

What gets added/removed from the records after each transformation?

- decontextualisation
 - I would say that in terms of that book particularly, I mean what the way that record is kept is by date. So for 1st and 2nd and 3rd and fourth years would all register and matriculate into their year each year and they would each send the registry each year. So what you've got there is ability to see who was in class with each other, who are the peers, who was actually sitting next to who and any other like was a student in the 1930s? That kind of thing, and you don't necessarily easily manage to get that information when you're doing it through your database.
 - So by dealing with each individual and they abstracted information in the biographical register, you have lost the context. You've lost some contextualisation of the original record.
 - But some things like college minutes, or Senate minutes to show that people have got degrees or that they were bursars, all that kind of thing. So that's abstracted the information about the individual, about their research, or about their particular position, but you have all some of historical context about what that means.
 - If you go back to the original record of the college minutes, or the Senate minutes, you can read about what else was being discussed at the same time, and how many other students were also being mentioned for the same bursary or scholarship, whether there were a competition, and whether the person that you are actually checking because they had a bursary, whether they had had to write an essay or take an exam, or whether they were the son of some professor, and therefore got a bursary or some privilege, you know, so you're losing, you're losing a sense of the thing going on. (H2)
 - So I guess what gets removed is the sort of a particular context to sort of particular material really, the form changes somewhat, you may lose some of the original data, so perhaps if you're using the database you don't have a good sense of what Bob Smart did a particular piece of work that maybe not be evident to you.
 - Drilling meaning over time essentially loss of meaning if kind of atomic the data is different ways and meanings. (H4)
 - I guess the context sort of disappears a bit as you go through the transformations. You know when you look at this beautiful page with whatever lovely letters is going on there, very nice slightly florid pen-like it has a personality that is missing from this lovely kind of form. (H4)
 - And there's a sort of decontextualisation that happens, as things get digitised. But of course having the photos online of what those other nice old books like helps with this understanding. That too. (H2)
- content change
 - In terms of what gets added, I guess it's a sort of a layering of functionalities, possibilities and a possibility of changing content and changing kinds of use and new access points. That's it. (H4)
 - The alphabetisation I think was quite important and the efforts to link together different materials and link together new sources, because I think one of the issues is that the early transcriptions are, you know, so you can use them to say what I want to look, as for example I do remember doing, as in the 1970s, whether there were particular sort of spikes in number of people matriculating and there are and you could use it and you can also use it in various points, you can use the negative impact of the flu pandemic and 1918 and 1919. You can see that in the matriculation records. You can also see the impact of plague in the 16th century in the matriculation records. So I was able to do that with your the matriculation and published versions, that you don't really have any context, you just have a name and it's up to you to do the sort of stitching together. So this is a massive step forward in that it tells you with this person goes on to do this and I think that's amazing. (H2)
 - Same, I mean the visualisation lets you be more curious, which I think is the best bit of it right? (H2) and I guess it brings back some of that context. It's like you think actually there's something about looking at maps that makes you feel more connected because they are legible and reliable in a way that like seeing that someone's from Liverpool doesn't have the same feeling of remoteness, that's taking it on a map, does. So you get back some of that especially when you can follow people around afterwards, you get a little bit of their story and in some ways that's a pity that that like you couldn't get from back. You do still miss the beautiful calligraphy. (H4)
- loss of human aspect
 - It removes the human aspect (H4)
 - That like information gets added and personality gets removed. (H4)
 - That like information gets added and personality gets removed.
- added information
 - So like in the later data more you know that there's a lot of data enrichment there, which is exciting and interesting. You can see more, more things going on. (H4)
 - All right, let's go forward a bit. With these ones [point], you've got the names and subjects and date, and then they're their career and their bits of life history. (H4)
- accessibility research patterns
 - Getting all that original information and everything else. Yeah, and digitisation kind of makes it more accessible doesn't it? (H4)
 - So manual transcription the stage we're essentially get is hopefully getting into a form where it's kind of readable, the publishers I, doesn't feel like it changes it. So what you're actually get is something, it goes from being one document held in the archive. As this stage [transcription] you've got it. OK, you've got something that can be distributed publicly where it can be consulted without damage to the original materials and where it's just much easier to read, it's much more approachable. So that is a massive, massive step forward.
 - the moment you publish that, for example, this precise book [all 13 transcriptions], I was able to use in some of my doctoral research, I don't know where for sometimes, think things up. Which is really helpful. So that I think it's got an index at the back, haven't I? So you can look people up and it's, yeah, that's that's a big, big step forward and I think the moment you've made that step, you've got a resource that will be useful by scholars and that was probably the most important step.
 - So I think this is a really important and useful stuff. I think the resource that you've got here will probably be of great use for genealogists, scholars that want to find things up quickly. Absolutely. But there's a possibility of going wrong. Digitisation quite new research with records, yeah, absolutely. I think the ability to get the data out quickly and doing that manual analysis, which you had to do to do to do that quickly because it would have taken like years to like go through and sort it from the physical records, I think that was a massive step forward and enabling you to see patterns and relationships.
 - But I think if you do, you've got an amazing resource which I think again, particularly as a lot of family history people want to search things without necessarily being led and things like that. I think you might not be able to share this data with a group who probably aren't actually going and looking at the earlier published/abstracted records. (H2)
 - I guess the ability to access the data sort of gets added in a way with some of those, right, they become more accessible, more queryable. (H4)
 - I guess what gets added is accessibility and availability for each transformation, it's much easier to work with the database than with manually transcribed records, even if they're very elegantly transcribed. (H2)
 - And then I think there are advantages to having things in digital form because they can be searched more gradually and it's easier to build connections to other information. (H2)
 - I think the part of my answers in terms of added is what I said previously, you're adding possibility, readability, just availability of the data because in this form [original records] if you are finding a certain Person you would have to manually search for them in the right year range, and even then even then it's not very available. You struggle to identify writing. (H4)
 - you gain an awful lot, like I say, in terms of you, you're adding structure and potential for different organisations and views on the data. So from like an accountants perspective, like it's continuous improvement. (H2)
- loss sense of later
 - So I guess what gets removed is the sort of a particular context to sort of particular material really, the form changes somewhat, you may lose some of the original data, so perhaps if you're using the database you don't have a good sense of what Bob Smart did a particular piece of work that maybe not be evident to you.
 - Yeah, I'm just saying. So I think potentially what gets taken away is the peak, the, the, the role of the Librarian, so a database drawing of Bob Smart's work may not be immediately obvious that as Bob Smart work in the way that it would be if you were holding into Smart's volume in your hand. (H4)
- introducing errors
 - And I think it's very, very important to recognise that that is the thing that is most essential. That's on what everything is based and that is the thing that we have to go back and check because we've got to make it's possible that at every stage we've added additional errors. That's the possibility.
 - I think it is quite possible that this is the point where a lot of errors might potentially be introduced, even though I can't just say when was an amazing scholar and a paleographer on a scale that I will never see. But there is some in the process for the introduction of a lot of errors, and assumptions, as this goes. (H2)
 - And then I think there's always a possibility when you go from one format to the next that I suppose it's like record is gonna be misread and some information might be left out accidentally. (H2)
- protecting the original
 - And I think it's very, very important to recognise that that is the thing that is most essential. That's on what everything is based and that is the thing that we have to go back and check because we've got to make it's possible that at every stage we've added additional errors. That's the possibility. (H2)
- loss sense of completeness
 - I think the database here is that it looks definitive. But I suspect certainly not as Small himself apparently said to you. There was a lot of judgement calls that had to be made. (H2)
 - And then there's also like, I don't know, I mean, because there are physical artifacts that message about the data representing women's presence in academia, it's very easy to think that when you lose a nice, neat database that you have all of the data and that there aren't things missing and that when you're presented with this, it's as if it is. But having that book and being able to see that there are two separate books and that there are holes in the information or differences in the way it was recorded gives you more of a feel for just what was left out and what might not be accurate and what might be like, you know, the more human aspects of the data. So I think that's lost in the transcription. (H2)
- didn't pay enough attention
 - I should know that can I even and looked at all the screenshots but I probably don't know. If you mean actual pieces of data, I don't know. I wasn't paying enough attention. (H2)
- physicality
 - But at the same time, it's removed from that original kind of like physicality that it had that I think brings you back to like, that emphasises how many years ago, something was in a sense that, like, actually, some encoding in the way they by hand and the signing their name by hand. (H2)
 - but there is, you know, you're looking at history and you're looking at something which is a piece of the handwritten evidence. And so there's the qualitative aspects of the like the records themselves, like the physical books. (H2)
- not much lost
 - I don't think much is lost at this point. I don't know. I guess there are gaps. So I don't think much was lost at this point because I think dates of birth ones are all the way to the end. But I think there was something.
 - So yeah, nothing's really been lost that's relevant to the to the general story of the visualisation. (H4)
 - So elegantly, like mathematically very little gets taken away. (H2)
- authority added
 - And it's brilliant that that reference material is there in all of these sources because it does show it that it's authoritative, that it, that there is general for the places that you might get and that this is to add in to make sure that if you wanted to go, you could do more research yourself. You could get into the university and say can I just do a look at USACAB because I'm really interested in seeing what the college said about this woman Gertrude van Peltius you know. (H2)