Archival systems for GLAM

Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums each have their own traditional habits. This persistent disunity can be frustrating to anyone looking for threads of commonality among them. The more diversity there is among GLAM institutions, the more need there is for adequate data systems.

The new approach is to build archival systems whose goal is to foster inclusion, to bridge distances among different kinds of cultural collections and institutions.

The Fondazione San Carlo in Modena, Italy, provides a case study. It shows how to use archival software to describe and to index a very diverse catalog of materials, and serves as an example of how to erase barriers of distance in the context of GLAM.

to Embrace INTEGRATION

Historical archives: diversity that demands inclusion

Historical Archives hold the artifacts of the full panorama of human achievement: photographs, books, drawings, pieces of art, contemporary art, manufactures and documents of all kinds. This diversity requires descriptive systems that are designed to hold standardized data structures that will work across the full range of archival contents.

Archival systems act as bridges for GLAM when data are designed for the widest possible integration, with hierarchical and relational structures that do not merely juxtapose records but that provide an overview and tell the complex story of cultural objects and collections.

to Say HELLO WITH DATA

How do archives make connections?

The traditional dual archival description – one for the collection and one for its creator – already suggests the need to make connections between them. The core of new IT systems is that the creator is an entity, with a special status, that can draw relationships with other collections in a shared entity database. This is represented by persons, families, organizations, places, events or concepts and is designed to broaden the horizons of available connections among data sets and even diverse institutions.

Although in the GLAM reality, the descriptive logics are different, it’s possible to respect their peculiarity. The result is that GLAM catalogs are evolving from the old monolithic model.

to Find

Meet the Neighbors

Cultural contents exist in their context, which can be expressed as relationships in a net of information sets. This serves historians, who ascribe meaning to objects and place them in coherent narratives. When various GLAM institutions adopt a compatible data structure, more connections among diverse sources become possible. This benefits scholars and specialists but also the general public in many ways.

NEW DISCOVERIES

The Curator’s Expertise

Nothing unites us more than good clean metadata.

The Curator is the human connection between our cultural heritage and the general public as well as to students and experts. The critical Metadata that they provide is an expression of their knowledge and wisdom. In this way, you can do new creative research.

to Mediate AS AN IDEAL GUIDE