



Archiving the Unarchivable – Das Unarchivierbare archivieren

International conference by the documenta archiv
in preparation for the future documenta Institut

Thursday, 22 November – Saturday, 24 November 2018
documenta Halle, Kassel

First Session: Archiving Memories

Friday, 23 November 2018, 12:15 – 13:00

Chris Edwards

Digitization: Current Practices to Future Prophecies

Within libraries, archives, and museums, the ability to provide content to our users in a manner that is customized to their needs has steadily increased. Technology has enabled our institutions to disseminate our holdings in ways that have been in some ways unforeseen and innovative, while others have been under realized. In this presentation, I will discuss the history and current state of digitization and also what lies over the next hill. I will draw out the rationale that the future of archival digitization lies in the combination of multiple modalities of capture, and innovation in the cultural heritage space exists at the intersection of collections imaging and conservation imaging. By combining technologies such as traditional capture, spectral imaging, 3D capture, and computer processes like computer vision and even artificial intelligence, we will be able to learn more about art works than ever possible before. These advances will enable our institutions to serve our communities in ever increasing ways and will meet the needs of our users as their demands for such technologies grow.



Christopher Edwards served as Head of Digital Services at the Getty Research Institute (GRI) from 2014 until 2017, where he guided the GRI's digitization department and all associated workflows and technologies. In 2017, he was appointed Imaging and Digital Media Architect at the J. Paul Getty Trust. By leading and managing the digital imaging departments at the Getty center, the Imaging and Digital Media Architect enables and facilitates a coherent and sustainable digitization program that provides strategic technical vision, tactical guidance, and support across all Getty Programs. Christopher Edwards is charged with enhancing the Getty's leadership role in the imaging/digital media space nationally and internationally while also supporting the valuable innovative work currently being undertaken in this arena by the Getty's Programs.