

Appraisal and Public Archives Group

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Outline

- Terminology
- Definition of Public Archives
- Appraisal Theory and Practices
- Bottom-up vs Top-down
- Summary
- Social Memory in Public Archives

Terminology

1. Records and Archives

- **Sweden, Norway and Belgium:** No distinction between records and archives.
- **Germany and England:** Clear distinction between records and archives.

2. Archives

- **Institutions**
- **Places where records are kept**
- **Collections of records**

Definition of Public Archives

- Funded by tax payers
- Under archival law(s)
- Freedom of Information Act

**Administrative and
democratic purposes**



Exceptions, for example...

- **England:**
 - Universities
- **Belgium:**
 - Cabinet records and Parliaments
- **Sweden and Norway:**
 - Parliament: Riksdagen and Stortinget
 - Governmental control agencies: Civil Ombudsman and Auditor General's Office

Appraisal Theory and Practices - Norway

- Combination of top-down and bottom-up
- Top-down for self-administration (primary value)
- Bottom-up for business activities (secondary value)
- Pragmatic approach
- Moving towards stricter and uniform rules



Appraisal Theory and Practices - Sweden

- The constitutional right to access public records, as well as the needs of the researchers, demand preservation.
- The Swedish strategy is one of preservation: destruction of any document must be justified and the strategy for preservation contain guidelines for destruction.



Appraisal Theory and Practices - Belgium



- Bottom-up approach
- Selection lists: content based
- New Flemish Archival Law

Appraisal Theory and Practices - England

- The National Archives of UK (TNA)

Combination of The Grigg System (Bottom-up) and a Macro-appraisal (top-down) with functional analysis

- Outside TNA

Appraisal approaches = diverse
Rely on intuitional / experience-based knowledge



Bottom-up vs Top-down

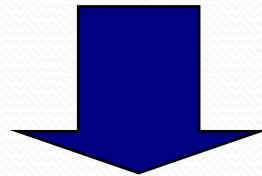
Teleological

	Pros	Cons
Top-down	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective: cost and time• Order and Overview• Suitable for large institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risky• Not suitable for small institutions
Bottom-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capture more details• Suitable for small institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time-consuming, costly• Difficult for digital Records

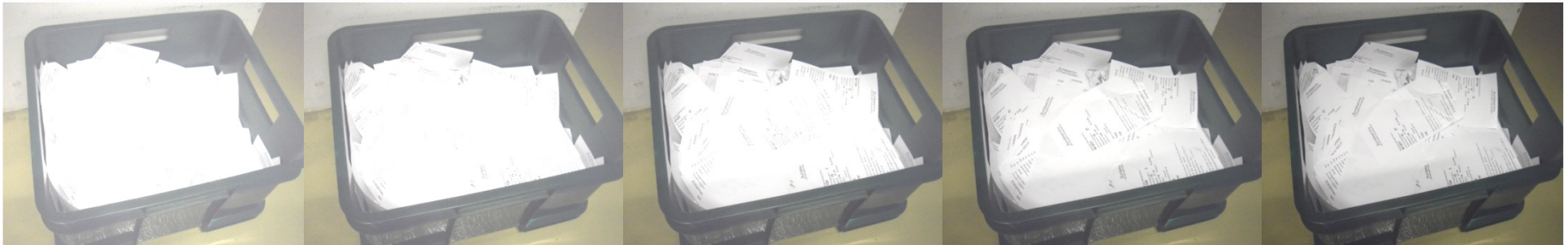
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Summary

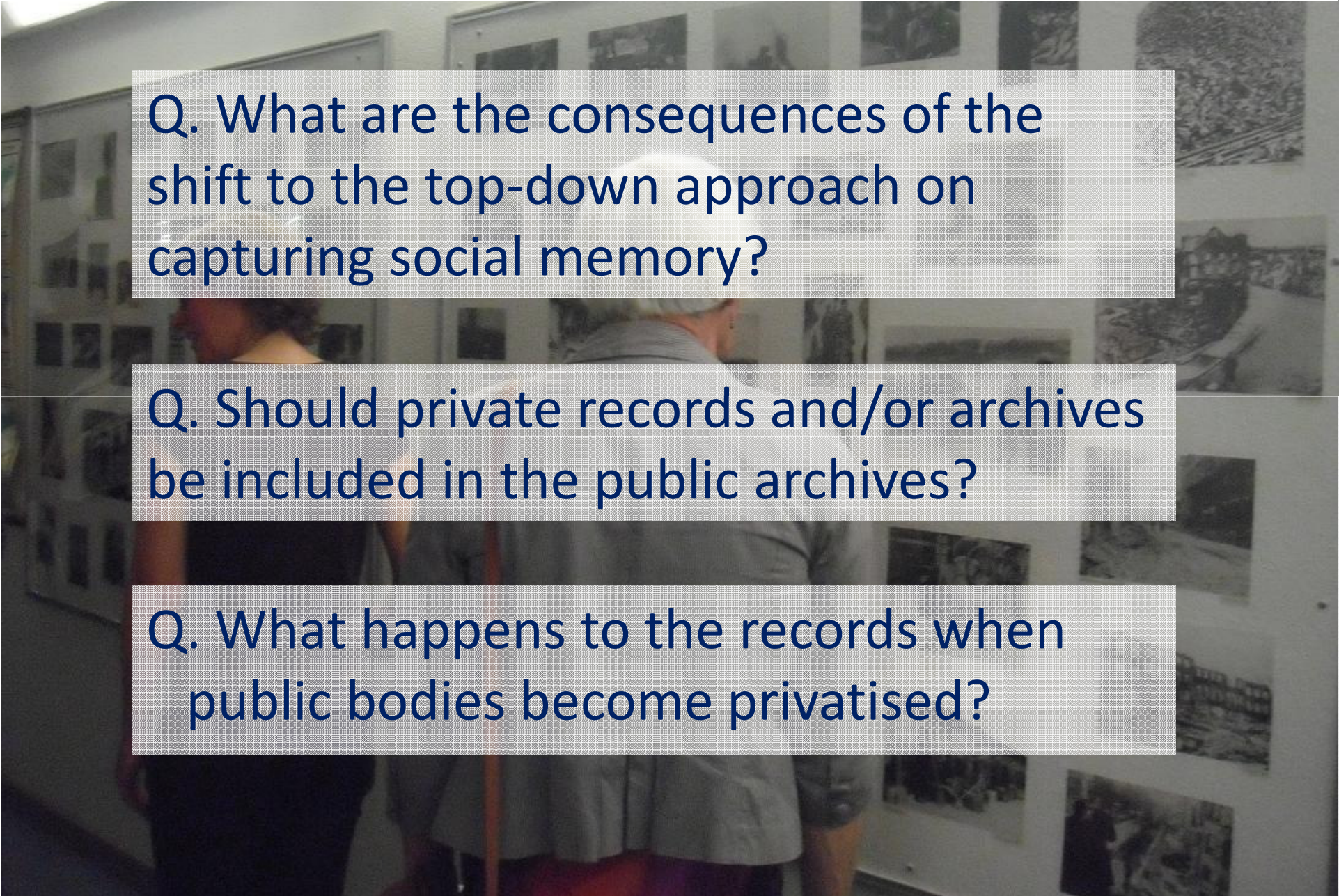
- Digital records
- Limited resources



Shifting from a **bottom-up** approach to
a **top-down** approach



Social Memory in Public Archives

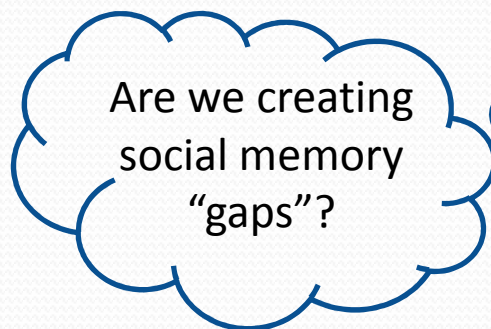


Q. What are the consequences of the shift to the top-down approach on capturing social memory?

Q. Should private records and/or archives be included in the public archives?

Q. What happens to the records when public bodies become privatised?

Social Memory in Public Archives



‘Representation’?



Presentation

Mikael, Halvor, Emi,
Proscovia and Lisa

Powerpoint

Emi, Proscovia and Lisa

Pictures

Emi and Lisa

Official Scribe

Mikael

Group leaders

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Thanks to Claire and Martine for the photographic contribution.