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Institutional Anniversaries: Using the archive to connect the past with the present

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Sarah Wickham
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2017 finds us in an age of intense historical myopia. Breathless news cycles and furious outrage are shrinking our horizons just as they need to widen. Public debate barely remembers the world of last year, “old news”, let alone that of a decade or few ago.... As technology and globalisation bring the world closer together, we have narrowed rather than broadened our perspective. History’s expertise, and most dangerously its perspective, are being lost in our inability to look beyond the here and now.

Christopher Kissane
The Guardian 12th Aug 2017
Anniversaries ‘bring events into focus... draw[ing] on past experiences to do so’

Ludmilla Jordanova “Marking Time”
In Hoock (ed.)
History, Commemoration and National Pre-occupation: Trafalgar 1805 (2005)
Collaboration between history-making “experts” (academic historians, archivists and curators, for example) and community members or other stakeholders is a prominent feature of public history activity. It sits at the heart of debates about authority, professionalism, and ownership of the past, in a space shared and contested by professional practitioners, commercial interests, and the public.

Victoria Hoyle
Editorial, *Archives & Records*  
Vol.38 no.1 (Spring 2017)
Interactive art Nov 2016 and family animation July 2017
© Heritage Quay
ARCHIVAL INTERVENTIONS

Second year Textile Practice Students were given samples from the Heritage Quay Archive and responded with artworks from their own collections of recent work.

They investigated the ways in which their own work could make connections, whether relating to colour, texture, material, construction, design, history, personal narrative, metaphor, politics, geography or emotion.
Representation of Terry Cook’s phases of the archival paradigm and transformation of the archivist over the last 150 years  *Archival Science* (2013) 13:95-120
Affect is that which historian Arlette Farge elegantly describes as a tremor of experience prompted in the encounter with “the surplus of life that floods the archive”; it is that “excess of meaning” that provokes users in an intense and unconscious manner in the face of beauty and amazement… [Affect] involves the corporeal and imaginative realm, both rational and passionate dispositions, and is located between the agency of the researcher and a receptiveness to being acted upon.

FINE ART AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

For six months the new Queen Street South building (the Ramsden Building) housed a Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition, opened on 7 July 1883 by the Duke of Somerset. The exhibition was guaranteed by contributions from local businessmen and the total receipts exceeded £13,000. 329,639 people visited the Exhibition, among them the Duke and Duchess of Albany. (The Duke was the fourth son of Queen Victoria.) Commemorative pottery and medals were made as this major exhibition launched the new era in the development of the Mechanics’ Institution. Jackson and Fitton displayed samples of teas, coffees and spices from all over the world; valuable specimens of Satsuma ware, inlaid with gold; and a pair of colossal vases, which were for sale at the

Entry for the Mechanics’ Institute & Technical College 1883 Fine Art & Industrial exhibition in 175th anniversary timeline –
https://www.hud.ac.uk/non-cms/175-Years/timeline/timeline.html
In 2016 our institution celebrated a very special anniversary. We marked 175 years since an educational institute was set up in Huddersfield to educate local working people. In 1841, it was known as a Young Men’s Moral Improvement Society and had about 400 students. Since then we’ve grown into a university with over 23,000 students. On these pages you can explore a timeline of our history, find out more about the university estate, and see where our alumni’s ambitions have taken them.

175th anniversary website
Anniversary launch exhibition
Entry for the Female Educational Institute in 175th anniversary timeline –
https://www.hud.ac.uk/non-cms/175-Years/timeline/timeline.html
Entry for the Penny Savings Bank in 175th anniversary timeline –
https://www.hud.ac.uk/non-cms/175-Years/timeline/timeline.html

The University’s School of Business building is now called the Sir Charles Sikes building.
A variety of events
A variety of events and other activities
See the blog by PhD student Eve Hartley http://hud.ac/dzv
Huddersfield taken from local landmark Castle Hill (Iron Age hillfort) – the University’s campus just above the trees to the right of the picture
2016 marked the 125th Anniversary of the Young Men’s Mental Improvement Society, a predecessor institution of the University. During the year we began a process of renaming many of our buildings, moving away from the largely descriptive former names and introducing names of important figures connected to areas of the University’s work. Find out more here about the first buildings to be renamed.

Renaming buildings project
Renaming buildings project
Archival labour – “more product less process” principles applied to the institutional archives

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/19958/1/Huddersfield_ISDF_Poster.pdf
“Daunting, if not impossible, including preserving and protecting any aspect of the documentary heritage that is endangered; acquiring a systematic documentation of particular aspects of society; serving diverse constituencies with very different objectives; meeting the institutional needs of the creators of records; providing a cultural or public memory role; safeguarding records as both artifacts and information systems; endorsing a legitimizing for certain segments of society; ensuring the accountability of public officials, civic and corporate leaders; managing records of all media; and serving as a repository of last resort for records that have been stranded by their creators”

Richard Cox in Archival Appraisal Alchemy