Acquisition, Documentation and Representation: Archives and Museums as Repositories of Memories

This talk aims to serve as a general introduction to the epistemological links between archives and museums, as these heritage and cultural institutions engage with the concept of memory. Archives and museums are responsible for giving access to and shaping shared cultural heritage ranging from education to entertainment. Therefore, it is important to understand how these institutions converge physically and digitally. The synergy between the constructed and curated space throws its own sets of challenges.

Are the museums and archives in India sufficiently equipped to deal with the newly emergent approaches to access and preservation? If not, then what is the way forward? In today’s day and age where museums, archives and libraries around the world are going digital, it is highly implausible to restrict the institution’s mandate to being either object- or document-specific, because the potential users of these collections are multifarious. Both these institutions can complement and leverage each other in providing limitless opportunities in engagement and learning.

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