



**Truth Wars: Guardians of the Galaxy or just False Witnesses?
The power of Libraries and Archives in the era of 'fake news'!**

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Coventry University



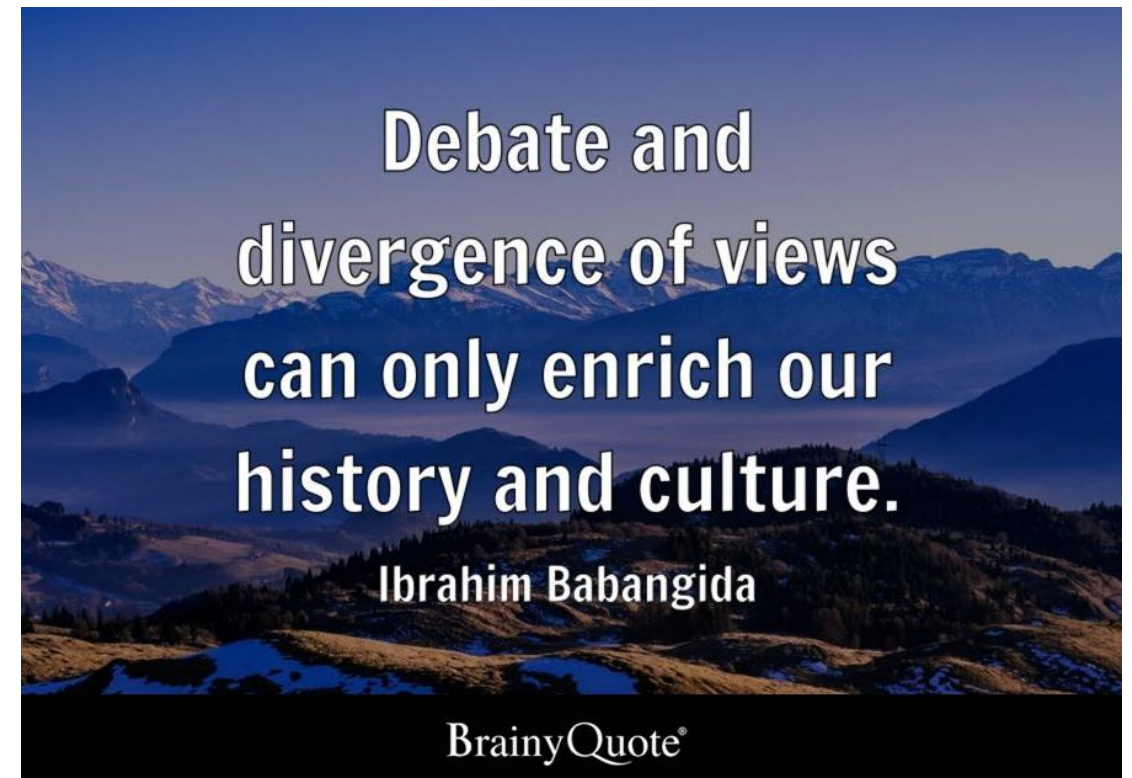
A long time a go in a galaxy far
far away...well, a decade or so
ago...

I secured my Masters (Mlitt) in
Archives & Records
Management from the
University of Dundee.

Agenda

To assess the power of library archive services in today's culture, reviewing:

1. The role of Archive Services – questioning the role of the Archivist.
2. The Preservation Paradox.
3. The impact of the Digital Dawn - Artificial Intelligence (AI).



The Power of Archive Services!

1. Providing trustworthy sources.

SNAP!

The Power Lyrics

I've got the power hey yeah heh
t's gettin' it's gettin' it's gettin' kinda hectic

Like the crack of the whip I snap attack
Front to back in this thing called rap
Dig it like a shovel rhyme devil
On a heavenly level





Respect Des Fonds

- A principle in archival theory that proposes to group collections of archival records according to their fonds (their entity by which they were created / received).
- It respects the principles of:
 - Provenance
 - Original Order.

Unfortunately, not 'The Fonz'!

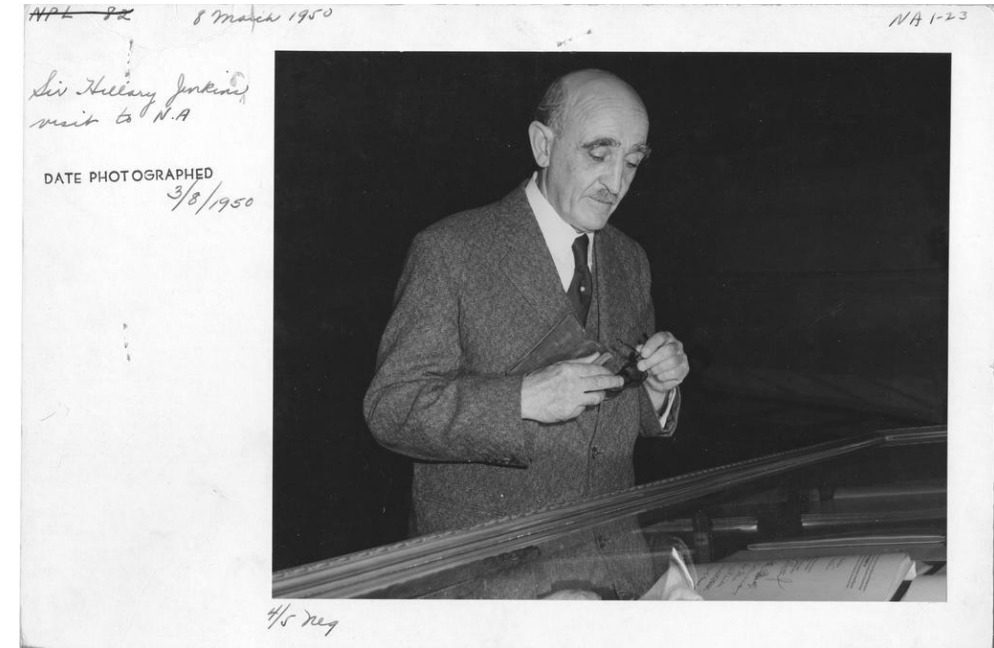


Catalogue levels

- ☐ Department
- ☐ Division
- ☒ Series
- ☐ Piece
- ☐ Item

The Power of Archive Services!

1. Providing trustworthy primary sources
2. Gatekeepers of the past, present, and future.
3. An independent voice for, & advocate of, all people?



“The good archivist is perhaps the most selfless devotee of the truth the modern world produces.”

- Sir Hilary Jenkinson

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The Facts:

- NARA's Head Archivist is a political post as appointed by the President.
- Neither politician Rubio, nor political scientist Dr Shogan have a professional background in Archives.
- Similarly, UK's Keeper of The National Archives is appointed by UK government officials.

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A Brief History of Archive Services



The Right to Privacy – Coventry's Peeping Tom is about to learn this!



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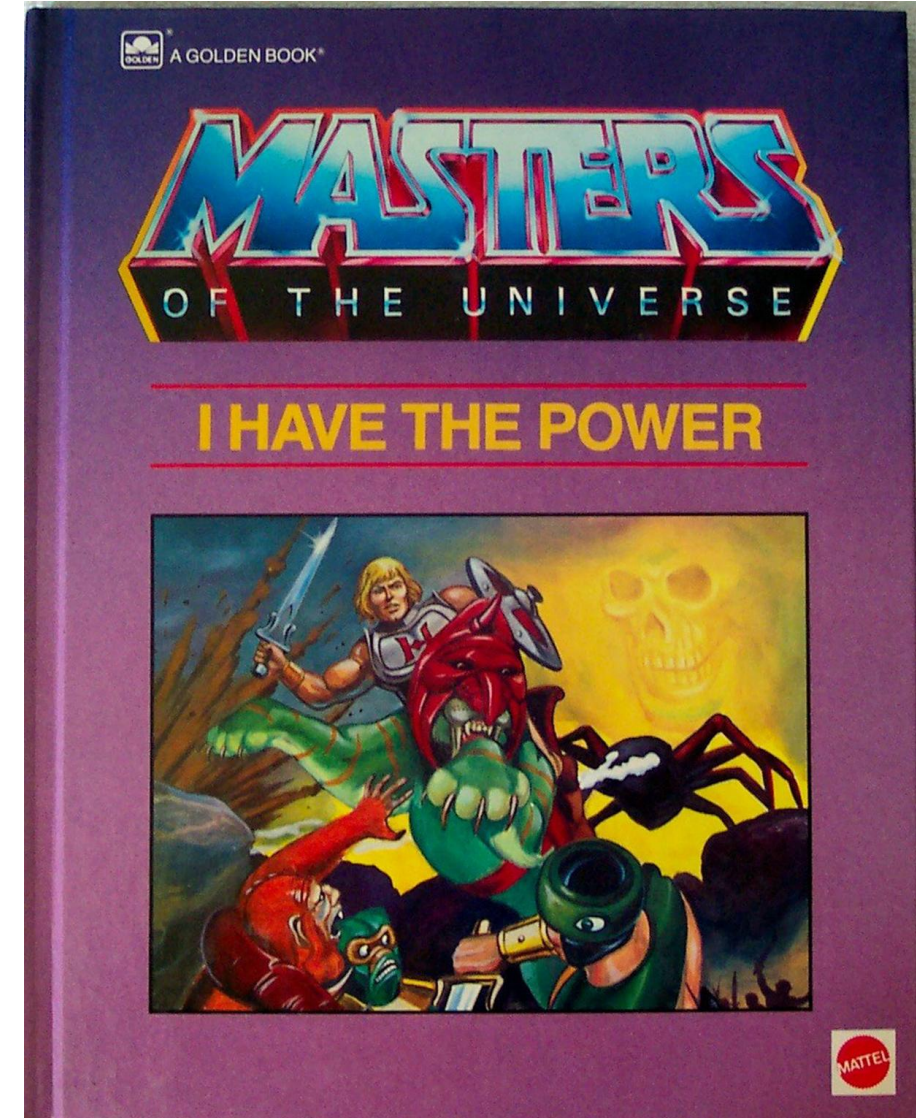
The Preservation /
Archive Paradox!



Access vs
Preservation

The Power of Archive Services!

1. Providing trustworthy primary sources
2. Gatekeepers of the past, present, and future?
3. An independent voice for, & advocate of, all people.
4. The tactile sense of history original physical archive artefacts can give when seen in person.



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Larry41onebay, YouTube video of 'Nitrate film fragment burn test, 35mm pre 1950 motion picture nitrocellulose film stock', published 21st August 2011

I remember at the National Film Theatre showing a dim 16mm dupe of a Colleen Moore comedy called Orchids and Ermine (1927)...**the projectionist switched over to the same scene in original nitrate. The audience gasped. The difference was indeed breathtaking.** The 16mm barely registered. The 35mm looked stereoscopic – you felt you could walk into it.”

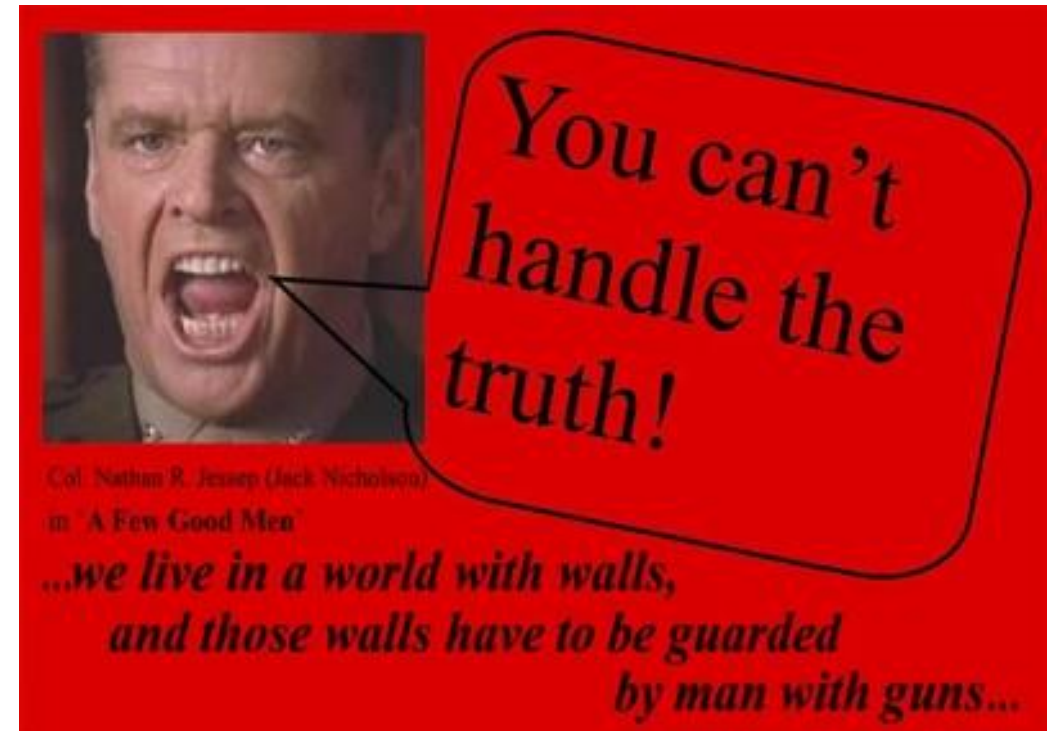
Kevin Brownlow, Sight and Sound online, 21 January 2011

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Are we heading for a Brave New World?



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Did you know?

Skynet (the name of the AI system in the Terminator film franchise) is real - it exists as a MoD military satellite communications system!

The future is Artificial!



"The unknown future rolls toward us. I face it, for the first time, with a sense of hope. Because if a machine, a Terminator, can learn the value of human life, maybe we can too."
Sarah Connor,
The Terminator

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Key Discussions Raised:

1. Archivists may be more guardians than false witnesses but not necessarily neutral.
2. A tactile sense of history matters but how much?
3. When information / words can be weaponised, are information professionals the new superhero?



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