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Citation: McLeod, Julie and Lomas, Elizabeth (2013) Liquid record in a digital age. In: Liquidity - Practice Research Symposium 2013, 14th June 2013, London, UK.

URL:

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THE LIQUID RECORD IN A DIGITAL AGE



Prof Julie McLeod & Elizabeth Lomas
iSchool, Northumbria University

Overview

3

- What is a record?
- Qualities
- Digital records
 - splintered
 - liquid
- Implications



Overview

4

- What is a record?
- Qualities
- Digital records
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Graham Dolphin
Prototypes for

Graham Dolphin, Independent Artist
Image courtesy of the National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland

- What is a record?
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In the physical world records are assets with a fixed reality

5

- What is a record?
- Qualities
 - **Authenticity**
 - proven to be what it claims to be
 - proven to be created or sent by the person claiming 'authorship'
 - proven to have been created/and or sent at the time stated
 - **Integrity**
 - confirming it is a complete record that has not been altered
- Digital records
 - splintered
 - liquid
- Implications

What does a record require?

6

- What is a record?
- Qualities
 - **Reliability**
 - contents can be confirmed as dependable, full and accurate
 - **Usability**
 - it can be located, accessed, understood and utilised through time
- Digital records
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What does a record require?

7

- What is a record?
- Qualities
 - Reliability
 - contents can be confirmed as dependable, full and accurate
 - Usability
 - it can be located, accessed, understood and utilised **through time**
- Digital records
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What does a record require?

8

- What is a record?
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creator

date / time created

date / time sent

title

Metadata

data about data

signature

location


extent

seal

How do we achieve this?

9

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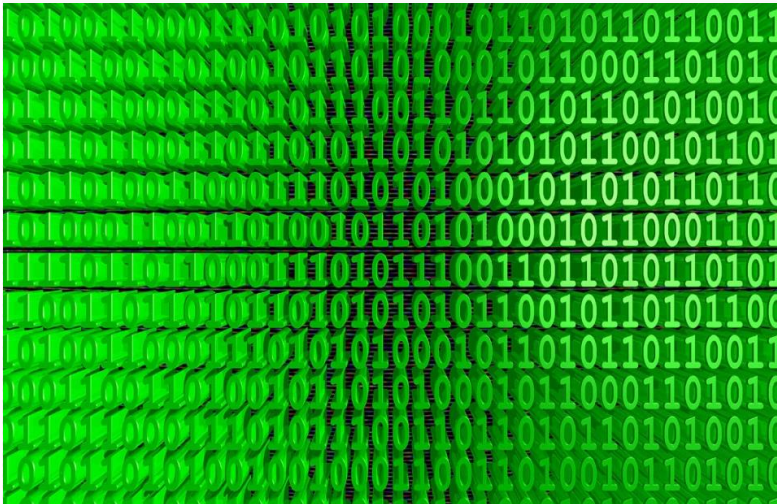


Metadata is embedded within or external to the record

Graham Dolphin, Independent Artist
Image courtesy of the National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland

10

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In the dynamic & fluid digital world ...

... do we know?

11


- What is a record?
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Assets without a fixed existence

12

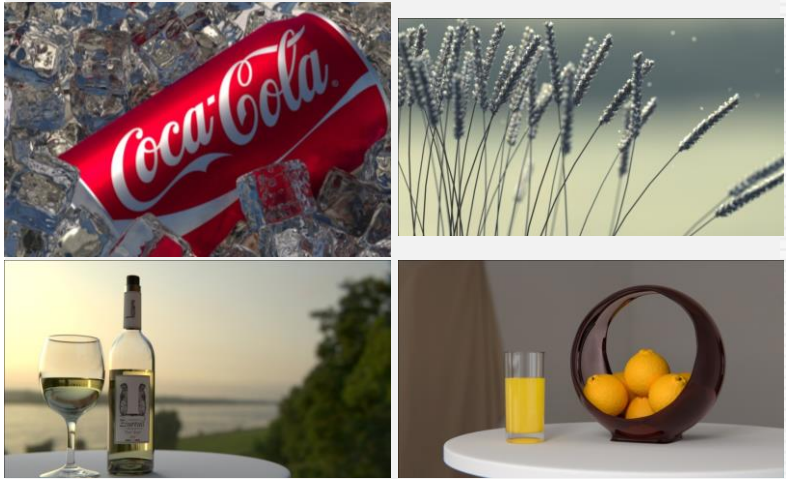
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Assets without a fixed existence

13

- What is a record?
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14

- What is a record?
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- Fragmented
- Become lost
- Inaccessible
- Unusable
- Not understood
- Unreal
- Valueless




Splintered assets

15

- What is a record?
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- Connected
- Identified & can be found
- Accessible
- Usable
- Understood
- Authentic
- Valued



Liquid assets

16

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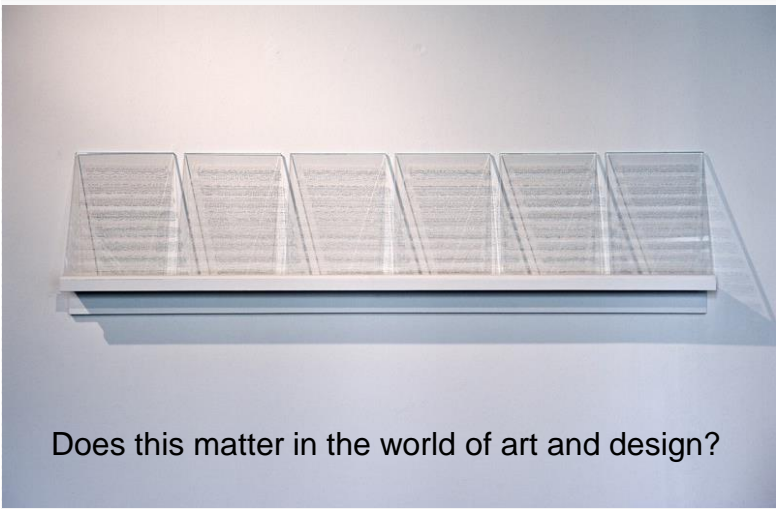
“The record, not the remix, is the anomaly today. The remix is the very nature of the digital.”
Keen (2007, p. 23-4)

- What is the record?
- Where is it?
- What do we want to retain & why?
- How do we manage?

Implications

17

- What is a record?
- Qualities
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Does this matter in the world of art and design?

Graham Dolphin, Independent Artist
Image courtesy of the National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland

18