

I think what is necessary to mention is the need for both physical and digitalization of records. An example of this can be found in the form microfilming. I think that newer forms of records can be digitized for cloud purposes, but also a physical copy should be made available if the company asks of one. You also need to consider the historical value of a record and if it can exist beyond the life cycle of records. The most important element of any record process is the process of appraisal and knowing the context for records in the first place.

From Millar, we read “Researchers will not look for the archives of a sport star in an institution devoted to the history of architecture. Citizens of a city should not find their local government’s records in a museum in another country” (Millar, 2017, p. 180).

What the book continues to state after this passage is how necessary the context of an appraisal is. The collection of records needs to match the material of a collection somehow. By not doing so, you generally run the risk of user confusion. If an individual is types in “architecture” for the history of architecture and has Kobe Bryant as a search result, I’m pretty sure the institution will lose a significant amount of credibility.

A line from the Cook text also has an excellent point about the whether the information should be more accessible to society rather than exclusive to it. My initial thought when reading that passage of the text was that *information should be accessible to everyone. The more people know, the more we will discuss and improve upon it.* I was kind of relieved to see that the following text supported by thought.

“And if we archivists accept that we are indeed defined by ‘what we keep,’ and that ‘we keep what we are,’ then our professional identity will also be radically altered, to society’s significant benefit” (Cook, 2011, PDF).

Overall, by understanding the principle of appraisal and sharing the practice to the public, we can ensure a more clear and concise method of appraisal in the future.

References:

Millar, L. (2017). Archives: Principles and practises (2nd ed.). Chicago: Neal-Schuman.

Cook, T. (2011). We are what we keep; we keep what we are: Archival appraisal past, present and future. Journal of the Society of Archivists, 32(2), 173-189. Cook 2011.pdf