



WORKING NOTES AS AN ARCHIVAL CHALLENGE

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Working Notes as an Archival Challenge

- I. Introduction to “Editorial Practices and the Web”:
Project rationale, progress, and status
- II. Use case & <http://editorsnotes.org/>
- III. Archiving editors’ working notes
- IV. Potential for archivists’ working notes
- V. Questions & discussion

Problems of Documentary Editions

- Requires specialized expertise for many years.
- Funding is difficult.
- Much of the editors' research not included because inconclusive or marginally relevant to the publication.
- Limitations of the printed edition: Costly. Limit on number of pages, so editors' notes reduced. Small editions bought by libraries. Not widely available.
- Relatively isolated work.
- Working notes and unpublished notes discarded.

The return on investment far less than it could be.

Editorial Practices and the Web: Objectives

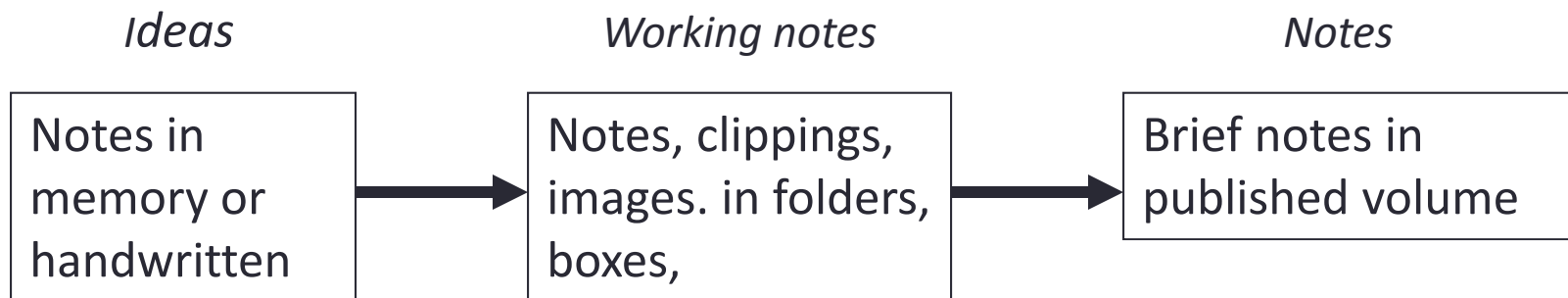
1. Increased return on investment by making editors' notes promptly and more fully available through Web publication;
2. Gain in efficiency through collaborative, shared access to working notes among related projects; and
3. More effective interoperability with archival finding aids, library pathfinders, and other scholarly infrastructure as all become more closely associated in digital environment.

A Case Study: A Digital Remedy

Save as .html ! Make editors' notes available in full as early as possible on a webpage regardless of what happens in the eventual published edition. Immediately available. Indexed by Google, etc.

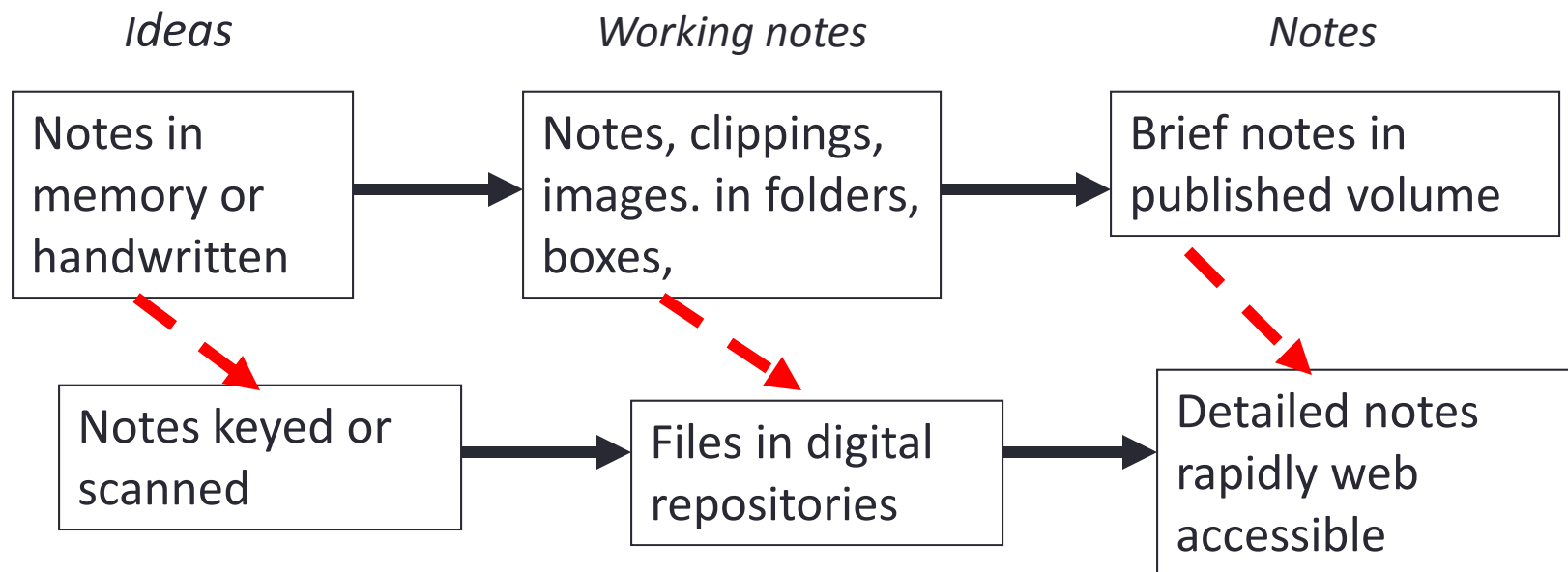
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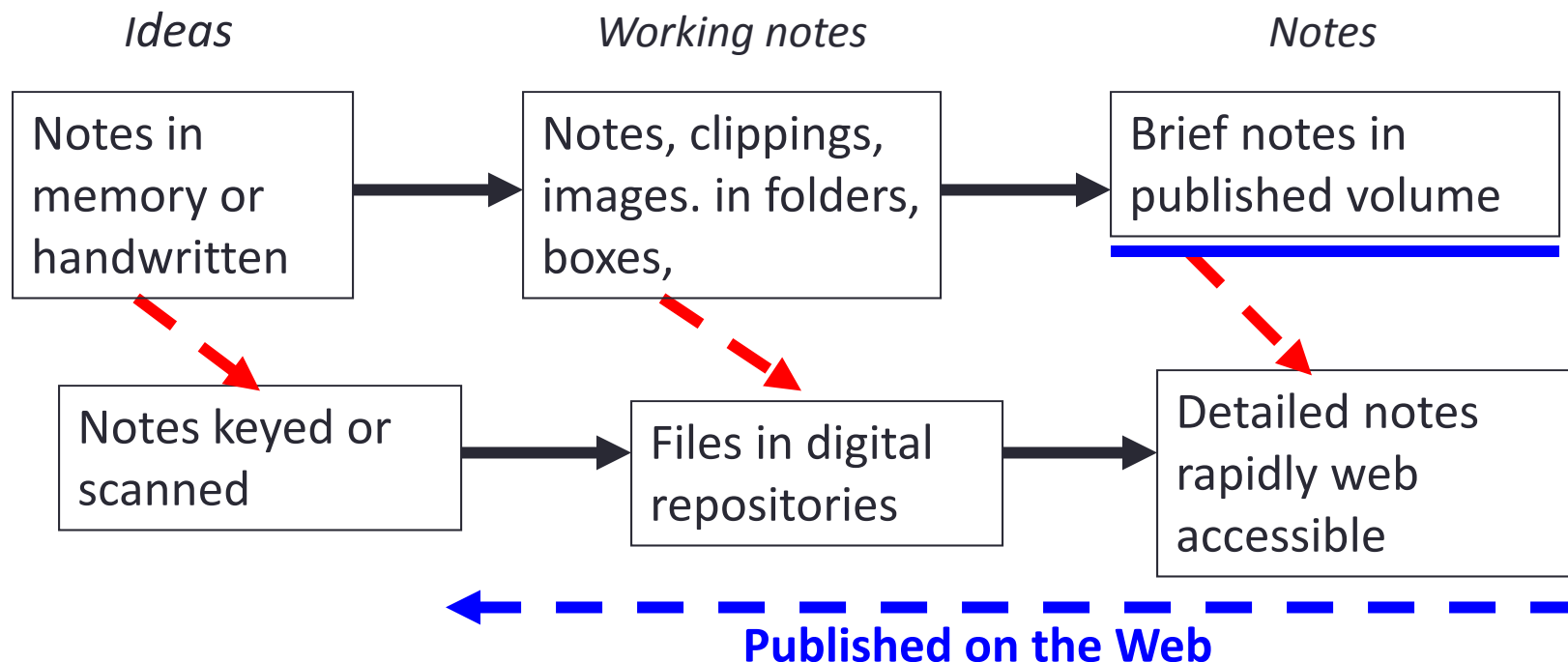
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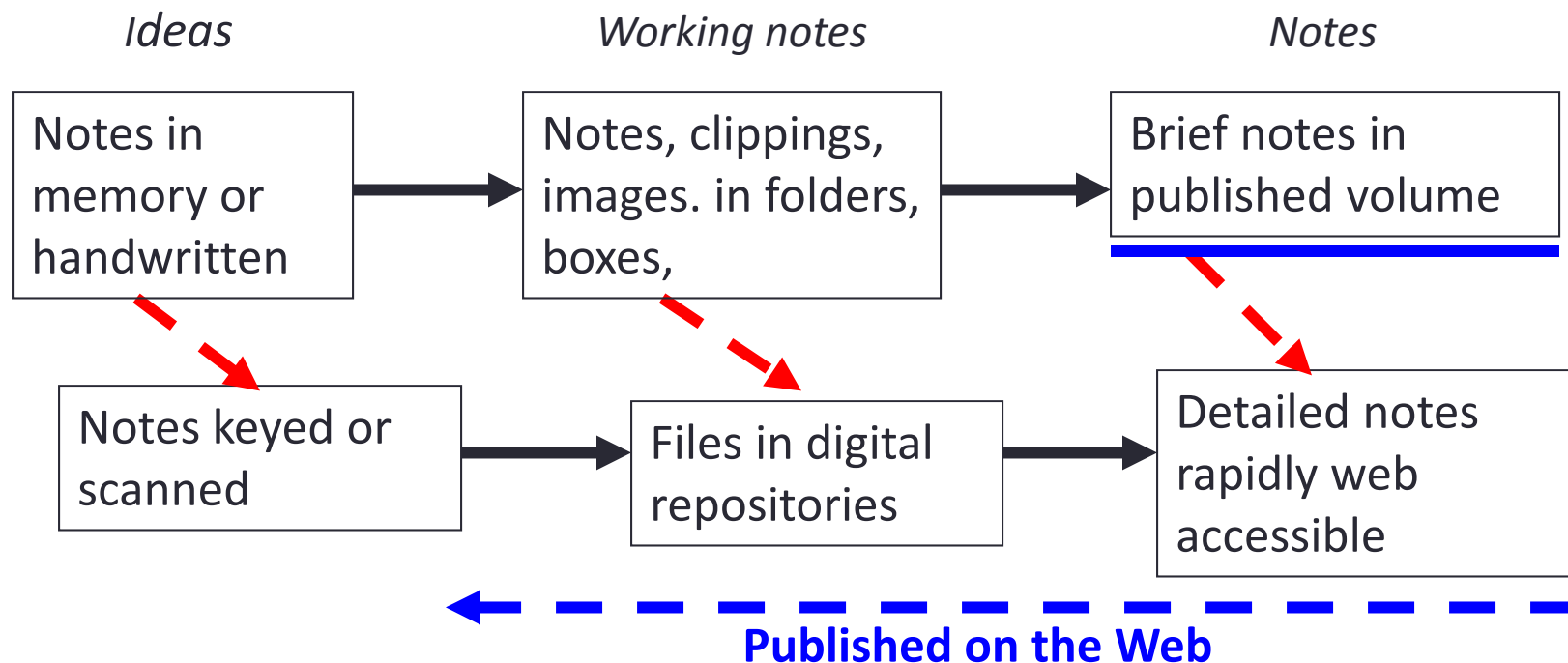
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More a change in work practice than a technical challenge.

Editorial Practices and the Web: Phase 1 Agenda

- Increase use of digital notes
- Create shared website for working notes:
editorsnotes.org
- Make editors' working notes openly available
- Extend to library special collection curators' notes also

Editorial Practices and the Web: Phase 2 Agenda

- Introduce digital humanities tools.
- Extend to archivists' working notes. (To follow).
- Projects end, scholarship doesn't. "Hibernating archive."
 - Archival processing of editors' notes when project ends.
 - Work practices preprocess for archival deposit.
 - Predispose for later continued scholarship.

EXAMPLE USE CASE

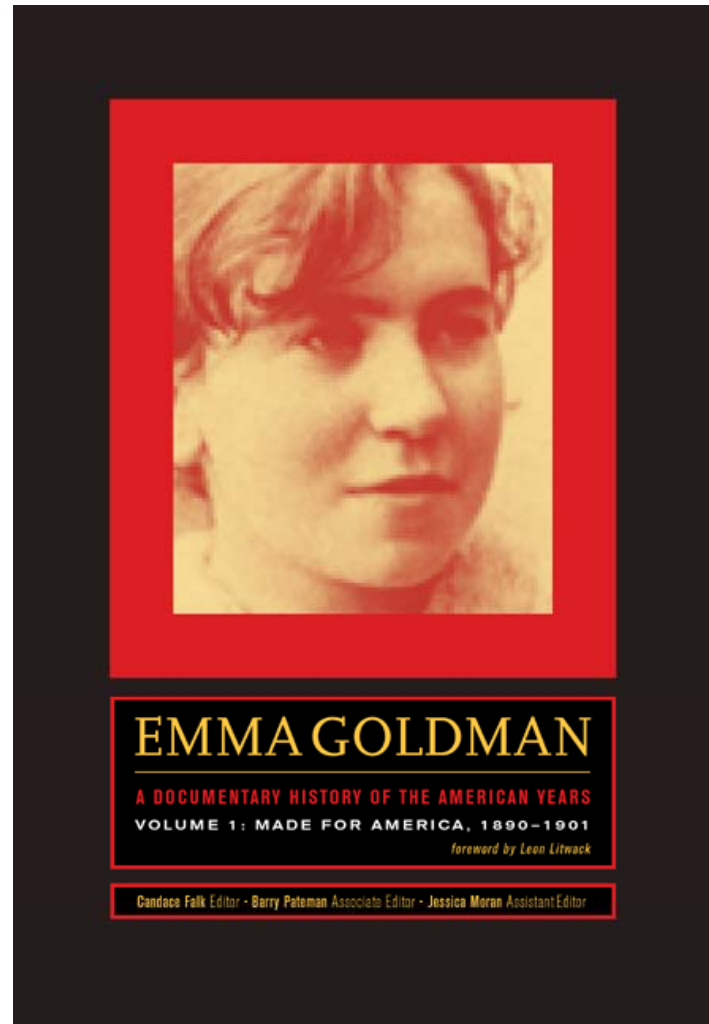
Documentary editing

- Editors prepare collections of documents: letters, articles, diaries, essays, etc.
- Printed volumes provide context for better understanding subjects' experiences and general milieu through footnotes, images, chronologies, articles

Documentary editing: workflow

- 1) Gather documents
- 2) Contextualize select items
- 3) Publish final product
- 4) Repeat as funding allows

Case study: Emma Goldman Papers



Case study: Emma Goldman Papers

To WALTER CHANNING

New York, 18 October 1902

DEAR SIR

I am in receipt of your note of the 18th inst. and in reply would like to say this, I do not know whether Czolgosz¹ was an Anarchist, nor have I the right to say that he was not. I have not known him sufficiently to be acquainted with his political Views. In fact no one has, including Mr Isaak and Mr Shilling² and if they have expressed opinions either for or against his being an Anarchist they have done an injustice to the young man, who died such a brave death, as you and you, dear Sir will be guilty of the same offence if you attempt to prove that Czolgosz was not or was an Anarchist. No one can with certainty say, that the man was an Anarchist, since he was but little known, and since he has never proff made a public statement to that affect. Still less can one prove that he was not one; there is nothing in his act by which one can deny him the right of being an Anarchist. It is true, the Philosophy of Anarchy does not teach Invasion, but it does teach self defence, and Czolgosz's act was an act of self-defence and nothing else. You may question this, since Czolgosz was not personally attack by McKinley, quite true, but Czolgosz belonged to the Oppressed, to the Exploited and Disinherited Millions, who lead a life of darkness and despaire owing to those, of whom McKinley was one, therefore he was personally attacked by the ex President, or rather he was one of the Victims of the McKinley regime and those McKinley catered to. The act of Czolgosz may have been impractical or inopportune, I will not argue this point now, but I insist it had nothing unanarchistic about it, since, as I said before Anarchism claims the right of Defence against Invasion and Aggression of every shape and form and no one, who has his eyes open will and can deny that those in Power are the Invadors, and McKinley certainly was one of them. I send you with this, 2 Articles³

1. Leon Czolgosz, who assassinated President McKinley at the world's fair in Buffalo in September 1901, was judged sane before his trial by three psychiatrists for the prosecution and two psychiatrists for the defense. Later, Tufts University Medical School psychiatrist Walter Channing assessed Czolgosz as mentally unstable, based strictly on the assassin's personal history, in a October 1902 article published in the *American Journal of Insanity*.
2. Cleveland anarchist Emil Schilling had been Czolgosz's first contact in the anarchist movement in May 1901, lending him reading materials and answering his questions. According to Schilling they were estranged even before Czolgosz's arrival in Chicago. Abe Isaak, editor of *Free Society*, introduced Czolgosz to EG in Chicago; Isaak found Czolgosz's behavior suspicious.

Case study: Emma Goldman Papers



Case study: Emma Goldman Papers



Case study: Emma Goldman Papers



Case study: Emma Goldman Papers

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
Agnes	30 items	folder	2011-11-07 10:11:13
Athalia	6 items	folder	2010-09-27 13:50:28
Billy Sunday Bio.wpd	19.2 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-02-13 10:00:36
grosser2.wpd	34.8 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-04-24 12:07:34
Grosser.wpd	21.7 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-04-01 16:47:58
Table of Political Prisoners.wpd	135.0 kB	WordPerfect document	2006-08-02 13:28:48
The Dominant Idea by De Cleyre	59.8 kB	WordPerfect document	2004-01-08 10:59:00
Women Political Prisoners	4.3 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-07-31 11:28:40
Ben	6 items	folder	2010-09-27 13:50:27
Buford Deportee Bios.doc	49.2 kB	Microsoft Word Document	2008-05-01 20:29:14
Buford info request.doc	22.0 kB	Microsoft Word Document	2003-04-23 13:24:52
Buford leads.doc	22.5 kB	Microsoft Word Document	2003-04-15 13:40:16
Passengers on the Buford.doc	82.9 kB	Microsoft Word Document	2003-11-06 09:44:16
provincetownplayersChron.wpd	13.8 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-12-11 14:53:58
~WRD0000.tmp	33.3 kB	Microsoft Word Document	2003-03-12 13:32:34
Brittany	3 items	folder	2011-10-14 15:33:20
Carol	13 items	folder	2011-10-14 15:43:55
American Consular Practice.wpd	11.2 kB	WordPerfect document	2004-12-07 11:02:32
bachofen.wpd	9.6 kB	WordPerfect document	2004-09-10 12:15:30
castleton notes.wpd	22.3 kB	WordPerfect document	2004-04-13 11:48:54
Citizenship.wpd	11.5 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-04-15 10:42:42
Cora Bennett Stephenson.doc	20.0 kB	Microsoft Word Document	2004-10-04 11:32:48
Earle IMDB.wpd	54.7 kB	WordPerfect document	2004-03-29 15:00:50
Ferdinand P Earle Notes.wpd	16.6 kB	WordPerfect document	2004-04-01 13:02:42
Joehill notes.wpd	2.4 kB	WordPerfect document	2004-04-22 12:11:28
Seagull Notes.wpd	5.7 kB	WordPerfect document	2004-04-05 13:48:12
The Blast.doc	22.0 kB	Microsoft Word Document	2003-03-05 15:14:12
What I believe versus Anarchism.wpd	4.3 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-02-05 14:14:20
What I believe versus other sources.wpd	3.3 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-02-12 13:52:40
WIBVSOTH.WPD	4.9 kB	WordPerfect document	2003-02-12 15:51:20
christie	4 items	folder	2010-09-27 13:50:26
Christina	3 items	folder	2010-09-27 13:50:26

"Agnes" selected (containing 30 items)

Documentary editing: Problems

- Published volumes & necessary work are expensive
- Lack of space for all footnotes
- Much of research done is either glossed over in footnotes or not included at all
 - Fact checking
 - Falsification or dead ends
 - Tangential biographical details
- Preservation & legacy

How do projects take notes?

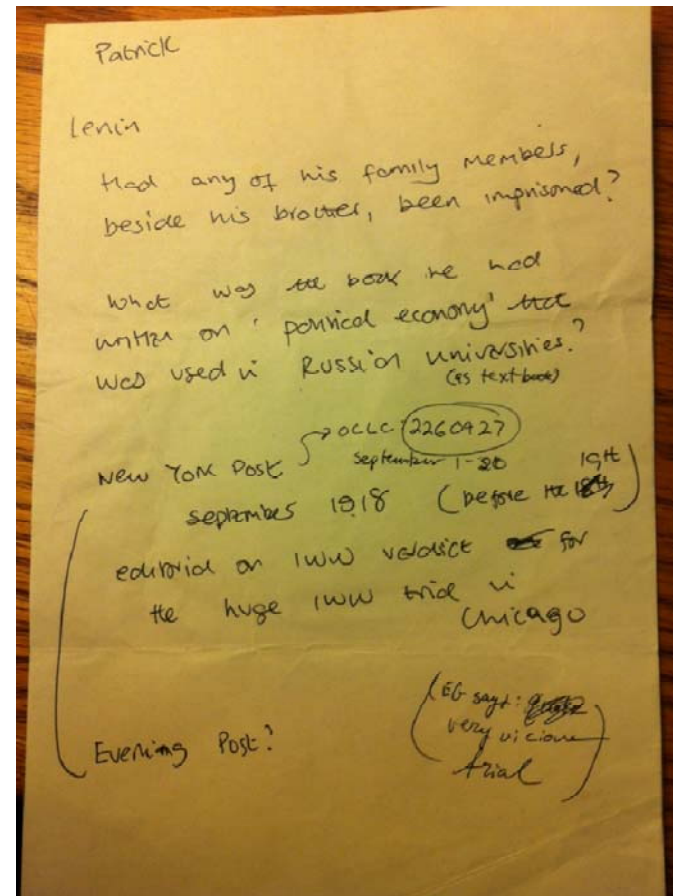
Patrick—

Lenin:

Had any of his family members
beside his brother, been imprisoned?

What was the book he had written on
'political economy' that was used in
Russian Universities?

New York (Evening?) Post,
September 1918 editorial on IWW
verdict for the huge IWW trial in
Chicago.



How do projects take notes?

- Sources consulted, notes taken based on findings
- Notes stored in a Word documents? Yellow notebook? Email?
- Negative conclusion reached to question, but no one will ever know

Lenin, Vladimir Ilich [V.I. Ulyanov] (1870–1924) Russian revolutionary leader and founder of the Bolshevik party, a faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party formed in 1903. Lenin grew up east of Moscow in the city of Simbirsk in a relatively wealthy family. When he was a teenager, his brother was executed for his role in plotting to kill Tsar Alexander III. While studying to become a lawyer, Lenin began his involvement in radical and Marxist circles in the late 1880s and 1890s. By the last years of the nineteenth century, he was a prolific writer and published many newspapers and articles encouraging revolution in Russia. To avoid being punished for his activities by the Tsarist police, Lenin spent much of the decades preceding the 1917 Russian revolution in exile in London, Paris, Geneva, Zurich, and other European cities, working with other émigrés to encourage revolution in Russia. After the overthrow of the Tsar in February 1917, Lenin planned his trip back to Russia, arriving in Petrograd in April. His return was controversial because his train from Switzerland was allowed to pass through Germany, one of Russia's enemies in World War I. This fact led many to believe that Lenin was

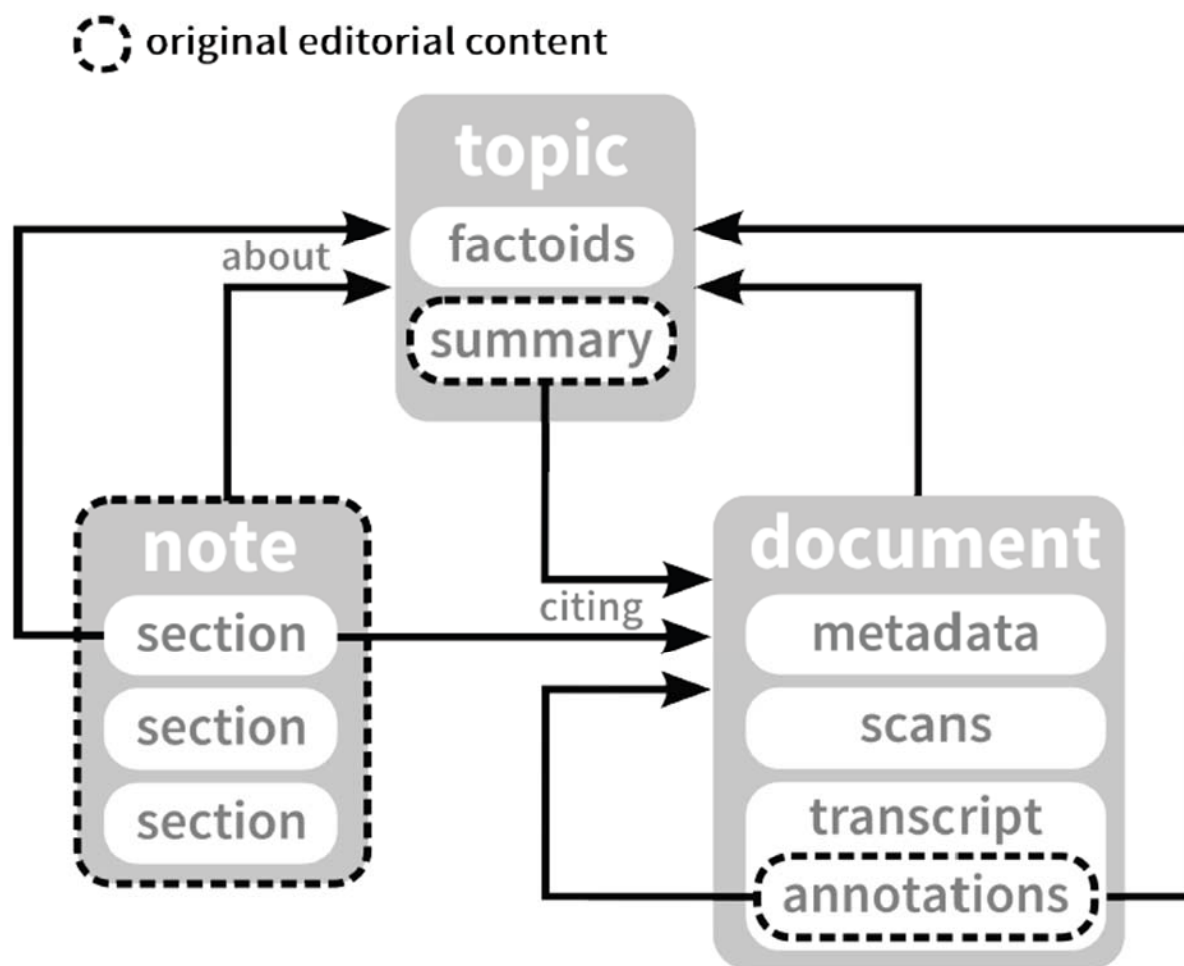
Editors' Notes

- <http://editorsnotes.org/>
- <http://ecai.org/mellon2010/>
- Finding a safe place for the “debris” of research
- Improving return on investment for documentary editing projects
- Central focus on changing work practices of editors and researchers rather than digitizing what already exists

Editors' Notes: Design principles

- 1) Minimal amount of “friction” for researchers
- 2) Flexibility for different work habits
- 3) Consistency in data models
- 4) Existing technology wherever possible
- 5) Adherence to web standards

Data model



Documents

- Zotero for document metadata (<http://zotero.org/>)
 - Ability to describe a wide range of documents
 - Read/write API
 - Citeproc-js for generation of citations and bibliographic references
- High quality, zoomable scans with <http://zoom.it/>
- Transcripts in HTML with interface to annotate passages of text

The screenshot shows the 'Add document' dialog box in Zotero. At the top, there are buttons for 'B' (Bold) and 'I' (Italic), and a 'Generate citation' button with an 'Autoupdate?' checkbox. Below this is a text area containing the text: 'Emma Goldman to Alexander Berkman, December 12, 1915, reel 4, Emma Goldman Papers.' The main form has the following fields:

- Item type:** Letter
- Title:** (empty text box)
- Author:** Goldman (with a dropdown arrow)
- Recipient:** Berkman (with a dropdown arrow)
- Abstract:** (empty text box)
- Type:** (empty text box)
- Date:** December 12, 1915 (with a calendar icon)
- Language:** (empty text box)
- Short Title:** (empty text box)

At the bottom right, there are 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons.

Topics

- Primary method of indexing items
- Classified by type
- Interface for clustering/merging
- Experimenting with structured data

Editors' Notes Browse About Search

Change topic

Name

Andreyev, Leonid Nikolayevitch, 1871-1919

Type

Person

Related topics

Lenin, Vladimir Ilich (1870-1924)

Add topic (type to search)

Article

B I P H1 H2 H3   

Russian author, lawyer, crime reporter, editor, and photographer. Although best known for his plays and articles about the purgative power of World War I. By summer of that year, however, he predicted the "Destruction." Although Andreyev's articles addressed international war, he always viewed it from the perspective of the war was to eradicate an evil, he rejected the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty as a compromise and a pamphlet in early 1919 entitled S.O.S. (ed. Russian Liberation Committee and Union of the Russian People) world to organize themselves and break Bolshevik power. In S.O.S., Andreyev denounced the Allies and emphasizes his belief in the "nobility" of the people. Andreyev intended to make a lecture tour in America but suddenly died of a brain hemorrhage. His works include: The Seven Who Were Hanged (1907), Another

Citations

 Carr, E. H. A History of Soviet Russia. London: Macmillan, 1950-1976.

Notes

- Most difficult part of the project
- Notes are messy, purposefully
- How to model something so chaotic & idiosyncratic?
- Goals: Easy to use; flexible but consistent

Notes

- Description
- Status
 - Open, closed, hibernating
- Assigned users
- Sections
 - Citation with optional commentary
 - Plain text
 - Future: Maps? Timelines? Chronologies?

Editors' Notes
Browse
About

Sanger and the Third ICPP

Unlike the coverage in secondary sources, planning on the Third ICPP started far earlier than Dec. See Watumull and the Third ICPP and British and Third ICPP for more. Focus in these notes is on

Add section:

Sanger, Margaret, letter to Katharine Dexter McCormick, Jan. 8, 1951 [MSM S33:712]

Sanger, Margaret letter to Pearl S. Buck, Jan. 9, 1951 [MSM S33:717]

B
I
P
H1
H2
H3
☰
☷
↺

Notes that if they had been able to keep the East-West going, it would have made a great contrast and blundering, not only in Washington but wherever but leaders are, and of course most frightful civic affairs given to military leaders. We seem to learn nothing from history and one would think make our military leaders hesitant to build up a powerful military organization. Germany did so on their knees."

"There is a possibility of our having a population Conference in the Orient somewhere in 1952. from India recently tells me many of the 65 clinics that I organized in 1936 are still going. It will be the health groups to that information as well as supplies will not have to be limited to people who are ahead and I am so happy to feel well again."

Sanger, Margaret letter to Eleanor C. Jenkins, Jan. 9, 1951 [MSM S33:719]

Brush, Dorothy letter to Margaret Sanger, Jan. 21, 1951 [MSM S33:768]

Demonstration with Lenin example

What changed for researchers?

Free text  Structured blocks

Implicit people,
places, events  Explicit linkable
entities

Filing cabinets  Open access

Benefits of our approach

- Connections linking topics are freed from the minds of editors & researchers and indexed for anyone to see
- Standardized records of work can easily be revisited from within a project or from outside
- New way of seeing the outer edges of humanities research
- Evidence of intense, often messy, scholarship behind concise, clean footnotes

Technology

- Django Python web framework
- PostgreSQL database
- South for database migrations
- Haystack for full-text searching
- Zotero for document description
- Open Refine (prev. Google Refine) for duplicate detection
- Bootstrap & jQuery for frontend development

ARCHIVING WORKING NOTES

Editorial Practices and the Web: Phase 2 Agenda

- Introduce digital humanities tools.
- Extend to archivists' working notes. (To follow).
- Projects end, scholarship doesn't. "Hibernating archive."
 - Archival processing of editors' notes when project ends.
 - Work practices preprocess for archival deposit.
 - Predispose for later continued scholarship.

POTENTIAL FOR ARCHIVISTS' WORKING NOTES

Archivists' Working Notes

Initial Observations

- Documentary editors notes' differ from archivists' notes
 - Bibliographic citations vs. archival description
 - Scholarly editions vs. finding aids and catalog entries
 - Intensive research vs. scope and content creation
 - Item level vs. series level

Archivists' Working Notes

Initial Observations

- Shared benefits
 - Greater exposure of collection items
 - Increased access to materials
 - Digital humanities tools
 - Repository collaboration
 - Complements finding aids, guides, and pathfinders

Archivists' Working Notes

Initial Observations

- Shared benefits
 - Notes captured, not lost
 - Immediate availability of notes
 - Dual purpose tool
 - Internal working notes for archivists
 - External resource for researchers

Archivists' Working Notes

Points of note capture

- Appraisal
- Accessioning
- Processing
- Reference
- Exhibit/curatorial
- Website
- Research guide/finding aids

Archivists' Working Notes

Criteria for an archivists' note?

- A “wow” item
- Selected processing notes
- Reference notes
- Historical significance
- Related collections
- Archivist's choice
- Researchers' notes

Archivists' Working Notes

Challenges to archival practice integration

- More Product, Less Process (MPLP) workflow
 - Ease of entry and note-taking
- Duplication of efforts
- Draft notes online /quality control
- Opportunity costs and workload addition
- Resources, staffing, and funding
- Public expectations

Thank You

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Coleman Fung Foundation

Emma Goldman Papers, Berkeley

Stanton-Anthon Papers, Rutgers

Margaret Sanger Papers, NYU

California State Archives

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Project information: <http://ecai.org/mellon2010/>

Project site: <http://editorsnotes.org/>