

On Human Remains: Excavating the Home Archive

Dave Kirk *
Microsoft Research Cambridge
dakirk@microsoft.com

* With Abi Sellen, Shahram Izadi, Stuart Taylor, Richard Banks, Alex Butler

Photo technologies and Interspaces Seminar
Lancaster University
25/04/2008

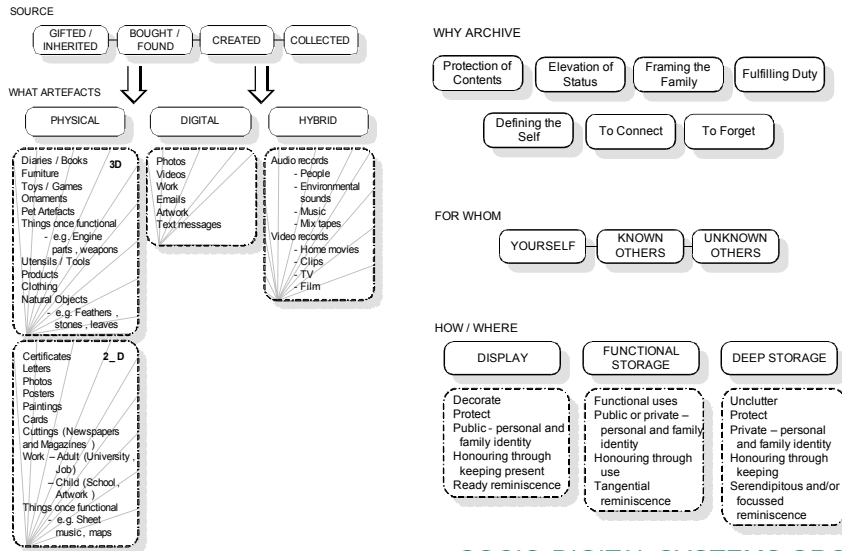
SOCIO-DIGITAL SYSTEMS GROUP

Home Archives

- An interest in *objects* – memorabilia, mementoes, knick-knacks, sentimental artefacts etc.
 - But also interested in how these relate to and are combined with the digital resources we currently also use
- Based on prior work with ‘home-mode’ photos and videos
- Exploring how these things are archived in the home
 - But what does it mean to archive?
 - What kind of stuff do people keep?
 - How does stuff get into the home?
 - Where is it kept?
 - Who is responsible?
 - ...and importantly, why are things kept?
- Fieldwork to explore this – guided tours, box diving, and situated interviews with 11 families of varying construction

SOCIO-DIGITAL SYSTEMS GROUP

The Details of Archiving



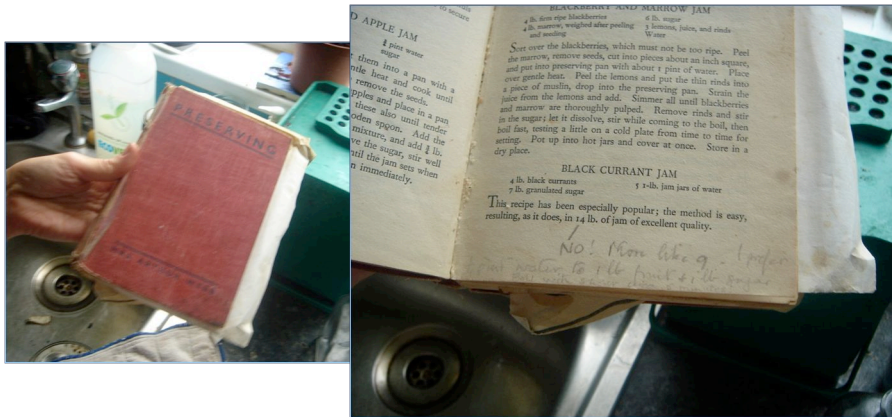
SOCIO-DIGITAL SYSTEMS GROUP

From a previous life...



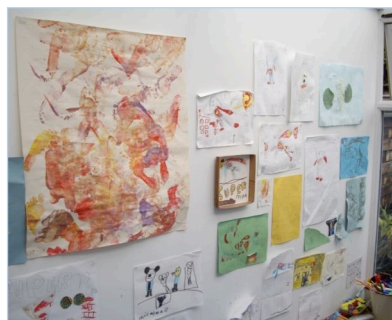
SOCIO-DIGITAL SYSTEMS GROUP

When making jam...



SOCIO-DIGITAL SYSTEMS GROUP

She draws too...



SOCIO-DIGITAL SYSTEMS GROUP

Some brief closing thoughts

- Obviously physical artefacts are important for making connections between people, times and places
- The way these things are stored / arranged reflects the relationship we have with them
 - Displayed
 - Functionally stored
 - Deep storage
- Within the family different people have different relationships with the same objects and the nature of these objects can and probably will change over time
 - Negotiated placing / access
 - Familia-topography
- Should this impact the design of digital 'memorial artefacts' and are there strengths to digital storage which can be appropriated in the physical – can/should the digital replace the physical?