Protecting the Personal Narrative: Archival Practice in Personal Digital Archiving

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“Collecting may somehow extend from our desires to survive, connected to the hunting of other essential necessities for sustaining life.”

—Richard Cox, 2008
“As one becomes conscious of one’s self, one becomes a conscious collector of identity, projecting one’s being onto the objects one chooses to live with.”

–John Elsner & Roger Cardinal, 1994
Then

Photo courtesy of Flickr user whistlepunch
= PERSONAL NARRATIVE
Nature vs. Nurture
1. Snapshots
2. Post-custodial
3. Retired media
Strategies

4. Archive service
STRATEGIES

1. Snapshots

3. Retired media
= PERSONAL NARRATIVE
≠

PERSONAL NARRATIVE
PERSONAL
(+ARCHIVES)
NARRATIVE
VALUE

Incentive

Roles & Responsibilities
Incentive

Roles & Responsibilities
Value

Incentive

Roles & Responsibilities
VALUE

Incentive

Roles & Responsibilities
Nature
PRESERVATION equals PERSONAL NARRATIVE
VALUE

Incentive

Roles & Responsibilities
VALUE

Incentive

Roles & Responsibilities
VALUE

Incentive

Roles & Responsibilities
“At some point in the future the burden of too many assets, or undocumented assets, of half-cared for assets, or un-reformatted assets will have to be dealt with. And at that point the costs will be greater and the options will be fewer. That is not what we should be saving for the future.”

– Josh Ranger, 2013
what should we do?
What Next?
What Next?

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