BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE INQUIRIES
A CONTINUUM OF RECORDKEEPING RESPONSES

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Archival Autonomy: Design (n) : Design (v)

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ICA/ASA/ARANZ/PARBICA Conference 23 October 2019, Adelaide
Motivation

• Research that supports activism, advocacy, and change
• Critical approach to a complex sociomaterial system
• Design Science to move from ‘what is’ to ‘what could be’
• Interested in design as both an outcome and a process
Design (n)
It's really important for young people to have documents that answer the question: Who am I?

One day 100 case files showed up on my door.

But they didn't give me any answers.

Where are the achievements? The positive comments?

Where are the records of conversations of parents who express love for their children?

It's critical the care leaver be informed that they have a record in the first place.

Important documents get lost when young people move between care...
**Big Brother Culture**
- Legal Framework
- Delivered from above
- Organisation-centric
- Reactive Disclosure

**Redacted**

**Enforcing Rights…**
- To Remember
- To Forget
- To Reply/Amend
- To Participate
- To The Truth
- To Family

**Now I understand my grandmother…**

**It's important to me that my records remain part of history and that I'm allowed to amend and annotate them.**

**They're mine to destroy if I want - it should be my choice.**

**Who gets to see my data?**

**But what if DHHS uses that information against young parents?**

**It's about me - if anyone should be able to access it, it's me.**

**The organisation doesn't own the records - they're mine!**

**You don't have to accept the record - it's one person's opinion of your childhood.**
Schrödinger’s Cat

Recordkeeping in the continuum

...passive keepers of documentary detritus, Luc de Sante's "caretakers in the boneyards of information“ (McKemmish, 2001)
Networks of Ethics & Rights frameworks
Regulatory monitoring, oversight, and audit
Complex privacy models
Sustainability, Interoperability, Crisis support systems, Decision support systems, Smart and ethical data analytics, Complex network security
Activating the archive through art and design; Co-design, Co-production, Radical re-imaginings
Participatory recordkeeping, Inclusive archiving, Rights in records, Archival autonomy, Archival activism, Co-creation, Co-design, Co-research, Trauma informed practice
Accountable child-centred practice, Smart crisis decision making, Life story work, Re-imaging the case file
Critical and difficult histories, Historical justice, Digital humanities
Recordkeeping literacy, Digital literacy, Reggio Emilia documentation strategies, Early years Framework
Community Partners: Care-leavers, advocates etc.
Participatory Recordkeeping Framework

Lifelong Living Archive for the Child

Interfaces
Analytics
Processes

In-Care formation, management and use

Participatory Recordkeeping Framework

Interoperability Framework

Processes
Analytics
Interfaces

Post-Care ongoing formation, management and use

Outcomes

Participatory recordkeeping methodology
Rights based recordkeeping systems
Conceptual reference model of Lifelong Living Archive
Tools for recordkeeping literacy
Interdisciplinary research capacity
Wicked problems require a participatory approach.
An Australian Research Council Discovery Project investigating the design of systems to support the recordkeeping rights of people who experience childhood out-of-home Care.

Co-design and prototyping

Rights Charter for Childhood Recordkeeping

Recordkeeping Principles Survey

Historical Justice
Co-design approach

Figure 3. Classical roles of users, researchers, and designers in the design process (on the left) and how they are merging in the co-designing process (on the right).

Co-designing a Lifelong Living Archives Prototype

Workshop aims
• to learn about Care records and recordkeeping experiences and aspirations;
• to imagine what rights-based, person-centred, participatory recordkeeping systems might look like;
• to develop a set of design communication objects to convey requirements;
• to build a digital prototype;
• to foster advocacy and co-researcher relationships.
MySSy Prototype

Profile and Record Sharing Controls
Recordkeeping Metadata Creation
Personal Records Curation and Storage

Registry
Repository

Recordkeeping Metadata APIs
Recordkeeping Business APIs
Document Retrieval and Exchange APIs
If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, 1970s
Co-designing

‘... at a fork in the road where we can either choose to reinforce legacy outdated paradigms with shiny new things, or choose to forge better paths. To do the latter, we need to critically assess the systems and structures we [have] built and actively choose what we want to keep, what we should discard, what sort of society we want in the future and what we need to get there. I think it is too easily forgotten that we invented all this and can therefore reinvent it — if we choose to. To not make a choice is to choose the status quo.’


