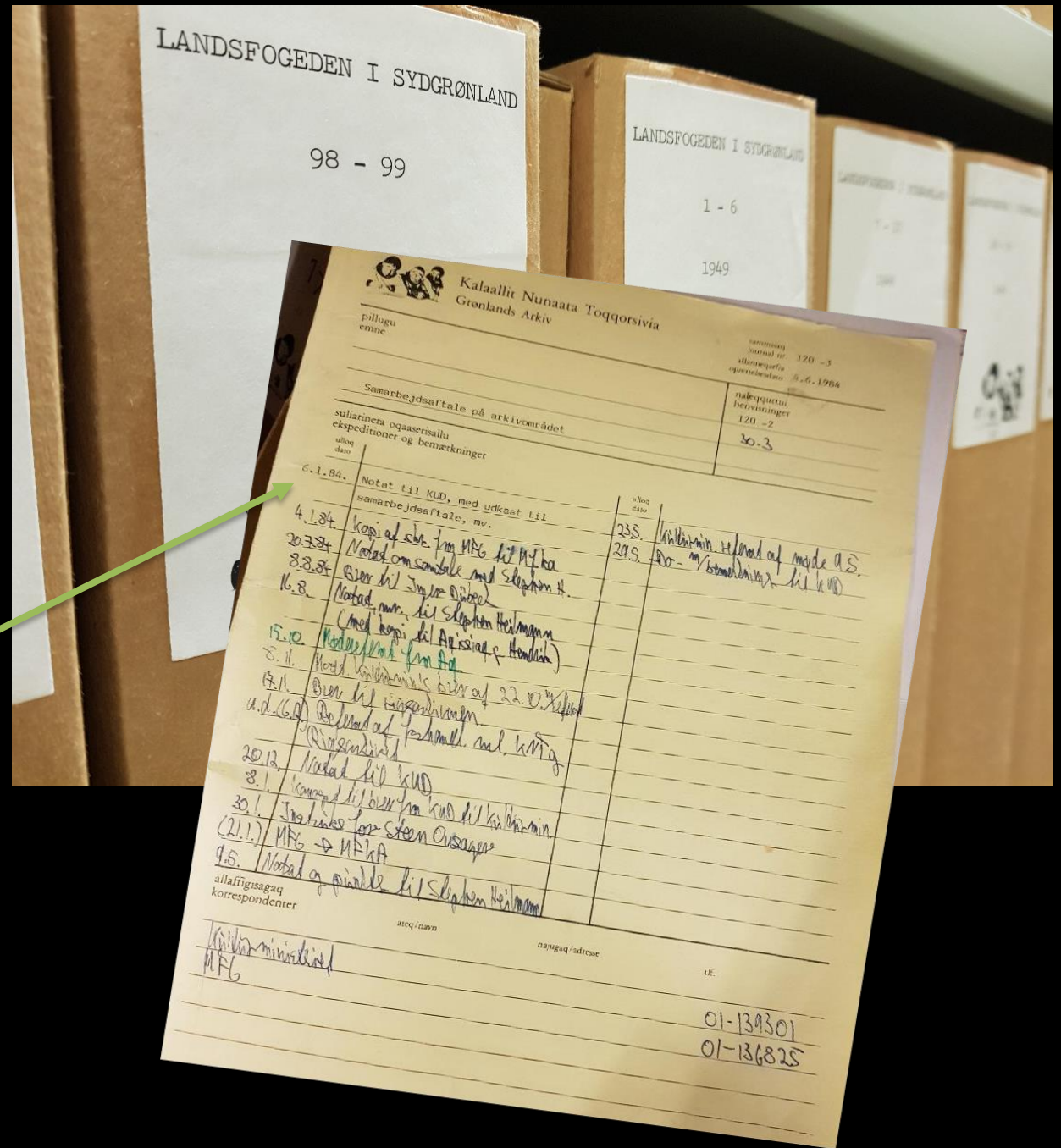
# Shared colonial collections (Ca.1730-1953)

- 1960's – shipped to Denmark
- 1980's – returned to Greenland
- Divided by principle of provenance
- Relatively well organized/registered
- Important collections in Greenland
- Online access (mainly Greenland)
- Loss /lacunas
- Unresolved questions about provenance



# Shared post-colonial collections (Ca.1953-present)

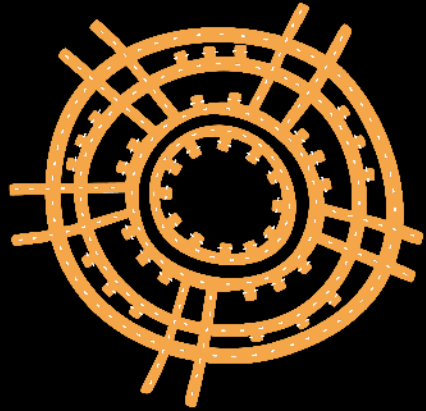
- Split collections
- Reflecting rapid change
- Inadequate registration
- Loss/lacunae
- Two types of legislation
- Archives of Danish state offices *in* Greenland
- Private collections



# NEXT STEPS

- RENEGOTIATE PRINCIPLES OF DIVISION/SHARING
- FORMAL AGREEMENT ON APPRAISAL, STORAGE AND ACCESS (DANISH STATE ARCHIVES)
- JOINT REGISTRATION/RESEARCH PROJECTS
- JOINT DIGITIZATION PROJECTS
- ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH HOLDERS OF PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Qujanaq – thank you!



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