

Audiovisual Archives as tokens of cultural heritage in the Hellenic Parliament library: a case-study

Dr Maria Kamilaki
Acting Director, Directorate General for
E-Administration, Library and Publications
m.kamilaki@parliament.gr

Antzela Karapanou
Head of the Parliamentary Archives Department
ant.karapanou@parliament.gr

The Hellenic Parliament Library



Parliament Mansion

- Founded in 1845
- Housed in 3 buildings (Athens, Greece)

<http://library.parliament.gr>

 <https://www.facebook.com/hellenicparliamentlibrary>

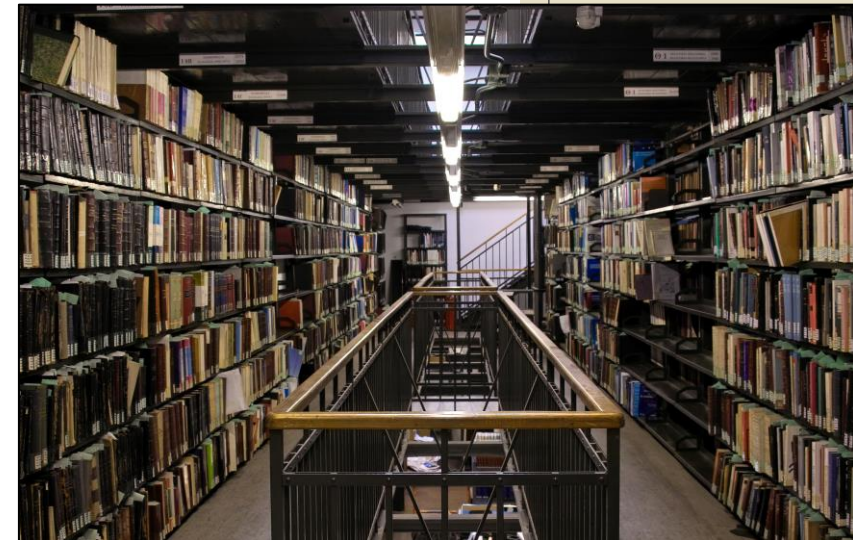
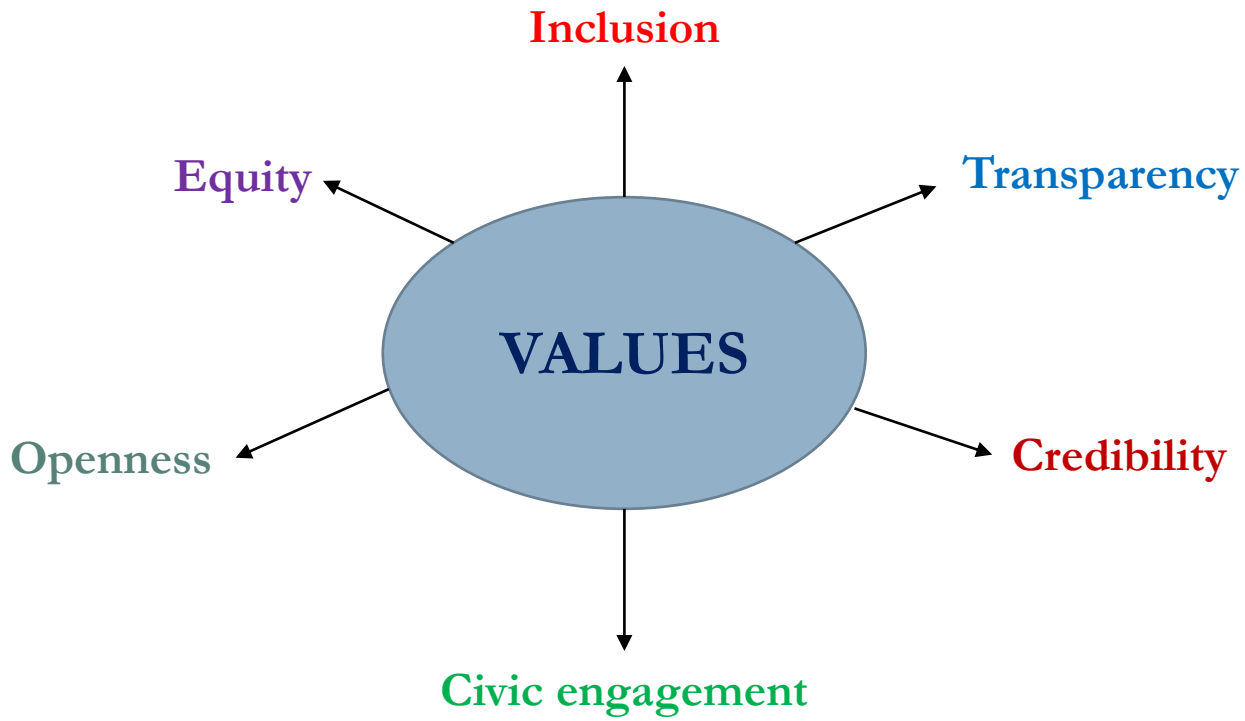
 <https://www.instagram.com/hellenicparliamentlibrary>



Benakeios Library Annex



Old Tobacco Factory



MISSION
Interconnection between the Parliament and the citizens
with information and knowledge

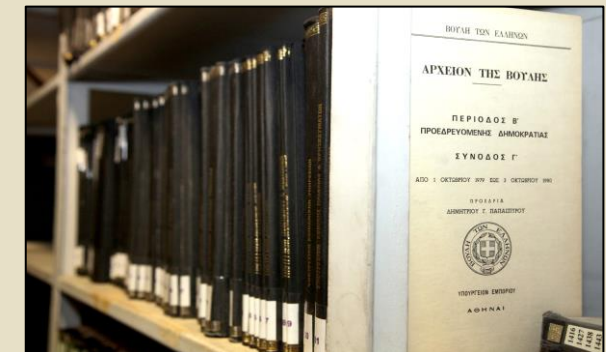
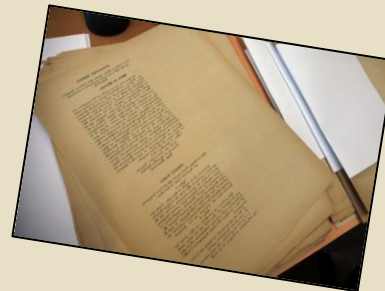
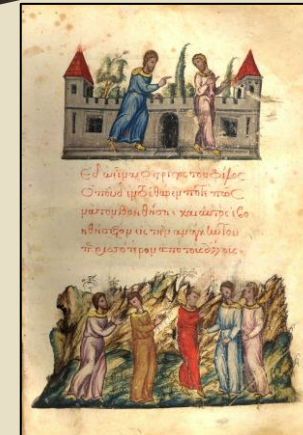


Goals

- Efficient **support of parliamentary work**, through collection, documentation and archiving of materials and data produced by parliamentary procedures and services
- **Provision of timely, reliable and non-partisan** information
- **Collection development** through acquisition of a) books, periodicals and publications b) parliamentary archives, c) “public figures” archives, d) rare books and works of art
- Maintenance, conservation, documentation and promotion of the **Parliament’s cultural capital** through **outreach activities** (exhibitions, educational programs, seminars, book labs and reading groups, etc.).

Some statistics

- **Online Catalogue** (<https://opac.parliament.gr/>)
- 377.649 bibliographic records
- 379.587 authorities
- 625.319 items
- 30.000 bibliographic records edited per year
- 4.000 authorities edited per year
- 4.000 new book titles per year
- **Digital material**
 - **3.000** items (currently not online)
 - **12.000.000** jpg of digitized material (50% available online, subject to copyright law)
 - **free access to databases, e-journals, e-books**
 - **Parliamentary Archives**
- **Collections of Political Figures**
- **Press Collection:** newspapers and serials from the pre-revolutionary period (i.e. before 1821) onwards

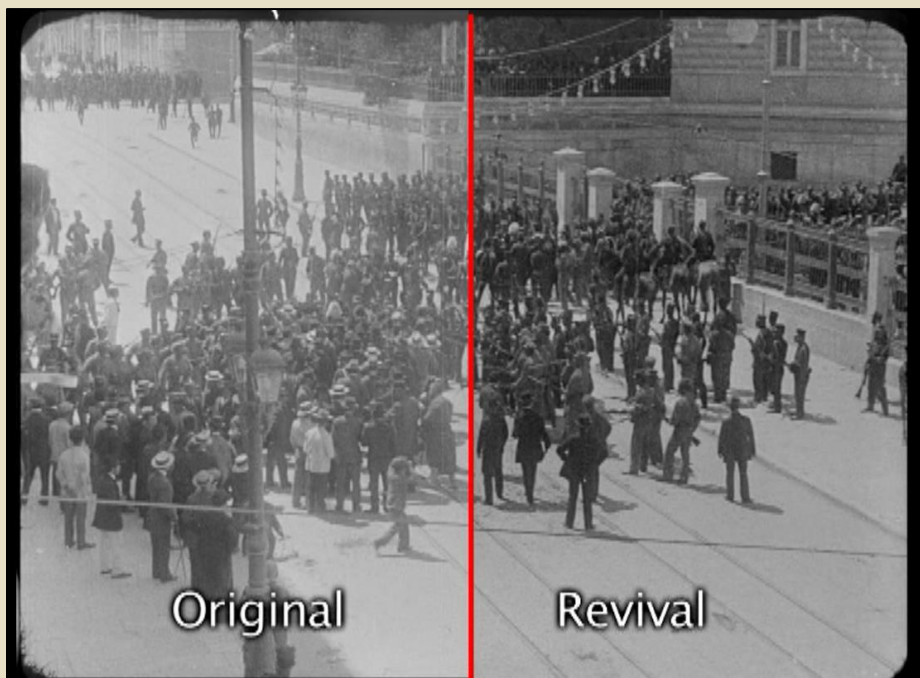


The Film

Disorder due to the ban on Cretan deputies entering the Greek Parliament



Conservation and restoration
(La Camera Ottica laboratory of the
University of Udine)



Newsreels

- c. 1910
- Short documentary films with news of national or international interest
- Presented just before a film in cinemas or in special theatres
- Covered all aspects of political, cultural and social life, from wars to sporting events, coronations to suffragette demonstrations
- Silent at the beginning



The Cretan Question

- The island of Crete formed part of the Ottoman Empire since 1571
- Under occupation after the establishment of the Greek state in 1830
- 1830-1898: continuous rebellions
- 1898: autonomous under Ottoman sovereignty and under the joint protection of the Great Powers (England, France, Italy, Russia)
- 30.5.1913: Unification with Greece



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1794_Delisle_Map_of_Southern_Ancient_Greece,_Greeks_Isles,_and_Crete_-_Geographicus_-_GreeceSouth-delisle-1794.jpg



Content Analysis

A. The narrative content: Multimodal Discourse Analysis

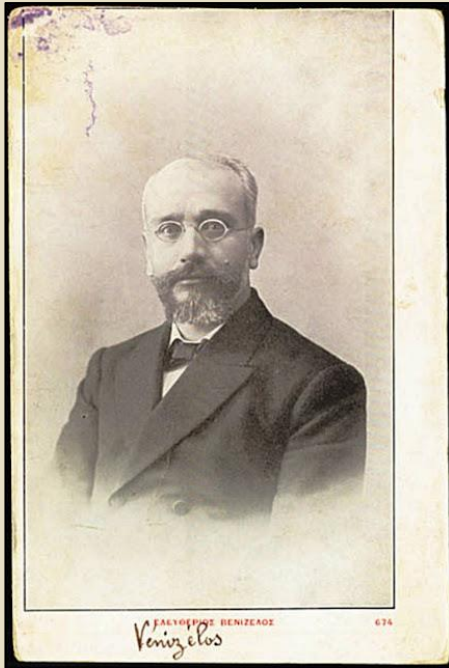
- **Analysis** of various and different semiotic modes involved in a discourse, aiming at integrating the **representational/ideational** (the content of text), **interpersonal** (relations among people) and **textual meanings** (structure of text) achieved by various elements
- **Meaning production** is seen as being realized by a combination of **language, image** (still or moving), **sound** and **action**
- **Multimodality** and **social semiotics**, together, render it possible to ask questions around:
 - meaning and meaning-making resources and mechanisms
 - the agency of meaning-makers
 - the constitution of identities
 - how 'knowledge' is produced, shaped and constituted etc

“No document is politically neutral or objective”

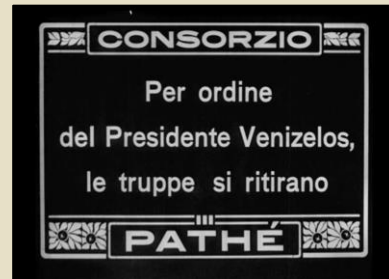
- Italy was one of the Protecting Great Powers of autonomous Crete
- Italy was in war with the Ottoman Empire
- Italy had vital interests in Eastern Mediterranean
- Cretan issue could cause a new war with the Ottoman Empire



The “protected”, “absent” protagonist of the day



Eleftherios Venizelos
Prime Minister of Greece
(1864-1936)



❖ The violent push back is described by using a passive construction

❖ No direct connection to the violent incidents

❖ “Present” only through his moderate and consensual intervention

❖ No mention that could provoke accusations for insensitive attitude and authoritarianism



Content Analysis

B. The pragmatic context: the film's evidential and informational value

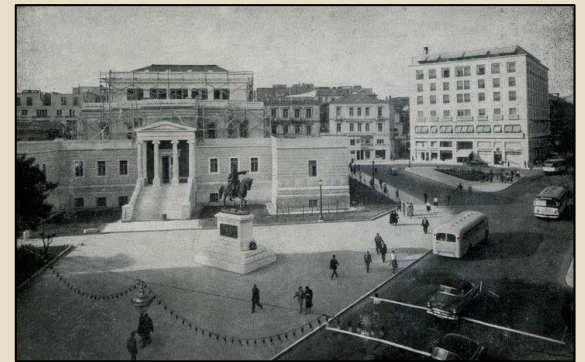
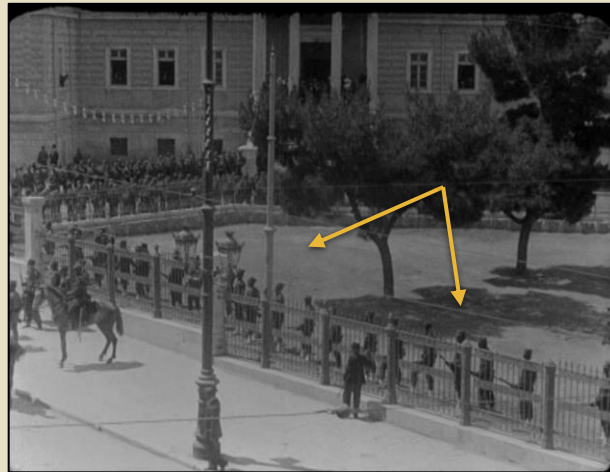
- Archives are **witnesses** to the past, providing **evidence**, **explanation** and **justification** for activities, actions and decisions (ICA, why-archiving)
- Visual documentation tells us a story beyond the moment - it illuminates the **place**, the **time**, the **trends** and the **spirit of the age** (SPP, Conference 2023)



1, 2



3



4, 5



Shoe-shiner



Street vendor



Photographer



Feather dusting vendor



Future prospects

Digital Humanities

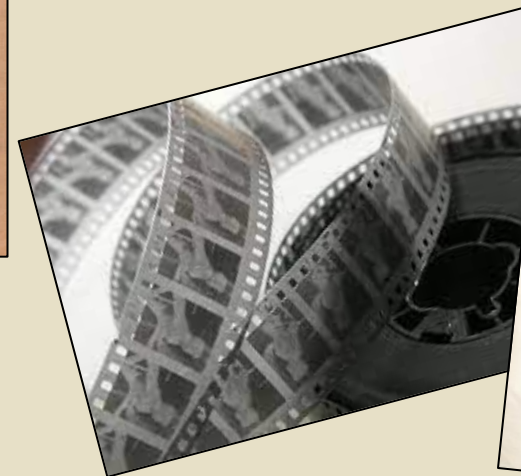
- **Semantic** annotation and analysis of content
- **Correlation** through a multitude of information of a high degree of heterogeneity

Techniques:

Video captioning/Summarization

(e.g. identification of demonstration, march, venue based on landscape analysis/recognition of iconic buildings, etc.).

- Machine Learning and Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
- Text summarization
- Layout Analysis (e.g images, articles, titles, captions, logos, etc.).
- Sentiment analysis





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Dr Maria Kamilaki m.kamilaki@parliament.gr

Antzela Karapanou ant.karapanou@parliament.gr