

Archive across time: a comparison study between the analog and the digital archive

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A variety of researches have examined the central position of the archive and its contribution to both the scholarly field and the impacts on the democratic society. This thesis focuses on the digitalization process of the Israeli State Archive artifacts, which denotes the transition from analog formats to the digital form of records.

The main purpose of this thesis is to gauge and compare the effects of digitalization on the archive's users, as part of the Open Data (OP) research, the investigation will regard impacts such as the users' access, diversity, and information seeking behavior.

The methodology will include an across time comparison between two databases, that represent the archive users in the digital era, and in the analog archive period, which will include methods of statistical analysis for categorical data, TF-IDF and unsupervised topic model.

The initial findings show that there are significant changes in the users' utilization, include the users' access, the stakeholders' identity (diversity), and the patterns on information seeking behavior.

The contribution of this study is: (a) regarding and examining the digital archive under Open Data research umbrella; (b) comparing empirically between the traditional and the digital archive; (c) Applying an across time method to measure the Open Data effects; (d) Applying a data-driven method in order to gauge the digitalization process.