

## M39. Facilitating Urban History – Archives in the Digital Transformation

How should the future archive sector support the research-based urban history? Archives worldwide are undergoing a digital transformation, both in terms of collecting, preserving and making their collections available. The transformation is both induced by the digitization of information formation in general, but is also due to an extensive retro-digitization of analogue materials. Preference is often given to genealogical sources – church records, census, military records etc. Even though this material may have urban history relevance, it has only marginal importance in most urban history research contexts.

The purpose of this session is to generate a general discussion on how the archives – in particular the national archives and city archives – adapt to the kind of digital research infrastructure that urban history needs in the future and how to create links between research questions and digitization priorities. The session will be based on presentations of concrete cases.

Potential themes that will fit the aim of this the session could include:

Specific digitization projects that have sought to store and make available large amounts of digital data in archives in dialogue with urban historians; projects that have organized archive registration systems following the needs and standards suitable to urban history research; archives that have made urban history data available as part of open data or linked open data schemes; attempts of combining digital archives with digital humanities and for instance semantic and quantitative analysis tools; outreach activities that have sought to engage a broader audience in the digitization of urban history archive material.

**Keywords:** archives, crowdsourcing, digitization, open data, research infrastructure

**Period:** General

**Type:** Main session

**Session organisers:** Søren Bitsch Christensen, Aarhus City Archives, Denmark  
Mikkel Thelle, The Danish Centre for Urban History, Denmark

## Session Papers

### Opening the Registers: Digital Humanities and the Aberdeen Burgh Records

*Jackson Webster Armstrong; Andrew Mackillop; Andrew Simpson; Adam Wyner; Edda Frankot; Phil Astley*

*University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom; Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives*

### Helping Urban Historians Find Their Way. How the Scientific Collections of IRS Erkner curate knowledge

*Kai Drewes*

*IRS Erkner, Germany*

### Digitizing the life stories of Copenhageners. Collecting, digitizing, and transforming memoirs and registration forms in the Copenhagen City Archives

*Peter Wessel Hansen; Helga Mohr*

*Copenhagen City Archives, Denmark; Copenhagen City Archives, Denmark*

### Mapping City Councils' Deliberations for the Urban Development Research: Dubrovnik 1400-1450

*Ana Plosnić Škarić; Alessandra Ferrighi*

*Institute of Art History, Croatia; Università IUAV di Venezia, Italy*

### Digitizing the New York City Record: Creating Historical Big Data

*Jonathan Soffer*

*New York University Tandon School of Engineering, United States of America*

### Utilizing iron and steel archives to explore the urban history of the Victorian 'boom town'

*Tosh Warwick*

*Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom*