

**From the Theory of Archival Narrative to the Practice of Archival Blogging:
Why the Characteristics of Narrative Matter**

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Abstract

This thesis aims at defining the archival narrative from the discourse between archivists and historians writing on “archives as subject”. The objectives of this thesis are to identify and define the characteristics of archival narrative and to apply these characteristics to archival blogging. Qualitative and reflective, this research conducted a comprehensive and systematic literature review on “archives as subject” to produce a conceptual framework that defines archival narrative and its characteristics. A content analysis was also conducted to determine how the characteristics defining archival narrative are represented within archival blogs. The content analysis identifies, refines and defines the characteristics of archival narrative. As archives evolve in the digital world, social media and the demand for increased patron engagement, archivists’ must recognize their own expertise while sharing the characteristics of archival narrative. This will contribute to a more transparent and accountable archival profession.

Résumé

Cette thèse vise à définir les récits d'archives à partir du discours entre les archivistes et les historiens écrivant sur les « archives en tant que sujet ». Les objectifs de cette thèse comprennent le développement de critères pour caractériser le récit d'archives ainsi qu'un examen de ces critères appliqués aux blogs d'archivistes. De nature qualitative et réflexive, cette recherche conduit d'abord une analyse systématique des écrits des archivistes et des historiens portant sur les « archives en tant que sujet » menant à l'élaboration d'un cadre conceptuel. Une analyse de contenu est également accomplie pour déterminer comment les caractéristiques du cadre conceptuel sont représentées dans les blogs d'archives. Comme les archives évoluent constamment, il importe pour les archivistes de déterminer comment mieux participer au monde numérique et aux médias sociaux, en favorisant l'engagement avec les utilisateurs. La mise en valeur du récit d'archives favorisera une profession archivistique plus transparente et responsable.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Research Context

1.1.1 The Archives as Subject: Emergence of the Archival Narrative

Archives can be seen as “source” or “subject.” The first perspective is to view archives as a “source” to support and provide evidence in research. This occurs through the consultation and citation of archival records.¹ The second perspective was borne out of the use of archival records as “subject” and occurred when historians began to view archives and archivists as subjects to be studied. When historians such as Stoler (2009) began to write about “archives as subject” (p. 86) a shift occurred that put the emphasis on the archivists and archival practices within institutions rather than on the archival records. Through the use and interpretation of archival resources for their own research, historians began to criticize, analyze and hold archivists accountable for how and which records are accessible within their holdings.

Archivists maintain that these historians interpreted without an understanding and knowledge of the professional practice that guides archival work (Cook, 2009, p. 498). It is within writings such as Nesmith (2002), Ketelaar (2008) and Cook (2009) where conversations about “archives as subject” and discussion of archival narrative can be found. Archivists discuss the archival narrative through a postmodernist exploration that includes deconstructing the archival profession and the practices within. They do so without a full definition of the characteristics of archival narrative.

¹ The terms “records” in this thesis will refer to archival records that are materials created or received from a person, family or organization both private and public through their activities. The archival records are documents, not artifacts or published materials, and may be in any format, including text on paper, electronic, photographs, moving images and sound recordings (Pearce-Moses, 2005, webpage).

Historians became concerned with the substance of archival practice thirty years ago, long before archivists themselves began to think of their own archival narratives. Based on their observation and experience using archival sources for research, historians Joy Parr (1977) and Veronica Strong-Boag (1978) began to challenge archivists' assumptions, practices, and their influence on the writing of and dissemination of history. Historian Ann Laura Stoler describes these writings as a shift from "archives-as-source to archives-as-subject" (2009, p. 86); the same focus on "archives as subject" found in archivists' writing. Historical writings such as Bradley (1999), Burton (2003), and Stoler (2009) shed light on archival narrative from the perspective of the historian making use of archival collections; they are missing the voice of the archivist, the principal actor in the creation of an archive. They "have marginalized the archivist" (Cook, 2009, p. 513) and thus a full understanding of the archival narrative. These historical offerings on archival narrative still play an important role in understanding this concept.

The result of this archivist-historian discourse was a recognition that archival narrative exists. However, it is not always called "archival narrative." For example, Cook and Schwartz (2002a) discuss how archivists are central to their own memory formation through the management of the archival record and are integral to their own narrative creation (p. 1). Cook and Schwartz refer to this as the "power of the archivist," the footprint, imprint, impact and non-neutral activities of the profession (p. 1). Although there was an outpouring of writings by historians about archivists in the last decade, this symbiotic relationship has been relatively unexplored (Cook, 2009, p. 498).

With the aim of exploring the relationship between historians and archivists' writings on archival practice, a definition of the archival narrative is provided in this study. Examining and analyzing writings on "archives as subject" by both archivists and historians assisted in the development of the definition. It is necessary to understand how the archivist-historian relationship has been central to defining the identity of the archival professional practice as detailed in this thesis.

The definition of archival narrative is offered here to assist with a full understanding:

The non-passive, non-neutral imprint that archivists make on the archival record. This imprint is the archivist's narrative (story) within their institutions, in relation to their work – guided through rules of the profession or through individual decision-making.

1.1.2 Professional Archival Practice and the Growing Importance of the Archival Narrative

There is a growing gap between archival theory and its application in the real world: as Cox (2005) states: this results from discrepancies between professional objectives and the theories presented in the more conceptual writings of professional archival literature (p. 226). Postmodernist concepts in archival literature offer new ways to enrich the profession and as a result should demand the attention of archivists (Cook, 2001, p. 15). Archivists have begun to re-examine their self-image, questioning their neutrality as keepers of archival records and the role they play in shaping societal memory (Cook, 2001, p. 15). Historians have encouraged archivists to better account for and make transparent their narrative – the actions and decisions they have taken in the course of appraising, acquiring and preserving records (MacNeil, 2011, p. 186).

There is a call for change in the archival practices resulting from the archivist and historian discourse that encourages the exposure of the archival narrative to the archival patron. Archivists began to recognize that historians writing via their experience using archival resources had no direct knowledge of archival practice when they wrote about “archives as subject.” In response to historians Bradley (1999), Stoler (2002), Burton (2003), and Freshwater (2003), archivists began to recognize their impact on and the role they themselves play in the archival document. Archivists began to accept that they are not passive or neutral keepers of records. Terry Cook (2009) calls this impact by archivists the “large footprint” of professional intervention on the archival record (p. 516).

Postmodernist archival literature calls for a change to the profession, to reveal the archival narrative, to make the “regime of practices” transparent, outlining the process of bringing a document into an archive – providing transparency to the archival narrative (Ketelaar, 2001, p. 136). Nesmith (2002) asserts that understanding the role of archivists in mediating the archival record through their professional practice will shape the knowledge available while utilizing archival resources (p. 24). An understanding of the characteristics of archival narrative will assist with analyzing how archivists have responded to these historians, and whether or not this resulted in a change in professional practice.

1.1.3 The Use of Social Media: An Opportunity for the Archival Narrative

There is an opportunity with new technologies to make the archival narrative visible. One of these technologies is social media, defined as a group of Internet-based applications building on the ideological and technological foundations of Web 2.0. Social

media allows for the creation and exchange of user-generated content (Cook & Dean, 2011, p. 58). Archivists can embrace the new tool of social media blogging, revealing their own archival narrative to better address the needs of their users. In this study, archival blogs are defined as Web sites containing experiences, observations, opinions and information created by archival institutions in a diary format, they feature frequently updated entries or posts that appear in reverse chronological order².

Scott Goodine in his 2005 thesis examines various periods of archival professional development; from 1975 to 2005 archivists faced more changes and a wider variety of clients than any prior generation (p. 8). From 2005, the year of Goodines' thesis, until present day, technology can be added to the list of challenges facing the archivist. Technology changes the behaviour of archival users, with expectation of instant access and participation (Sinclair, 2012). This adds to the pressure and challenges of the archivist. Users want information presented in a non-static way; it is about being more transparent, earning trust, building credibility and nurturing the relationship between archivist and researcher (Daines & Nimer, 2009, p. 8).

Archival institutions are beginning to reinvent themselves as “virtual places”, online access to archival holdings is becoming the norm, with archivists considering how they will fulfill their role as mediators between records and users (Eastwood & MacNeil, 2010, p. xii). Social media permits users to add, modify and mash-up data found on these outlets but this changes the relationship between the archivist and the user. Duff (2010) is concerned that this undermines the archivist’s control over the archival record and

² Definition adapted from Jackson-Brown, p. 2, 2013.

could perhaps threaten the traditional role of the archives as a trusted third party that protects the authority of the record (p. 131).

Not only is the current archival climate one of reduced funding;³ it has amplified requirements for transparency to receive the limited funding that is available. It has become increasingly more important to maintain and initiate new users, thus financially justifying archival services. Any archive can participate in blogging and the content of that effort can address specific issues, include features targeted to a specific audience, or promote a desired engagement with a target end-user group. A study of archival narrative and the use of blogging can reveal the potential for social media as a method to initiate researchers and make archival activities more transparent.

1.2 Research Objectives and Questions

This thesis aims to define the archival narrative from the discourse between archivists and historians writing on “archives as subject”. The first objective of this thesis is the development of criteria for characterizing the archival narrative. This is based on the relationship between responses of postmodernist archivists to archival narrative analysis performed by historians.

The call for changes in the archival profession increased with the introduction of new technology and user critique has advanced the objectives of this study to the exploration of archival blogs. It must be determined if archivists embrace blogs as a revelatory tool of the theory and practice of archival work. The second objective of this

³ 84% of Archives and Special Collections within the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) - reported in the OCLC 2010 study *Taking Our Pulse* (Dooley & Luce, 2010, p. 85) that they had experienced overall funding drops.

study is to determine how archivists can best utilize blogging to explain archival procedures and practices to their clients.

There are thus, two research questions this thesis will answer:

1. What are the characteristics defining the archival narrative in the “archives as subject” literature?
2. How are the characteristics of archival narrative represented in archival institutional blogs?

In this thesis, a “characteristic” is defined as a special quality or trait that makes a person, thing, or group different from others.⁴ The characteristics of the archival narrative are special traits positioned around the goals of the archival professional practice. They correspond to the way archivists identify, express and differentiate their professional practices within the archival setting.

1.3 Methodology and Scope

This thesis adheres to the reflexive paradigm as it questions the foundation of knowledge in social sciences and who can make claims to “know” (Day, 2012, p. 61). This theoretical lens considers the subjectivity and role of the researcher in the process of knowledge production (Day, 2012, p. 61). As an experienced professional Archivist, the researcher for this thesis has a deep understanding of archives, the day-to-day application of archival principles and in the management of an archive where the work is directed by the theory of archival practice. Her knowledge was used at different stages of this research project to enrich the analysis of the phenomena under study.

⁴ Merriam Webster Dictionary, definition of “characteristic”, 2014.

One undertakes qualitative research when more information is needed to determine the exact nature of issues being investigated and the only information available is non-numeric (Bazeley, 2007, p. 2). In this study, more information is required both to determine the archival narrative characteristic in “archives as subject” literature and their representation within archival institutional blogs. The research data for this study includes a corpus of 66 articles on “archives as subject” as well as a sample of 60 blog entries from three Canadian archival institutional blogs. As Bazeley (2007) states, the qualitative researcher must gather intensive and extensive information from a purposefully derived sample and interpret unstructured or semi-structured data (p. 2). A qualitative approach to data analysis was therefore adopted to inform this research.

The first phase of the study focuses on the characteristics of archival narrative using literature written by archivists and historians on “archives as subject”. This literature undergoes analysis to develop a conceptual framework detailing the characteristics of the archival narrative. The second phase of the study employs content analysis based on the above-mentioned contextual framework determining how the characteristics are represented within Canadian archival blogs. Three Canadian archival blogs were examined as they “inform the question under investigation” (Zhang & Wildemuth, 2009, p. 2). The coding of blogs was completed using NVivo, a qualitative data analysis software tool that enables the researcher to study patterns of archival narrative used in the blogs.

The two-phased methodology developed for this study facilitated the development of a consistent conceptual framework and a rich interpretation of blog data

through a systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes and patterns (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005, p. 1278).

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

“Narratives” are stories that both explain and shape our experience of the world (Wake, 2006, p. 14) and act as a framework for rules - references, which aid in an understanding of social constructs and order (p. 131). Narratives are at the core of personal or professional identities, notions of society, community and nationhood. (Wake, 2006, p. 131).

The literature review chapter broadly situates and defines the narrative concept within the literature in historiography, archival science and in postmodernist research. Two perspectives, either “archives as source” or “archives as subject” are introduced. The chapter first discusses the historians’ perspective on archival narrative in a section entitled “Narrative in Historiography”. The next sections detail the development of the archivists’ perspective on archival narrative through an analysis of “archives as source” and “archives as subject”. Lastly the chapter explores the archival narrative and blogging through a study of archives and social media use.

2.2 Narrative in Historiography

The concept of “archival narrative” in historiography is widely used although it is not well defined. This section discusses the broad perspective of “archives as subject” detailed in literature written by historians. Traditionally historians have discussed historical narrative and communicate the impact of archival records on research in their writings. The historical narrative is produced through the use of archival records and

subsequent interpretations of these documents. This narrative is also the evidence provided by records themselves and of those who created them.

Historians and postmodern archivists are questioning archival processes and practice (Cook, 2001, p. 25). They do so in “archives as subject” writings where the narrative and business processes of the archives are the focus, rather than “archives as source” where the content of the archival record is the focus. The resulting identification and discussion around archival narrative has triggered an associated call to recognize this narrative in an effort to deconstruct and change professional practice. Writings on “archives as subject” came about as historians began to discuss the use of archives and the archival record in their research processes, providing insight into their thoughts and experiences in using the archives. Thus historians indirectly discuss archival narrative through their analysis of the archives’ impact on historical research.

Literature detailing the historical narrative focuses on human experiences and their meaning through historic time periods. The narrative is present in every society, every generation, everywhere. There have never been a people without a narrative: it transcends class, human groups, international boundaries, cultures, and historical times (Barthes, 1977, p. 79). Bowman (2006) explains that narrative lends itself to conveying the shape and characteristic of human experience and should be regarded as one of the basic ways humans create and share meanings regardless of the method (p. 7). Fisher (1984) states that narratives are symbolic of our actions: words and deeds that have sequence and meaning for those who live, create, or interpret them (p. 2). Narrative relates to human living and experience that is authentic (Bowman, p. 7).

Fisher (1984) explores narrative as the existence of human experiences and a

way to understand and probe the nature and functions of these occurrences (p. 2).

Fisher explains that any ethic, whether social, political, legal or otherwise, is a narrative of the way people reason together in certain settings. The use of archives can be situated into this narrative theory when archives are studied as a subject rather than as a source (p. 3). Historian Harriet Bradley (1999) addresses “archives as subject”, urging historians to reinvent the way they interpret, to become skilled at re-reading meanings that can be found within archives, so that in this way archives becomes more important as a “repository of meanings” (p. 118).

According to Bowman (2006) it is our own use of and interest in narratives that invoke or enable them (p. 8). The archivist-historian relationship is critically important to facilitating many aspects of historical research. This relationship allows historians an opportunity to gain a perspective on the narrative of archives that may reveal something about archivists (Cook, 2009, p. 498). Historians are archive users; through their observations and experiences they reveal the archival narrative from their perspective. Devoid of the archivist’s voice, this compelled the archival profession to respond. Archivist Heather MacNeil (2011) recognized the historians’ stories of deception, concealment and betrayal in which an archival institution’s architecture, system of finding aids and reference services played a role and how these exert a subtle and pernicious influence on the historian’s understanding of what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable lines of research inquiry (p. 185). It has been the archivist’s response to the historian’s identification of the archival narrative that has urged the profession to also recognize its own narrative.

2.3 Narrative in Archival Literature

This section discusses the “archives as source” versus the “archives as subject” literature written by archivists. Archivists’ literature discusses how researchers create a narrative when they use archival records for evidence to their research questions. Although this “archives as source” literature brings together both the archivists’ and historians’ perspectives, aspects of the professional practice and thus archival narrative are not discussed until “archives as subject” becomes the focus. This section examines the development of archival narrative through the transition of archivists discussing “archives as source” to “archives as subject”.

2.3.1 Archival Narrative: The Development of “Archives as Source” to “Archives as Subject”

Archivists’ literature on “archives as source” details the researcher utilizing the archives in an attempt to understand the stories of the past. This results in the archives being referred to as institutions where memories of the past can be reclaimed (Garay & Verduyn, 2011, p. 7). In this application the archival narrative is the use of the archives as a research tool. It is also the historical evidence the patron culls from the archives, the narratives found within the archival documents. The past is reconstructed based on research using archival sources. However, this is not the archivists experience or story. This is the “archives as source” archival narrative, where the documents themselves provide evidence about both the narrative of the creators and about the content of the documents. This is the same type of archival narrative that the historians detail when writing about “archives as source” and the historical narrative. Both archivists and historians recognize that archival documents assist in writing the narratives of the human experiences, personal identity and social order constructs (Wake, 2006, p. 14).

Scholars using “archives as source” do so without questioning the heavy layers of intervention and meaning coded into the records by archivists. Although historians initially used archives without questioning these layers of intervention, they began to project their desire for a non-problematic (naturalized) state for these archives onto the archivists (Cook, 2009, p. 516). Cook proposes that it is the archivist who provides the sense of a naturalized state but in the process is insensitive to the large effect the archivist has regarding archival documents (p. 516). Archivists had been unaware of this situation and any subsequent, unintended influence this may have had on the writing and documentation of history. Few if any efforts to document their interventions have been made, making awareness of these impact factors impossible for the historical researcher (Cook, 2009, p. 516). Although archivists and historians have been paying increasingly more scholarly attention to intentionality, representation and memory in archives, Cook (2009) argues that archivists and not historians give attention to how records are chosen, shaped, privileged or marginalized through their discussions on archival procedures (p. 516).

Kaplan (2001), Ketelaar (2001), Cook and Schwartz (2002a&b), and MacNeil (2011) all examine the imprint of archivists on the archival record through professional practice. This imprint is not neutral, objective or impartial. Ketelaar (2001) describes how the creation, processing, appraisal, record keeping and the context archivists build around records creates an active non-neutral imprint on these archival records (p. 137). Archivist Heather MacNeil (2011) is critical of neutrality claims by archivists, arguing

that the architecture systems of archive institutional finding aids⁵ and reference services can discourage some research, conceal information through non-access to unprocessed material and create biased representations through tools to provide access (p. 185). By acknowledging that a narrative is present in the archival profession one can give insight into archival intentions, perhaps not yet known to archivists themselves, and into the meanings and actions of their professional work.

Archivists participate in the creation of their own archival narrative through the processes they employ to manage archival records. Cook and Schwartz (2002a) have classified these archival processes into five activities: 1. appraisal/selection, 2. description/preservation, 3. communication/use, 4. reshape/reinterpret/reinvent, and 5. memory/identity creation (p. 1). They refer to these activities as the power of the archivist and, as Cook states (2001), that power is part of the archival narrative.

The archival narrative comes out of a ritualized implementation of theory; this is unquestioned professional archival practice that has become collectively naturalized over generations into work applications, and it is deemed legitimate and appropriate (Cook & Schwartz, 2002b, p. 173). Ketelaar (2001) would call this the “tacit narrative” of the archivist – the social, political, economic, and religious contexts in which archivists create, process, appraise and use archives as well as the stories that archivists tell themselves about the work they do (p. 136-137).

In the last decade, through literature on “archives as subject”, some scholars have asserted the need to reveal the archival narrative to the researcher. Ketelaar (2001)

⁵ A tool that facilitates discovery of information within a collection of records or a description of records that gives the repository physical and intellectual control over the materials and that assists users to gain access to and understand the materials. (Pearce-Moses, Glossary, 2005, online).

explains that the researcher should have access to the context of archival record keeping (p. 137); and MacNeil (2011) argues for uncovering more about unprocessed material⁶ and biases in representations (p. 185). Revealing the archival narrative is linked to a call for changes to the profession because the archives' place within society is in flux. Just as archivists influence the records within their repositories, there are influences upon the archives that cause them to respond with change – to technology, organizational culture and society itself (Cook & Schwartz, 2002a, p. 13). MacNeil (2011) argues that these influences may force archivists to embrace their own narratives and accept that they are not neutral or passive and begin to question professional assumptions about what is trusted about archival roles (p. 175).

2.3.2 Archival Narrative in Postmodernist Research: Archives as Subject

The postmodernist archival literature reveals how the concept of archival narrative was borne out of archivists themselves questioning the traditional, neutral, passive, positivist, and scientific mindset of their profession (Cook & Schwartz, 2002a, p. 10). Postmodernism was at its height in the 1970s and 1980s (Brothman, 1999, p. 65) but its popularity with archivists did not begin until a decade later with works such as Derrida (1998), Brothman (1999), and Ketelaar (2001).⁷ The commonality of these postmodernist writings is that archivists began to question their experiences and the principles within the practice of their profession.

⁶ Unprocessed material are those archival materials that have been acquired by the repository but that are not yet arranged, described or in their final storage containers and thus likely not available to patrons or known to be in the repository (Pearce-Moses, definition of processing, 2005, online).

⁷ A more complete postmodernist archival literature history can be found in Cook and Schwartz (2002a).

Lyotard (1984) defines postmodernism as incredulity towards metanarratives or the mistrust of building narratives about narratives, about historical meanings, experience or knowledge to give legitimacy to a master idea (p. xxiv). Cook (2001), however, characterizes archival postmodernism as focusing on the context behind the content, exploring the narrative and business-process conventions that influence archival records rather than the content within them (p. 25). Archivists began to deconstruct and interpret what it means to be an archivist by deconstructing and reinterpreting the archival narrative, what it is they do and how the profession should develop. Both Lyotard (1984, p. xxiv) and Cook (2001, p. 22) occasionally refer to the archival narrative as the “metanarrative”. Cook (2001) also identifies Tom Nesmith as one of the first to suggest the existence of the archivist’s narrative (p. 35). Nesmith contends that records collectively and individually have a history, before and after crossing the archival threshold, but a significant part of that history reflects the intervention of the archivist and, behind that, the professional assumptions, concepts, and processes – the profession’s own metanarratives or narratives (Cook, 2001, p. 35).

Although most archivists do not specifically say so, it is in the study of “archives as subject” where the story of archivists and their narratives can be discovered. These postmodernist writings represent a shift from studying archives as a place of investigation to studying archives as a subject. By looking at this type of literature it is possible to understand the archival narrative in the context of how people create identities for themselves, with pasts linked to the present and future (Bowman, 2006, p. 8).

2.4 Narrative and Blogging

The phenomenon of archival blogging in recent literature is sparse. There is an opportunity for archivists to adopt new technologies and, with social media to make their own narratives more visible to the archival user. Beyond standard finding aids and descriptive records, blogs are a social media option used by archivists to impart information concerning their archival activities. These activities are part of the archival narrative and sharing this may better inform users and address their needs.

2.4.1 Archives and Web 2.0

Archivists are seeking new opportunities offered by technologies to improve archival practice leading to better access and accountability (Cook & Dean, 2011, p. 57). The Web 2.0⁸ environment provides opportunities to supply insight into practices, transcending archival limits within current descriptive processes. This allows description to become dynamic with additional documentation on acquisition, appraisal, arrangement and conservation (Cook & Dean, 2011, p. 57). The use of Web 2.0 technology; blogs, Twitter and Facebook gives the archivist opportunities to not only share information concerning the creation and management of archives but to facilitate and stimulate a dynamic dialogue between archivists and users (Cook & Dean, 2011, p. 57).

As of 2012, one fifth of American archives were participating in the top three social media platforms: blogs, Twitter and Facebook (Heyliger et al., 2012, p. 3). In Canada, 5.2% of surveyed archival repositories in 2012 were actively blogging (Duff et al., 2013, p. 82). Researchers such as Cook and Dean (2011) recognize how Web 2.0 can

⁸ Web 2.0 is a second generation in the development of the World Wide Web, conceived as a combination of concepts, trends, and technologies that focus on user collaboration, sharing of user-generated content, and social networking (Dictionary.com, 2013, online).

be utilized to reveal the rationale behind archivist's decisions concerning acquisition, appraisal, arrangement and description and thus, archival narrative (p. 57). Cook and Dean have also stated that Web 2.0 technology can facilitate dynamic opportunities between archivists and users. They offer examples of archival institutions using Flickr, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, with several using blogs as well (p. 58).

2.4.2 Archives and Blogging

Although little has yet been written about the use of blogs in the archival setting, archival literature such as Ketelaar (2001), Nesmith (2004), and MacNeil (2011) has discussed embracing the archival narrative and making it evident to those using archives. However, they do not provide advice as to where the archival narrative should be revealed. Archivists are just beginning to examine the archival narrative in relation to new technologies and the resulting user demands for instant access to archival records. Archivists are encouraging the profession to make better use of the technologies available to them (Theimer, 2011, p. 60). Currently there is no specific literature detailing archival narrative content in blogs.

Blogs are websites created and maintained via online journaling platforms. Due to their ease of use they lend themselves to frequent updates (Leonard, 2009, p. 1). In 2010, 18% of archives and special collections within the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) reported that they had implemented a blog, with 47% indicating they had intentions to do so within a year (Dooley & Luce, 2010, p. 87).

Blogs were used by 3% of American archives as part of their professional activities in 2009 and over the years this number has grown dramatically (Heyliger, McLoone & Thomas, 2012). The Heyliger et al. (2012) study examines outreach and

earlier surveys such as Whittaker and Thomas (2009) broadly examine social media use in special collections within the American context. More recently, Duff et al. (2013) conducted an environmental scan and user study of Canadian archival institutions (call for participation broadly sent to Canadian archival institutions from the provincial and territorial Council lists) to determine if social media is a viable use of technology for user-generated content in the Canadian archival setting (p. 78).

This differs from the CARL survey, which examines members of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries that have archival holdings (Giustini, 2011). This is an important study as research on social media applications in Canadian archives is scarce. The study concluded that Canadian archives are making minimal use of social media (p. 78), but that of the 648 archival institutions examined from November 2011 to January 2012, 5.2% utilize blogs as part of their social media activities (2013, p. 82). There is still a gap in current research that explores archivists' use of blogs as a potential vehicle for making the archival narrative visible to users. As Duff et al. (2013) explain, future research requiring content analysis of blogs would provide insight into content added by archives and their users (p. 95).

2.5 Literature Review Conclusion

Resulting from the literature review, it is possible to derive a concise definition of the archival narrative. This definition was lacking in the literature and is necessary as a basis for determining the characteristics of the narrative. Thus the archival narrative is defined in this study as the non-passive, non-neutral imprint that archivists make on the archival record. This imprint is the archivist's narrative (story) in relation to their work, within their institutions, – guided through rules of the profession and through individual

decision-making. This narrative is created with awareness or unconsciously, based on ritualized norms dictated by theory and learned practice (e.g. standards for arrangement and description). In this context, a narrative tells the story of how an archivist reasons, in the work environment, setting goals in order to accomplish archival work (Fisher, 1984, p.3). Bowman (2006) states that the narrative is the quintessential form of customary knowledge (p. 10); it is made up of the customs of archival practice.

3. Conceptual Framework

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter provided an overview of the more traditional “archives as source” literature by archivists and historians writing about the use of archival documents and collections within archival repositories. This survey progressed to the discussion of “archives as subject” where the two professions consider different aspects of archival professional practice. From the literature review, 66 articles on “archives as subjects” were further analyzed to better understand the archival narrative, an important gap in contemporary archival research. The researcher, a professional Archivist with more than twenty years of experience, examined archival writings, with the aim to identify fundamental archival narrative characteristics.

The characteristics of archival narrative that this phase of the study identifies are the customary knowledge, the traits that characterize the archival profession. Each characteristic corresponds to different aspects of the archival practice embedded in the theory of archives or alternatively, could be thought of as the goals that an archivist must strive for. These characteristics of the profession do not operate discretely, but rather as parts of the archival narrative; they bind together the facts of experience, rationality and character into coherent patterns so that rules, principles and notions of the profession are fully intelligible (Fisher, 1984, p.3).

Four characteristics describing the archival narrative emerge from this comprehensive review of both archivists’ and historians’ writings on “archives as subject.” Although the writings of historians do not always state that they are deliberating the archival narrative, they indirectly reference the narrative through

discussions of the methods they use to interpret, praise, critique and analyze archival resources in their own historical research. Archivists responded to these historians through postmodernist writings such as Cook & Schwartz (2002a&b), Nesmith (2006), Cook (2009), and MacNeil (2011), advocating for more archival narrative transparency to the user. The analysis of the literature revealed that the characteristics of the archival narrative are:

1. Inclusion
2. Authenticity
3. Order and Access
4. Meaning and Commemoration

This section first describes each of the four archival narrative characteristics. The conceptual framework, which articulates these characteristics, is also presented.

3.2 Inclusion

The characteristic of inclusion exists through the archivist's efforts to preserve records of individuals, organizations, governments and society as a whole through the selection of specific records among those available. Inclusion relates to the purposeful presence of societal groups and communities via the acquisition of archival documents that represent them. This is achieved through the subjectivity of archivists making acquisition decisions with awareness of those underrepresented by other archival institutions.

Interpretation is important to provide evidence of the past. Through a selection process, the archivist is interpreting the documents to determine their research value, pre-determining the research value of archival records for the historian and other users for their investigations. This pre-determination is part of the selection process and comprises the characteristic of inclusion. Freshwater (2003), as a historian, acknowledges this concept, stating that original decisions as to which materials are preserved and which discarded, prior to public access, are often unavailable to the researcher. She comes close to calling archival processes “archival narrative”

recognizing that the archives holdings are created from *a priori* value judgments (by archivists) concerning the worth of the documents (p. 70).

Historians have not overlooked the fact that archival records have gone through a process of selection; they are aware of this component of the archival narrative. Carolyn Steedman (1998) cautions other historians that archival records have undergone a process of selection where recorded information may have been excluded, discarded or preserved (p. 66). Part of this, she argues, is the fact that most archival documents are consciously chosen by the archivist, others are "mad fragmentations" unintentionally added through coincidence as records make their way to the archive (p. 66).

Harriet Bradley (1999), a historian, views archives as repositories of memories: individual and collective, official and unofficial, licit and illicit, legitimating and subversive (p. 107). However, she feels it is impossible to ignore the fact that the origin and historic function of an archive was to act as the locus of legal authority and regulation (p. 108). Records are selected and included, under an archival mandate and determined by the type of institution. These records are used to support the authority and decision-making of government, the actions of individuals and organizations. Through her research on theatre performance, Freshwater (2003) as well, views the vetting and cataloguing, part of the archives functions, as a series of decisions meant to silence and suppress while also demonstrating the record of official approval (p. 731-732). Bradley (1999) states that the archives can also question authority by holding warring discourses in a "promiscuous and mutually contaminating contiguity" through the records they acquire that may or may not offer competing viewpoints on authority or the interpretation of that authority (p. 111).

Steedman (1998) states that archives are made of selected and consciously chosen documentation, recognizing the archivist has completed the selection and interpretation process for inclusion, and thus has contributed to the archival narrative of that repository (p. 67). Historians fault archivists with deeming certain records inauthentic or unworthy of acquisition. Devereaux (2012) writes about the paucity in many repositories of materials and ephemera related to indigenous culture and women across cultural categories; she feels that absence demonstrates archivists' undervaluation of this material, not deeming it important enough for acquisition (p. 30-33).

The characteristic of inclusion is the non-passive, non-neutral way that archivists choose material to be included in their archival holdings. This is based on their assessment of historical and research values. Inclusion occurs often according to an authoritative institutional mandate but also through the purposeful objective of representing facets of society not found in other archival holdings.

3.3 Authenticity

The characteristic of authenticity, pertaining to archival material is based on documentation supporting the originality of that material, details of its acquisition, provenance, and assessment of archival value. Authenticity can also come from the use of archival documents in historical research.

An essential element, a core practice of archivists, is to ensure that the archival records they acquire have long-term historical value, the provenance of the materials is known, and they are not forgeries. This authentication of archival documents ensures that archival repositories and their holdings can enable the use of authentic documentary evidence by a researcher. The acquisition or omission of certain records

does not make archival material authentic per se. To archivists, it is supporting records that validate the authenticity of the archival material, records such as proof of ownership or the history of a document. This is the archival narrative of authenticity; it is the documentation concerning record creation and provenance.

Authentic research, according to Freshwater (2003), is the kind that originates from the use of primary source material or archival documents (p. 732). The archival narrative detailing the virtue and provenance of archival documents provides the elements of authenticity. By documenting activities such as acquisition and appraisal, archivists are creating the authentic aspect of narrative.

For the historian, the authenticity of the archival narrative is met in several ways: they must work with archival documents to make their historical research authentic; they create documentation proving the originality, provenance and justifying the decision to value the original documents; the acquisition of records in an archive means they may be deemed authentic.

The archival narrative of authenticity is the work that archivists perform to ensure that archival holdings include provenance information and are trustworthy historical documents. This work ensures that the records used are based on reliable archives.

3.4 Order and Access

The characteristic of order and access is created through the description, ordering and classifying of archival records in the process of making them accessible to researchers.

The narrative of order and access occurs as archivists classify, contextualize, list and describe archival material in their repositories facilitating access by researchers. In

her work as a historian Steedman (1998) has detailed experiences where archival records are not fully indexed and catalogued, and “parts of it are lost but it is stuff, it just sits there until it is read, and used” (p. 67). Joan Schwartz (2002) furthers this argument, stating that archivist’s privilege and marginalize archival documents through use of professional language in documenting the records – in systems of ordering, in fields of classification, and in rules for description (p. 147).

Part of the archival narrative takes place through archival cataloguing where the characteristic of order and access is revealed. The descriptions, organization, cataloguing, and application of controlled vocabulary systems professionally imposed on archival records contribute to the archival narrative; these are learned methods of practice (Schwartz, 2002, p. 147). Such imposed methods can be seen in the Rules for Archival Description (RAD), a set of principles that guide the descriptive practice for archivists in Canada. Through the employment of a system of rules as a standard, these principles are grounded in fundamental archival theory as well as in the tradition of Canadian archival practice (Bureau of Canadian Archivists, 1990, p. xxii).

Archivists also add layers of meaning that become naturalized, internalized and unquestioned through the imposition of original order⁹ (Cook & Schwartz, 2002a, p. 18). Through this principle, archivists choose to maintain the original order of archival documents rather than allowing several orders or disorder to flourish among records (Cook & Schwartz, p. 18). The maintenance of original order or perhaps adopting an

⁹ Original order is the archival principle that records should be maintained in the order in which they were received from the originator (e.g., organization, individual, or family) that created them (Daniels, 1984, p.340).

alternative ordering system as part of professional practice is a characteristic of this archival narrative.

Historians such as Freshwater (2003) have experience with records that have been preserved and subject to systems, schemata, and structures of ordering and classification (p. 740). Although cataloguing and ordering systems enable access and highlight the existence of some archive contents, Freshwater worries that the result may be the marginalization or exclusion of “the rest” while masking the agendas of the archives (p. 740). Cook and Swartz (2002a) agree that the professional practice of archival description and original order can create filters that influence perceptions by emphasizing some archives and thus the direction in which researchers retrieve records (p. 14). The characteristic of order and access enabled by description and original order can both facilitate and impede access.

Bates (2012) promotes a historical research strategy requiring an understanding and knowledge of how order works within the archival setting (p. 89). This he says involves investigation into what materials are made available, who has been instrumental in this construction, and what ordering system is in use (p. 89). Although not directly stated, Bates wants to know this piece of the archival narrative – the decisions concerning how this material was made accessible, how order was imposed, and what archival system was used. Understanding the order and access as part of the archival narrative will create a better understanding of the archival records within a given repository. Order and access are the way that archivists catalogue, describe and contextualize holdings making them accessible for research.

3.5 Meaning and Commemoration

The characteristic of meaning and commemoration is the historical research; highlighting promotion and context creation of archival holdings that an archivist undertakes to assist a user with their research. This may take the form of exhibits, reference to other archival holdings and/or non-archival materials or perhaps additional administrative and biographical information about archival records beyond that within the descriptive record.

Meaning and commemoration is the characteristic of archival narrative that is added to archival documents by archivists in an effort to assist users with research and to highlight collections within the holdings. Archives are not fixed historical records because historians, independent scholars and archivists themselves add meanings to the archival documents (Morra & Schagerl, 2012, p. 8). Antoinette Burton (2005), a historian, warns that although archivists may interpret in order to produce stories, they may do so with ideological agendas and biases that compromise the verifiability of material evidence and focus on the popular archive stories (p. 90).

The motivations for historical research and the context for the use of archival records have changed in time and place. Nesmith (2004) states that since 1970 Canadians have seen a diversification in the society's historical information needs. This impacts archivists who now require more historical knowledge to better deliver this information (p. 5). He also states that television programs and motion pictures commemorating historical events, biographies and other events are based heavily on archival documents and have as a result made archives more accessible (p. 18). Interest in genealogy has expanded with the advent of the Internet, and Nesmith believes this provides another avenue for launching commemorative archival content (p. 18). Steedman (2001) explains that there are more than just historians using archives (p. viii). She feels that the study of archives themselves and the way they operate for

commemoration activities have recently resulted in their increased use (p. viii). This commemoration and the historical context/meaning that archivists provide is a characteristic of the archival narrative.

Commemoration may take the form of books such as Cox & Wallace (2002) where archivists accomplish historical research on public accountability through records. The characteristic of commemoration also occurs via exhibits, reference to other archival holdings within or external to the repository, public programming, or justice tribunals similar to Canadian Native land claims where archival documents are used as historical evidence (Nesmith, 2004, p. 21-22). In presenting archival records through virtual exhibits, Summerby-Murray (2011) explains that exhibitions are not meant to answer all researchers' questions and tell all the stories contained within the records, but rather to shed light on the potential to generate new questions and demonstrate that virtual exhibitions enable researchers to rearrange the records creating new stories, guided by their various motivations (p. 130).

Duff et al. (2004) explain that the interaction between archivist and expert users such as historians is mutually beneficial (p. 71). They state that historians profit from the archivists' extensive knowledge of the history of the records (p. 71). However, archivists also create context about the records to assist with research that becomes part of the archival narrative. Nesmith (2002) explains that traditionally archivists have resisted historians and others distorting the original meaning of archival records through time and place by undermining the physical or intellectual integrity of the records (p. 27). As neutral record keepers, Nesmith also details how archivists would simply list, describe, copy and retrieve records presenting the knowledge contained

within them in a simple factual way (p. 27). This is accomplished through descriptive practices, finding-aid creation and reference services, and produces a particular picture of things for the researcher. This is the characteristic of access. However, as one of the characteristics of archival narrative, meaning and commemoration, archivists are unraveling the often-complex histories of the records so that their users may make more informed interpretations of the evidence that the records convey (Nesmith, 2004, p. 26). Nesmith also suggests that a deeper understanding of the archival records will result if the archivist interprets and contextualizes the archival holdings as fully as possible; additional interpretations can be made from the records as the archivist discovers new information. (p. 26).

Archivists interpret historical meaning to share their historical knowledge in an effort to determine usefulness of the archival record for the researcher. This layer of archival interpretation attempts to restore, reconstruct, present and represent the past, creating meaning and commemoration, this forms a characteristic of the archival narrative.

3.6 Conceptual Framework Conclusion and Concept Map

The analysis of both archivists' and historians' writings about "archives as subject", led to the revelation and definition of the characteristics of the archival narrative. These characteristics will further be used in the conceptual analysis of archival blogs to examine phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or entire blog entries that express each archival narrative characteristic. Included below is a conceptual framework map depicting the characteristics of the archival narrative:

Figure 1 - Conceptual Framework Map

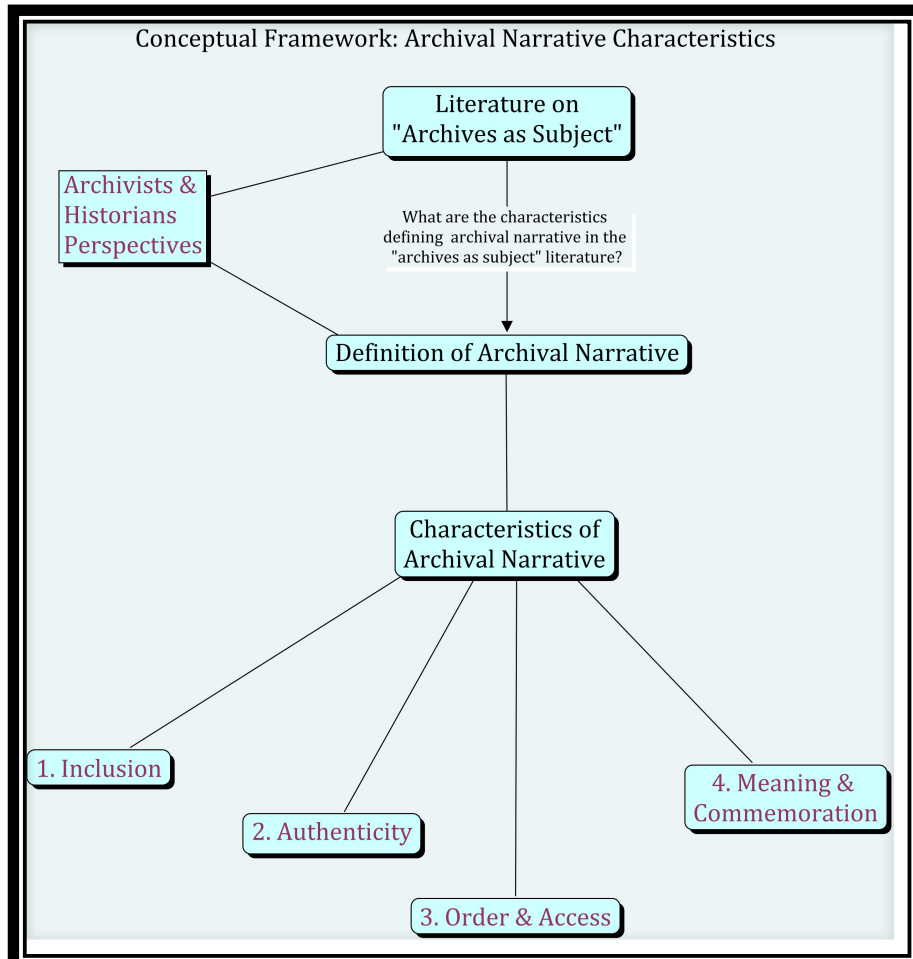
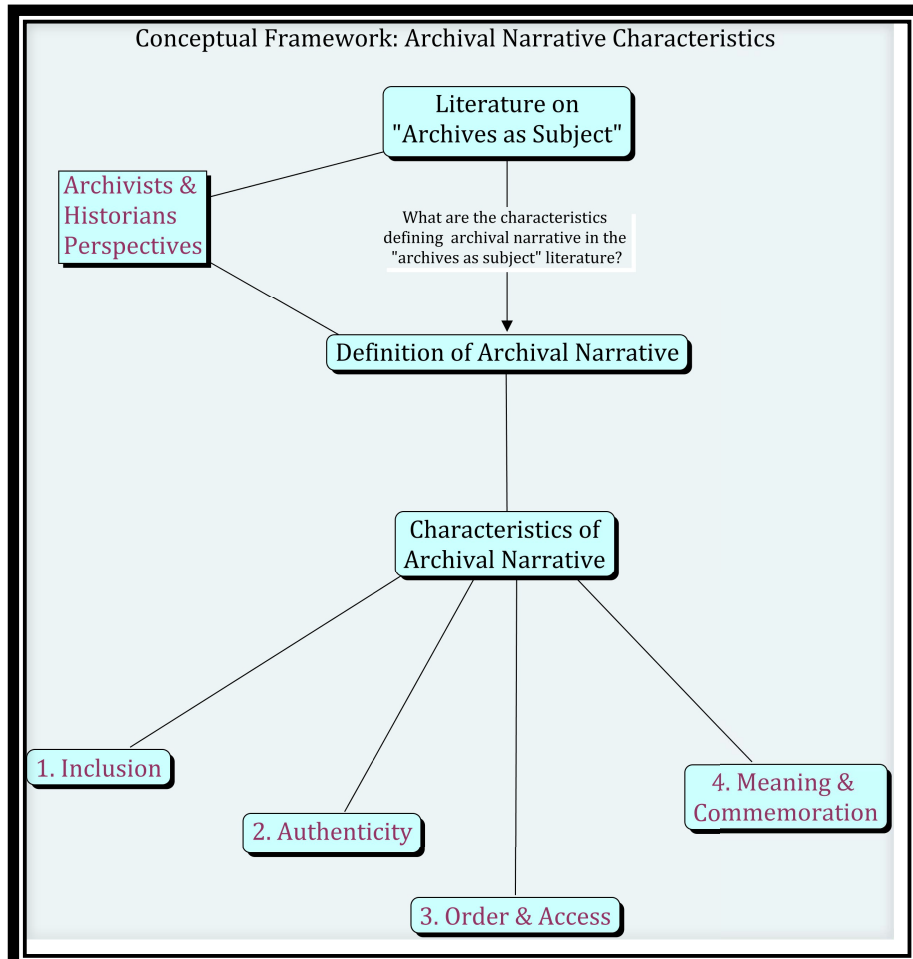


Figure 1 - Conceptual Framework Map



4. Methodology

4.1. Introduction

This research adopted a two-phased approach under the reflexivity theoretical lens in order to answer the following research questions: (1) what are the characteristics of archival narrative in the “archives as subject” literature? and (2) how are the characteristics of archival narrative represented in archival blogs? This chapter presents detailed information concerning the research methodology with sections on the research design summary, theoretical lens, data collection, data analysis and strategies to ensure research quality.

4.2. Research Design Summary

The research design took a two-phased approach that included a conceptual and an empirical phase. From an analysis of the literature on “archives as subject” the conceptual phase systematically contributed to the construction of knowledge on the archival narrative characteristics. Since no previous work could be found identifying these characteristics, the development of a detailed conceptual framework was essential to this research. The characteristics of archival narrative were established after an extensive, consistent and systematic analysis of 66 articles written by archivists and historians on “archives as subject”. The literature was selected from both the archivists’ and the historians’ perspectives.

The analysis of the literature as part of the research methodology in this study determined that although the selected writings offered a deconstructed view of archives and called for a change in professional practice they did not precisely define the archival narrative. From this literature, themes emerged in the discussion between archivists and

historians. These themes were the characteristics of the archival narrative representing goals of professional practice.

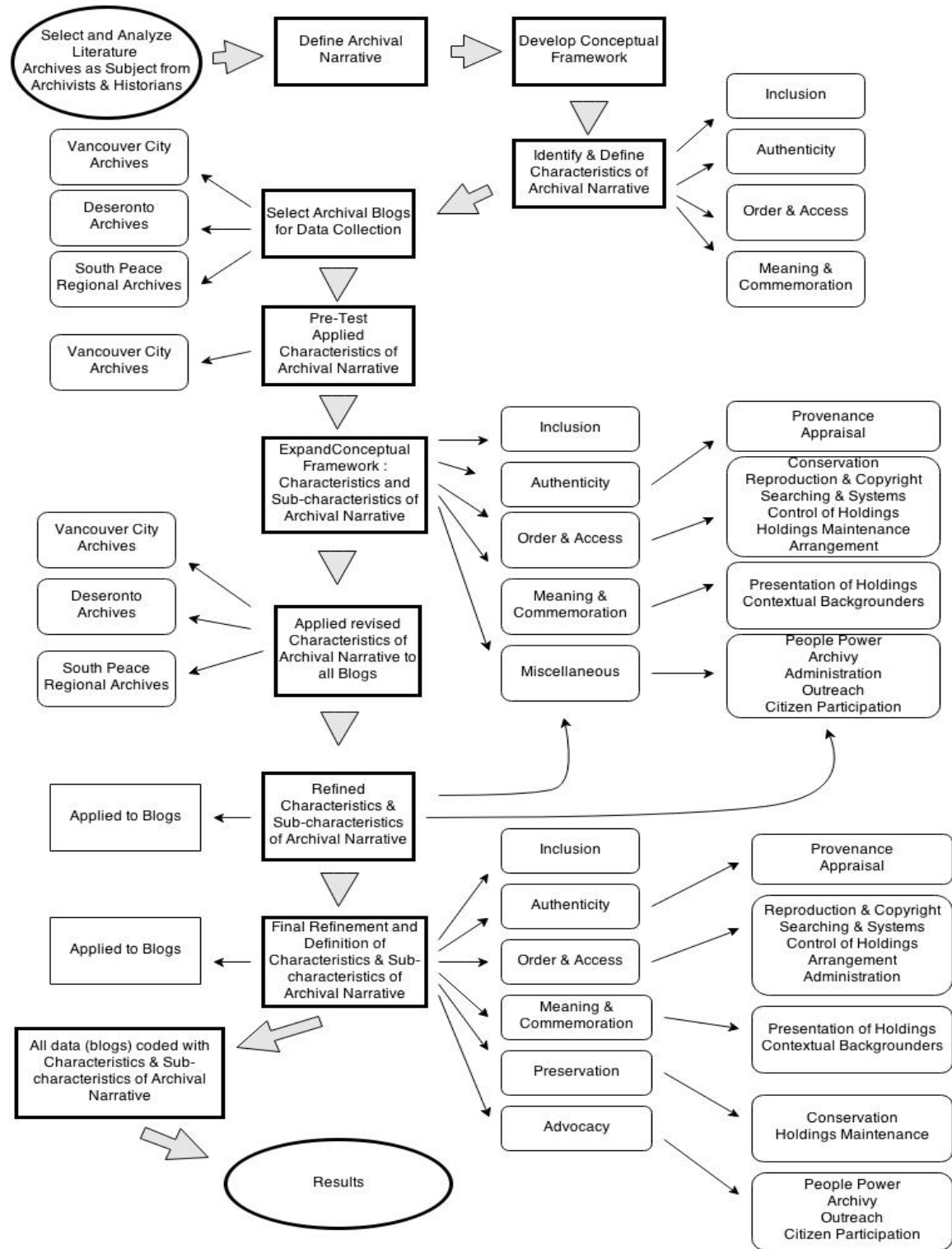
To answer the research questions it was also necessary to determine how archivists and historians may or may not have continued discussions about “archives as subject” with the advent of new technologies. This was accomplished via a search for literature using the terms archives, and one of: social media, blogging, Web 2.0 or new technology. It was determined that little previous work was available to direct this study. The second phase of the project would need to further refine the conceptual framework with little or no context from previous studies.

During the empirical phase of the research project a sample of 60 blog entries (352 pages) from three Canadian blogs was examined: the City of Vancouver Archives, the Deseronto Archives and the South Peace Regional Archives. The objective was to determine how the characteristics that define archival narrative in the literature were effectively represented within these blogs.

During the second phase, the characteristics of the archival narrative were refined through content analysis, including the addition of sub-characteristics. Silverman (2001) states that the categories employed in content analysis must be sufficiently precise that other coders or future researchers can arrive at the same results from the same body of text (p. 123). The solid conceptual framework developed during the first phase of the study ensured this research consistency. The quality of the coding approach was further enhanced by completing a pre-test and by utilizing NVivo software.

The following figure details the research process from the analysis of the literature to the development of the conceptual framework, including the pre-test, the refinement of the characteristics of archival narrative and the final analysis of the selected data.

Figure 2 - Research Design Summary



4.3. Reflexivity as a Theoretical Lens

The “reflexive lens” is the concept used in social sciences to explore the relationship between the researcher and the object of research (Brannick and Coghlan, 2006, p 143). A reflexive lens¹⁰ was logical for this study since the work stemmed from the researcher’s ideas of archival narrative developed through an understanding of public history and the archival profession. According to Alvesson and Sköldbberg (2009), it is experience in a particular research field that contributes to the analysis of the phenomena under study (p.7).

Reflexivity in this study recognized the researcher’s place within the research process; archival expertise that assisted in providing context to the phenomena (Day, 2012, p. 73). The researcher’s expertise contributed to this research because she has the credibility, legitimacy and competence necessary to interpret the data. This qualitative study proceeded from the researcher’s ideas about archival narrative and the identification of the characteristics that make up the narrative. In the reflexive method, objectivity is not the aim. Alvesson and Sköldbberg (2009) state that the researcher already has knowledge of the context from their experience and the data must undergo rigorous reflection about significance and relevance to the phenomena under study and that is more important than objectivity (p.134).

The two-phase process of this study provided different types of interpretations; a subjective reflexion of the “archives as subject” literature during the first phase and a content analysis embedded in the data of the blog entries for the second phase. Within

¹⁰ According to Alvesson and Sköldbberg (2009) many researchers use the terms reflexive and reflective in a similar way, this thesis uses them synonymously (p. 4).

reflexivity, a model of research might employ a deductive approach relying on previous rules and examples and comparing them to the current case, or abduction where patterns emerge from the data (Alvesson and Sköldbberg, 2009, p. 17).

The first phase of the study aimed to fill a gap where there was little previous work identifying the archival narrative. Since no prior analysis of archival narrative characteristics was extant, the initial categories of archival narrative defined in the conceptual framework required abduction. The process of abduction relied on the researchers archival knowledge to identify and interpret the characteristics of archival narrative found in the literature. Through abduction, the first phase offered an explanatory model of archival narrative, the initial characteristics through a “perspectival approach” (Alvesson and Sköldbberg, 2009, p.6). This means that the “archives as subject” literature was interpreted within the frame of reference by a researcher experienced in the archival profession. The abduction process entailed two stages: (a) describing the meaning of the archival narrative and (b) deriving categories and concepts of this narrative as the basis to understand or explain the problem at hand. This resulted in a subjectively created conceptual framework that was used to guide the empirical analysis of blogs.

The literature data was appropriate for interpretation as it created an understanding of the phenomena; the archival narrative (Alvesson and Sköldbberg, 2009, p.9). The conceptual framework was developed through the categorization of the identified themes from the literature; they were refined and redefined until the four characteristics of archival narrative were articulated. The knowledge of archival professional practice facilitated the researcher with the interpretation of the literature,

to identify and define the four initial characteristics of archival narrative. The researcher produced the conceptual framework and grounded it in empirical findings of the blog data analysis, subjectivity of the researcher being accounted for. Day (2012) states that understanding how one impact the conceptual categories brought into the analysis is an important aspect of reflexivity (p. 65).

The second phase of study embedded the subjective interpretations of the first phase, this validated the presence of archival narrative characteristics and limited alternative interpretations. Alvesson and Sköldberg (2009) allow in reflexivity methodology for the empirical study (content analysis) to be preceded by previous frameworks. This permits for the discovery of new patterns and furthers understanding of the research questions (p.4).

The second phase of research was reflective in that it required interpretation of blog data to identify characteristics of archival narrative. Reflective research such as this content analysis required awareness of theoretical assumptions, the importance of language and a pre-understanding as major elements of interpretation (Alvesson and Sköldberg, 2009, p.9). The blog data was interpreted to further define the characteristics of archival narrative developed in the conceptual framework. This process was possible due to the researchers knowledge of archival language, and extensive professional experience as an archivist.

4.4. Data Collection

4.4.1 Elaboration of the Conceptual Framework

Generating concepts or variables from existing theory or previous studies is useful in qualitative research (Zhang & Wildemuth, 2009, p. 309). In order to answer the

research questions, the first type of data collected includes a corpus of 66 articles written by archivists and historians on “archives as subject”. The subjective analysis of literature through a reflexive methodology determined the initial characteristics of archival narrative articulated in the conceptual framework. This framework was developed from writings on “archives as subject” rather than “archives as source” because the latter includes thoughts on using archival records in research rather than discussions about the profession and its practices.

Writings by archivists and historians on “archives as subject” deconstructed the archival professional practice and aspects within, that the writers felt should be communicated to users of archives. These writings also stated that the archival profession required changes to make it more relevant for computer technology and the Internet. Writings on “archives as subject” have been published since 1972 with the majority of content since the inception of the Internet in the late 1990’s. There have been few of these publications on “archives as subject” since the emergence of social media.

Reflexivity requires that data collection and processing is rigorously subject to techniques and procedures. The data collection of literature in this study began with the researcher's knowledge of and interest in public history and the archival profession. The researcher began with the literature collection from the perspective of the historian. This resulted in the selection of Steedman’s *The space of Memory: In an archives* (1998) as a starting point. From that article it was possible to determine some of the keywords used in a subsequent search for like writings about “archives as subject”. This included a

search using the term “archives” along with keywords; interpretation, history, memory or narrative.

The other aspect of “archives as subject”, the archivists’ perspective, resulted from the researcher’s knowledge of postmodernist archival thoughts as discussed in plenaries and sessions at archival conferences, and in various professional journals. The article by Terry Cook, *The Archive(s) is a Foreign Country: Historians, Archivists, and the Changing Archival Landscape* (2009) served as a starting point in gathering archivists’ literature on “archives as subject”. From Cook’s (2009) article additional keywords were chosen to systematically gather more literature; this was the term “archives” along with one of: history of archives, archival theory, historian-archivist relationship, postmodernism, memory and identity. The researcher conducted searches of archival journals such as *Archivaria* and the *American Archivist*, and *Archival Science* as well as in databases such as Jstor and Project Muse; these include journals such as the *Public Historian*, *History of Human Sciences* and *Rethinking History*. The literature analyzed specifically to develop the conceptual framework is listed in Appendix 2.

A common theme to both the historian and archival disciplines writing on “archives as subject” is the discussion surrounding the archival narrative and its characteristics. The analysis of the literature began with a grid (Appendix 1) recording the characteristics of professional practice and the archival narrative at each occurrence. The authors were listed as well as the archival narrative topic(s) mentioned in their work. This was done for both archivists and historians as they attempted to highlight the work, goals and values of archivists.

The historians writing focused on the archival narrative, primarily criticizing archival professional practice and the way in which this makes research difficult. Literature from archivists rebutted these criticisms. It was necessary to implicitly study this literature and identify key concepts and variables that detailed the characteristics of archival narrative. As literature was read these characteristics were combined and refined. Appendix 1 demonstrates the initial grid for data collection, the refinement of the characteristics of archival narrative and the further refinement resulting in the initial 4 characteristics constituting the conceptual framework.

Goals of archival professional practice, or characteristics that form the archival narrative, were subjectively determined. The reflexive methodology states that an interpreter with assumptions drives all research work and notions in some sense that influences their interpretation and representation of the subject of study (Day, 2012, p. 65). The researcher in this study interpreted the data with her experience in both the archival and history professions. No prior study(s) or conceptual framework could be located. Hence the researcher has subjectively entered the process of knowledge production that will be utilized in phase 2 of this study. This resulted in an analysis of literature that determined both the definition of archival narrative and the initial characteristics representing the goals of archivists within their profession: Inclusion, Authenticity, Order & Access and Meaning & Commemoration. These characteristics are detailed in Chapter 3.

The conceptual framework was further utilized in the second phase of research exploring the characteristics defining archival narrative as represented in archival blogs. It is a somewhat unique but practiced method. A similar approach can be found in a

recent Ph.D. thesis in archival science (Makhlouf Shabou, 2011) where the development of the conceptual framework is integrated with research results, and further utilized as part of the analytical process. Makhlouf Shabou (2011) utilized this strategy due to a lack of theoretical framework in her field of study. A similar strategy of conceptual framework development and use, in the empirical phase was employed for data analysis in this study as well.

4.4.2 Blog Sampling Procedure and Instrument

The second type of data collected in order to answer the research questions includes blog content from three Canadian archival institutions. Systematic and transparent procedures for the collection of data samples support the research validity and reliability (Zhang and Wildemuth, 2009, p. 310). Since there were no studies found employing content analysis of archival institution blogs, it was necessary for this research to determine an appropriate sample size. Two examples of blog content analysis were used to support this research: a study on gender and sexually suggestive images in sports blogs (Clavio and Eagleman, 2011) and a study on personal librarian blogs for professional development, interaction with readers and research dissemination (Jackson-Brown, 2013). The small offering of blog content analysis studies confirmed that blog research is a relatively recent scholarly phenomenon and much of the current research focuses on the blogger rather than the blog content. As in this thesis, the research by Clavio and Eagleman uses content analysis for its ability to provide a rich and in-depth examination of blog content (p. 298).

The data selection process focuses on Canadian archival governmental institutional blogs and the entries therein. This was a systematic selection of three

similar archival institution blogs that would be useful for studying the archival narrative since these blogs provided data for the phenomena under study. This was similar to the Jackson-Brown (2013) study that selected a sample of librarian blogs when they were identified as useful to their study (p. 6). To select blogs for analysis, it was determined that the following criteria be met. These criteria make up the data collection instrument:

1. Represented / Written by a Canadian archival institution,
2. Active – currently engaged in posting blog entries,
3. Prolific – more than twenty blog entries,
4. Contributed blog entries on a frequent basis – at least monthly,
5. Data would be captured from October 3, 2013,
6. Number of blog entries / pages to be captured - random selection.

These criteria would provide enough content to explore the application of archival narrative characteristics within current Canadian archival institutional blogs. If the sample had proved to be insufficient in size, additional blogs could have been added.

4.4.3 Blog Sample Characteristics

It was determined early in the selection process that three blogs from the same genre of archival institutions would make a good sample. Although three blogs appear to be a small sample, the blog entries were analyzed and within these there are hundreds of pages of blog entry data. Duff et al. (2013) determined that there are 34 archival institutional blogs in Canada, but it was difficult to locate them. The blogs were identified from responses to a request posted on the Canadian Archival List-serve - Arcan-L. The email requested examples of Canadian institutional archival blogs, not blogs about archives written on a personal level by individuals. It was necessary to request examples since a search via Internet browsers revealed few archival institutional blogs as many links are embedded within the host's websites.

Responses to the request on Arcan-L provided 6 examples of archival institutional blogs: York University, University of Manitoba, University of British Columbia and the three governmental institution blogs used in this study. The researcher also consulted the website Archives 2.0 that lists blogs as well as other social media projects conducted by archival institutions. This did not result in the list increasing; most of the offerings were American or had already been identified through the List-serve-Arcan-L responses. As a result, three archival blogs from governmental archival repositories were purposefully selected. These created a sample that could speak to the research questions. They were selected according to the criteria previously defined: the City of Vancouver Archives (CVA; City of Vancouver, British Columbia), the Deseronto Archives (Town of Deseronto, Ontario) and the South Peace Regional Archives (SPRA; South Peace Region, Grand Prairie, Alberta). The characteristics of each blog are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 - Blog Characteristics

Blog Name	Type of Institution	Start Date	Frequency & Contributors	Active	Inclusive Date of Data
City of Vancouver Archives, B.C. AuthentiCity http://vancouverarchives.ca	City	01/03/2011	Weekly or more Mixed contributors	Yes	26/09/2013 to 07/02/2013
Deseronto Archives, ONT. www.deserontoarchives.wordpress.com	Town	29/10/2007	Monthly or more Single contributor	Yes	29/09/2013 to 18/07/2012
South Peace Regional Archives, AB http://southpeacearchives.org/blog	Region	09/06/2013	Weekly or more Staff listed	Yes	03/10/2013 to 03/07/2013
Universal data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 3rd, 2013 as cutoff date • 20 blog entries coded per blog 					

According to the “About this blog” section on the City of Vancouver Archives (CVA) blog: AuthentiCity (2011) blog posts are written with the intention of informing

the public about their collections and their work. Generated on WordPress¹¹, the blog replaced their former newsletter and can be found at:

<http://www.vancouverarchives.ca/>. The CVA blog supplements the main website where researchers can search collection databases, order copies, and find additional information about the archival holdings (City of Vancouver Archives, 2011). The “About the Bloggers” section lists contributors as archivists, archival assistants, the conservator and digital archivists (2011).

The Archivist authors the Deseronto Archives blog generated on WordPress. Although the purpose of the blog is not detailed it is the archives online presence for information about the archival collections since no website exists (Deseronto Archives, 2013). This blog features archival documents and situates them within the history of the region. Information sent to the archives by archival researchers is incorporated into some of the archivists’ blog entries and details about events and activities at the Deseronto Archives are disseminated. The blog can be found at:

<http://deserontoarchives.wordpress.com/>.

The South Peace Region Archives (SPRA) blog does not list the specific purpose of their blog. The SPRA website provides researchers with the ability to locate details about the archive and its holdings, access databases and lists staff members. The SPRA website contains an accessible section where the blog can be located as part of the main

¹¹ WordPress is an open-source and free Web publishing application, content management system (CMS) and blogging tool and it allows users to build dynamic websites and blogs that may be updated, customized and managed (Techopedia, <http://www.techopedia.com/definition/13541/wordpress-wp>)

web page (South Peace Regional Archives, 2013) found at:

<http://southpeacearchives.org/> and the blog at <http://southpeacearchives.org/blog/>.

All blog entries for the South Peace Regional Archives blog are credited to the SPRA, an acronym for the archives. The website lists staff including, an executive director, archivist and archives technician and the generic use of SPRA refers to this staff as contributors to the blog. The content of the blog includes details about activities and events at the archives as well as archival documents situated geographically within the history of the region. Although the SPRA blog is the most recently established blog within the sample; it has the highest frequency of blog entries, with multiple weekly posts.

4.4.4 Blog Sample Size & Structure

The selected archival blogs varied in the number and length of blog entries. As in Clavion and Eagleman (2011), a statistical sampling rationale was developed to study a small number of blogs that would support broader observations of the phenomenon under study. The Clavio and Eagleman's (2011) project selected ten blogs for analysis over a one-week period for a total of 1339 blog posts (p. 199). The Jackson-Brown (2013) study analyzed 12 librarian blogs over two years, randomly selecting 2 blog posts per month. This resulted in 288 blog entries over 2 years (p. 5). For several logistical reasons such as scarcity of resources and time, the sample in this thesis comprises the data from 60 blog posts. Appendix 4 lists the blog entry titles of the posts analyzed. Each selected blog varied in the number of pages analyzed per blog; the City of Vancouver Archives: 238 pages, the Deseronto Archives: 57 pages, the South Peace Regional Archives: 57 pages. The total of pages analyzed is 833.

Each of the 60 entries from the archival blogs was saved in electronic format due to the nature of social media and blogging use of the World Wide Web. Blog entries, which are sometimes called “posts”, are the basic units of journaling within an online blog. Some blog entries are long and some short, some contain archival images of archival documents, archival and current photographs used to demonstrate the content of the blog entry post topic. Blog entries are organized in reverse chronological order. As a new post is made, it is situated as the first blog entry on the blogging website for that archival institution. It has been discussed that 3 types of blogs exist; personal journals, filters that link to external sources and knowledge-logs that are repositories of information and observations with a technological focus (Herring et al., 2004, p. 3). The blogs studied in this thesis are part of the knowledge-log type blog with some personal journal content.

4.5. Blog Data Analysis

4.5.1 Content Analysis as a General Approach

Content analysis entails establishing a set of categories and then counting the number of instances that fall into each category (Silverman, 2001, p. 123). Patton (2002) describes content analysis as qualitative data reduction in a sense-making effort that takes a volume of qualitative material and attempts to identify core consistencies and meanings (p. 453). Content analysis is an appropriate strategy for this study as it uses the content of archival institutional blogs to validate and refine the characteristics of archival narrative developed in the conceptual framework. The purpose of this content analysis is to identify themes and patterns that may be manifest in the blog data with a goal to answering a research question (Zhang and Wildemuth, 2009, p. 308).

Content analysis is utilized to address the second research question that built upon and validated the conceptual framework: How the characteristics defining archival narrative are represented within archival blogs? Through the examination of characteristics of archival narrative it will be possible to analyze future applications for archival institutional blogging. This approach to content analysis is directed; the conceptual framework was directly applied to the data within the archival institutional blogs.

The results of this study are consistent with qualitative content analysis and its partiality to produce descriptions and typologies and how these reflect the social world (Zhang and Wildemuth, 2009, p. 308). By way of purposefully selecting and researching Canadian archival institutional blogs they can inform the way in which archivists use the medium to reveal the archival narrative and its characteristics.

4.5.2 Analytical Software

The use of computer software programs assists with entering the data for coding, coding itself, search and retrieval, creating displays of results and assisting with building concepts (Miles & Huberman, 1994, p. 43). NVivo is computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software that supports qualitative research such as content analysis. In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency in recording blog data, sort, correlate and perform matching and linking activities. This research utilized NVivo software to perform the requisite processes and maintain context as to the origin of the data. The study was always able to identify the blog from which coded blog entries were taken and analyzed.

It was necessary to implement a procedure to capture the data contained in the blog entries for transition from the World Wide Web blog formats to NVivo for coding. Since the entries were sometimes lengthy, contained content that required a “click to expand”, and extended beyond a single webpage no tool could be employed to grab and capture the entire content of the sample from three blogs. The Ncapture feature in NVivo would grab a single page chosen within the blog but not expand the blog entries to capture that data. It was necessary to copy, cut and paste the content into a Microsoft Word document and convert to Adobe PDF for coding in NVivo.

NVivo is especially efficient for coding. The directed content analysis allowed that initial categories derived from the conceptual framework, once applied to data, to be constantly compared and refined. Differences and similarities in the text emerged and new categories and sub-categories were revealed and developed. Using NVivo, it was possible to rename and move the nodes representing characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative and apply these to categorize the data. This allowed the researcher to work more methodically, thoroughly and attentively.

The NVivo program also ensured the discovery of blog data not categorized by the conceptual framework and verified that no data had been double-coded. It was important that all data within the sample was categorized so that the conceptual framework could be refined based on its application. The visual aspect and organization of the data promoted accuracy and allowed the researcher to ensure that all data was coded with one characteristic and sub-characteristic.

4.5.3 Unit of Analysis

Krippendorff's (1980) work supports the unit of analysis definition adopted in the study, explaining that the natural building blocks are the syntactical units (p. 66). The units of analysis in this study were the smallest thematic units in each blog entry, words, sentences, parts of sentences, paragraph or more than one paragraph. This strategy is similar to the Clavio and Eagleman's (2001) study of sports blogs, which utilized keywords to analyze words and images in the sampled blog entries as the unit of analysis.

4.5.4 Coding Frame Development and Pre-Test

The study only explored explicit textual representations for analysis: data that fit the exact meaning of the initially defined characteristics of archival narrative. This approach involved implicit theorization or deduction in the content analysis phase. Although the definitions of the archival narrative characteristics had been clearly defined in the conceptual framework it was also necessary to conduct some interpretation that resulted in the identification of the sub-characteristics used in coding. The initial categories of archival narrative characteristics with definitions and examples can be located in Chapter 3.

Bauer (2000) states that representation, sample size and unitization ultimately depend on the research problem and once the sample is selected one must run a pre-test to determine if revisions are necessary (p. 138). Since no previous study on archival narrative characteristics in archival institutional blogs could be found it was important for this study to determine if the initial four coding categories could be applied. A pre-test was performed to validate the application of the codes on one of the selected blogs and the units of analysis within the blog entries.

Data from ten blog entries was selected for the pre-test from the City of Vancouver Archives. The pre-test began with the first 10 entries for ease of study. All four of the initial coding categories from the conceptual framework were represented in the pre-test data. A new category emerged for data that did not fit the conceptual framework characteristics and was temporarily labeled Miscellaneous. Inclusion was the category with the least amount of applicable data, the other three categories and Miscellaneous were all well represented and required the development of sub-categories to specify the differences of data elements within each category.

The text within one blog entry was often coded with more than one characteristic since each word, sentence or part thereof, paragraph or section of text was analyzed to determine representation of the conceptual framework categories. The conceptual framework was applied to the blog data according to these thematic units

The pre-test of data allowed for themes to emerge from the data itself and was used to validate the initial coding strategy. The pre-test determined that the study would require sub-categories to better represent the data.

Decisions were made pursuant to the pre-test. It was decided that photographs and digitized archival images would not be analyzed but rather the study would analyze only text. If an image had accompanying text, it would be analyzed. If data represented more than one characteristic of archival narrative, one characteristic would be selected for “best fit”, or the sentence divided into more than one characteristic. Here is an example of how a sentence or statement was coded via its representation of the characteristics for “best-fit”:

*“This detail of photograph **RATHCO-06-48.4** shows how the light would have appeared to the ships approaching it from the Bay”*

(Research sheds light on Deseronto light, Deseronto Archives, September 23, 2013)

- Italicized text – Meaning & Commemoration; Presentation of Holdings
- Bold text– Order & Access; Searching & Systems

During the pre-test, memos recorded coding decisions and how the “best fit” was determined to ensure consistency in applying the same characteristic to like data. Here are the coding decisions generated during the pre-test:

- **Meaning and Commemoration:** If the information being provided is linked to other documents, sources, archival repositories, exhibits treat as Meaning and Commemoration code rather than Authenticity code.
- **Authenticity:** If the information being provided is in reference to an acquisition (provenance) treat as context to the acquisition thus Authenticity code rather than Meaning and Commemoration code.
- **Inclusion:** The codes for Inclusion and Authenticity are sometimes difficult to differentiate. Inclusion will be interpreted as statements of the institutions determination to represent various communities within society through the acquisition of archival documents for these groups. This is sometimes determined according to the acquisition mandate but also through knowledge of the under represented in other archival institutions. Authenticity is being interpreted as the archivist determined archival and monetary value, a subjective determination based on their experience of collection processing. It often refers to the documentation that supports the authentic claim of the archival document, e.g. donor agreements that state provenance.
- **Photographs or digitized archival documents are not coded but accompanying text will be.** If the text describes the photograph or document, code as “Meaning and Commemoration: Presentation of Holdings”. If the text is a citation, code “Order & Access: Searching & Systems”. If the text is situating the photo or document in historical fact or linking to archival holdings, code “Meaning and Commemoration: Contextual Backgrounders”. If the photo or document is labeled with a comment by staff writing the blog entry, code as “Advocacy: People Power”. Image labeling text can be broken into section to give multiple codes per label if circumstances warrant.

- When links are included to other external historical or archival sources, previous blog posts or other useful resources, code “Meaning and Commemoration: Presentation of Holdings”.

The codebook employed as a coding frame is provided in the Appendix 3. The codebook includes definitions for each of the characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative as well as examples from the blog content representing these. The codebook is the tool that was consistently used for content analysis of Canadian archival institutional blogs in this study.

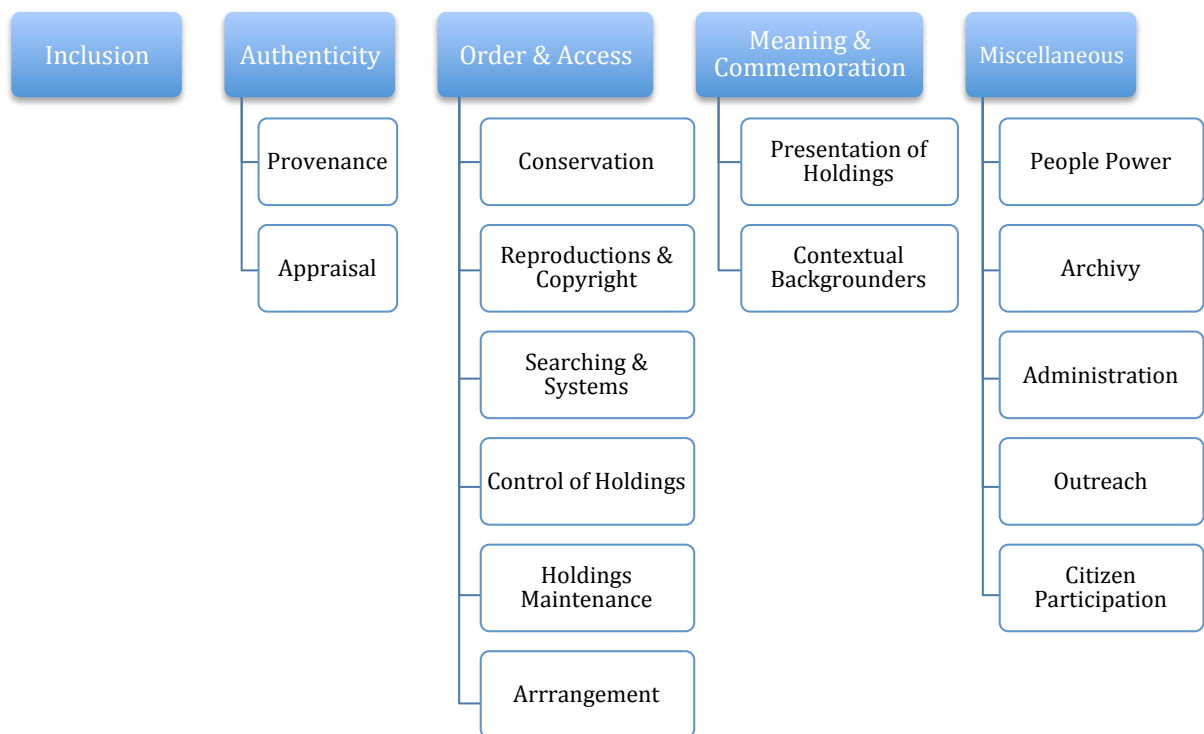
4.5.5 Data Analysis Process

The development of the codes during the analysis of data was incremental. The first iteration of codes was derived from the conceptual framework. The conceptual framework included the development and definitions of four characteristics of archival narrative representing the goals of archival professional practice.

After the pre-test, analysis revealed that categories of Authenticity, Order and Access, as well as Meaning and Commemoration would require sub-categories; a large volume of text was appearing to fall within these three codes. The instances of the Miscellaneous data were also significant and required refinement to develop sub-categories. The identification and definition of the archival narrative sub-characteristics was undertaken during the pre-test.

These additional codes were stabilized following the analysis of twenty entries from the City of Vancouver Archives. All content within these blog entries was explicit and required no interpretation to understand how it represented one of the developed and defined characteristics or sub-characteristics. Figure 3 illustrates characteristics and sub-characteristics that would make up the coding scheme for this content analysis:

Figure 3 - Codes and Sub-Codes



Once twenty blog entries from the City of Vancouver Archive's blog had been coded using the refined conceptual framework characteristics and newly identified sub-characteristics, twenty blog entries from the Deseronto Archive and twenty blog entries from the South Peace Regional Archive were analyzed. The analysis compared the data as coded, against the definitions created in the codebook. This allowed the researcher to verify coding consistency and that characteristics, as defined were being adequately represented. During this coding process, text assigned to a characteristic was

systematically compared to data already assigned to that characteristic. According to Zhang and Wildemuth (2009) this allows for a full understanding of the theoretical properties of the coded category and sub-categories (p. 311).

Miles and Huberman (1994) explain that the initial categories developed in the conceptual framework phase may be modified within the course of analysis as new categories inductively emerge (p. 62). They also explain these coding activities in content analysis as “filling in” where codes are added as knowledge is gained from the data, and “surfacing” where the coder identifies new categories (p. 62). This allowed for the ongoing refinement of the initial archival narrative categories derived from the conceptual framework and allows for the movement of sub-categories that emerged during the pre-test. This study determined during refinement that the data labeled Miscellaneous were advocacy activities. At the end of the content analysis, all data within the sample (60 blog entries from three archival institutional blogs) was coded at a parent characteristic and a sub-characteristic.

The data analysis ended when theoretical saturation was reached. Bauer (2000) defines saturation as an occurrence when the selection of data must stop because additional data will not produce any more variety in results (p. 364). In this research, the coding stabilized when no more categories of archival narrative characteristics were identified. This stabilization was achieved when data from 60 blog entries was coded and no more categories or sub-categories were required for its analysis. All data was coded within the categories identified and no codes were discarded.

The study determined that if the codes and sub-codes representing archival narrative characteristics could be applied and no new codes were required to embody

the data in the blogs, this would indicate saturation. It would indicate that the coding framework had stabilized. Additionally this study confirmed saturation when blog entries began to repeat in similar types of content. Examples include the translation of old newspapers and letters on the Deseronto Archives blog and the call for participation by the South Peace Regional Archives, which encourages citizens to provide information about various topics on their blog. This type of content began to repeat in new blog entries illustrating varying themes within the same context, in any case the entries represented the same type of archival narrative.

4.6 Quality of Research

This study was cognizant of quality criteria in qualitative research and methods of best practice from the outset. The strategies adopted in this research are described below.

4.6.1 Objectivity

Although this thesis partially refutes the concept of objectivity in qualitative research, as stated by positivists such as Miles and Huberman (1994), several strategies were put forward to ensure the reliability and reproducibility of the results. According to Miles and Huberman (1994), the research objectivity, is a study free of biases and with relative neutrality (p. 278). The results of the research should be based on the subject and condition of the inquiry to limit the bias of the inquirer (p. 278).

On the opposite side, this study adopts a reflexivity lens that accounts for the role of the researcher during the research process, an approach well suited to the examination of the archival narrative. Bowman (2006) states that narrative study features people (profession), their values, intentions and activities in a subjective, not

definitive way (p. 13). This study employs the reflexivity lens because it recognizes the situation of the researcher within the disciplinary field and academic tradition being studied, the researchers' experience cannot be ignored when it is related to the research (Day, 2012, p. 65 and 71). The researcher of this thesis makes explicit, more than twenty years of archival experience that are now embedded within the research process. The analysis, interpretation and definitions come from both the phenomena under study and from knowledge of archival practice. The reflexivity approach states that the melding of the researcher and data is neither biased nor skewed but rather provided a richer more developed understanding of a complex phenomena (Crabtree, 2006, p.1).

This study practiced careful data preparation, including the development of a conceptual framework and a codebook to document the research process. According to Bauer (2000) it is the construction of a coding frame that guarantees the research efficiency and coherence (p. 141). Within a reflexivity paradigm, it is also the subjective interpretation of the collected data that becomes central to the research process. Adhering to these principles, the study not only provided an audit trail for data collection in both phases (See Appendix 1 to 5) but also detailed the process for the subjective development of the initial characteristics of archival narrative.

The absence of previous research on archival narrative and blogs as well as the lack of a theoretical framework motivates the adoption of a two-phase approach. The consequence of a reflexivity theoretical strategy is that the conceptual framework is used as both parts of the results and for data analysis. Reflexivity allows for the use of empirical data to expand upon the initial framework concept as additional patterns are observed and identified. The pre-test performed prior to data analysis validated the

initial framework while also motivating the addition of sub-characteristics. The process of identifying and defining the characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative is documented in Appendix 1 and 2 and in Chapter 3.

The second phase of study, the content analysis of blog data created a codebook to further document the research process. The codebook (Appendix 3) outlined the definitions of the characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative represented in both the literature on “archives as subject” and the blog content – the data itself. Bauer (2000) describes this as binding the text through coding, to the conceptual framework and research questions (p. 139).

The codebook used for this study served as a guideline for analysis and as evidence of the research process. Precise coding definitions and clear coding procedures (Zhang and Wildemuth 2009, p. 313) as well as illustrative text (Bauer 2000, p. 143) were included. Hsieh and Shannon (2005) state that the categorization applied to data is appropriate if these coding categories can be described and data examples for each code can be offered (p. 1282). The categorization of characteristics within the codebook includes definitions and examples from the data, of both characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative. During the analysis, the codebook was frequently referenced, particularly when determining “best fit” for data samples appearing to satisfy requirements of more than one category. The codebook ensured that coding of samples was consistent and that the data can be linked to the codes to answer the research questions. The application of these codes can be found in Appendix 5. The full research process has been visually detailed in Figure 2.

4.6.2 Reliability

In qualitative research, reliability is the degree of consistency that instances are assigned to the same category during analysis by either different researchers or the same researcher on different occasions (Hammersley, 1992, p. 67). Reliability is defined as agreement among interpreters however; a single person conducting content analysis must make a second coding round to determine intrapersonal reliability, consistency and stability (Bauer, 2000, p. 143). Zhang and Wildemuth (2009, p. 314) state that reliability also includes the process of double-checking and auditing to establish dependability and confirm results.

In this research, a single researcher checked for the reliability of categorization within the blog data through an audit (see the Methodology, 4.5.2). The audit looked specifically for double coding, that all data had been coded in accordance with the codebook definitions and that these had been interpreted and applied accurately. Undertaken a month after the initial coding, the audit determined a high reliability in the coding process and consequently the results produced from that analysis.

The pre-test performed on the data (20 blog entries) from the City of Vancouver Archives (CVA) also confirmed the consistency of the research. The pre-test validated the fit of the contextual framework with the CVA blog data and confirmed that it was an adequate tool to derive the coding frame for analysis. An additional 10 blog entries from the CVA blog entries were then coded using the refined coding frame. This process revealed the need for sub-categories of archival narrative characteristics. Ten blog entries were coded from the CVA, 10 more were then analyzed, 20 blog entries from the Deseronto Archives blog and 20 blog entries from the South Peace Regional Archives

blog. This analysis used the refined coding frame, the same as that used in the CVA blog analysis.

The researcher in this study prepared for the qualitative research on archival narrative and social media blogging by presenting thoughts and introducing initial concepts to several different audiences. By engaging with the archival community pre-research, the study determined whether or not the research questions were appropriate and that the right research questions were asked. In August 2012, a paper was presented at the International Council on Archives (ICA) Congress in Brisbane, Australia entitled *Speak Up and Stand Out: The Archival Narrative and Change Via Social Media*. The researcher presented a paper the following autumn on a project utilizing social media and the discovery of archival narrative as part of the University of Ottawa's School of Information Research Conversations Series. In May 2013, the same paper from the ICA Congress was presented at the Archives Association of Ontario's annual conference in Ottawa. These papers were well received with attendees commenting on professional practice represented as archival narrative and the need for analysis of social media use.

4.6.3 Validity

Bauer (2000) refers to validity as the degree that the results correctly represent the text or its context during content analysis (p. 144). The validity is determined by the degree to which the codes relate to the text (semantic validity), the sample represents the whole body of text (sampling validity) and the coding frame embodies the theory of an analysis (construct validity) (Bauer, 2000, p. 144-145).

The development of the definition of archival narrative and its initial characteristics was subjective; the researcher has documented her experience in archives (Chapter 1 and 3). This experience may have increased her ability to abduct the conceptual framework. Although experiential knowledge played a role, the semantic validity in this research project can be determined from the design of the conceptual framework considering the writings on “archives as subject” that provided initial categories of archival narrative characteristics. This framework was systematically and consistently developed (See Chapter 3 & 4). The contextual framework led to the development of a coding frame that was applicable and representative of the data within the sample of archival institutional blogs. The sub-categories of archival narrative, created through the refinement of the coding frame were revealed from the blog data and they were defined based on the content of this data.

Selecting relevant and exhaustive literature in the fields of archival and historical research first ensures the sampling validity in this study. This was reached by reading a large corpus of “archives as subject” literature (66 articles) by both archivists and historians. Validity in phase one was achieved when the content discussing “archives as subject” in the literature (see Appendix 1) began to repeat. No new characteristics of archival narrative were revealed. Sampling validity also occurred when saturation was achieved following analysis of data from 60 blog entries.

The construct validity is achieved from the internal coherence of the research study – a well defined conceptual framework and methodology for coding, a pre-test, refinement of coding definitions, and the addition of sub-codes based on data content. Bauer (2000) states that this internal coherence is enough to insinuate credibility and

validation and can result in methodologically derived results yielding meaningful information (p. 145). The research study had two questions and they were established to determine the characteristics defining archival narrative from literature on “archives as subject” and how these characteristics are represented in archival blogs. A detailed methodology has provided evidence answering these questions and leading to better construct validity.

Qualitative research such as content analysis is aided by the use of software tools that contribute to research rigor. This study employed NVivo to classify, sort and arrange the data within the archival institutional blogs. NVivo facilitated the identification of all data coded to a particular category and sub-category ensuring the focus remains on the analysis of the data within the archival institutional blogs rather than keeping track of coded data. The focus on data analysis led to the identification of themes, the refinement of the conceptual framework and the creation of a coding book with well-defined and demonstrated characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative. These resulted in insight that will be used to develop meaningful conclusions about how archivists are utilizing these blogs to reveal the archival narrative.

4.6.4 External Validity

External validity is the generalizability of the research that requires connection-making to either unstudied parts of the original case or to other cases (Miles and Huberman 1994, p. 279). To a certain extent, generalizability has been reached in this study, another factor contributing to the quality of this research.

The sample of archival institutional blogs was selected not to represent all archival institutional blogs but rather because they had something to say about the

research questions (Bauer, 2000, p. 202). Based on a consistent application of established criteria, the sample comprising three institutional blogs strengthens the generalizability of the findings over a sample with a single blog.

This study allows for knowledge gathering about how the characteristics defining archival narrative are revealed within the City of Vancouver Archives, the Deseronto Archives and the South Peace Regional Archive blog. Through a multi-case content analysis it was possible to explore similar, yet different examples of archival institutional blogs. The study was replicated in each of the blogs with the categories of archival narrative applied. The generalizability of the research was also strengthened through an analysis of the literature. Narrative characteristics found in the literature were comparable to those resulting from data analysis.

The research process of this study is transferrable. The conceptual framework and codebook developed from analysis of the literature and the content of archival institutional blogs are transferrable. These tools can support future work in archival communications, acting as a guide for further research. Communications for prospective study may include interviews and other social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Both the definition of archival narrative and defined characteristics and sub-characteristics developed from “archives as subject” literature and blog content will be applicable to future studies.

4.7 Methodology Conclusion

The characteristics defined in this study and used to identify the archival narrative will also facilitate the analysis of other archival institutional blogs. The

procedures developed will allow other researchers to explore how archivists reveal the archival narrative within other genres of archival institutional blogs. The codebook could be utilized with larger samples in future research. Now that the process and codebook have been created, a sample that includes more archival institutional blogs such as those from academic institutions or religious archives could be analyzed. Each of the categories representing characteristics of archival narrative could be examined independently in other research projects. For instance, if a researcher was interested in Archival Advocacy, the definition, data example and sub-categories could be extrapolated from the codebook and applied to other archival blogs. This could be used to expand a study beyond the Canadian context. With clear procedures and the strict adherence to a codebook, it is possible to replicate this research project transfer the methodology and processes to other studies.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

This thesis aims to define and characterize the archival narrative from an analysis of literature produced by archivists and historians. Through research of archival blogs, this thesis refines this characterization and determines how archivists can better use blogging to reveal archival procedures and practices to archival users.

The research questions are:

1. What are the characteristics defining archival narrative in “archives as subject” literature?
2. How are these characteristics represented within archival blogs?

The first phase of the research identified four characteristics of archival narrative based on an analysis of a corpus of 66 articles written by archivists and historians on “archives as subject”. The second phase entailed a content analysis of 60 blog entries from three Canadian archival institutional blogs. Resulting from both these phases, six characteristics and fifteen sub-characteristics of archival narrative were identified.

In this chapter, the results are presented according to the research questions. The chapter presents and compares the characteristics and the sub-characteristics of the archival narrative found in both the literature and in the blogs.

5.2 The Characteristics Defining Archival Narrative in the Literature

To answer the first research question, writings of archivists and historians on the topic of “archives as subject” were the primary data sources. Although the writers discussed the archival narrative, they did not precisely define it. This, the first phase of the study, identified and defined the narrative. The definition of archival narrative is:

The non-passive, non-neutral imprint that archivists make on the archival record. This imprint is the archivist's narrative (story) in relation to their work, within their institutions, – guided through rules of the profession and through individual decision-making.

Issues of professional archival practice identified in the literature were also analyzed leading to the production of a conceptual framework that subjectively defines and articulates the characteristics of archival narrative. At the beginning of the first phase of the study it was determined that “characteristic” would be defined as: a feature, quality, attribute or trait belonging to archivists as it serves to identify the profession as a whole (Merriam Webster Dictionary, definition of “characteristic”, 2014). Each archival narrative characteristic corresponds to different goals that an archivist must strive for in their professional practice, the rules of the profession that are imprinted on the records. The non-neutral imprints are the traits unique to archivists, exemplified by the identified and defined characteristics explained in this study.

The conceptual framework, detailed in Chapter 3, includes four archival narrative characteristics: 1) Inclusion, 2) Authenticity, 3) Order & Access and 4) Meaning & Commemoration. The development of the conceptual framework answered the first research question regarding the characteristics of archival narrative in the literature; the content analysis expanded this framework in the context of archival blogging.

5.3 The Characteristics of Archival Narrative in Archival Blogs

The second research question aimed to determine how the characteristics defining archival narrative are represented in archival blogs. No previous research on the archival narrative in relation to archival blogs was located. Content analysis utilizing

the conceptual framework developed in phase one was performed to examine three archival institutional blogs.

In the following sections the results of the blog analysis are further detailed. First, characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative specific to blogs are detailed. Second, representation of archival narrative characteristics in blogs is examined. Finally, each characteristic of the archival narrative is defined and illustrated with examples.

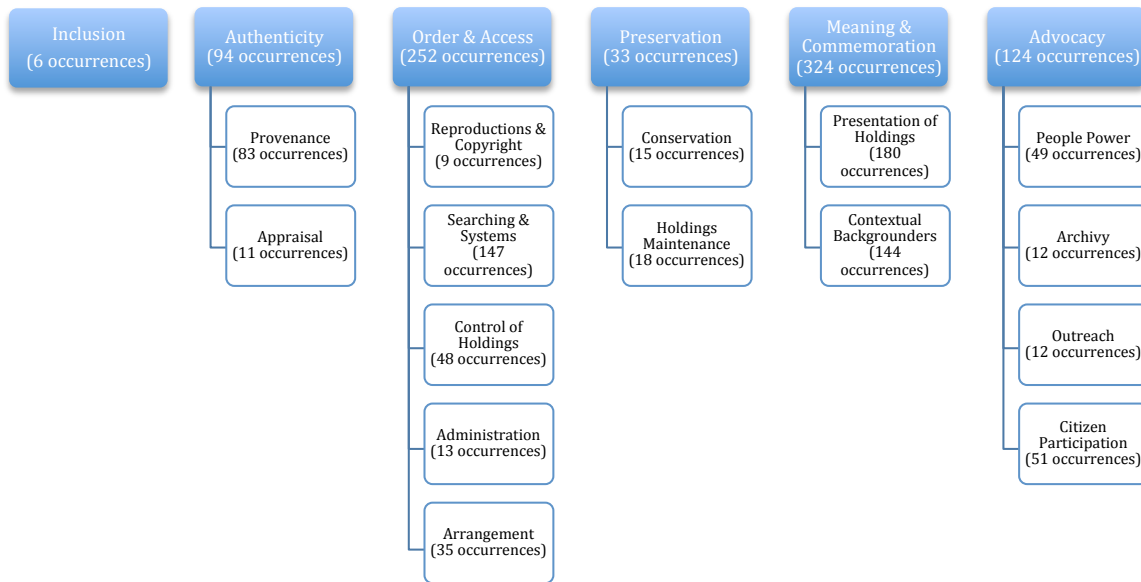
5.3.1 Characteristics and Sub-Characteristics of Archival Narrative Specific to Blogs

The characteristics defined in the conceptual framework were easily applicable to the blog data; this therefore confirmed the validity of the representation. From the initial four characteristics it was possible to identify data that did not fit. This leads to the expansion and refinement of the conceptual framework. Two additional characteristics of archival narrative were first added to represent the blog content: Advocacy and Preservation. During the audit review (see the Methodology, 4.5.2) the majority of the Miscellaneous coded content was determined to represent activities of archival advocacy. Thus the Miscellaneous category was integrated with the Advocacy category. More refinement was necessary after this revelation; the Administration sub-category once grouped in Miscellaneous did not fit the characteristic of Advocacy and was moved to the characteristic of Order and Access.

Additionally it was found that the characteristics required sub-categories to better organize the data within the broader categories. The refinement of the initial characteristics of archival narrative, defined in the contextual framework to the blog content resulted in the creation of fifteen sub-characteristics: these can be seen in Figure

4. This figure details the final categorization of archival narrative as applied to the blogs, including their occurrence in the data analyzed. These characteristics and sub-characteristics are defined and illustrated with examples in the section 5.3.3.

Figure 4 - Characteristics (Goals) with Sub-characteristics (Activities) of Archival Narrative (with occurrences)



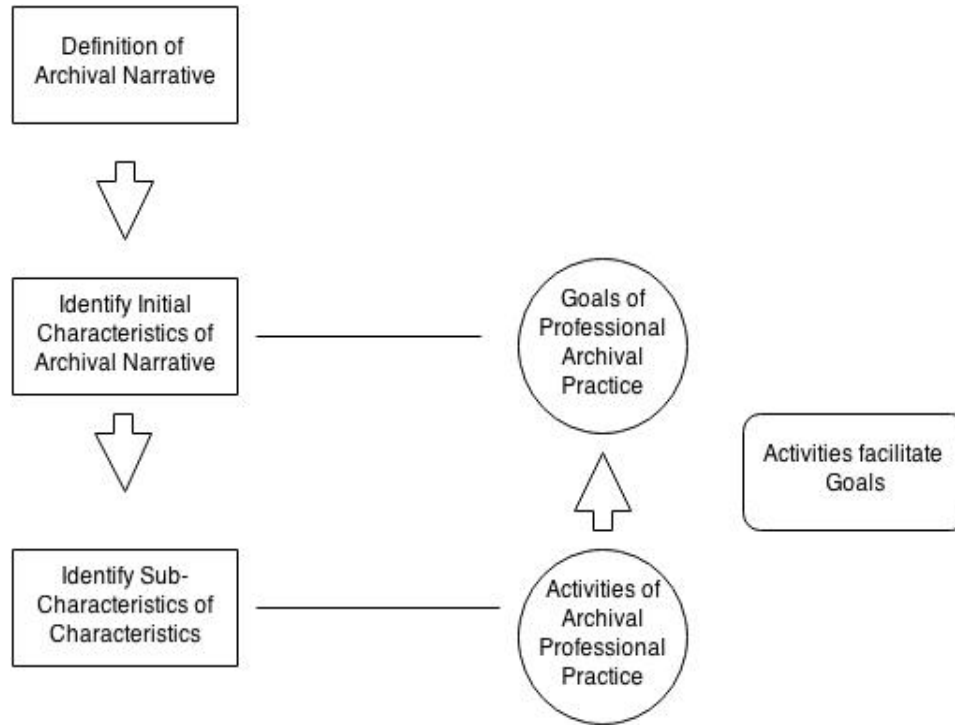
The identification, definition and verification of the initial characteristics in blogs facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of archival narrative. The process of refining and defining these characteristics reveals them to be traits, representing the goals of archival professional practice. During the content analysis it was also determined that the sub-characteristics are the actions, activities and methods that archivists employ to meet these professional objectives. The sub-characteristics differ from the main characteristics as they represent activities of the archivist rather than the goals of professional practice.

This difference between data demonstrating characteristics and sub-characteristics is demonstrated with the following examples:

- Authenticity is a characteristic of the archival narrative and represents an attainable goal within the profession in relation to the documents it acquires. It is related to what makes the archival record authentic, the documentation that supports originality.
- Provenance is an area of action that assists in meeting the objective of the characteristic of Authenticity. Provenance must be documented such as this from the City of Vancouver Archives - “Many of the maps that were created for City projects used standard base maps created by Engineering and then added other information” (*February 22, 2013, The Map and Plan Digitization Project*).

The definition of the archival narrative can be studied through the goals of the practice (cultural level) and how these goals are achieved through the application of archival activities (individual level). The sub-characteristics therefore represent how archivists make sense, embrace and react to the characteristics of archival narrative. The result is a greater understanding of archival narrative and its culture and character. A flow chart representing the high level results of this study in relation to the archival narrative is offered:

Figure 5 - Archival Narrative Results



5.3.2 Archival Narrative Characteristics - Representation in Blogs

The four categories of archival narrative characteristics initially developed from the literature (Inclusion, Authenticity, Order & Access and Meaning & Commemoration) were applied to the content analysis of archival institution blogs. The purpose was to determine how these characteristics are represented in the blogs. The presence or absence of a characteristic was also examined.

The following table illustrates which characteristics from the literature are represented within each blog. It also demonstrates that two additional characteristics are specific to the blogs examined:

Table 2 - Representations of the Archival Narrative Characteristics in Blogs

Blog Name	Characteristics Derived from Literature				Characteristics Specific to Blogs	
	Inclusion	Authenticity	Order & Access	Meaning & Commemoration	Advocacy	Preservation
City of Vancouver Archives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deseronto Archives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Peace Regional Archives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Not present

The study determined all three blogs had data that fit each of the initial categories of archival narrative characteristics. For the characteristics identified as a result of the blog analysis (Advocacy and Preservation), the South Peace Regional Archives had no data related to Preservation.

A total of 833 occurrences of archival narrative characteristics were found in the blogs. By examining the frequency of occurrence within the archival institutional blogs for each characteristic, one gets a better understanding of the weight that each of the characteristics has within the analyzed sample.

Table 3 - Occurrence Frequencies of the Archival Narrative Characteristics in Blogs (n=833)

Blog Name	Characteristics Derived from Literature				Characteristics Specific to Blogs	
	Inclusion	Authenticity	Order & Access	Meaning & Commemoration	Advocacy	Preservation
City of Vancouver Archives	3	66	202	186	57	32
Deseronto Archives	2	24	27	86	44	1
South Peace Regional Archives	1	4	23	52	23	Not present
TOTAL	6	94	252	324	124	33

As seen in the table above, some characteristics are represented more frequently than others within the blog samples. They are listed here in the ranking order of importance:

1. Meaning and Commemoration – 324 occurrences
2. Order and Access – 252 occurrences
3. Advocacy – 124 occurrences
4. Authenticity – 94 occurrences
5. Preservation – 33 occurrences
6. Inclusion – 6 occurrences

Meaning & Commemoration and Order & Access were represented in more blog data than the third most represented code Advocacy, with Inclusion only occurring a few times. This was consistent with the occurrence of the characteristics within the individual blogs (1 highest representation and 6 being the lowest):

Table 4 - Ranking Orders of Archival Narrative Occurrences within the Sample Blogs

	Inclusion	Authenticity	Order & Access	Meaning & Commemoration	Advocacy	Preservation
City of Vancouver Archives	6th	3rd	1st	2nd	4th	5th
Deseronto Archives	5th	4th	3rd	1st	2nd	6th
South Peace Regional Archives	4th	3rd	2nd	1st	2nd	5th

The ranking of occurrences of the archival narrative characteristics is listed in Table 4 for each of the sampled blogs. From the analysis of these occurrences it is possible to determine how the characteristics of archival narrative compare to each other for representation. Within each blog it is possible to rank which characteristic was most represented or communicated via the blog entry content sampled. Overall it is then possible to determine the characteristics of archival narrative communicated with the most frequency across all the blogs: Meaning & Commemoration as well as Order &

Access. It is also possible to determine that Preservation is the least represented characteristic of archival narrative, with rankings in the lowest occurrences for all three blogs.

5.3.3 Definition of the Characteristics & Sub-Characteristics of Archival Narrative in Archival Blogs

This section details each of the archival narrative characteristics and their sub-characteristics including the frequency of representation in archival institutional blogs. It is important to note the difference between the levels of archival narrative; the characteristics represent the goals of the archival profession and the sub-characteristics a detailed account of the activities that facilitate the attainment of the goals.

5.3.3.1 Inclusion

The frequency of data for the characteristic of Inclusion is minimal with 6 occurrences, the lowest frequency of representation in the sample. It is the only characteristic in this study where no sub-characteristics were revealed. It is defined as follows:

The characteristic of inclusion exists through the archivist's efforts to preserve records of individuals, organizations, governments and society as a whole through the selection of specific records among those available. Inclusion relates to the purposeful presence of societal groups and communities via the acquisition of archival documents that represent them. This is achieved through the subjectivity of archivists making acquisition decisions with awareness of those underrepresented by other archival institutions.

The initial definition of Inclusion has been refined because application to the sample was difficult. The differences between Inclusion and Authenticity are subtle but Inclusion relates to decisions made by the archivist in the acquisition of documents subject to the institutional mandate and knowledge of various societal communities and

their representation in other archival repositories. Authenticity relates to the archivist's knowledge of provenance, as well as monetary and archival appraisal decisions undertaken in the record acquisition process. Data such as the following provides the reader with evidence of Inclusion:

“...generally we collect written and photographic items rather than museum-type objects and our policy is only to collect materials relating to Deseronto” (Deseronto Archives, September 12, 2013, *A piece of Tyendinaga history heads home*).

All three blogs in the sample contains data collection content in relation to the holdings within the institution as demonstrated in:

“The City of Vancouver Archives has three George Vancouver documents...” (CVA, June 20, 2013, *Captain George Vancouver: original documents*).

Thus the characteristic of Inclusion within archival institutional blogs includes sharing information about institutional mandate to acquire archival holdings and describing how these holdings are related to each other and the overall collection.

5.3.3.2 Authenticity

The characteristic of Authenticity includes two sub-categories: Provenance and Appraisal. It has a representation within the sample blogs of 94 occurrences. It is defined as:

The characteristic of authenticity, pertaining to archival material is based on documentation supporting the originality of that material, details of its acquisition, provenance, and assessment of archival value. Authenticity can also come from the use of archival documents in historical research.

Content for Authenticity relates to two specific functions within archival professional practice employed to determine authentic archival records. This includes

details of provenance and appraisal to determine whether or not records are truly what they are purported to be. The characteristic of Authenticity and its two sub-characteristics, Provenance and Appraisal, are evidence of professional archival activities. The study reveals that the frequency of Provenance coding is higher than Appraisal, with 83 occurrences for Provenance and 11 for Appraisal.

Blog entries including descriptions supporting the originality of particular archival documents illustrate the characteristic of Authenticity. For instance, in describing archival city maps, the City of Vancouver Archives provides information about the sub-characteristic Provenance that authenticates their origin for identification:

“ Many of the maps that were created for City projects used standard base maps created by Engineering and then added other information” (CVA, February 22, 2013, *The Map and Plan Digitization Project*).

As reflected by this example, the sub-characteristic of Provenance relates to the source of the records. It is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of provenance documents the acquisition and original origin of archival materials. It is the conveyance of the information regarding the origins, custody, and ownership of an item or collection (Pearce, 2005).

In total, 83 occurrences of Provenance are found in all three blogs. This sub-characteristic is often represented in relation to accompanying information to digitized images of documents and photographs:

“A recent transfer to the Archives from the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives includes a series of photographs of a collapsed bridge, without any information as to the location of it” (Deseronto Archives, October 10, 2012, *Bridge Collapse*).

The sub-characteristic of Provenance is also represented in information about ownership and monetary purchase acquisition details:

“This letter was purchased from Maggs Brothers, London, 1938 with funds raised by public subscription and donated to the City of Vancouver Archives” (CVA, June 20, 2013, *Captain George Vancouver: original documents*).

The authenticity of records can also come from the archivists themselves. Evidence within the blogs is found detailing how the historical knowledge of archivists is used to disseminate information authenticating archival documents. The Deseronto Archives in a blog post entitled *Snapshots of the First World War* details an acquisition of photographs taken in Deseronto,

“A month ago, we received a new accession of photographs from Dave Stapley, whose family once owned a farm on the Boundary Road, at the eastern side of Deseronto. The farm was close to the World War One pilot training site, Camp Rathbun, and many of the 33 photos depict men, buildings, and aircraft of the camp” (Deseronto Archives, March 13, 2013, *Snapshots of the First World War*).

The archivist explains that they know nothing of the creator of these photographs but adds in the same post, “we can surmise he was a member of 90 C.T.S. who left his photographs behind” (March 13, 2013).

The archivist knows enough about the local history to detail the location of the images, the context and direct information about the creator. The archivist is able to provide details about the origin of the records, thus imparting the sub-characteristic of Provenance.

Appraisal is the other sub-characteristic of Authenticity. Represented 11 times in the blog sample, it is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of appraisal in the archival context is the process of determining whether documentary materials have sufficient archival value

to warrant acquisition by an archival institution. It is also the process of determining market value for acquisition. (Daniels, 1984, p. 336).

The City of Vancouver Archives details their excitement for a new acquisition, a photograph, explaining the reasoning of the acquisition in a blog entry (*Buildings on the beach side of Beach Avenue*). The decision to acquire the photograph is justified by its uniqueness, revealing the rationale of archival value used in the appraisal process:

*“The 1900 blocks of Beach Avenue no longer have buildings on the water side. There are very few good views of the buildings that existed there and nearly all of them were taken from the beach rather than from across the street. This is the only view we have that shows these long-gone buildings from this angle” (CVA, May 10, 2013, *Buildings on the beach side of Beach Avenue*).*

As seen from all the examples above, the blog posts are used to contextualize the authenticity of records by detailing the provenance and appraisal decisions. They have created, from the archivist’s voices, a more personal revelation of what archivists do—thus sharing the archival narrative of Authenticity.

5.3.3.3 Order & Access

In an effort to make records accessible to researchers, archivists describe, order and classify records. This study finds a great evidence of the Order & Access characteristic of archival narrative in blog posts. This is defined as:

The characteristic of order and access is created through the description, ordering and classifying of archival records in the process of making them accessible to researchers.

Order & Access has the second highest frequency of all data coded with 252 occurrences. It also has the larger number of sub-characteristics, totaling five. The frequency of occurrence for each sub-characteristic is:

- 1) Reproduction and Copyright: 9 occurrences
- 2) Searching and Systems: 147 occurrences
- 3) Control of Holdings: 48 occurrences
- 4) Administrative: 13 occurrences
- 5) Arrangement: 35 occurrences

The Order & Access coded content demonstrates the way archivists offer assistance and how clients can access and research the archives. One such example is the Reproduction & Copyright sub-characteristic. It is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of copyright and reproduction details rules and regulations governing the copying of archival materials within the repository. This provides information and interpretation about property rights that protect the interest of authors and creators of works in tangible media that gives them the right to control the reproduction, publication, adaptation, exhibition, or performance of their works (Pearce, 2005).

Only one blog, the City of Vancouver Archives (CVA) provides posts that contain information about Reproduction & Copyright. It is exemplified in this post:

“This item is in the public domain and all replication is allowed. You can use it for anything” (CVA, April 24, 2013, Improved online search: copyrighted digital objects).

Reproduction & Copyright posts in the City of Vancouver Archives blog include details about how to make copies, determine third-party copyright vs. public domain and acquire permissions to publish.

Searching & Systems is the sub-characteristic with the highest frequency of representation within the blogs. It is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of searching and systems includes information or instructions provided by the archivist about a computer program or database meant to retrieve information about archival holdings that meets specified criteria.

All three blogs have posts related to information and instructions about computer programs, databases and the retrieval of archival holdings. Some of these posts provide links to online databases and resources:

“If you would like to read the rest of the story about what happened to Sam Baptiste Wilson click his name” (SPRA, August 6, 2013, *Shark Week – How about Bear Week?*).

Other content refers directly to numbering systems for finding aids:

“Reference code: 2011-092.1438” (CVA, September 26, 2013, *Science – how sweet it is! From sunshine to sugar, growing it right*).

Searching & Systems posts also provide examples on how to locate specific materials.

For example, the City of Vancouver Archives provides search terms for locating archival photographs depicting Vancouver eating establishments:

“I started using the subject term, ‘Restaurant, diners, lunchrooms, etc.’ to find out what and where Vancouverites were eating in the 20th century” (CVA, July 26, 2013, *Exploring Vancouver’s fast food past*).

There is this blog example from the South Peace Regional Archives that directs researchers to the online resources at the archives:

“Research is still, of course, a top priority, and you will find the ‘Research’ button leads to all the online databases, finding aids and photographs which make up the bulk of this website” (SPRA, September 13, 2013, *Welcome to Our New Website*).

Control of Holdings sub-characteristic has representation in all three of the blogs and their entries with the second highest frequency of data within Order & Access. It is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of control of holdings details the process of gaining and maintaining intellectual control over the documents. This may include activities such as describing archival materials, finding aid creation and the transcription of documents.

Several blog entry posts detail Control of Holdings content. This includes information about what is done with archival documents once acquired by an archive. This sub-characteristic documents the activities that archivists undertake to ready records for research by making them accessible or by increasing their accessibility through description or transcription. The Deseronto Archives blog posts provide information that evidences transcription work. One such example is a transcribed newspaper clipping from the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*, 1897 about a tug-of-war between two towns:

“Picton secured eight inches in the first hour, which Deseronto reduced to nil, but could not get it over scratch 1/16th of an inch” (Deseronto Archives, July 24, 2013, *A great tug-of-war*).

Transcriptions involve archivists’ intervention to assist in making the archival documents that are difficult to read due to ink and nib cursive writing or language of the period, more accessible.

Control of Holdings content also details efforts such as digitization and finding aid creation in the course of making archival records accessible and available to patrons.

South Peace Regional Archives blog informed blog readers that:

“New fonds that soon will be finding their way onto our on-line finding aid and are now available to come in and search are: 1) Bay Tree Community Club 2) Bay Tree Community Hall” (SPRA, July 9, 2013, *Busy at the archives*).

The City of Vancouver Archives details work being done to make archival holdings more generally available, for instance:

“Over the course of the next couple of years the textual records, photographs, moving image materials, architectural drawings, and other materials in the BC Sugar fonds will be preserved, arranged, described and made available to researchers. We look forward to providing access

to and sharing” (CVA, April 18, 2013, *Science how sweet it is! Chemistry at BC Sugar*).

At times, blog entries provide the patron with information about recent digitization projects undertaken in an effort to make archival holdings available online. The City of Vancouver Archives gives insight into the digitization of historic photographs:

“Shortly thereafter, a project was initiated to scan historic photographs and to make the existing database accessible via the website. By 2003, the database entries had grown to 147,658 entries, and 3.7 per cent of the one-million-plus photographs in the archives had been scanned” (CVA, June 6, 2013, *History of The Archives*).

Blog entries also detail information about, “behind the scenes” handling of collections. This glimpse into the sub-characteristic of Control of Holdings was revealed in the City of Vancouver Archives blog post describing work to move collections:

“This shelf shift involved physically moving shelves around in order to accommodate serials of different heights, placing the serials optimally” (CVA, February 7, 2013, *Our students – Allison Hasselfield*).

The Administrative sub-characteristic of Order & Access has the second lowest frequency, with only few posts. It is defined as:

The Administrative sub-characteristic entails routine information about the archival repository communicated to the patron of the institutions such as hours of operation, changes to services, and procedures. This also includes information about funding and grant or project opportunities, announcements and routine statistics about the repository (ie. number of reference requests).

As a sub-characteristic of Order & Access, Administrative details information about routine archival institutional procedures and announcements. For instance, the Deseronto Archives announces its popularity on the Flickr Commons with this post:

“And the usage statistics on the account have also taken a dizzying skyward trajectory in the 16 hours since we officially joined the Commons” (Deseronto Archives, May 7, 2013, *Flickr Commons*).

More routine information is communicated by the South Peace Regional Archives:

“A new component of the website is the ‘Donate Your Records’ button. If you have boxes of documents and photographs sitting around and you’re not sure what to do with them, investigate this part of the website” (SPRA, September 25, 2013, *Welcome to our new website*).

The City of Vancouver Archives also utilizes its blog for holiday closure notifications, such as:

“We will be closed for the four-day Easter weekend. See you again in April!” (CVA, March 28, 2013, *Happy Easter from The Archives*).

Arrangement as a sub-characteristic explains the physicality of a collection, the way it arrives in the archives, the containers archival holdings are kept in and the original order of records, or if order is imposed. Arrangement is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of arrangement details information about specific holdings within the archival repository and how it has been arranged or organized. It details information about how the material may have been received, the containers, the order, indexing, the type of paper as well as the current state and contents within specified holdings.

There is only one instance of the Arrangement sub-characteristic in both the Deseronto Archives and the South Peace Regional Archives samples. The City of Vancouver Archives blog has however many examples in posts such as this one that details how a collection arrived at the archives:

“The records also include an annotated bibliography for use by the agricultural research department staff. It arrived at the Archives in two wooden boxes. The cards are organized alphabetically by subject: from Agropyrons to Genetics (general) and from Hybridization to Weeds. From the handwriting on the cards it is obvious that many people contributed to this resource. The index was maintained from around the

1940's, but mentions works from as early as 1910" (CVA, September 26, 2013, *Science – how sweet it is! From sunshine to sugar, growing it right*).

Information about funding is imparted as parts of the Administrative archival sub-characteristic, the way the archives are received pertain to Arrangement. For instance, the City of Vancouver Archives explains how they achieve the digitization of a photography collection through a funding source:

"Thanks to funding provided by the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives..." (CVA, May 24, 2013, *The photography of James Crookall*).

Sometimes, Arrangement includes details about the contents of a collection or archival fonds, providing the researcher with information about the totality of the holdings and what other information they may find in a specific collection:

"The Williams Brothers Photographers Collection contains many images taken for Woodward's and Spencer's catalogues" (CVA, September 13, 2013, Vancouver fashion week).

The examples provided in this section demonstrate how the goal of Order & Access includes many aspects of the archivist's professional practice (sub-characteristics), this ensures that researchers can locate and utilize archival holdings. The creation of finding aids, the arrangement and description of records, the elaboration of systems to document and organize this work, and the dissemination of information about the archives and their use, are all aspects of professional practice, that make up the sub- characteristic of Order & Access.

5.3.3.4 Preservation

Preservation is another, characteristic of archival narrative. It is defined as:

The characteristic of preservation is the goal of the archivist to protect archival materials from deterioration or damage to ensure their long-time use.

Within the study, Preservation has low representation with 33 occurrences in the blogs. Only Inclusion has a lower representation with 6 occurrences. In the three institutional blogs, imparting information about Preservation activities is not popular. Preservation has two sub-characteristics: Conservation and Holdings Maintenance. They have occurrences of 15 and 18 respectively demonstrating fairly even representation.

Conservation as a sub-characteristic of Preservation is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of conservation is work related to preserving cultural property for the future through examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care. Conservation takes the form of chemical and physical treatment to repair damage to archival documents (Pearce, 2005).

Representation of Conservation is only found in the City of Vancouver Archives blog. Entries detailing activities to proactively intervene in the deterioration of archival documents are found. Details about chemical and physical treatments are described, such as:

*“I cleaned, humidified, and flattened a Townley and Matheson architectural plan that had been wrapped tightly on a wooden dowel. The humidifying chamber was like a gentle spa treatment for the rolled maps, which flattened nicely after humidification and were then placed in flat oversize storage” (CVA, August 16, 2013, *Our Students – Christen Polley*).*

Holdings Maintenance is the archival sub-characteristic that details the less intrusive measures that archivists take to preserve the archival records. It is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of holdings maintenance includes activities aimed to acquire physical control over holdings. These include preservation activities that prevent further or future damage to archival materials. These activities ensure materials are maintained in archival safe containers, fragile documents are cleaned, individual enclosures are utilized for additional protection, and containers are labeled. It also includes all aspects of the storage environment, shelving and digitization.

The data representing these sub-characteristics is found in two of the three blogs: the Deseronto Archives and the City of Vancouver Archives. The archives share information about labeling storage containers, the development of proper storage facilities and rehousing records in archival containers:

“In 2001, a new 1.600 cubic-foot walk-in freezer for photographic negative preservation was researched, developed and installed...” (CVA, June 6, 2013, *History of the archives*).

Holdings Maintenance also entails digitization activities, where traditional archival supports are transformed into a digital form:

“We have just digitized some letters” (Deseronto Archives, September 25, 2013, *Fragments of lives*).

“Digitization is the best way to give access to these breakable materials. Thanks to the spreadsheet created by volunteers, we have a list of those glass negatives that have not yet been digitized (CVA, April 4, 2013, *Spotlight on volunteers- Kaitlin Haley*).

The Preservation sub-characteristics within the blogs provide insight into the activities that archivists undertake to ensure that holdings are preserved for archival research by future generations. This includes more intensive Conservation intervention as well as ensuring that holdings are well maintained through proper storage.

5.3.3.5 Meaning & Commemoration

With 324 data occurrences, the Meaning & Commemoration characteristic is the most important within the study. It is defined as:

The characteristic of meaning and commemoration is the historical research; highlighting, promotion and context creation of archival holdings that an archivist undertakes to assist a user with their research. This may take the form of exhibits, reference to other archival holdings and/or non-archival materials or perhaps additional administrative and biographical information about archival records beyond that within the descriptive record.

Two sub-characteristics are revealed by the analysis: Presentation of Holdings and Contextual Backgrounders with occurrences of 180 and 144 respectively. All three blogs have data representing Meaning & Commemoration and both sub-characteristics of this archival narrative.

Presentation of Holdings includes information about displays, holdings organized around a theme, highlighted aspects of archival holdings, and links to online resources within the same context. It is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of presentation of holdings is information about an organized display of archival materials such as artworks, documents or objects that have been selected by the archives around a theme or idea for cultural or highlighting purposes. This may detail an exhibit online, link to related exhibits online, or provide information about the location of physical exhibitions by the archival repository itself or social media links. This narrative is related to the presentation of archival holdings rather than the analysis or contextualization of these holdings.

An example of Presentation of Holdings from the Deseronto Archives offers information about a regional lighthouse. Without providing researched historical context, the post instead presents the archival document itself with this text:

*“... shows how the light would have appeared to the ships approaching it from the Bay” (Deseronto Archives, September 29, 2013, *Research sheds light on Deseronto light*).*

The South Peace Regional Archives also demonstrates Presentation of Holdings by showcasing a newspaper article:

*“The article this week is the prize list for the 5th annual Grande Prairie Agricultural Fair in 1914. I have selected the “Roots and Vegetables” category, but the entire prize list is in the papers” (SPRA, September 10, 2013, *This week in history – Grande Prairie fair 1914*).*

Linking to exhibits is another way that the blogs represent Presentation of Holdings. The City of Vancouver Archives writes:

“A handbook for chemists of beetsugar houses and seed-culture farms, published in 1897, was one of the things that the BC Sugar Museum chose to display to represent Knight Sugar Company” (CVA, September 13, 2013, Science – how sweet it is? From sunshine to sugar, growing it right).

This passage also contains a hyperlink to the handbook mentioned, bringing the blog reader to the Internet Archives, where they can view the entire digitized book. Providing hyperlinks to material of like content is an example of Presentation of Holdings sub-characteristic.

The distinguishing feature between the archival sub-characteristics of Contextual Backgrounders and Presentation of Holdings is that the latter does not contextualize or analyze archival holdings but rather presents and showcases archival records.

Contextual Backgrounders is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of contextual backgrounders includes the detail the archivist provides about archival documents that situates the material in historical context, within the context of the archival holdings or other context that may be of interest to patrons. This context demonstrates the expertise of the archivist regarding the archival material within their holdings and may demonstrate knowledge acquired during the acquisition, appraisal, and control of holdings processes.

Contextual Backgrounders provide information about archival documents through research and analysis demonstrating the expertise of the archivists. In contrast to the Presentation of Holdings example of the South Peace Regional Archives showcasing a newspaper article, this same blog post contains examples of Contextual Backgrounders, when the archivist shares information researched about this same regional lighthouse:

“Unsurprisingly, it was the Rathburn Company who were contracted to build the lighthouse, for the reassuringly precise estimate of \$437.49...” (Deseronto Archives, September 29, 2013, Research sheds light on Deseronto light).

The South Peace Regional Archives also details specific research undertaken to provide content and additional information about the Wapiti Ferry:

“This article sparked the interest of our ‘This Week in History’ author who started to investigate and see what she could learn about the Ferry. Mike Lett provided her with a photo and she was able to uncover a bit more information. The Wembley Ferry was still operating but was used less after a bridge was built over the Wapiti, south of Grande Prairie (replacing another ferry) in 1958. A group of people had purchased shares in the ferry south of Wembley for \$1.00 each, in order to keep it running...” (SPRA, September 27, 2013, *Wapiti Ferry*).

The Deseronto Archives blog often details genealogical information about archival documents, combining information gathered from other sources that reveals the archivists ability to perform historical research:

“On November 20th, 1879 Kenwendeshon married Julia Hill Thompson in London and the couple had two children: Lillian, born in London in November 1880, and John Albert (Bert), born in Roscommon, Michigan, in August 1882. A note written in 1953 by Bert (reproduced below), suggests that Kenwendeshon worked with Oronhyatekha in London and Stratford before moving to Roscommon” (Deseronto Archives, February 20, 2013, *Oronhyatekha and Kenwendeshon*).

The City of Vancouver Archives blog imparts Contextual Backgrounders with details exemplifying performed research activities about photographs within the archives holdings:

“The Hollywood Café, with its long lunch counter and art deco interior, was located between the Commodore Ballroom and the Orpheum Theatre on Granville Street in the heart of Vancouver’s theatre district” (CVA, July 26, 2013, *Exploring Vancouver’s fast food past*).

Meaning & Commemoration is achieved through the efforts of the archivist to disseminate information about archival holdings. Archivists present items of interest relying on the document itself to provide information with no additional content except to title or describe the item through the

Presentation of Holdings. The archivist imparts their knowledge and acquired, researched information of various histories, by offering archival documents with the addition of this historical content in the sub-characteristic Contextual Backgrounders.

5.3.3.5 Advocacy

Advocacy is the characteristic with the third highest frequency of data with 124 occurrences. Its is defined as:

The characteristic of archival advocacy is a goal of archival institutions and archivists to inform communities about activities that do not fall into other narrative categories, issues and ideas generally, about archives. This is a form of outreach communication.

Advocacy includes information about archival issues and ideas. All three blogs have Advocacy characteristics but they are not all represented within the four sub-characteristics. The sub-characteristics of Advocacy are: People Power, Archivy, Outreach and Citizen Participation.

People Power is a sub-characteristic of Advocacy, which provides information about the people who work in archives and the roles they assume. With 49 occurrences, this sub-characteristic is only represented in the City of Vancouver Archives blog and provides information about the activities of volunteers, students and archival staff. It is defined as:

The people power sub-characteristic relates to students, volunteers and other staff members who work in archives and the role that they undertake while completing this work.

Details about student placements combined with staff roles are evidenced in the City of Vancouver Archives blog, with entries such as:

“I was fortunate to learn from not one but two experienced conservators. Working under the supervision of Sue Bigelow and Rosaleen Hill, the Digital Conservators at the Archives, I had the privilege of taking in a double dose of valuable knowledge” (CVA, May 2, 2013, *Our students – Dorcus Tong*).

Archivy is a sub-characteristic of Advocacy. This term is used to describe information about archives as a whole, education, events, conferences, commentary and topical issues. It is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of archivy details the sharing of information and insight concerning archives, archival science, management, archival studies and personal comments (Pearce, 2005). This may include discussions about topical archival subjects, conferences and educational offerings.

This sub-characteristic is represented with 12 occurrences, in only two of the three blogs under study. The Deseronto Archives has all but one of the examples within the sub-characteristic of Archivy sharing conference information, participation at archival educational institutions as well as current affairs in archives. For instance, this is an entry posted by the Deseronto archivist describing a conference attended:

“At the moment I am in Dundee, Scotland, at day one of a conference with the theme, ‘Democratizing [*sic*] or Privileging: the Future of Access to Archives’. The programme [*sic*] is absolutely packed with talks about providing online access to archives and the role of digitization in making materials available to as wide an audience as possible” (Deseronto Archives, April 25, 2013, *Democratizing access to archives*).

The City of Vancouver Archives posted a blog entry by a student intern that includes an observation from a personal perspective on archives. This is another example of archival commentary by those who work in archives and make-up part of the Archivy sub-characteristic:

“... archives – there is still a sense of awe in the presence of the remains of history, an awareness of its fragility before the ink-fading, data-

corrupting streams of time” (CVA, August 30, 2013, *Our students – Melanie Leverich*).

Outreach is an archival sub-characteristic of Advocacy that details engagement activities with patrons via events, workshop opportunities and educational endeavors. It is defined as;

The sub-characteristic of outreach details the engagement of patrons through activities, events, workshops and educational programming meant to create awareness of archives, collections, and history particularly to those who are under served by archives (Pearce, 2005).

Outreach activities are the efforts to reach audiences normally under-served by archives. All three blogs in this study have entries with content on archival outreach however there are only 12 occurrences. One such example of Outreach occurs in the Deseronto Archives blog entry that invites the public to a symposium:

“... exploring common ground between First Nations and Settlers in Eastern Ontario, organized by the Board of Deseronto Archives, Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County and the Hastings County Historical Society (Deseronto Archives, September 7, 2013, *Land that supports our feet’ symposium*).

The South Peace Regional Archives blog also invites the public to several events such as a celebration of Archives week with film and story tea about historical fashions (October 1, 2013, *Film and story tea*) and again to a historical walking tour through local cemeteries (July 3, 2013, *Historic cemeteries walking tour*). At the end of a lengthy blog post about the poet Pauline Johnson, The City of Vancouver Archives invites the public to a *Herstory Café* on the anniversary of poet’s death (March 7, 2013, *E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake), 1861-1913*).

Citizen Participation is another sub-characteristic of Advocacy in which archivists encourage the public to participate and engage with the archives via the contribution of knowledge, comments or the linking of resources. It is defined as:

The sub-characteristic of citizen participation are activities by the archivist that encourages participants other than archives professionals to contribute knowledge or resources resulting in increased appreciation and understanding of archival materials and archives, usually in an online environment.

This sub-characteristic has the highest frequency within the characteristic of Advocacy with 51 occurrences. All three blogs provide opportunity for blog visitors to leave comments or reply to the posts. However, the encouragement and opportunity for citizens to participate extends beyond these offers. For instance, the South Peace Regional Archives ran a contest to encourage participation:

*“In conjunction with that we have decided to host a contest, and we want your fashion photos! Our contest begins on September 12th, time to start digging through your photo albums. We will be accepting fashion photos through our Facebook page, e-mail (spra.technician@telus.net) or you can drop them off at the Archives” (SPRA, September 11, 2013, **Contest alert** - *We want to see your fashions*).*

The Deseronto Archives includes a post mentioning the valuable contribution of a researcher:

*“A recent enquiry by a researcher who is studying the region’s lighthouses has revealed some interesting facts about Deseronto’s own lighthouse” (Deseronto Archives, September 29, 2013, *Research sheds light on Deseronto light*).*

The City of Vancouver Archives blog has several entries that encourages feedback about specific aspects of their work such as this post about changes and improvements to online searching:

“ We hope these two changes make your research more efficient. As always, we welcome feedback” (CVA, April 24, 2013, *Improved online search: copyrighted digital objects*).

Encouraging contributions by readers, the City of Vancouver Archives wrote a post highlighting city maps:

“Have a project that uses one of these maps? Let us know! We love to hear how our holdings are being used” (CVA, February 22, 2013, *The map and plan digitization project*).

The characteristic of Advocacy has many sub-characteristics. People Power, Archivy, Outreach and Citizen Participation; all engage with blog readers to disseminate general information about archives and hopefully incite participation in archival activities. Advocacy is the characteristic that embodies the promotion of archives, informing readers about archival issues, detailing events and providing archival users the encouragement to get involved.

5.4 Results Conclusion

The content analysis of three archival institutional blogs reveals six broad characteristics and fifteen sub-characteristics of archival narrative. This validates and expands upon the conceptual framework that initially defines four characteristics developed from writings by archivists and historians on “archives as subject”. Applying the conceptual framework developed in the first phase of this study to the content analysis of archival institutional blogs in the second phase clearly identifies the characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative. The differentiation between the characteristics as the goals of archival professional practice and the sub-characteristics as archival activities facilitating these goals was revealed in the pre-test.

This resulted in the definition of archival narrative characteristics and sub-characteristics and these successfully answer the thesis research questions.

6. Discussion

6.1 Introduction

Archivists' continue to examine their own narrative and its evolution in the current digital world. This chapter discusses the findings of this study while stressing the need for archivists to acknowledge and reveal the archival narrative. The main themes discussed include the progression from postmodernism, the use of blogs and social media in archives, and the recent transformations of professional identity and participatory archiving.

6.2 A Response to Postmodernist Literature on Archives:

The data used to develop the initial characteristics of archival narrative in this study came from the literature by archivists and historians on "archives as subject". In the corpus of articles examined, archivists are responding to writings about archives by historians, from their research experiences with these resources. The archivists adopt a postmodernist perspective to deconstruct and call for a change to archival professional practice. Writers such as Cook (2001), Kaplan (2001), Cook and Schwartz (2002a & b), and Nesmith (2002) examine the profession through postmodernism. They specifically encourage archivists to recognize that they are not neutral record keepers and impact archives through professional practice. They encourage archivists to reveal their archival narrative to users of archives.

The writings published after this postmodern period, demonstrate that archivists are now offering more concrete examples of professional change. It is important to determine how the literature on "archives as subject" has progressed in order to apply

the characteristics of archival narrative to current and future archival activities. Cook (2013) explains that the modern era (1930-1970) of archival theory was most concerned with the historian-archivists subjectively creating a cultural memory resource with archives rather than guarding an inherited juridical legacy of evidence (p. 107) - memory creation over the protection of historical evidence. This led to the postmodern era (1970 onwards) where the archivist searches for their own identity to assist society in forming its own identities through archival memory (Cook, 2013, p.113). Archivists were struggling to meld the notion of their own archival expertise with professional direction and change “in the face of the blistering complexity of rapidly changing society organizations and digital media” (Cook, 2013, p.113). Archivists have recognized these postmodernist writings and in the time since they appeared have begun to recognize their own narrative. If they do not always state that aspects of the professional practice are archival narrative, they do discuss professional practice via themes of accountability and transparency. The response to postmodernist writings by archivists has been the call for archivists to be more accountable and make their professional practice more transparent.

Cook (2013) states that a new archival mindset is on the horizon due to new societal and communication realities being manifested (p. 113). MacNeil (2011) agrees that over the last 30 years, technological, organizational and social changes of various kinds have destabilized traditional archival practices and assumptions, forcing archivists to make changes (p. 181). She also adds that the historians’ writings from the 1990’s onwards include stories of deception, concealment and betrayal due to archival systems of finding aids and reference (p. 185). The historians’ writing vilifies archivists as

concealers of information and discouragers of research (MacNeil, 2011, p. 185).

Professional practices, or the archival narrative of Appraisal, Preservation and Arrangement, have come under scrutiny by archivists in this new mindset.

Knowing the characteristics of archival narrative may assist in directing this new mindset. Although themes identified are accountability and transparency, it is the activities within the archival narrative that achieve both of these goals. MacNeil (2011) mentions appraisal, acquisition and preservation as parts of the archival narrative that must be made known to users to demonstrate transparency of process and thus accountability (p. 186). Cook and Dean (2011) explain that it is important to ensure documentation of decisions in archival practice to promote accountability and transparency (p. 57). They suggest more dynamic tools to document acquisition, appraisal, arrangement and descriptions – to transcend the limits imposed by current descriptive practices. Although these writers include some aspects of the archival narrative they do not promote the revelation of all those presented in this study.

Characteristics of archival narrative such as Inclusion, not well represented in the content analysis blog data, could provide the researcher with more information about overall institutional mandate acquisition policies. This would improve the notion by historians that archivists are purposefully omitting the acquisition of some archival collections over others. Revealing the narrative of Inclusion allows researchers to know more about the collection mandate of the archival institution and thus access those institutions based on research relevance of those holdings.

Cook and Dean (2011) suggest that in the process of acquiring, preserving and processing, making records more accessible, additional documentation is produced

about records, donors and creators (p. 59). In this study, this represents the narrative of Authenticity with sub-narratives of Provenance and Appraisal. The narrative of Order & Access that provides information about Reproductions & Copyright, Searching & Systems, Control of Holdings and Arrangement would also provide users with additional information that would assist with their navigation of archival holdings and provide information about the original order of records and rehousing activities. Control of Holdings and Arrangement provide the researcher with information about archival practices to create finding aids, describe content and explain how records have been organized or received.

Sometimes it takes an increased effort to capture the archival narrative and provide more information to the user. The effort required to make the characteristics available to patrons is eased when archivists begin to recognize and understand their own narrative characteristics. This research through the identification and definition of archival narrative, its characteristics and sub-characteristics will assist in the promulgation of this greater narrative, throughout the archival community. The characteristic of Preservation has a low rate of occurrence in the blog data analysis (See Figure 2 through 5). Each of the blogs studied had few examples of Preservation, or its sub-characteristics of Holdings Maintenance and Conservation. This low occurrence is an example of the archivists conducting work that may alter, change or rehouse archival materials but it is usually a behind the scenes process. It may be documented to create a long-term conservation report that makes up part of the documentation for items or collections. This characteristic may not be something archivists consider of value to researchers. Characteristics of archival narrative such as this may result in a user

developing a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the archival collection. For instance, the transparency of the Preservation narrative will reveal to the user any treatments or alterations have been made to original documents in the effort to preserve them for future generations. For some users this may provide required background information about the archival material that is different from its current condition after maintenance and conservation activities.

Imparting characteristics such as that of Preservation as part of the archival narrative requires deliberate collection of information by the archivist. Cook and Dean (2011) explain that the sharing of the archival narrative can assist users in research to interpret archives so that they may better understand people and places documented therein (p. 61).

Self-awareness of the archival narrative can result in a more purposeful adoption of activities. This effort might include consultations with donors, further questioning provenance, conducting additional biographical or administrative research or conversations with creators themselves for supplementary collection information (Cook and Dean, 2011, p. 67). The creation of finding aids capturing additional information about processing, storage decisions, and treatment of archival records could accomplish sharing characteristics of the archival narrative such as Inclusion, Authenticity, and Order & Access with sub-narrative Arrangement as well as Meaning & Commemoration, sub-narrative Presentation of Holdings.

The literature on “archives as subject” has transitioned from postmodernist deconstructions of archival practice to a new mindset that includes recognition of the archivists’ impact on archival records. Although not specifically labeled as the archival

narrative, these archivists offer concrete solutions addressing the revelation of archival narrative. Archivists, responding to criticism of archival practice, specify how the profession must adjust to meet changing technology and demands. The detailed revelation of the archival narrative in this study will assist archivists in recognizing their own professional practice. Researchers may access the archival narrative if archivists provide them opportunity and information about the archival narrative.

6.3 Blogs and Social Media meet Archival Narrative

The second phase of this study analyzed the content of Canadian archival institution blogs to determine how the characteristics of archival narrative are represented in this type of social media. This study revealed that the characteristics of archival narrative derived from postmodernist literature are present in archival institutional blogs and this merges the postmodernist mindset with current archival practice. The characteristics of archival narrative presented in this thesis allow commentary on current day discussions about archives and their use of the Internet and blogs.

6.3.1 Furthering archival blog research

To date, research about social media and blogs in the archival context has been limited. Focus has been on the use of social media for marketing archives (Leonard, 2009), general information about social media use (Whittaker and Thomas, 2009), and “how to” select the appropriate social media format (Kaplan and Haenlein, 2010). In 2009, Daines and Nimer stated that there is a potential for social media to re-contextualize the archivists work (p. 4). Although Duff et al. (2013) conducted a research study on social media use in Canadian archival institutions and on users of archival

social media; the results did not explain the archivists' work. Even if their study analyzes social media in the archival setting, one of the first to do so, the authors do not address how archival practice is represented in social media. The results state that more research is required to determine how archives are specifically utilizing social media in today's world of rapidly evolving technology (Duff et al., 2013, p. 95).

This thesis determined the characteristics of archival narrative from both literature on "archives as subject" and from archival institutional blogs themselves. It is now possible to contextualize the work of archivists in social media that will create a baseline for future research. Archival narrative represents aspects of archival professional practice that may or may not evolve in response to changing social media technology. This narrative is evidence of archival practice in the context of archival blogging. It is not known if the archivists responsible for the studied blogs were aware that they were imparting the archival narrative to blog readers. Jimerson (2011) explains that if society is to understand the importance of archives, archivists must be able to articulate their purpose in a clear manner, but to do this they must understand the meaning and work of archivists themselves (p. 306). It is now possible to identify and define the characteristics of archival narrative, facilitating self-awareness. The defined characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative will assist archivists in a broader understanding of the purposeful work they accomplish in the archives and increase their ability to reveal these characteristics to users. Duff and Harris (2002) explain that archivists must decide what information about which records, to highlight, what is transitory data, what to capture and make visible (p. 275). Thus the archival narratives imparted in the blogs could be expanded upon using the defined

characteristics of this study as a guide. Future studies could include micro-blogging on Twitter, or blogs of individual archivists, analyzing the presence or absence of identified narrative characteristics and sub-characteristics as defined in the Codebook in Appendix 3.

6.3.2 Blog Content & Context

One problematic facet of disclosing the archival narrative via blogs is context. This study determined that blogs are effective in disclosing context, via the Presentation of Holdings and Contextual Backgrounders sub-narratives of the archival narrative Meaning & Commemoration. The blogs studied presented digital images of photographs and archival documents organized around themes to demonstrate the holdings within the archives. The blogs also provide links to additional resources, within and external to their archives. They convey researched context about the images demonstrating relevance to other holdings within the institution, Canadian history and other context that may be of interest to researchers.

In terms of context, how much is enough? This remains a concern for Heather MacNeil (2011) who states there must be a balance between an “indigestible feast” and a “famine” of metadata, documentation and description (p. 189). The blogs studied provide information within the narrative of Meaning and Commemoration. They also do so by including the narrative of Order & Access to detail links to finding aids, methods of searching and copyright. Metadata providing digitization information, about documents within blog content are not provided.

Without a proper narrative, digital images do not replicate the experience of seeing or reading the original non-digital records the way it was received nor do they

provide any context as to the creation or use the record (MacNeil, 2011, p. 189). The study reveals that context of digitized archival materials can be specifically included as part of two archival sub-narratives - Presentation of Holdings and Contextual Backgrounders - but it must be done purposefully. Every blog entry analyzed had a particular theme or purpose for the presentation and highlight of a particular aspect of the institutions holdings (See Appendix 4 for blog entry listings). The occurrence of Contextual Backgrounders and Preservation of Holdings were well-represented (See Figures 2 through 5) characteristics in the blogs analyzed. It appears that the blog format was the vehicle to purposefully inform and engage users by highlighting collections around a theme. Although this does highlight the archival materials available at that institution, archivists should include information about digital images that comprises descriptions of the item beyond the archival narrative of Authenticity and Preservation to include sub-narratives in Order & Access such as Reproduction & Copyright, Control of Holdings, Arrangement, and Searching & Systems. This may engage more researchers. Archivists could further expand upon the context of digital images online by including the archival narrative of Advocacy and sub-narrative of Archivry to detail their experiences with digitized documents, their observations and thoughts.

6.3.3 Blogs as a tool to share archival narrative

As mentioned previously, Cook and Dean (2011) promote the use of tools that are more dynamic than traditional finding aids to document characteristics of the professional practice and the archival narrative (p. 57). Technology enables more dynamic approaches for sharing the archival narrative with tools such as blogs. The use of social media allows archivists to make all of their narrative available to researchers,

including information previously only found in case files¹² (Daines and Nimer, 2009, p. 4). Armed with new definitions of archival narrative and the characteristics resulting from this study, archivists have the ability to experiment with social media to include their archival narratives. This experimentation will assist archivists in determining the characteristics of the archival narrative which should be shared to better meet the informational needs of users.

Prior to the digital-era, archival work processes were invisible to the general public (Gerencser, 2011, p.167). The characteristics of archival narrative were normally found in administrative records of archives. There are aspects of the archival profession that are still somewhat invisible. This is the characteristic of Inclusion. With only one occurrence, that is the lowest of all the archival narrative characteristics represented in blogs (see Figure 2 through 5). This may demonstrate that archives are not sharing information about the communities, individuals as a whole, or organizations they chose for inclusion in their archival holdings. However, users of archives and researchers require this information allowing them to make informed choices about which archive holds records relevant to their purposes. It makes a statement about broader society – do archives have records representing all of society; different ethnic groups, the victims of societal atrocities, women throughout various historical periods, and marginalized persons? Gerencser (2011) asserts that until a collection is fully processed (available for research), the information about the collection is not generally made available to potential users (p. 167). Daines and Nimer (2009) explain that social media may meet

¹² Case files are those files that archivists retain to document the acquisition of archives. They may include donor information, research on historical value, restriction details and other pertinent information to the collection. These are not usually made public.

both the archivists' and user needs more effectively once archivists determine how best to utilize social media applications (p. 4).

Blogs allow archivists to highlight interesting parts of the archival narrative in relation to their work. The blog also functions as an additional access point to archival holdings. Blogs can be made discoverable through web search engines to users everywhere (Gerencser, 2011, p. 169). Although the archival narrative exemplifies the skills, expertise, and professional practice of the archivist it is necessary to build upon their social media skills. These skills should include participating in social media with the purpose of conveying the characteristics of archival narrative. It is imperative to disclose professional practice in an age where users want instant access to collections, archival information and knowledge of the archival narrative.

Web-based tools such as social media may be repurposed to do more than they were intended. Archivists building upon the potential of blogging can begin to share the archival narrative. For instance, the Beinecke Library has a number of blogs covering various characteristics of the archival narrative; new acquisitions, exhibits and announcements of recently acquired holdings (Cook and Dean, 2011, p. 57). Unlike the blogs analyzed in this study, the Beinecke Library has created blogs to decisively disseminate the narrative of the archivist. Although the Library's archivist does not state that the purpose of the blog is to disseminate the characteristics of the archival narrative, they have created the blogs with the purpose of sharing aspects of their professional practice while working on specific collections.

The blogs analyzed in this study do not appear to have consciously revealed characteristics of archival narrative in the same way. Knowing the characteristics and

sub-characteristics defined in this study would allow for a streamlining of archival blogs and a sharing of additional characteristics and sub-characteristics of the archival narrative. It may result in a blogging endeavor such as the Beinecke Library blogs.

Users want granular pieces of information and data, they want immediacy of this information to meet their own needs, and they want this access in the right format. The University of North Carolina adopted a blogging approach to reach user needs when they acquired a large photographic collection by Hugh Morton. Knowing that users wanted instant access to this collection and cognizant of the processing time, they began a blog to share their activities in processing the collection (Fletcher, 2011, p. 22). The intention was to share how archivists work, explain decisions that were made, and share the challenges of working on this collection in a way that a non-archivist could understand (p. 24).

Sharing the archival sub-narratives of Control of Holdings, Arrangement, Holdings Maintenance, and Conservation provides readers of this blog called *A View to Hugh* an expanded perspective of archival practice beyond what could be communicated through traditional finding aids. Light and Hyry (2002) argue that for greater transparency, archivists should share information about the archivists' role in processing a collection of records, leading to either intentionally or unintentionally affecting the way users interpret records described in finding aids (p. 217). The sharing of this information has prompted the University of North Carolina archives to plan for another blog. Their intention is to provide users with glimpses into the collection and add historical context learned or researched during other archival processes (Fletcher, 2011, p. 31). This new blog will share Presentation of Holdings and Contextual

Backgrounders and expand upon the archival narrative characteristics that they currently share.

The archival institutional blog is a dynamic tool to convey the characteristics of the archival narrative. Traditionally, archives have shared information about archival collections via finding aids but the narrative was not present. Although there are a few examples of archives that utilize the archival blog to disseminate characteristics of the archival narrative, they perhaps do so without the purposeful inclusion of all the different archival narrative characteristics. Recognizing and understanding the identified and defined characteristics of archival narrative in this thesis will facilitate archivists use of blogs to disseminate a more complete picture of archival professional practice – the impact that archivists have on their holdings through the work that they do – the telling of the archival narrative. This is necessary so that archivists can address the need for immediate access to archives within a digital world. Merging the characteristics of archival narrative and blogging addresses the needs of those historians who wrote about “archives as subject” with their complaints that archivists do not share the archival narrative.

6.4 Identity via the Archival Narrative

The role of the archivist in the digital age must be very clear in their definition of “archives” (Theimer, February 17, 2014). Part of this discourse is the sharing and discussion of the archival narrative. The importance of what constitutes archival professional practice is part of a discipline that has much to offer historians, digital humanitarians, IT professionals and others. The professional practice can be conveyed

by demonstrating the specific roles that archives play in preserving unique documentary materials, an important aspect of the archival narrative.

For instance, the emerging field of digital humanities, where scholars often research within “archives”, frequently misuse that term (Theimer, 2012, p. 2). Theimer describes how digital humanists often create archives online that include groups of digital copies of non-digital material, usually located in different archival repositories, to support a specific research goal (p. 2). These “archives” do not often include information about the archival repository or the archival narrative that is attached to them. Digital humanists use the digital environment to bring together digital surrogates of archival materials and information technology (Theimer, 2012, p. 5). They use the term “archives” to mean collections of back up data and this demonstrates why it is important for archivists to recognize their own archival narrative.

This discussion is not meant to single out digital humanists but rather to use this discipline as an example; a warning to others using archival records in a similar way that the archival narrative is important. Digital humanists are not alone in the misuse of the term archives and the lack of archival narrative in the accumulated online collections. Genealogists have also started to create websites dedicated to specific aspects of their research as tools for the broader public, e.g. Ontario Genealogy Society – unidentified photo project (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ogsphotos/>).

It is important for archivists to purposefully begin to include information about their holdings via blogs or websites, about the identified and defined characteristics of archival narrative from this thesis research. Digital humanists, historians, information technology professionals and genealogists may be unaware of the archival narrative

because archivists have yet to acknowledge it through purposeful, and determined sharing. This broadening use of the term “archives” further dilutes that which constitutes "real archives" and that is the professional practice, and the created archival narrative that is attached to archival collections. As Theimer states, it is how archival collections are selected and managed through activities such as appraisal, the maintenance of principles such as provenance, original order and control of holdings that distinguishes archival professional work (p. 3). Archivists need to better impart knowledge of the work they do to preserve archival context and the authenticity of records.

By revealing these characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative, archivists will make the official archives and the records within more meaningful to researchers such as digital humanists. In the digital age, there is an increased expectation that more information will be made available online. If digital humanists are creating collections of documents from many different archival sources it become important to also include the context from the source archives. It is therefore essential for other disciplines such as digital humanists to be aware of the characteristics of archival narrative. This way digital humanists would be able to provide more information about how a collection was assembled, its purpose, and criteria. If they do not provide this information the archival narrative is lost, forfeiting the archival context to readers of their work.

6.5 Participatory Archives and the Archival Narrative

This study identified and defined the characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative and how it applies to present and future work of archivists. This

chapter has addressed the changing mindset of archivists from postmodernism to an approach that is based on accountability and transparency of the archival professional practice that can be answered through the inclusion of the archival narrative. The use of blogs as a tool to reveal this archival narrative has been discussed as a viable method when archivists understand and purposefully disseminate their own archival narrative. Other disciplines do not understand what archives are: thus the importance of archival narrative characteristics to provide a full picture of context within archival collections. All of these conversations are important to the future development of archivists within a new age, the digital age, of the profession.

Researchers of archives have been the subjects of studies for decades. According to Yakel (2011), both physical and virtual archive environment patrons have difficulty using archives (p. 76). Because, they have difficulty with archival terminology, the provenance-based organization of records and search processes, archivists have had to mediate between the records and the researcher (Yakel, 2011, p. 77). This is changing and archivists have to transform due to the implementation of new technologies and the use of Web 2.0 technologies. Cook (2013) would argue that this adjustment and adaptation by archivists is the beginning of a new mindset for archivists that democratize archives for society, to address communication within communities in the new digital age (p. 116). This community-based archiving promotes collaboration and encourages people within different communities to share their expertise and knowledge about archival holdings (Cook, 2013, p. 115). This is the participatory archives¹³ and

¹³ Kate Theimer (2013) provides a definition of participatory archives: "An organization, site or collection in which people other than the archives professionals contribute knowledge or resources resulting in

more than ever, requires that archivists share their narrative to promote a comprehensive understanding of archival holdings so that citizens may participate in a dialogue with archivists via different social media.

Opposed to their traditional role, the participatory archive does not require the archivists to be silent but rather collaborative. The information that was once hidden about archival processes, the archival narrative, must now be shared if archivists want to exchange and share information with archival users. Cook (2013) explains that archivists must learn to move beyond the wall of the archives, to become mentors, facilitators and coaches encouraging participatory process' and working with many archival users within society (p. 114). Providing the archival narrative characteristics of Content of Holdings, Presentation of Holdings and Contextual Backgrounders will create information often not known to archival users and allow them a starting point for participation.

Social media such as blogs allows the archival users to comment and contribute using their own knowledge and expertise. Daines and Nimer (2009) encourage archivists to seize the opportunity that Web 2.0 offers to share information about collections, lectures, events, how to use the materials and the need to handle archival materials with care (p. 5). These areas of potential sharing are the characteristics of archival narrative revealed by this study. Sharing information about Order & Access, Systems of archival finding aids, Provenance, the way in which records are Appraised, historical Context of Holdings, Archivry such as archival issues all represent areas of the archival narrative. Characteristics of archival narrative are known in detail from the

increased appreciation and understanding of archival materials and archives, usually in an online environment" (April 21, 2013).

results of this study. Awareness of these characteristics will better position the archivist in these new, participatory archives. This does not negate professional expertise but rather broadens the exposure of archivists through an ongoing dialogue with patrons. If archivists begin to share the archival narrative it may encourage participation of users. This collaboration in blogs showcases the professional archival narrative characteristics of the archivist while at the same time empowering the user to contribute with a full understanding of that narrative.

Initially, it was thought that the use of blogging would increase exposure to archival collections within archival institutions and lead researchers to archival institutional websites which then would direct more patrons to the physical archives (Leonard, 2009, p. 3). Blogging can enable more, addressing the issues of accountability and transparency if archivists clearly reveal their different archival narratives. By doing so, archivists acknowledge that they are just one participant in the preservation of history, memory, and community (Theimer, August 22, 2010, weblog ArchivesNext). The users participate in the production of history and memory making through transactions, research and writing on various historical topics. Transparency comes from the archivists' involvement in the participatory archives, defining the work that they do, making their actions and their archival narratives more visible to the users. Accountability and legitimacy of archival institutions will increase when the archivist participates through the sharing of their narrative.

An awareness of the characteristics of archival narrative is more important than ever for the archivist in the digital age. As Cook (2013) states, a new archival mindset is on the horizon that is not quite a fully formed paradigm (p. 113). This mindset is the

ability for archivists to document human and societal experience with more richness and relevance (Cook, 2013, p. 113). This richness and relevance comes from the sharing of the archival narrative in new participatory archives utilizing technology such as blogging. This new paradigm will be fully realized when archivists accept that they have an archival narrative, that it is important to impart this narrative, and that society will collaborate with archivists when provided with an opportunity; an opportunity such as an archival institutional blog. The result will be a more robust discussion of archival collections and archives themselves.

6.6 Discussion Conclusion

The thesis identified the characteristics of archival narrative and demonstrated how these are revealed in archival institutional blogs. From this research, it is possible to determine how the archival narrative fits into a new mindset of archivists wishing to respond to the digital age of archives. Calling for more transparency and accountability, archivists must reveal the archival narrative to accomplish this goal. It is the archivists' own narrative that will distinguish their work from others such as digital humanists and historians. Revealing this work in a more purposeful way occurs when the archivist can disseminate the archival narrative via social media blogging. The activity of blogging allows for the effective participation of different communities, which can now collaborate with the archivist through the archival narrative. Together, citizens and archivists can develop a more comprehensive understanding of archival documents, disclosing the archival narrative for a more fulsome interpretation of history.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Introduction

This chapter concludes the research project by providing a summary of the findings, a brief discussion about suggestions for future research and the limits of the study.

7.2 Summary of Findings

This thesis adopted a multidisciplinary approach based on theories in public history and archival sciences as well as qualitative methodological tools from information studies. The objectives were twofold: 1) to discover the characteristics defining archival narrative from “archives as subject” literature and 2) to determine how these defined characteristics are represented within archival blogs.

The first phase entailed an analysis of 66 articles in history and archival sciences. Since the 1970’s, historians’ began to write about “archives as subject” to critique archives and their holdings with little knowledge of archival professional practice. Previously these historians wrote about “archives as source” based on their experiences using archival records to support and provide evidence in research. Once historians began to analyze archival holdings and the profession, archivists’ began to respond to them through postmodernist writings that deconstructed the archival professional practice and called for changes. Discussion around professional practice is where both the identification and definition of archival narrative was found. It is from these writings, both the archivists’ and historians’ on “archives as subject” that this study developed a conceptual framework. The conceptual framework is detailed in Chapter 4.

The initial characteristics defined are: 1) Inclusion, 2) Authenticity, 3) Order & Access, 4) Meaning & Commemoration.

Once the characteristics of archival narrative were identified and defined, the second phase of the study commenced to determine how these characteristics are represented within Canadian archival institutional blogs. This study analyzed blogs using qualitative research methodology that employed content analysis. This exploration is reliant on the selection of a sample. Three Canadian archival institutional blogs were selected for exploration based on a set of established criteria detailed in 4.3.2. The sample included data from 60 blog entries from three institutions; the City of Vancouver Archives, the Deseronto Archives and the South Peace Regional Archives.

The initial characteristics of archival narrative were applied to the blog data to check for fit. Once it was determined that the characteristics from the conceptual framework could be applied to the content in the blog sample, the characteristics of archival narrative were refined to include sub-categories. Sub-categorization occurs within most of the characteristics of archival narrative, except one (Inclusion), as it had a low frequency of occurrence. The content analysis of blog data resulted in the refinement and definition of both categories and sub-categories of archival narrative characteristics. These final categories demonstrate how the characteristics of archival narrative are represented in archival institutional blogs. The final characteristics and sub-characteristics are detailed in 5.3.1 and in Figure 5. In total, the content analysis of archival institutional blogs revealed six characteristics of archival narrative with fifteen sub-characteristics.

The results of this study revealed and defined the characteristics of archival narrative and how these are represented in archival institutional blogs. In Chapter 6, those results are discussed, showing how this study is relevant to current day archival mindsets as the profession responds to a new digital age. Archivists appeal for more transparency and accountability by archivists, and this can be accomplished by conveying the archival narrative characteristics to users.

This study examined the need for archivists to acknowledge, understand and embrace their own narrative to distinguish the archival profession both from other disciplines and so that archivists can fully engage in participatory archives that occur online, often via blogs. This study finally discussed the importance of knowing the characteristics of the archival narrative in current real-world archival discourse. Although both research objectives were reached, this study suggests that further exploration of archival institutional blogs should be conducted.

7.3. Opportunity for Further Investigation

This study creates unique results that shed light on the characteristics of archival narrative not detailed or defined in currently available literature. The results of this study will thus provide a baseline and inspiration for future research.

The methodology employed in this study is unique in that there are very few examples of blog content analysis for reference and none were found for archival blogs. The methodology detailed in Chapter 4 will provide future researchers of blog content a comparative example for studying different types of blogs, including those of archival institutions.

Although theoretical saturation was achieved within the sample of 60 blog entries from three Canadian archival institutional blogs, a more heterogeneous sample could further the study. The inclusion of archival institutional blogs from the United States of America or those from the United Kingdom could be included. This type of expansion could result in the analysis of data to compare the representation of archival narrative characteristics within blogs from country to country. The study could also be expanded within Canada, including blogs from academic archives, religious archives or corporate archives. A more comprehensive sample of differing archival institutions within Canada would provide data to compare how these archival institutions are revealing the archival narrative characteristics. It would also reveal if blogs from different genres of archives produce the same representation and frequency of occurrence that the blogs in this study produced.

The characteristics of archival narrative, now that they are known, could be utilized in a before and after study of archival institutional blogs. Current blogging archivists could be informed of the defined characteristics of archival narrative from this study. Those who continue to blog with the newly acquired knowledge of the characteristics of archival narrative would make up the sample data for this type of study. A situation would be created where blogs pre and post knowledge of the characteristics of archival narrative could be examined. This type of analysis would look for the presence of increased sharing of the archival narrative within the blogs being studied once archivists were aware of their own narrative. This may result in determining what characteristics of their narrative archivists impart purposefully and which ones were random prior to awareness.

Although blogs are analyzed in this study, there are other formats of social media that could be studied. Archivists may not only be employing blogs to disseminate their archival narrative but could also be utilizing one of the many other social media choices such as Facebook and micro-blogging on Twitter. The same content analysis using the same characteristics of archival narrative for categorization can be applied to these social media possibilities to determine how characteristics of archival narrative are represented within them.

The characteristics of archival narrative have been defined but there is still the potential for future work. By utilizing these characteristics and their definitions, archivists or other disciplines that have an interest in archives could study the archival profession. The codebook lists and defines the characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative and this can be used as a tool for future work on archival narrative. The methodology procedures for both phases one and two, documented in Chapter 4 can also be used to further study social media. The study itself provides a baseline content analysis process, not currently available for archives and blog use that can be built upon with future studies.

7.4 Critique of the Study

Some limitations in scope and method can be identified in this study. Although the sample provided rich data, a study with a goal to determine how the characteristics of archival narrative are represented in archival institutional blogs may have sought a more heterogeneous and large sample. Cognizant that a single researcher was conducting the analysis, the sample selected three blogs from the genre of governmental archives. The sample size for this study was large enough to produce results when the

content within the blog entries began to repeat with similar posts. Saturation was reached when no new characteristics and sub-characteristics were identified.

In future research, representation could be increased with a sample that includes different archival institutional blogs such as academic, religious or corporate archives. Since the sample was selected not to be representational of all archival institutional blogs but rather because they had something to say about the question, the question itself could be expanded to include other formats for disseminating information about archives and the archival narrative. These other formats of social media may include Facebook, Twitter and its micro-blogging format, or even YouTube.

Bias is also a limitation of this study. As documented in 4.5.2, a professional archivist practicing more than twenty years conducted this study. Knowledge of the profession and prescribed practices may have created bias in understanding archival concepts and specifically locating archival blogs. This is not to say other non-archivists could not replicate this study or that the results would have been different, but rather the terminology was already understood and that this bias may have eased aspects of the study process.

The reflexive methodology to determine the initial characteristics of archival narrative from the literature on “archives as subject” capitalized on the researchers knowledge of the writings of both archivists and historians. As a professional Archivist with a graduate degree in Public History (2006), familiarity with writings of both these groups facilitates the identification and interpretation of such writings. This is however subjective, and may not be easily replicable by other researchers. The subjectivity in

this research is limited through the use of a detailed methodology and the inclusion of evidence on the research process in the Appendices 1 through 5.

Alternative approaches within the qualitative paradigm, such as focus groups could have been selected for both archivists and historians to determine the initial characteristics of archival narrative. It is believed that this would have produced similar results since the conceptual phase of the methodology utilized literature from both groups discussing archival narrative. During the research process, the researcher engaged with archivists at conferences through presentations (See 4.5.2). This process was undertaken to gauge response via comments and questions following presentation of the initial characteristics of archival narrative. This study did not engage with historians in the same manner but the writings utilized in the conceptual phase of the study included the historians' viewpoint on archival narrative.

Since the study of blogging content is a recent phenomenon, it was difficult to locate appropriate options for the development of the methodology. Only two examples of blog content analysis were located: Clavio and Eagleman (2011) and Jackson-Brown (2013). The Clavio and Eagleman (2011) study on gender representation in sports blogs and the Jackson-Brown (2013) analysis of librarian blogs assisted in validating that content analysis is an appropriate method to analyze archival blogs. Clavio and Eagleman (2011) state that content analysis is a systematic and replicable examination of communication content and can be used to analyze any communication medium such as blog content (2011, p. 298).

The researcher coded content of the archival institutional blogs with the characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative. No content was double

coded but rather the “best-fit” was employed. If sentences had representation of more than one characteristic and / or sub-characteristic, some reliance on the researchers archival knowledge was employed. Another researcher may select a different “best-fit” but the characteristics identified and defined would nevertheless be represented, perhaps with slight differences in frequency of occurrence. The codebook used in this study ensured that the characteristics of archival narrative were applied to data in a consistent manner, but some limited subjectivity, may still be present. The need to use “best fit” was limited by the development of a solid conceptual framework and a detailed codebook that provided definitions of the characteristics and sub-characteristics of archival narrative and included examples from the blog data.

This study did not categorize photographs or images in the analysis of blog data. The inclusion of images could have added more depth to the results but would require the analysis of implicit and latent meanings. This research focused on determining how the characteristics of archival narrative are represented in archival blogs by focusing on explicit and manifest content to limit the subjectivity of the study.

This study provides an in-depth analysis of archival institutional blogs and how archival narrative characteristics are represented within. The study culled data from a specific time period and this may not represent blog content in the future. As a diary-like social media tool, blogs are dynamic, constantly in flux, with content or comments added at varying intervals. Blog entries from years past may disseminate different information, which may have changed as the level of comfort with digital media increased; a future project would be required to determine the difference in blog content over time.

7.5 Final Thoughts

In the digital age, archives and archivists will be required to adapt their professional practice in an effort to remain relevant. No longer is it acceptable for archivists to hide the archival narrative. Users want instant access to collections and often require complex knowledge of archival holdings. This user demand for more context and information will force archivists to participate in online activities such as social media and blogging. Historians began, decades ago, to draw attention to the lack of transparency in archival narrative, archivists responded. These postmodernist archivists discussed change to the archival profession and determined that archivists were non-passive and non-neutral through their professional practice. Current archival literature includes discussion about concrete ways archivists should change professional practice through accountability and transparency of the archival narrative.

Sharing the archival narrative must be done purposefully and to do so, the archivist must be aware of his or her own narrative characteristics. Finding the right venue to disclose the professional practice that demonstrates how archivists imprint archival holdings is important for the revelation of archival narrative. This may lead to the use of blogging, or other social media tools. Contemporary archives are also experimenting with the participatory archives where users and archivists both contribute context, knowledge and expertise concerning the holdings. Recognizing the archival narrative characteristics and conveying the information representing each of the characteristics will impart the expertise of the archivist in this participatory community. Archivists may need to perform additional research and make a purposeful

effort to disclose the characteristics of archival narrative. This effort will allow the
archivist to better participate and remain relevant in this new digital-age.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Conceptual Framework Grid to Develop Initial Characteristics of Archival Narrative from “archives as subject” Literature

Author	Power Secret Silence Suppression Official approval	Interpretation through selection / acquisition	Order Classification Description	Legitimacy Authenticity	Reconstruct, restore, present, re-present, recover the past, context	Sense of belonging	Access	Outreach Create Interest Educate
Steedman, 1998		X		X				
Freshwater, 2003	X	X		X				
Bradley, 1999	X	X		X	X		X	
Osborne, 1999	X			X				
Derrida, 1998					X		X	
Devereux, 2012	X	X		X				
Goodline, 2005					X			
Bates, 2012	X			X			X	
Burton, 2003	X	X			X			
Burton, 2005	X	X			X		X	
McGregor, 2012	X							
Stoler, 2002	X				X			
Nesmith, 2004	X	X		X	X		X	
Duff, Craig, Cherry, 2004		X		X	X		X	X

Refine Characteristics

Authority	Inclusion	Order	Authenticity	Meaning & Memorialization	Moved to Meaning & Memorial	Moved to Order	Outreach

Refine Characteristics

4 Initial Characteristics of Archival Narrative	Inclusion	Authenticity	Order & Access	Meaning & Commemoration

Appendix 2 – “Archives as Subject” Literature Used to Develop the Conceptual Framework

1. Bates, Catherine. (2012). *In the hope of making a connection: Rereading archival bodies, responses, and love in Marian Engel's Bear and Alice Munro's "Meneseutung"*. In L.M. Morra & J. Schagerl (Eds.) *Basements and attics, closets and cyberspace: Explorations in Canadian women's archives* (pp.87-106). Waterloo, Ont: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.
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Appendix 3 - Codebook: Categories and Sub-Categories with Examples

1. Inclusion:

The characteristic of inclusion exists through the archivist's efforts to preserve records of individuals, organizations, governments and society as a whole through the selection of specific records among those available. Inclusion relates to the purposeful presence of societal groups and communities via the acquisition of archival documents that represent them. This is achieved through the subjectivity of archivists making acquisition decisions with awareness of those underrepresented by other archival institutions.

- Example:

"In September, 1978, City Council passed the Records Retention and Destruction By-Law, which stated that City records could not be destroyed until the related "records retention and destruction schedule" was approved by the Department Head, the Director of Finance, the Director of Legal Services, the City Archivist and the City Clerk" (CVA. June 6, 2013. History Of The Archives).

2. Authenticity:

The characteristic of authenticity, pertaining to archival material is based on documentation supporting the originality of that material, details of its acquisition, provenance, and assessment of archival value. Authenticity can also come from the use of archival documents in historical research.

All entries are also coded by the following sub-codes:

2.1 Provenance: The sub-characteristic of provenance documents the acquisition and original origin of archival materials. It is the conveyance of the information regarding the origins, custody, and ownership of an item or collection (Pearce, 2005).

- Example:

"The records were originally created by as many as nine of the Victorian Order of Nurses branches that once operated in BC before they were all moved to one office, the Richmond-Vancouver branch. The Richmond-Vancouver Branch was the last remaining branch in BC and last custodian of the other regional branches' records before it became the independent Health and Home Care Society of BC in 2006" (CVA. August 30, 2013. Our Students – Melanie Leverich).

2.2 Appraisal: The sub-characteristic of appraisal in the archival context is the process of determining whether documentary materials have sufficient archival value to warrant acquisition by an archival institution. It is also the process of determining market value for acquisition. (Daniels, 1984, p. 336).

- Example:

“He (Archivist, J.S. Matthews) often used his own finances to pay for acquisitions. For example, after City Council declined to pay the \$5,000 needed to acquire the St. Roch, he offered to pay half the cost. As a result, it now resides at the Vancouver Maritime Museum.” (CVA. June 6, 2013. History Of The Archives,).

3. Order & Access:

The characteristic of order and access is created through the description, ordering and classifying of archival records in the process of making them accessible to researchers.

All entries are also coded by the following sub-codes:

3.1 Reproductions & Copyright: The sub-characteristic of copyright and reproduction details rules and regulations governing the copying of archival materials within the repository. The sub-characteristic provides information and interpretation about property rights that protect the interest of authors and creators of works in tangible media that gives them the right to control the reproduction, publication, adaptation, exhibition, or performance of their works (Pearce, 2005).

- *Example:*
“Until now, digital objects that were under the copyright of a 3rd party (other than City of Vancouver’s copyright) could only be viewed online as a tiny thumbnail. Now they can be viewed in full resolution in our Reading Room through our online search. This works on your laptop in the Reading Room (using our wifi) as well as at our public computers” (CVA. April 24, 2013. Improved online search: copyrighted digital objects).

3.2 Searching & Systems: The sub-characteristic of searching and systems includes information or instructions provided by the archivist about a computer program or database meant to retrieve information about archival holdings that meets specified criteria.

- *Example:*
“Maggs Brothers Spring 1938 catalogue, p. 101. City of Vancouver Archives file “Vancouver, Captain George Letters Journals Paintings”. Add. MSS 54, vol. 13, file 04690. Back to Note 8” (CVA. June 20, 2013. Captain George Vancouver: original documents).

3.3 Control of Holdings: The sub-characteristic of control of holdings details the process of gaining and maintaining intellectual control over the documents. This may include activities such as describing archival materials, finding aid creation and the transcription of documents.

- *Example:*

“Over the course of the past two years the majority of the records in the BC Sugar fonds have been arranged and described and will be made available to researchers in a few month’s time. We look forward to providing access to and sharing more stories and highlights from this exciting fonds” (CVA. September 26, 2013. Sunshine to sugar, growing it right).

3.4 Administration: The sub-characteristic of routine information about the archival repository communicated to the patron of the institutions such as hours of operation, changes to services, and procedures. This sub-characteristic also includes information about funding and grant opportunities / projects, announcements and routine statistics about the repository (ie. number of reference requests).

○ *Example:*

“We will be closed for the four-day Easter weekend. See you again in April” (CVA. March 28, 2013. Happy Easter from the Archives,).

3.5 Arrangement: The sub-characteristic of arrangement details information about specific holdings within the archival repository and how it has been arranged or organized. The sub-characteristic details information about how the material may have been received, the containers, the order, indexing, the type of paper as well as the current state and contents within specified holdings.

○ *Example:*

“The records also include an annotated bibliography for use by the agricultural research department staff. It arrived at the Archives in two wooden boxes. The cards are organized alphabetically by subject: from Agropyrons to Genetics (general) and from Hybridization to Weeds. From the handwriting on the cards it is obvious that many people contributed to this resource. The index was maintained from around the 1940s, but mentions works from as early as 1910” (CVA. September 26, 2013. Sunshine to sugar, growing it right).

4. Preservation:

The characteristic of preservation is the goal of the archivist to protect archival materials from deterioration or damage to ensure their long-time use

All entries are also coded by the following sub-codes:

4.1 Conservation: The sub-characteristic of conservation is related to the work of preserving cultural property for the future through examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care. Conservation takes the form of chemical and physical treatment to repair damage to archival documents (Pearce, 2005).

○ *Example:*

“I cleaned, humidified, and flattened a Townley and Matheson architectural plan that had been wrapped tightly on a wooden dowel. The humidifying chamber was like a gentle spa treatment for the rolled maps, which flattened nicely after humidification and were then placed in flat oversize storage” (CVA. August 16, 2013. Our students – Christen Polley).

4.2 Holdings Maintenance: The sub-characteristic of holdings maintenance details the activities aimed to acquire physical control over holdings. These include preservation activities that prevent further or future damage to archival materials. *These activities ensure materials are maintained in,* fragile documents are cleaned, individual enclosures are utilized for additional protection, and containers are labeled. It also includes all aspects of the storage environment, shelving and digitization.

- *Example:*
“To preserve the records over time, I re-housed them in acid-free folders and Hollinger boxes. Some of the material required extra care. I housed the negative photographs in frozen storage and filed the photographs in individual acid-free envelopes that have passed the PAT (Photographic Activity Test). The newspaper clippings were separated from adjacent records with acid-free folders to prevent cross-contamination. I opened folded stage plans and placed them in flat oversize storage” (CVA. August 16, 2013. Our students – Christen Polley).

5. Meaning & Commemoration:

The characteristic of meaning and commemoration is the historical research; highlighting, promotion and context creation of archival holdings that an archivist undertakes to assist a user with their research. This may take the form of exhibits, reference to other archival holdings and/or non-archival materials or perhaps additional administrative and biographical information about archival records beyond that within the descriptive record.

All entries are also coded by the following sub-codes:

5.1 Presentation of Holdings: The sub-characteristic within presentation of holdings includes information about an organized display of archival materials such as artworks, documents or objects that have been selected by the archives around a theme or idea for cultural or highlighting purposes. This sub-characteristic may detail an exhibit online, link to related exhibits online, or provide information about the location of physical exhibitions by the archival repository itself or social media links. This sub-characteristic is related to the presentation of archival holdings rather than the analysis or contextualization of these holdings.

- *Example:*
“A handbook for chemists of beetsugar houses and seed-culture farms, published in 1897, was one of the things that the BC Sugar Museum chose to

display to represent Knight Sugar Company” (CVA. September 26, 2013. Science – how sweet it is! From sunshine to sugar, growing it right,).

5.2 Contextual Backgrounders: The sub-characteristic of contextual backgrounders is the detail the archivist provides about archival documents that situates the material in historical context, within the context of the archival holdings or other context that may be of interest to patrons. This context demonstrates the expertise of the archivist *regarding* archival material within their holdings and may demonstrate knowledge acquired during the acquisition, appraisal, and control of holdings processes.

- *Example:*
“Dr. Peto was head of BC Sugar’s agricultural research department. His career started as a National Research Council plant researcher and his specialized knowledge led to working with beet seeds at Buckerfields Ltd. In 1944 the portion of Buckerfields dealing with sugar beet seeds was purchased by BC Sugar” (CVA. September 26, 2013. Science – how sweet it is).

6. Advocacy:

The characteristic of archival advocacy is a goal of archival institutions and archivists to inform communities about activities that do not fall into other narrative categories, issues and ideas generally, about archives. This is a form of outreach communication.

All entries are also coded by the following sub-codes:

6.1 People Power: The sub-characteristic of students, volunteers and other staff members who work in archives and the role that they undertake while completing this work.

- *Example:*
“I loved winding the tapes through the Studer, watching the wheels spin and hearing disco music, vintage advertisements, and haunting sound effects crackle through the speakers” (CVA. August 16, 2013. Our students – Christen Polley).

6.2 Archivy: A sub-characteristic that details the sharing information and insight concerning archives, archival science, management, archival studies and personal comments (Pearce, 2005). This may include discussions about topical archival subjects, conferences and educational offerings.

- *Example:*

“...archives—there is still a sense of awe in the presence of the remains of history, an awareness of its fragility before the ink-fading, data-corrupting streams of time” (CVA. August 20, 2013. Our Students – Melanie Leverich).

6.4 Outreach: The sub-characteristic detailing the engagement of patrons through activities, events, workshops and educational programming meant to create awareness of archives, collections, and history particularly to those who are under served by archives (Pearce, 2005).

- *Example:*
“In March 2013 Herstory Café has planned two events to honour the 100th anniversary of Pauline Johnson’s death in Vancouver, featuring Janet Rogers, a Mohawk spoken word, performance and media poet. The event on March 10, 2013 will take place at the Pauline Johnson memorial in Stanley Park” (CVA. March 7, 2013. E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake), 1861 -1913).

6.5 Citizen Participation: The sub-characteristic of citizen participation are activities by the archivist that encourages participants other than archives professionals to contribute knowledge or resources resulting in increased appreciation and understanding of archival materials and archives, usually in an online environment.

- *Example:*
“If anyone knows what “thibbetine” fur is, please let us know” (CVA. September 13, 2013. Vancouver Fashion Week, Posted).

Appendix 4 - Blog Data by Title of Blog Entry (By Archival Institution)

City of Vancouver Archives Blog – AuthentiCity: www.vancouverarchives.ca

1. Boxes and More Boxes: Constructing Safer Housing for Panoramic Glass Plate Negatives; Posted on October 3, 2013 by Heather Gordon
2. Science – how sweet it is! From sunshine to sugar, growing it right; Posted on September 26, 2013 by Cindy McLellan
3. Vancouver Fashion Week; Posted on September 13, 2013 by Sue Bigelow
4. Our students – Melanie Leverich; Posted on August 30, 2013 by Students
5. Our students – Cristen Polley; Posted on August 16, 2013 by Students
6. Exploring Vancouver’s fast food past; Posted on July 26, 2013 by Heather Gordon
7. Camping at the Seaside: The “fashionable” thing to do in summer; Posted on July 11, 2013 by Megan Schlase
8. Captain George Vancouver: original documents; Posted on June 20, 2013 by Sue Bigelow
9. History Of The Archives; Posted on June 6, 2013 by Sue Bigelow
10. Stanley Park Brewery; Posted on May 30, 2013 by Sue Bigelow
11. The photography of James Crookall; Posted on May 24, 2013 by Sue Bigelow
12. Buildings on the beach side of Beach Avenue; Posted on May 10, 2013 by Sue Bigelow
13. Our students – Dorcas Tong; Posted on May 2, 2013 by Students
14. Improved online search: copyrighted digital objects; Posted on April 24, 2013 by Sue Bigelow
15. Science – how sweet it is! Chemistry at BC Sugar; Posted on April 18, 2013 by Cindy McLellan
16. Spotlight on volunteers – Kaitlin Haley; Posted on April 4, 2013 by Cindy McLellan
17. Happy Easter from the Archives!; Posted on March 28, 2013 by Cindy McLellan
18. Cats in the Archives; Posted on March 21, 2013 by Sue Bigelow
19. E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake), 1861 -1913; Posted on March 7, 2013 by Leslie Mobbs
20. The Map and Plan Digitization Project; Posted on February 22, 2013 by Sue Bigelow

Deseronto Archives Blog – [www. http://deserontoarchives.wordpress.com/](http://deserontoarchives.wordpress.com/). (All posts by Amanda Hill)

1. Research sheds light on Deseronto light; September 29, 2013
2. Research sheds light on Deseronto light; September 23, 2013
3. “The Land that Supports our Feet” symposium; September 3, 2013
4. New immigrants’ experiences of Deseronto in 1906; August 28, 2013
5. Deseronto in 1921; August 9, 2013
6. A Great Tug-of-War; July 24, 2013
7. A singular event; July 10, 2013
8. Flickr Commons; May 7, 2013

9. Democratizing access to Archives, April 25, 2013
10. New York, Washington D.C., Deseronto;
11. Snapshots of the First World War; March 13, 2013
12. Oronhyatekha and Kenwendeshon; February 20, 2013
13. Archives statistics for 2012; January 2, 2013
14. Top hats and tales; November 21, 2012
15. Where did Preston North go?; October 31, 2012
16. "Deseronto from the air"; October 24, 2012
17. Bridge collapse, October 10, 2012
18. Portrait of an unknown man, October 3, 2012
19. A piece of Tyendinaga history heads home; September 12, 2012
20. Family mystery solved, August 31, 2012

South Peace Regional Archives Blog -

<http://southpeacearchives.org/blog/>

(All posts authored by SPRA)

1. The Devil Must Be Holding Grim Carnival; October 2, 2013
2. Film and Story Tea; October 1, 2013
3. An Apple a Day; September 25, 2013
4. Welcome to Our New Website; September 25, 2013
5. New "Telling Our Stories" Newsletter; September 19, 2013
6. The Wapiti Ferry; September 17, 2013
7. *Contest Alert* - We Want to See Your Fashions, September 11, 2013
8. This Week in History – Grande Prairie Fair 1914; September 10, 2013
9. Safe Storage – FREE; September 5, 2013
10. This Week in History - 1940 School Numbers and War Evacuees;
September 4, 2013
11. Supreme Court Comes to Grande Prairie; August 28, 2013
12. Lake Saskatoon Comparable to Italy; August 21, 2013
13. 1964 Master Family Farm; August 16, 2013
14. This Week in History – "Whopper that Got Away"; August 13, 2013
15. Swimming Shenanigans & Ladies Allowed in Pool Halls; August 7, 2013
16. Shark Week – How about Bear Week?; August 6, 2013
17. Have Aliens Invaded Grande Prairie?; August 1, 2013
18. This Week in History; July 25, 2013
19. This Week in History; July 11, 2013
20. Busy at the Archives; July 9, 2013

Appendix 5 - Sample of Coded Text by Characteristic and Sub-Characteristic Organized by Institutional Blog

❖ Characteristic Inclusion

Deseronto blog

Coded Text but generally we collect written and photographic items rather than museum-type objects and our policy is only to collect materials relating to Deseronto.

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text In keeping with the mandate of SPRA, we have created a YouTube channel!

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text In September, 1978, City Council passed the Records Retention and Destruction By-Law, which stated that City records could not be destroyed until the related “records retention and destruction schedule” was approved by the Department Head, the Director of Finance, the Director of Legal Services, the City Archivist and the City Clerk.

Coded Text Today we have maintained this value and more, as our mandate is to acquire, preserve, and make available these records, as well as private records of significant value to the documentary heritage of Vancouver.

Coded Text The City of Vancouver Archives has three George Vancouver documents:

❖ Characteristic Authenticity

Deseronto blog

Coded Text were found in the former Cronk property in Deseronto and which were written in the early 1880s, just at the point when the village switched from being called Mill Point to being called Deseronto.

Coded Text Two of the other letters relate to a fugitive from justice who escaped from Deseronto to Elkland, Tioga County, Pennsylvania in 1882. As well as being a butcher, Reuben Cronk was Deseronto’s Chief of Police in the early 1880s. These two letters were both written to Cronk by the postmaster of Elkland, Eugene G. Webb,

Coded Text This volume was maintained by Deseronto’s fourth librarian, Flossie Hall.1

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text One of our newest acquisitions at the archives is a diary written by Oliver “Rutabega” Johnson. It depicts early life of a pioneer to Beaverlodge. We are so pleased that his granddaughter decided that the archives is the best place to keep the diary.

Coded Text *Bear photo is taken from the Debolt & District Pioneer Museum fonds and is unrelated to this story.

Coded Text Photo Taken by Kathryn Auger

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Lantic Inc., the donor of the BC Sugar records

Coded Text Photographer Stuart Thomson.

Coded Text The records were originally created by as many as nine of the Victorian Order of Nurses branches that once operated in BC before they were all moved to one office, the Richmond-Vancouver branch. The Richmond-Vancouver Branch was the last

remaining branch in BC and last custodian of the other regional branches' records before it became the independent Health and Home Care Society of BC in 2006.

❖ **Sub-Characteristic Provenance**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text Two of the other letters relate to a fugitive from justice who escaped from Deseronto to Elkland, Tioga County, Pennsylvania in 1882. As well as being a butcher, Reuben Cronk was Deseronto's Chief of Police in the early 1880s. These two letters were both written to Cronk by the postmaster of Elkland, Eugene G. Webb,

Coded Text This volume was maintained by Deseronto's fourth librarian, Flossie Hall.¹

Coded Text A month ago, we received a new accession of photographs from Dave Stapley, whose family once owned a farm on the Boundary Road, at the eastern side of Deseronto. The farm was close to the World War One pilot training site, Camp Rathbun, and many of the 33 photos depict men, buildings, and aircraft of the camp.

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text One of our newest acquisitions at the archives is a diary written by Oliver "Rutabega" Johnson. It depicts early life of a pioneer to Beaverlodge. We are so pleased that his granddaughter decided that the archives is the best place to keep the diary.

Coded Text Photo taken by Mike Lett.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text The second major archival project that Cristen and I undertook was with digital archivist Glenn Dingwall, revising the Archives' authority records for the City of Vancouver. Authority records describe records creators and the context in which archival records were created. The City of Vancouver is a complex and shifting organism: a division may experience different internal configurations, changes in name, and changing roles in the City's administrative structure in the life of one file or one series of files. All of these developments need to be described and represented in the City authority records. In order to comprehend the history of the small section of the City government that Cristen and I were assigned, we needed to map its origins and formations in several ways before deciding how to most accurately represent the changes over time.

Coded Text White Lunch Ltd. No. 4, 806 Granville St. Vancouver, B.C., 8 Mar. 1918. Stuart Thomson, photographer

Coded Text It must be the key piece of this city's historical record as the document that carried the young seaman to his destiny . . . The commission was acquired in London, England at a Christie's auction by George Pritchard of Bournemouth, who presented it to his nephew, Captain T.S. Annandale of New Westminster, in October, 1907 (as reported in the Vancouver Province newspaper October 14, 1907). Captain Annandale put the commission up for sale in 1936, hoping that a wealthy Vancouver citizen would purchase it and donate it to the Archives¹. Instead, he had an offer from an American. The possibility of the commission leaving Canada prompted outrage in many citizens. Excerpted from the News-Herald editorial of September 17, 1936: "It must be kept in Vancouver. It must be the key piece of this city's historical record as the document that carried the young seaman to his destiny. . . It is up to the Mayor and

Council to buy it, and at once, so it may be put in the place of honor in the collection of historical data, or a commanding

❖ **Sub-Characteristic Appraisal**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text New accessions received: 16 These included a photograph of the Circle Six Orchestra, a scrapbook relating to the Deseronto United Church, a photograph album from an airman who trained at Camp Mohawk in World War One and a list of Deseronto voters from 1914.

Coded Text It is possible that this item is over 175 years old: an extremely rare visual record from Tyendinaga in the first half of the nineteenth century that we are thrilled to be able to show here.

Coded Text Avril was willing to send the box back to this area and wanted to know if it would be of value to the Archives.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text and it caused great excitement.

Coded Text Here's why we were excited. The 1900 and 2000 blocks of Beach Avenue no longer have buildings on the water side. There are very few good views of the buildings that existed there and nearly all of them were taken from the beach rather than from across the street. This is the only view we have that shows these long-gone buildings from this angle.

Coded Text Towards the end of my internship, I got to fire up the Studer, a handsome reel-to-reel audio playback machine, so that I could listen to and appraise City Stage's audio recordings.

❖ **Characteristic Order & Access**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text Railway tracks behind the cedar mill in 1907, with refuse burner chimneys in the distance (HMR1-06-79)

Coded Text Accession 2012.07(6): The Circle Six Orchestra

Coded Text Blog posts written : 17

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text The diary can be accessed and read on-line –

Coded Text Welcome to our new website! Please be patient–not all of the links may be active yet. SPRA has re-designed the website to meet the needs of researchers, donors of historical materials, municipal and cultural partners of the Archives, members of the SPRA Society, and generally anyone interested in the history of the South Peace.

Coded Text A new component of the website is the “Donate Your Records” button. If you have boxes of documents and photographs sitting around and you're not sure what to do with them, investigate this part of the website.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Plant Breeding Institute, Svalöv, Sweden. ca. 1940s. Reference code: 2011-092.1170.

Coded Text The records also include an annotated bibliography for use by the agricultural research department staff. It arrived at the Archives in two wooden boxes. The cards are organized alphabetically by subject: from Agropyrons to Genetics (general) and from Hybridization to Weeds. From the handwriting on the cards it is obvious that many people contributed to this resource. The index was maintained from around the 1940s, but mentions works from as early as 1910.

Coded Text Pages 4 and 5 from A handbook for chemists of beet-sugar houses and seed-culture farms, 1897. Reference code: AM1592-1-S1-F45.

❖ **Sub-Characteristic Administrative**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text It's not every day that a small municipal archives is featured alongside a national institution, but today is one of those days. We are delighted to be able to share the news that Deseronto Archives is now part of the Flickr Commons, a place for institutions to share their photographic collections and a place where people can add tags and comments to the photographs to help describe and interpret them.

Coded Text And the usage statistics on the account have also taken a dizzying skyward trajectory in the 16 hours since we officially joined the Commons!

Coded Text Email queries answered: 63 Telephone queries answered: 25 Visits to the archives by researchers: 101 Images uploaded to www.flickr.com/deserontoarchives: 105 Visitors to the blog in 2012:15,293 (13,058 in 2011)

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text The records of the Archives' financial partners—the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie, the MD of Greenview, and the MD of Spirit River—are featured in the “Partners and Supporter” section of the website. This is also where you can check out the collections of member museums and libraries, and the quarterly newsletter, stories, cemetery tours, and virtual exhibits. Links at the top of the page connect you to the Facebook page, where you will find what's happening at the Archives (like the Fashion photo contest with prizes!) or the YouTube Channel where you can watch archival film or listen to oral histories. Many thanks to website designer Simone Bowes for creating this exciting new website.

Coded Text For more information on these fonds or any other at the archives send us an email atspra@telus.net or call 780-830-5105.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text This digitization project was made possible by funding from the British Columbia History Digitization

Coded Text We will be closed for the four-day Easter weekend. See you again in April!

Coded Text Thanks to funding provided by the Friends of the Vancouver City Archives,

❖ **Sub-Characteristic Searching & Systems**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text This makes it easy to take advantage of the increasing number of online resources around the world which allow searching of historical materials by keywords:

there aren't any other Deserontos, so when we find a hit, we can be fairly sure that the article or book in question is about this town.

Coded Text This detail of photograph RATHCO-06-48.4

Coded Text Regular readers of this blog will probably be aware by now that here at Deseronto Archives we have fairly advanced views about opening up our collections and making as much of them as possible available online, both through this blog and through our Flickr account.

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text *Please note at this time the google search box at the top of the page does not pick up information from the databases. You will have to search them individually under the "Online Databases" tab

Coded Text With a look through the newspaper index in 1940 we were able to find a dramatic story about one of the predators that live in our region.

Coded Text If you would like to read the rest of the story about what happened to Sam Baptiste Wilson click his name. There is also a follow up story in the next issue of The Herald- Tribune.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Reference code AM369-S1, file-Catalogues of silk samples.

Coded Text I started by using the subject term "Restaurants, diners, lunchrooms, etc." to find out what and where Vancouverites were eating in the 20th century.

Coded Text George Vancouver's Commission to Lieutenant on the Fame, back view. Parchment. 28.7 cm H, 33 cm W. Reference code AM1062.

❖ Sub-Characteristic Reproduction & Copyright

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Until now, digital objects that were under the copyright of a 3rd party (other than City of Vancouver's copyright) could only be viewed online as a tiny thumbnail. Now they can be viewed in full resolution in our Reading Room through our online search. This works on your laptop in the Reading Room (using our wifi) as well as at our public computers.

Coded Text WHAT'S UNDER THIRD-PARTY COPYRIGHT Under the old system, you couldn't see any materials under third-party copyright online. Now you have to be aware of which materials may be freely re-used and which ones require permission of the copyright owner. The description for each digital object in our system will display what we know about its copyright status in the Rights Area. Here's a quick guide to what you'll see.

Coded Text This item is in the public domain and all replication is allowed. You can use it for anything:

❖ Sub-Characteristic Control of Holdings

Deseronto blog

Coded Text ...I have also employed a young physician who was formerly a student in my office & who himself has had the small pox to proceed to the reserve and be in constant attendance and to personally supervise the disinfecting of the clothing and houses of those Indians who have had the small pox.

Coded Text Mr. Donaldson, the foreman of the yard, witnessed the accident and ran immediately to his assistance. He was conveyed at once to Dr. Newton's surgery where it was found that his right arm was nearly cut off, the bones being shattered to the very shoulder, while the right leg was also fearfully mangled. Dr. Newton immediately amputated the arm at the shoulder joint, and the leg above the knee; he also amputated the great toe of the left foot which had also been crushed. The young man bore the operation well, but the terrible shock was too great and after midnight he began to sink rapidly and he expired at an early hour on Sunday morning. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon and was numerously attended. The deceased, who was 21

Coded Text Fatal Accident On the afternoon of Saturday, 25th inst., Philip Gaylord, an employee of the Cedar Mill, was the victim of an unfortunate accident which was followed with fatal results. He was employed as a teamster and was

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text Once that is done we create a 'description' of the paper/photographs which is now called a fonds. This description goes up on our website and then everyone will know how amazing your group/family is. Is it then gone — never to be seen again? NO, you can come and visit your donation anytime, it is here waiting for viewing. Why do we want it? Researchers, book writers, family members are always stopping by looking for information, if yours isn't here we can't share it. The story of the South Peace is told from the photos and paper that is left behind.

Coded Text New fonds that soon will be finding their way onto our on-line finding aid and are now available to come in and search are: 1) Bay Tree Community Club 2) Bay Tree Community Hall

Coded Text This enables us to make our collections, which include 387 sound recordings and 193 film and video recordings, accessible to everyone. Featuring a variety of interviews, educational films, and 8mm home videos, the SPRA channel provides a new and exciting way to experience the history of the South Peace. We also have funny animal videos.

Vancouver City Archives blog

Coded Text TRANSCRIPTION Clarifications have been added between square brackets. Discovery Nootka Sound. October 2nd 1794 Dear Sir, By the jenny of bristol [a merchant ship commanded at that time by Mr. John Adamson, and heading to China with sea otter skins] which sails this night or tomorrow morning I take the opportunity of transmitting to you a set of 2d bills of exchange amounting in all to £160. 9s 9d the first of the same tenor and date having been dispatched on february last by the Daedalus [a 32-gun Royal Navy frigate] from Karakakooa bay which I trust ere this reaches old England you must have received

Coded Text TRANSCRIPTION Clarifications have been added between square brackets.

Coded Text Shortly thereafter, a project was initiated to scan historic photographs and to make the existing database accessible via the website. By 2003, the database entries had grown to 147,568 entries, and 3.7 per cent of the one-million-plus photographs in the archives had been scanned.

❖ Sub-Characteristic Arrangement

Deseronto blog

Coded Text We do hold some objects like this in the Deseronto Archives: notably some materials from the former Anglican church of St. Mark's in Deseronto,

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text What a wonderful view into a community by processing these records. I found out what they did for entertainment; dances, bazaars, quilting, card parties, Halloween gatherings.

Vancouver City Archives blog

Coded Text As well as records of fashion events, we have original negatives created for clothing catalogues and advertising. Photographer Stuart Thomson created many catalogue images for David Spencer department store.

Coded Text Earlier this summer, archivist Chak Yung showed us to the boxes of unprocessed records we would spend the next month with, closely examining, analyzing, inventorying, describing and rehousing in archival-quality containers. Based on study of the records, we would reconstruct the lives of the records' creators, their activities, and the logic of their recordkeeping system for future researchers— not always a straightforward task, since most of us don't organize or label our files with their eventual comprehensibility to total strangers in mind.

Coded Text The City Stage fonds includes textual records (such as correspondence and play scripts), newspaper clippings, promotional materials (such as colorful handbills, posters, and programs for plays), stage plans, Playhouse magazines, reel-to-reel audio tapes, and approximately 500 (mostly professional black and white) photographs.

❖ Characteristic Preservation

Deseronto blog

Coded Text We have just digitized some letters

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Next, under the supervision of conservator Sue Bigelow, Cristen and I cleaned and flattened architectural plans, and surface cleaned glass plate negatives and lantern slides before their digitization. We were given a crash course in photographs and plastics identification over a tableful of examples from the varied world of photographic processes.

Coded Text I had the chance to clean surface dirt from fragile lantern slides and glass plate negatives, my favorite type of photographs. I also spent part of a day with volunteer Kathy Kinakin, who taught us how to make a clam-shell box with a sink mat to protect large glass plate negatives in storage.

Coded Text In 2001, a new 1,600-cubic-foot walk-in freezer for photographic negative preservation was researched, developed and installed. The freezer ensures that the collection of over one million photographic images are safeguarded and protected. The Friends of the Archives Photographic Cold Storage Facility was officially opened February 20, 2002 by Mayor Philip Owen.

❖ Sub-Characteristic Conservation

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text I carried out a condition survey on the documentary art collection. The project involved examining the condition of the artwork and proposing the appropriate conservation treatments. Not only was a condition survey crucial in grasping an overview of the state of the collection, a proper identification of the media also helps archivists describe records with greater accuracy.

Coded Text The print had suffered from severe physical damage as a result of poor handling prior to being acquired by the Archives. The physical damage was so extensive that it had mostly fragmented the print into what looked like a jig-saw puzzle. Surprisingly enough (or not so, in the world of archives), the tears through the print were not the most urgent problem. Rather, it was the attempt to fix the tears that became the most alarming problem for the overall stability of the object. At one point, a well-meaning individual had attempted to repair the tears with a very generous application of clear adhesive tape. Although the tape kept all the different fragments of the print intact, the adhesive from the tape had also deteriorated over time and inevitably affected the aesthetics of the photograph. Most of the treatment for this albumen print was to remove the tape and its residues through a combination

Coded Text Using Laponite RD as a poultice to reduce the intensity of the adhesive residues. Photograph by Rosaleen Hill.

❖ **Sub-Characteristic Holdings Maintenance**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text We have just digitized some letters

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text I had the chance to clean surface dirt from fragile lantern slides and glass plate negatives, my favorite type of photographs. I also spent part of a day with volunteer Kathy Kinakin, who taught us how to make a clam-shell box with a sink mat to protect large glass plate negatives in storage.

Coded Text we have been able to describe and digitize over one thousand of James Crookall's images and make them available online.

Coded Text In this second step, more than 8000 negatives have been rehoused in special boxes that stand the plates on edge and allow a cushion of air around each group of plates. In addition to rehousing, this project required careful updating of a tracking spreadsheet.

❖ **Characteristic Meaning & Commemoration**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text This story appeared in Victoria's Traralgon Record and Bairnsdale Advertiser newspapers in October 1897, some four months after the event itself took place. News evidently travelled more slowly in 1897 than it does today.

Coded Text The tug-of-war was one of a series of events held on June 22nd. The advertisement in Deseronto's own newspaper, The Tribune, on June 18th proudly proclaimed that "This will be one of the most imposing celebrations ever held in the Bay of Quinte District".

Coded Text Mystery solved! Ontario's marriage records show us that Ida went on to marry a man called Stephen Dolan in August 1892, by which time Minnie was living in Arden with her aunt and uncle. Minnie herself married a man called Robert Loyst in 1905 and by 1911 the couple had three children and were living in Nipissing. We can hope this was a happy ending to a life which had such an unfortunate beginning.

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text The article this week is the prize list for the 5th annual Grande Prairie Agricultural Fair in 1914. I have selected the "Roots and Vegetables" category, but the entire prize list is in the papers. One of my thoughts when reading the list was how did they arrange to have radishes, fresh peas and beans, broccoli and cucumbers in October! The variety of vegetables listed was also a surprise to me, and a couple I had to look up to even know what they were (Mangold is a type of chard, Salsify is a root plant of the dandelion family, also called Oyster plant).

Coded Text There are locally grown apples but not enough to meet demand. Here is an article found in the same paper about apples grown by W.D. Albright in Beaverlodge.

Coded Text This week in history we are focusing on the Wapiti Ferry.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Dr. Peto's work in agricultural research reflected an interest in both sugar beets and sugarcane. His work with fertilizer at the Ozama plant in the Dominican Republic greatly increased yields over what had been normal before the fields were managed by BC Sugar. The growing of quality sugarcane crops was also of concern to BC Sugar in Fiji, at the Vancouver-Fiji Sugar Company.

Coded Text Greenhouses were necessary for plant research. As you can see in the black and white photograph above, there was space at BC Sugar's site at Port Metro Vancouver for agricultural experiments and research. However, larger scale beet seed growing was done in Ladner, at what is now the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Coded Text We have images from fashion shows of the past. These runway models are wearing belted bathing suits made by Jantzen, as the "diving girl" logo is visible. It's hard to tell if they are made of wool, but it was still a popular material for knitted swimsuits in the 1930s.

❖ Sub-Characteristic Presentation of Holdings

Deseronto blog

Coded Text Library and Archives Canada have made the 1921 census available throughAncestry.ca. The census has not yet been indexed (which means it can't be searched by name at present), but it is available to browse. You need to sign up for a free Ancestry account in order to see this, or you can get access without having to sign

Coded Text And, from the same site, here is the listing from The Washington Herald for Twin Beds:

Coded Text There are also several photographs of (mainly) unidentified individuals, including this lovely shot of a man crossing the finishing line of a race:

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text This Week in History has us looking at court cases in 1915 the Supreme Court had it's first sitting in Grande Prairie. The cases on the docket were a shooting,

defamation libel and suing for damages. I think the most surprising case is the shooting case. After confessing to having shot his neighbor the defendant got off with time served and a warning!

Coded Text Here is an article describing the natural beauty of the Lake Saskatoon area. It is no wonder that it was one of the first choice of pioneers when deciding where to settle

Coded Text Below is a sound recording of Charlie and Winnie Moore being interviewed by Malcolm Menzies.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Tourist guide map of Vancouver City and Park

Coded Text Here's a detailed look at the land on which people were living in Stanley Park near Brockton Point in 1934. (Full version).

Coded Text Sketch of proposed interurban canal and harbour development for Greater Vancouver, B.C.

❖ Sub-Characteristic Contextual Background

Deseronto blog 1

Coded Text In its post-event coverage on June 25th, The Tribune noted that the tug-of-war was "a magnificent exhibition of strength and endurance". It went on to add that

Coded Text the Picton team was organized by Mr. Taylor of the Bank of Montreal in 1892 and...has never been beaten. Mr. Taylor only induced them to come here on the understanding that he would not captain or coach their opponents, so that there might be fair play for all. He did, however, show the home team the correct position for pulling, a most important point. To those who think the pull should have had a time limit we are informed that it was conducted on precisely the same lines as the great international pull at Madison Square garden New York in 1892. We missed the opportunity of organizing a rematch at last year's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, but maybe if Queen Elizabeth II is still on the throne in 2022 we could arrange a re-run of the event for her Platinum

Coded Text The decision to build a cemetery in the town had been taken earlier that year: on Monday, February 6th, 1888 a meeting was held in Deseronto's Town Hall to discuss the establishment of a Cemetery Company under the terms of the Cemeteries Act. It was agreed that the Deseronto Cemetery Company should be formed, with a capital of \$4,500. Within a week a prospectus had been issued and shares were being sold at \$100 each. The Tribune reported the outcome of the meeting in the following way:

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text Lake Saskatoon was bypassed by the railroad in 1924, not to be deterred the towns folks packed up, buildings and all and resettled in Wembley.

Coded Text It was also quite apparent how giving and generous our pioneers were by organizing hot drinks for school children, giving a silver spoon to the first baby born to a family, wedding suppers, funeral lunches, gifts for families who had lost their homes to a fire to name a few. Money raised at the events hosted by these clubs would always be gifted out to the needy in the community, whereby a donation to the Cancer Society, Red Cross, Johanna's Maternity Home in Sexsmith, or any organization in need. The

Community Societies were a way for the people to socialize and do so much more, they were the catalyst for community life.

Coded Text The variety of vegetables listed was also a surprise to me, and a couple I had to look up to even know what they were (Mangold is a type of chard, Salsify is a root plant of the dandelion family, also called Oyster plant).

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Here are a couple of coats from the 1936 Spencer's catalogue that was included in the Jubilee Time Capsule created by Spencer's.

Coded Text The correspondence and other textual records reveal City Stage's commitment to affordable professional theatre in the heart of the city, the success of their productions, as well as their struggle to maintain a non-profit theatre in downtown Vancouver. The photographs depict actors on stage and include headshots. The promotional materials are striking examples of print design in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Coded Text This fish and chips café was located on East Hastings at Carrall Street, right beside the Pennsylvania Hotel. It was also conveniently located to serve the nearby B.C. Electric Railway (BCER) Company Terminal building and its workers at 425 Carrall Street, shown below in the following decade.

❖ Characteristic Advocacy

Deseronto blog

Coded Text I'm sharing it here to see if anyone can help us pinpoint it.

Coded Text If you can add anything to our knowledge of the item or have any information about the Portt family that you'd like to share, please leave a comment.

Coded Text Registration is now open for a one-day symposium exploring common ground between First Nations and Settlers in Eastern Ontario. This event will include representatives of First Nations and Settler communities presenting information on historical perceptions of land and the importance of working together to come to shared understandings about its significance to us all. The event has been organized by the Board of Deseronto Archives and the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County, with the support of the Hastings County Historical Society, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and the Town of Deseronto. There is no charge for the symposium but registration is essential – visit the booking page for more details.

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text If this picture has piqued your interest in the fashions of yesteryear, in honour of Archives Week 2013, please join us for an afternoon of memories about fashion, costume and clothing in the South Peace. (Did the evil slit skirt make an appearance here?) Sunday October 6 at the Grande Prairie Golden Age Centre (10222 – 101 Ave). Doors open at 1:45 pm, Program begins at 2 pm. Refreshments to follow.

Coded Text Our much anticipated annual Film and Story Tea is getting closer. This year the focus is on fashion and our theme is "What We Wore". Please come and join us for an afternoon of fashion, costume, and clothing in the South Peace, featuring speakers, photographs, film and historical clothing.

Coded Text Regional Archives publishes a quarterly multi-page newsletter to include submissions and stories from the public. It is available online, at the Archives, and is mailed to members of the Society

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text If anyone knows what “thibbetine” fur is, please let us know.

Coded Text After two terms at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at UBC, I was lucky to spend twelve beautiful summer weeks in the care of the Archives with my co-intern Cristen Polley. Ah, the Archives! Shelves of ancient, crumbling volumes disappearing into shadowed heights, honeycomb walls of coiled scrolls, one skeletal, omniscient archivist-monk carrying a lantern... I can imagine hypothetical archivists and conservators cringing in horror. If you’ve read as many fantasy novels as I have and have been afflicted with similar fantasies/nightmares, I can assure you that the inside of the modern archives is much more sensible altogether, all uniform rows of acid-free boxes, labeled and ordered. Dust is out, HVACs, environmental standards and lint-free gloves are in. The labyrinthine memory of the mortal archivist is vastly improved upon by systematic arrangement and archival description databases. Gothic architecture or no Gothic architecture, in the archives—the real

Coded Text feel free to download the images and superimpose your own captions.

❖ Sub-Characteristic People Power

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text A fantastic twelve weeks! Thank you everyone, archivists, conservators, staff and volunteers, for your patience and generosity with us this summer.

Coded Text Since I began my archival studies degree, I have been keen to get some hands-on experience. This summer, the City of Vancouver Archives took me in for a three-month internship.

Coded Text I loved winding the tapes through the Studer, watching the wheels spin and hearing disco music, vintage advertisements, and haunting sound effects crackle through the speakers.

❖ Sub-Characteristic Archivy

Deseronto blog

Coded Text At the moment I am in Dundee, Scotland, at day one of a conference with the theme ‘Democratising or Privileging: the Future of Access to Archives’. The programme is absolutely packed with talks about providing online access to archives and the role of digitization in making materials available to as wide an audience as possible.

Coded Text There is a strong Canadian contingent at this conference and Sara Allain from the University of Toronto Scarborough gave an interesting analysis of what she termed the ‘Digitization Rhetoric’ currently being advanced at Library and Archives Canada as the solution to the problem of access to materials there.

Coded Text Seeman of Memorial University of Newfoundland also looked at digitization, wondering about whether selectively digitizing a collection unfairly privileges one narrative about its contents over others, using the case of the Dr. Cluny

MacPherson collection as her example. Professor Wendy Duff of the University of Toronto talked about social media use in archives and ways of using elements of gaming theory to encourage public engagement with archival material online. I particularly liked the mental picture of online archives as rhizomes, providing multiple entry points to the material and different paths through it, which would vary from user to user. She also described archivists as walking finding aids, a point also echoed by Alan MacDonald, who agreed that the knowledge of archivists is priceless, and that it is hard to replicate that in online resources.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text archives—there is still a sense of awe in the presence of the remains of history, an awareness of its fragility before the ink-fading, data-corrupting streams of time.

❖ **Sub-Characteristic Outreach**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text Registration is now open for a one-day symposium exploring common ground between First Nations and Settlers in Eastern Ontario. This event will include representatives of First Nations and Settler communities presenting information on historical perceptions of land and the importance of working together to come to shared understandings about its significance to us all. The event has been organized by the Board of Deseronto Archives and the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County, with the support of the Hastings County Historical Society, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and the Town of Deseronto. There is no charge for the symposium but registration is essential – visit the booking page for more details.

Coded Text Location: Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre, Belleville Date: Saturday October 26th, 2013: 9am-4pm Read the media release [PDF] here.

Coded Text Registration is now open for a one-day symposium exploring common ground between First Nations and Settlers in Eastern Ontario. This event will include representatives of First Nations and Settler communities presenting information on historical perceptions of land and the importance of working together to come to shared understandings about its significance to us all. The event has been organized by the Board of Deseronto Archives and the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County, with the support of the Hastings County Historical Society, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and the Town of Deseronto. There is no charge for the symposium but registration is essential – visit the booking page for more details.

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text Read the PDF version of Telling Our Stories Volume 4, Issue 4 and visit our Newsletterspage to view past issues.

Coded Text In celebration of Archives week the South Peace Regional Archives (SPRA) has dedicated their annual Film and Story Tea to fashion.

Coded Text Join SPRA on Sunday July 14, 2013 from 1:30-4pm for a guided walk through five cemeteries in the Wembley-LaGlance corridor. Discover the rich and interesting history of the area through the lives and stories of its people.

City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text In March 2013 Herstory Café has planned two events to honour the 100th anniversary of Pauline Johnson's death in Vancouver, featuring Janet Rogers, a Mohawk spoken word, performance and media poet. The event on March 10, 2013 will take place at the Pauline Johnson memorial in Stanley Park.

❖ **Sub-Characteristic Citizen Participation**

Deseronto blog

Coded Text We're already seeing new comments and tags being added to the Flickr photographs, such as this one of Lieutenant Ned E. Ballough, 'the wing-walker' performing a daring stunt during the First World War:

Coded Text Leave a Comment

Coded Text UPDATE, 25 May: Professor Michelle A. Hamilton of the University of Western Ontario has informed us that the epidemic was actually in 1879 and that Kenwendeshon left his practice in Syracuse, New York when Oronhyatekha asked for his assistance. Professor Hamilton also provided us with links to a file of digitized correspondence with the Indian Branch of the Department of the Interior held at Library and Archives Canada which details the response to the epidemic. Here is an example of the correspondence: a request from the Chief of the Moravian Indians to allow Dr Oronhyatekha to establish a temporary hospital "to isolate our small pox cases we have had four deaths six other cases local physicians refuse to come on the reserve".

South Peace Regional Archives blog

Coded Text Update: We have been able to identify the above photograph! It is of the 1951-52 Beaverlodge class – the names of the students are available on our Facebook page, where we received a great response from the community. Thank you to everyone who helped us identify this photograph!

Coded Text In conjuncture with that we have decided to host a contest, and we want your fashion photos! Our contest begins on September 12th, time to start digging through your photo albums. We will be accepting fashion photos through our Facebook page, e-mail (spra.technician@telus.net) or you can drop them off at the Archives.

Coded Text The photo above shows the lovely ladies from the Kinette Club modeling their wonderful hats, this can be you – featured on our Facebook page.

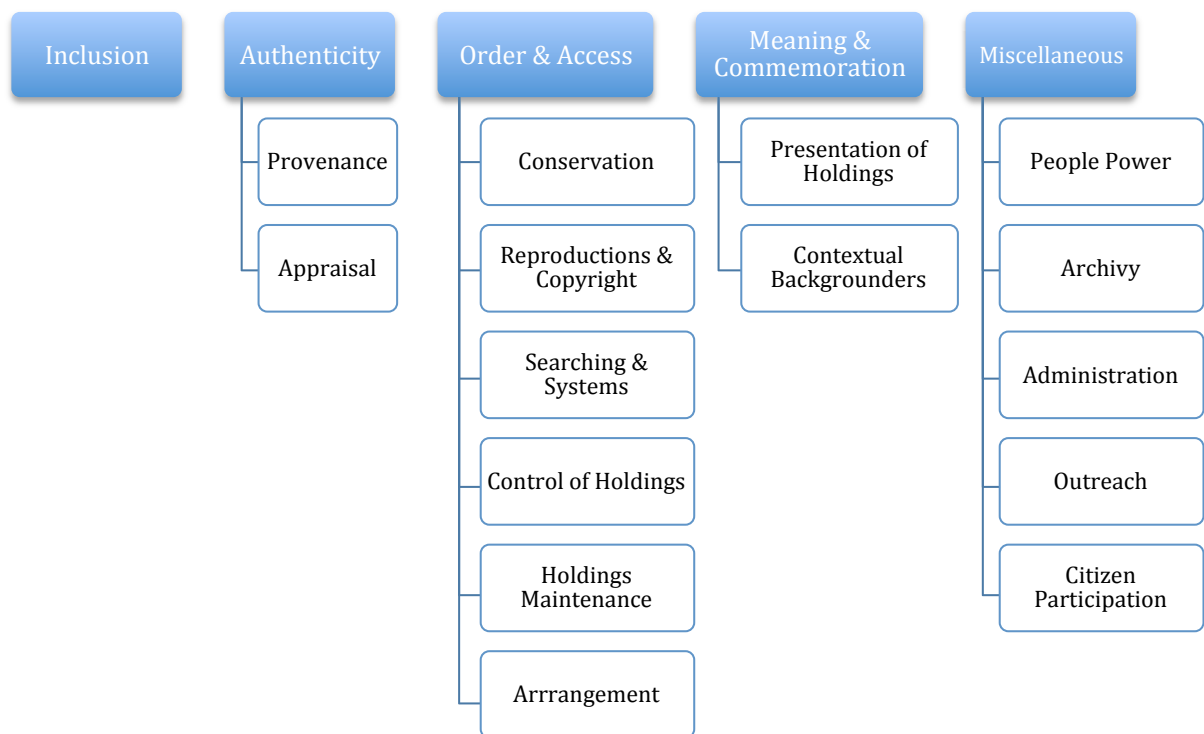
City of Vancouver Archives blog

Coded Text Take a look and tell us if you remember any!

Coded Text Have a project that uses one of these maps? Let us know! We love to hear how our holdings are being used.

Coded Text We hope these two changes make your research more efficient. As always, we welcome feedback.

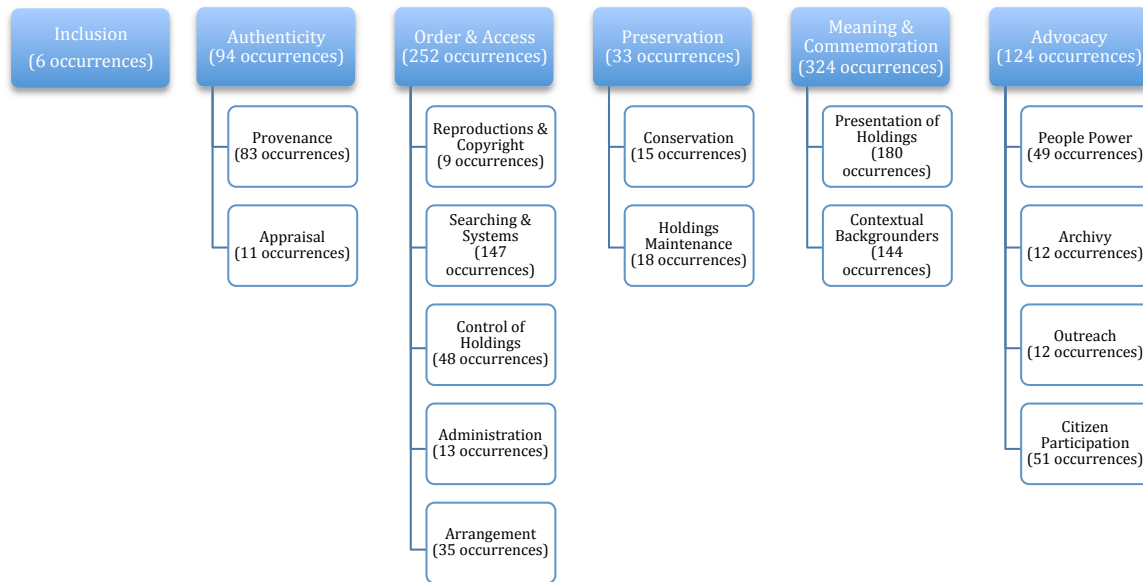
Figure 3 - Codes and Sub-Codes



Once twenty blog entries from the City of Vancouver Archive's blog had been coded using the refined conceptual framework characteristics and newly identified sub-characteristics, twenty blog entries from the Deseronto Archive and twenty blog entries from the South Peace Regional Archive were analyzed. The analysis compared the data as coded, against the definitions created in the codebook. This allowed the researcher to verify coding consistency and that characteristics, as defined were being adequately represented. During this coding process, text assigned to a characteristic was

4. This figure details the final categorization of archival narrative as applied to the blogs, including their occurrence in the data analyzed. These characteristics and sub-characteristics are defined and illustrated with examples in the section 5.3.3.

Figure 4 - Characteristics (Goals) with Sub-characteristics (Activities) of Archival Narrative (with occurrences)



The identification, definition and verification of the initial characteristics in blogs facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of archival narrative. The process of refining and defining these characteristics reveals them to be traits, representing the goals of archival professional practice. During the content analysis it was also determined that the sub-characteristics are the actions, activities and methods that archivists employ to meet these professional objectives. The sub-characteristics differ from the main characteristics as they represent activities of the archivist rather than the goals of professional practice.