Language archives and linguistic justice: a gap in archival theory

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- https://www.cdeli.org/

- "Le Centre a pour but la recherche, la conservation, le classement et l'étude des livres, brochures, journaux et autres documents imprimés ou manuscrits se rapportant à toute langue internationale."

Linguistic archives?

- **Interlinguistics**:

    1. Study of the optimalization of international linguistic communication (language planning & policy)

    2. Study of planned languages in theory and practice

- **Planned languages**: consciously created to facilitate international communication

- **Esperantology**: philology (linguistics & literature) of Esperanto language

    Blanke, Detlev. 'The Essential Scholarly Literature in Interlinguistics and Esperantology'. 2015.

Linguistic Archives or Language Community Archives?

General International Standard Archival Description (2000)

ICA

Fonds

"The whole of the records, regardless of form or medium, <u>organically</u> created and/or accumulated and used by a particular person, family, or corporate body in the course of that creator's activities and functions."

Collection

"An <u>artificial</u> assemblage of documents accumulated on the basis of some common characteristic without regard to the provenance of those documents. Not to be confused with an archival fonds."

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Archives as natural organisms?

- "Een <u>archief</u> is een organisch geheel, een levend organisme, dat volgens vaste regelen groeit, zich vormt en vervormt." (Muller, Feith & Fruin, 1898)

- "An <u>archival collection</u> is an organic whole, a living organism, which grows, takes shape , and undergoes changes in accordance with fixed rules." (Translated by A. Leavitt, 1940)

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General International Standard Archival Description (2000)

Creator

- "The corporate body, <u>family</u> or person that created, accumulated and/or maintained records in the conduct of personal or corporate activity. Not to be confused with collector."

Producteur d'archives

- « Individu, <u>famille</u> ou personne morale qui a créé ou reçu et/ou conservé des archives dans le cadre de ses activités personnelles ou morales. Ne pas confondre avec le collectionneur. »

HANDLEITING

VOOR HET

ORDENEN EN BESCHRIJVEN VAN ARCHIEVEN

ONTWORPEN IN OPDRACHT VAN DE
VEREENIGING VAN ARCHIVARISSEN IN NEDERLAND

DOOR

MRS. S MULLER Fz., J. A. FEITH en
R. FRUIN TH.Az.

MAATSCH.
NEDERL. LETTERK.
LEIDEN.

GRONINGEN.

Are families creators?

"Family archives are generally a conglomeration of papers and documents. [..] The documents in a family archival collection do not form 'a whole'; very often they have been gathered together in the strangest manner and lack the organic bond of an archival collection in the sense attached to it in this manual. The rules for ordinary archival collections, therefore, cannot be applied to family archives."

(Muller, Feith & Fruin, 1898. Translated by A. Leavitt, 1940)

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Dictionary of Archival Terminology (ICA, 1988)

Fonds

- "The total body of records/archives accumulated by a particular individual, institution or organization…"

- « Ensemble de documents d'archives de toute nature réunis par une personne physique ou morale ou une institution… »

Provenance

- "The agency, institution, organisation or individual that created, accumulated and maintained records/archives…"

- « Institution, administration, établissement, organisme ou personne privée qui a créé, accumulé et conservé des documents d'archives… »

Families?

Community Archives theory as a framework for Esperantist archives

Community: "a group who define themselves on the basis of locality, culture, faith, background, or other shared identity or interest."

- sexuality
- occupation
- ethnicity
- a combination of the above

Flinn, Andrew. 'Community Histories, Community Archives'. 2007.

Language community archives?

"Communities often define themselves in relationship to place and locality but also by other single or often multiple intersecting identities including ethnicity, sexuality, gender, faith, <u>language</u>, nationality, social class, disability, and occupation."

Flinn, Andrew. 'Community Archives'. In *Encyclopedia of Archival Science.* 2015

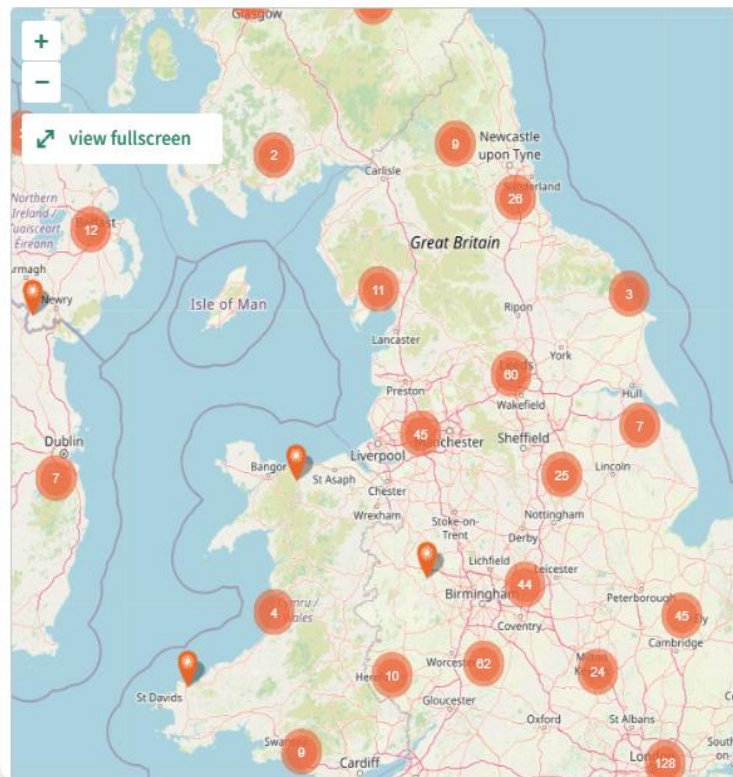# Archiving a diasporic language: The Yiddish Book Center

- Amherst, Massachussetts, United States

- www.yiddishbookcenter.org

But where are language archives?

- www.communityarchives.org.uk

- "Language is an important dimension that has yet to receive the attention it deserves in discussions concerning social justice and inclusion strategies employed in archives."

Ceja Alcalá, Janet. 'Documenting Housing Displacement and Gentrification in a Latino Community'. 2018.

Scholars A & B (2018)

"Significant new and linguistically nuanced archival terminology has been coined in <u>English, a richly expressive language</u>, as a result of the activities and theorization of community archives, but it is unclear how, if at all, such concepts and the words through which they are expressed might translate into other languages or to countries with very different archival experiences."

Scholars A & B (2018)

"Difficulties immediately arise when translating complex and socio-politically-contingent concepts from English into <u>Croatian, a linguistically less rich minority language</u>, but one where quite different professional concepts using similar terminology already exist. A direct translation of 'community archives' into Croatian would refer only to religious communities."

Scholars A & B (2018)

- English: "a richly expressive language"

- Croatian: "a linguistically less rich <u>minority</u> language"

- Spanish: ?

Richness or vagueness?

"Community" in Spanish

1. vecindario (neighborhood)

2. barrio (district)

3. pueblo, localidad (village, town)

4. población (population)

5. gente, sociedad (people, society)

6. colonia (colony, residential community)

7. colectivo (group, organization)

8. comunidad?

A word in search of definition?

- "The term 'community archives' has a growing popular and professional recognition in the UK, and for this reason we continue to use it."

- "'Community' is often a 'euphemism for Blacks and ethnic minorities'. Others have cautioned against over-reliance in both policy and research on such a poorly defined concept."

- "The language of 'community archives' imposes this term upon us."

  Flinn et al. 'Independent Community Archives, Autonomy and the Mainstream'. 2009.

International English:
The one-size-fits-all approach

Research in the
Archival Multiverse

Edited by Anne J Gilliland, Sue McKemmish and Andrew J Lau

"The dominance of one language or one culture's editorial practices can also shape published research into the epistemo-logical structures and semantics that tend to accompany that language."

Gilliland et al. (2016)

Reasons for archival glossophobia

1. Increasing monolingualism of academic exchange

2. Monoglot culture in Anglophone countries

3. Avoidance of terminological insecurity

4. Silence on power relations <u>within</u> the community

5. Belief in the superiority of English

Tove Skutnabb-Kangas: Linguicism

"Ideologies and structures which are used to legitimate, effectuate and reproduce an unequal division of power and resources (both material and non-material) between groups which are defined on the basis of language."

'Multilingualism and the Education of Minority Children'. 1988.

Social justice

- "Ideal vision that every human being is of equal and incalculable value, entitled to shared standards of freedom, equality, and respect."

- "These standards also apply to broader social aggregations such as <u>communities</u> and cultural groups."

Duff et al. 'Social Justice Impact of Archives: A Preliminary Investigation.' 2013.

"It specifically draws attention to inequalities of power and how they manifest in institutional arrangements and systemic inequities that further the interests of some groups at the expense of others in the <u>distribution of material goods</u>, social benefits, rights, protections, and opportunities."

Duff et al. (ibid.)

Social justice

International English: A linguistic division of labor?

Research in the
Archival Multiverse

Edited by Anne J Gilliland, Sue McKemmish and Andrew J Lau

"The pressure for academics to publish in English and in international journals can also result in <u>ruptures of what we maintain should be an organic relationship between the academic field and professional practice</u>, where the professional field increasingly does not read the same literature, attend the same conferences and institutes, or even work or publish in the same languages."

Gilliland et al. (2016)

From social justice to cultural justice

- **Cultural domination**: "being subjected to patterns of interpretation and communication that are associated with another culture and are alien and/or hostile to one's own."

- **Nonrecognition**: "being rendered invisible via the authoritative representational, communicative, and interpretative practices of one's culture."

- **Disrespect**: "being routinely maligned or disparaged in stereotypic public cultural representations and/or in everyday life interactions."

Long et al. 'Popular Music, Community Archives and Public History Online'. 2018.

Symbolic annihilation

- Concept developed by feminist media scholars in the 70´s

- "The ways in which members of marginalized communities are absent, underrepresented or misrepresented in mainstream media and archives."

  Caswell et al. 'Community Archives and the Importance of Representation'. 2017.

From social justice to cultural justice

- https://homeofmetal.com
- Fan archives as imagined, virtual communities of interest.
- "An aspect of social justice that recognises the cultural fabric of a community of interest."

Long et al. (ibid.)

...for alternative futures

Community archives: alternative pasts...

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Dankon pro via atento!