

Blurring the lines

The benefits of a diverse approach to managing data

Our Digital Future - Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Long Term Data
Preservation and Access
Cambridge Big Data
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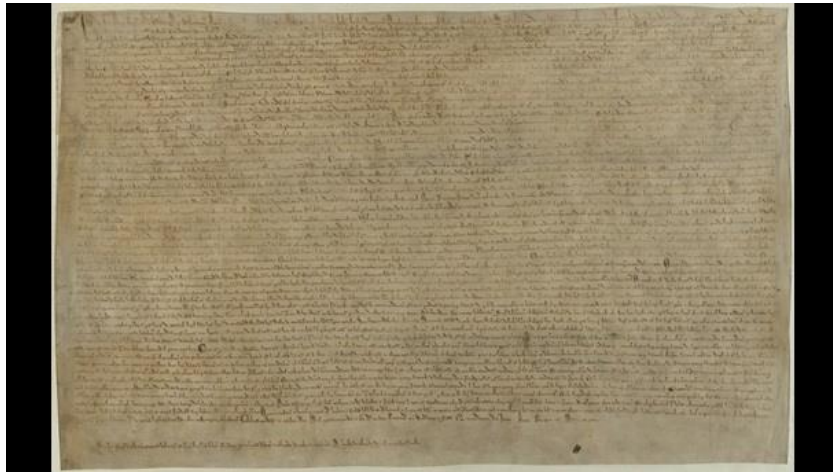
Blurring the Lines

The continuities and the differences

- Continuity between digital and physical formats
- Creating context
- Appraisal
- The benefits of a multidisciplinary approach
- The importance of good communication

Blurring the Lines

Paper and parchment are robust, digital is fragile



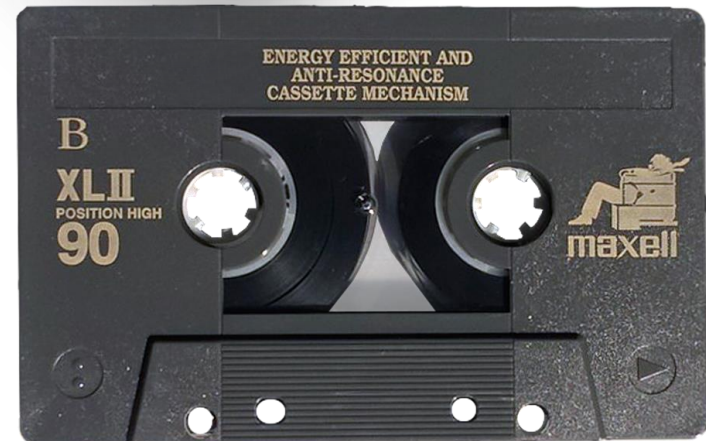
Magna Carta, 1215 Cotton MS Augustus ii.106 (British Library)



(Pixabay CC0 Licence)

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Other formats are fragile too



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Intervention and definition

- Intervention for preservation
- Intervention to create context
- Archives as a continuum - diversity of interpretation is essential

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The (digital) archivist's skills

- Provenance
- Preservation
- Appraisal
- Security
- Discoverability
- Access

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Appraisal (or what to keep) I

- What should we keep?
- What could we keep?
- How much will it cost?
- Who will pay?

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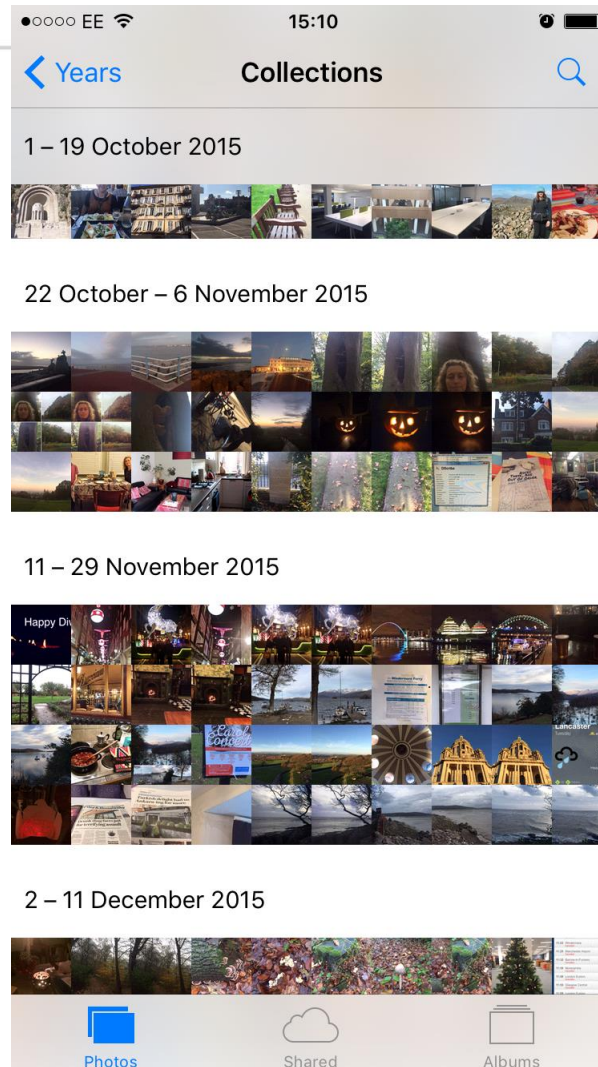
My personal “archive” part I



Grandad and Great Uncle Norman

Blurring the Lines

My personal “archive” part II



Contents of my iPhone

Blurring the Lines

Appraisal (or what to keep) II

- What we might keep
 - e.g. photo of now demolished building
- What we should keep
 - e.g. rainfall measurements
- Different formats, different types of data

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Appraisal (or what to keep) III

- A range of skills and knowledge needed
- A participatory approach
- Allows for better context and more meaning

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“For archivists, preserving context is also about preserving the conditions that make documents more meaningful to users”

Kate Theimer

(<http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/1-2/archives-in-context-and-as-context-by-kate-theimer/>)

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Taking control

- Need to have technical support and input
- Archivists should develop technical skills
- Fundamental for communicating about preservation

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Access and discoverability

- Discovery routes have been revolutionised
- Hierarchical descriptions make sense on paper...
- Archivists need to respond to the challenge
- Other disciplines can give inspiration

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The significance (or not) of the format

- We should be format agnostic
- Is it an archive or isn't it?
- And what's going to happen to it while you decide?

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The challenge of communication

- Arts versus Sciences
- We should promote the technology agenda
- We don't have Physicists and Digital Physicists
so why Archivists and Digital Archivists?

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Getting the message across

- “Archiving digital files” is just storing them
- Be encouraging not alarming
- There is #nodigitaldarkage

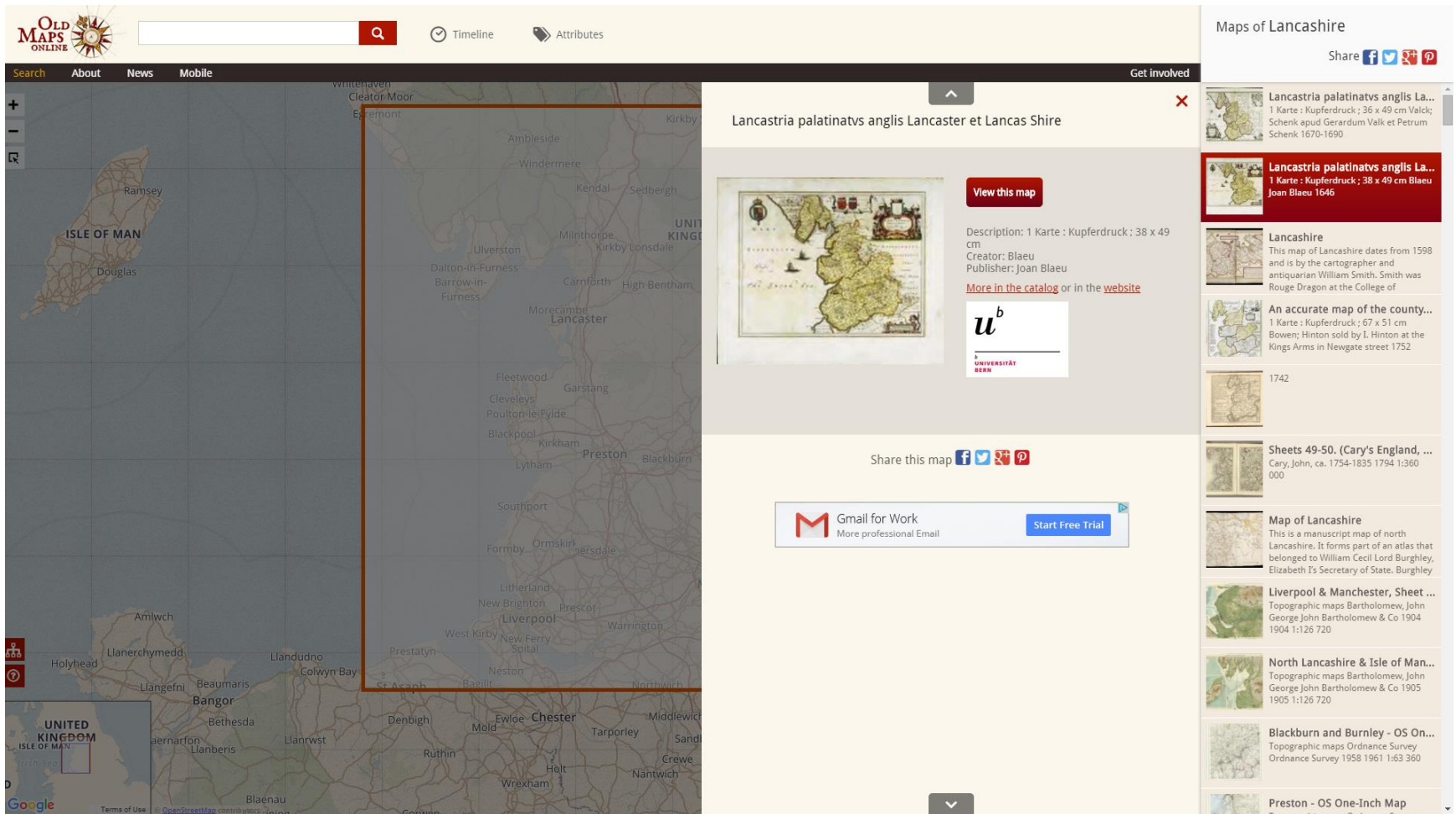
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Some practical steps forward

- Find out what users want
- Learn from others
- Engage with the digital
- Learn new skills

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Old Maps Online (<http://www.oldmapsonline.org/>)



The screenshot displays the Old Maps Online website interface. On the left, a map of Lancashire is shown with a red bounding box highlighting a specific area. On the right, a detailed view of a historical map titled "Lancastria palatinatvs anglis Lancaster et Lancas Shire" is displayed. The map shows the county of Lancashire with various towns and landmarks. Below the map, there is a description and a "View this map" button. The description includes the following information:

- Description: 1 Karte : Kupferdruck ; 38 x 49 cm
- Creator: Blaeu
- Publisher: Joan Blaeu
- More in the catalog or in the website

Below the description, there is a logo for "u^b UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD". At the bottom of the page, there is a "Share this map" button with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest) and a "Gmail for Work" banner with a "Start Free Trial" button.

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What about the day job?



(Pixabay CC0 Licence)

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“The global network of libraries and archives has been, and will remain, fundamental to the preservation and propagation of knowledge. Society ignores the role of libraries and archives at its peril.”

Richard Ovenden

<https://theconversation.com/whether-stored-electronically-or-written-on-calf-skin-knowledge-has-never-been-more-threatened-48523>

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The Challenges

- Lack of resources
- Lack of time
- Overreliance on commercial solutions

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When the Data hits the Fan!

The blog of Simon Tanner (@SimonTanner)

TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2016

Burning eBooks - B&N "nukes the NOOK"



Barnes & Noble is shutting down its Nook app store, (effective from March 15, 2016) through which it sold eBooks for its e-reader, the Nook.

Unless Nook owners in the UK take action immediately then their eBooks (& films) could be lost to them. It is yet another example of how you don't own your eBooks with DRM - you're merely licensing the right to read them for a time. This announcement is a bit like a commercially driven virtual Fahrenheit 451 "fireman" is going to disable your eBooks in a fast digital fire.

Customers must take action by the end of May 2016 in order to retain purchased content. So owners can end up with a device not being updated and a bunch of books not being readable or a new contract they never desired.

Here is the announcement:

nook

Important Changes to the NOOK Service

Dear Reader,

We have an important change to the NOOK service to announce.

Effective from March 15, 2016, NOOK will no longer sell digital content in the United Kingdom. The NOOK Store on NOOK devices sold in the UK, on the UK NOOK Reading App for Android, and at nook.com/uk will cease operation.

To meet your digital reading needs going forward, NOOK has partnered with award-winning Sambury's Entertainment on Demand to ensure that you have continued access to the vast majority of your purchased NOOK Books at no new cost to you. Further instructions on how to transfer your NOOK Books to a new or existing Sambury's Entertainment on Demand account will be sent to you by email over the coming weeks. Please ensure that you look out for these emails as they will contain important information on what to do next.

Your action is required. Visit our FAQs page.

We thank you for your patronage and are working closely with Sambury's to make this transition as smooth as possible.

ABOUT ME



Simon Tanner
Academic in the Digital Humanities. Strategist, thinker & consultant in how the digital domain relates to library, museum, archiving & media digital strategies.

[View my complete profile](#)

FAVOURITE LINKS

- Video of my Keynote - If We Share, Do They Care?
- Dept of Digital Humanities, King's College London
- Simon's academic profile page at King's
- Simon's Slideshare presentations
- Paper.li newspaper: When the Data Hits the Fan

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<http://simon-tanner.blogspot.co.uk/2016/03/burning-ebooks.html>

Together we are stronger



Banner - Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Blacksmiths, Fitters, Patternmakers, Turners & Machinists, Ballarat Branch, 1890 (1126059) ©Museum of Victoria

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