



# ARCHIDIS 2031

Back to the Future: The Role of the  
Archivist in Appraisal

University of the West Indies, Barbados

# Aims of the Presentation

- ▣ The 'good' old days – 2011
  - The Way We Were.
- ▣ Major Recordkeeping Crises 2011 – 2031.
- ▣ Where We Are Now (2031).
- ▣ Critical Questions.



# The 'good' old days: 2011

## Key Issues Affecting Our Role in Appraisal:

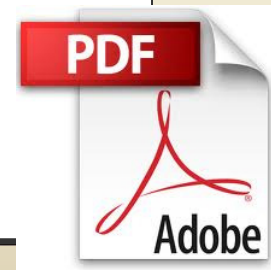
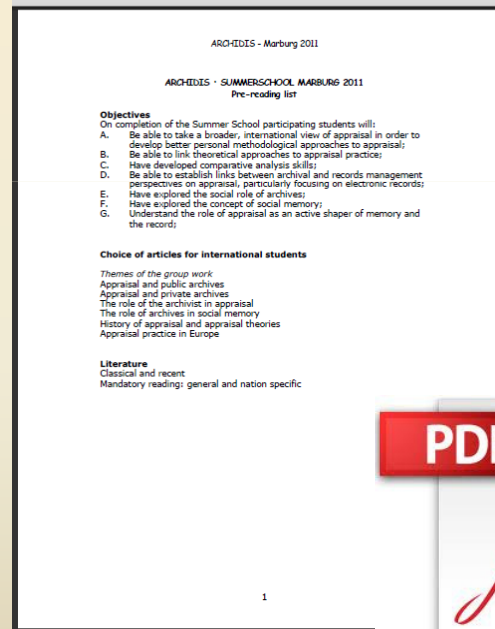
- ▣ Theory
- ▣ Regulatory Environment
- ▣ Technology
- ▣ Values
- ▣ Objectivity
- ▣ Accountability & Transparency
- ▣ Representation
- ▣ Political Power
- ▣ Social Memory
- ▣ Community Expectations
- ▣ Resources



# The 'good' old days: 2011

## The Way We Were

Hybrid Environment: transitioning from paper to digital:



# The 'good' old days: 2011

## The Way We Were

- ▣ Mainly a custodial role – discussion of a post-custodial model for digital records.
- ▣ Public & private spheres – emerging issues.
- ▣ Archivists requiring new skills.



# French Nuclear Disaster 2013



# French Nuclear Disaster 2013

- ▣ During 2000-2012 several inspection reports identified serious problems in recordkeeping at a nuclear power station.
- ▣ Several generations of electronic records systems/ paper-based records created a complex situation.
- ▣ **No appraisal** was undertaken – **everything** was kept.

**INFORMATION OVERLOAD!**



# French Nuclear Disaster 2013



Photo: Per Hammenvik



# 2016 – Facebook G+ Crash

- ▣ January 2016: Fatal server crash.
- ▣ Members lost photos, messages, status updates.
- ▣ Organisations lost contact with customers.



# 2016 – Facebook G+ crash



- ▣ A big hole in worldwide documentation of every-day social life.
- ▣ Irreparable personal loss.
- ▣ Economic loss for organisations & companies due to lost member & customer connections.



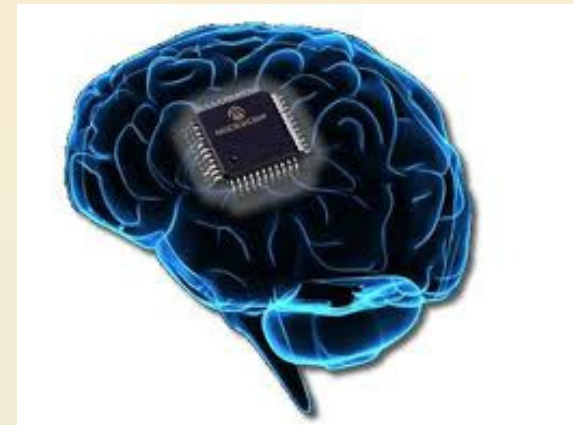
# 2016 – Facebook G+ crash

- ▣ Nothing was appraised – **everything destroyed.**
- ▣ An archivist in the organisation could have changed this by ***educating*** and ***reaching out:***
  1. Tools and standards for organisations.
  2. Making individuals aware of the importance of appraising their personal e-records (throughout the digital universe).



# Chipper<sup>®</sup>™: Social Media & Digital Archaeology

- ▣ Chipper<sup>®</sup>™: Chinese-made successor to Twitter.
- ▣ 2026 – The Swiss Revolution enacted via Chipper<sup>®</sup>™.

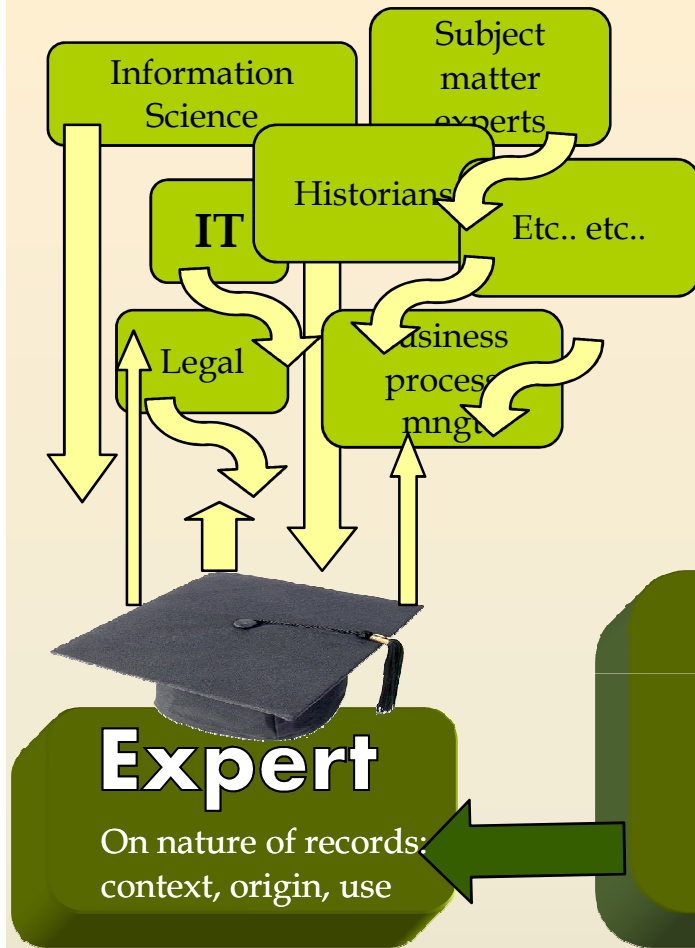


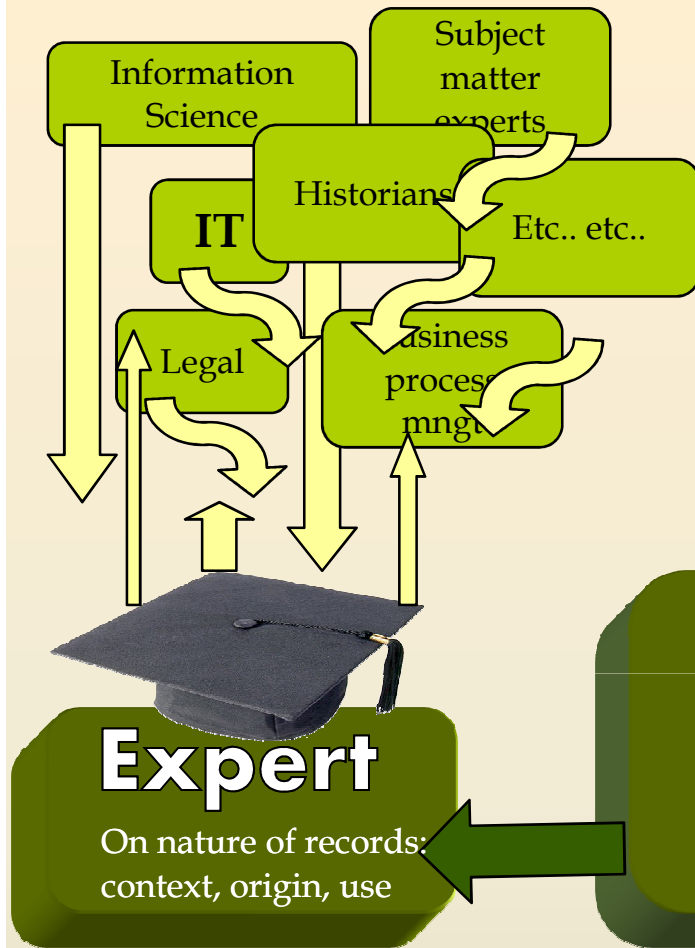
# Chipper<sup>®</sup>™: Social Media & Digital Archaeology



- ▣ Chipper<sup>®</sup>™ records collected by the Chinese National Archives (CNA) & transferred to secure storage servers.
- ▣ CNA appraisal policy in conflict with the Swiss users' values – **'valuable' records destroyed!**
- ▣ Archivists now working to **recover data through digital brain archaeology**: custody is pointless & our expertise is essential.







Role: **ADVOCACY**  
**EDUCATION**  
**ENSURING PRESERVATION**



# Society

Public Institutions

Government

Corporations

Small/mid-sized  
businesses

Communities

Pressure

groups

Families

Associations

Individuals

Role: **ADVOCACY**  
**EDUCATION**  
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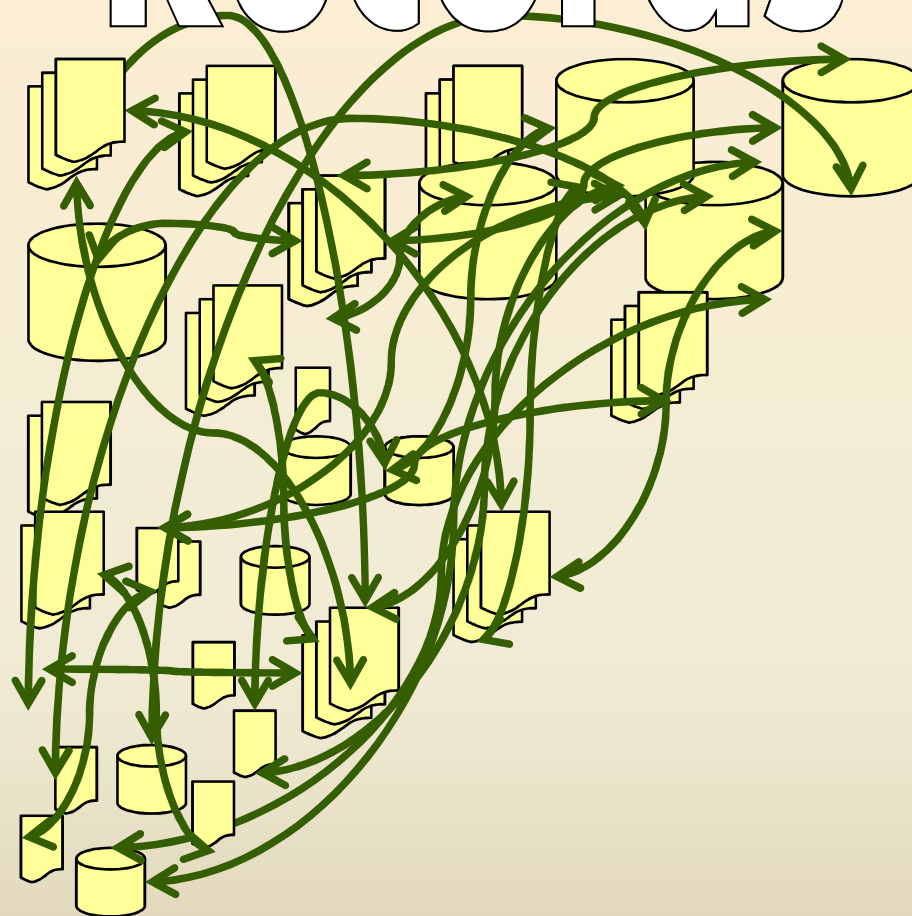


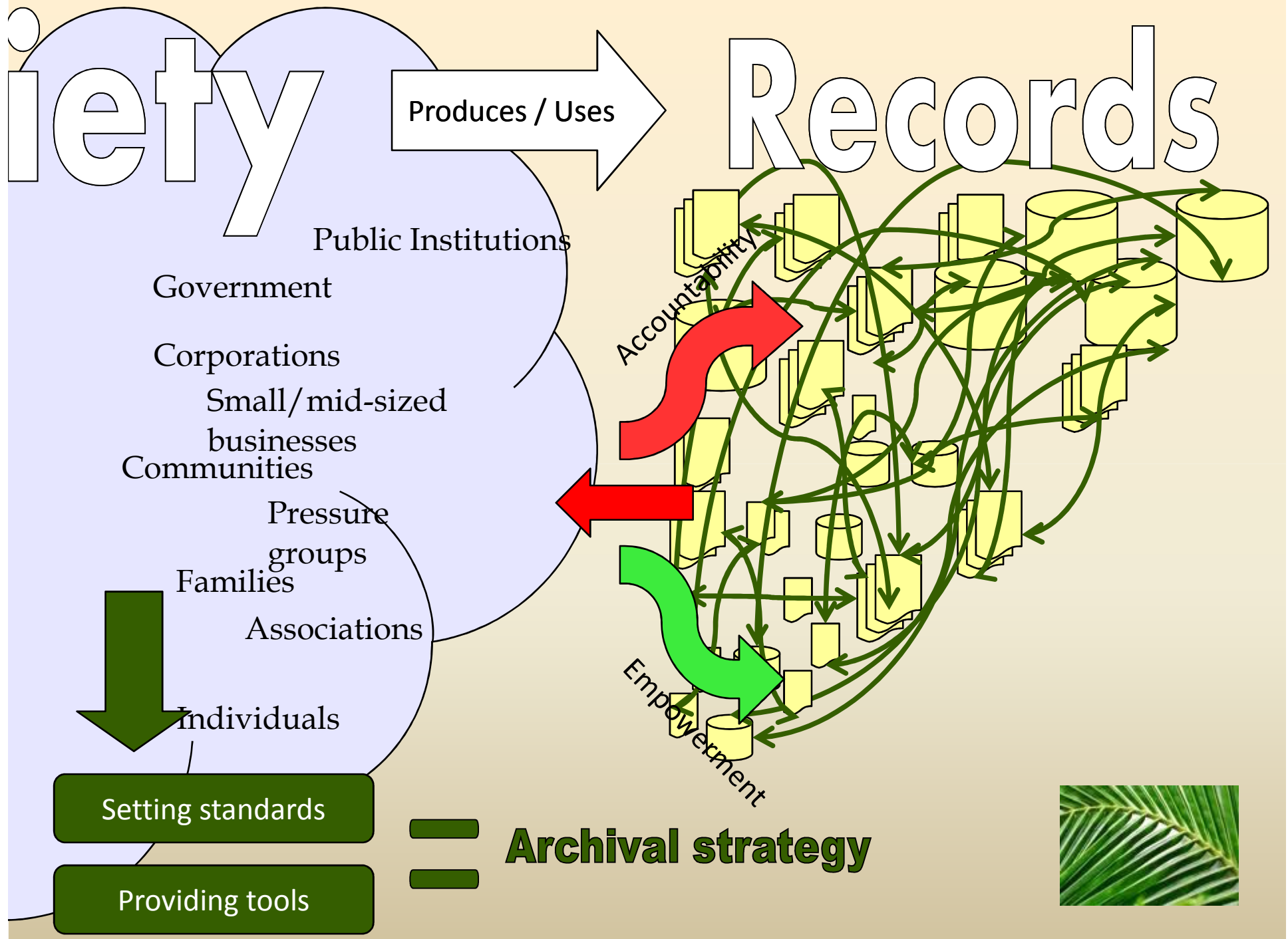
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Produces / Uses

# Records

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Corporations **appraise**

Small/mid-sized

businesses **appraise**

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Associations **appraise**

Individuals **appraise**

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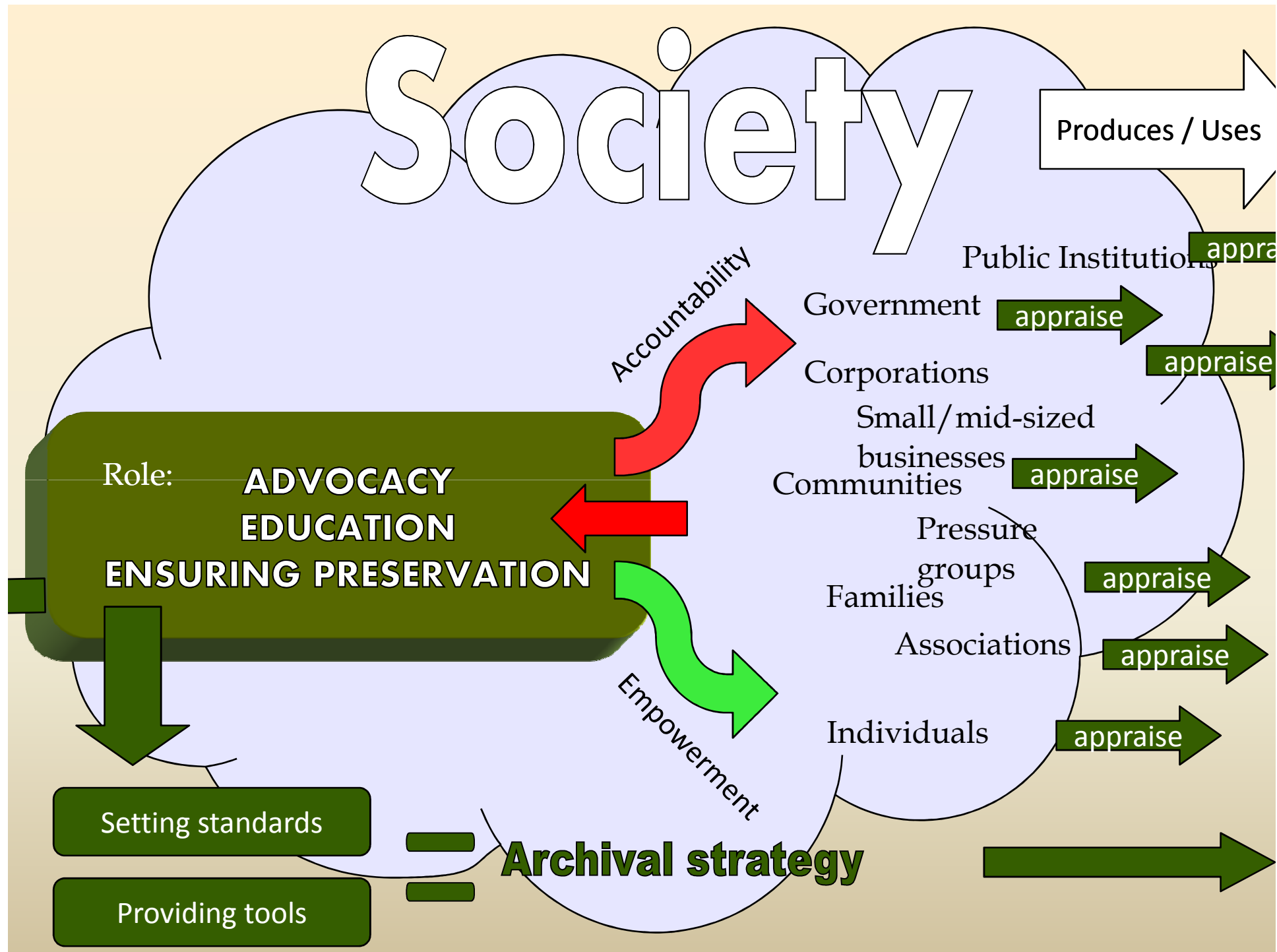
Accountability

Empowerment

Setting standards

Providing tools

**Archival strategy**



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appraise

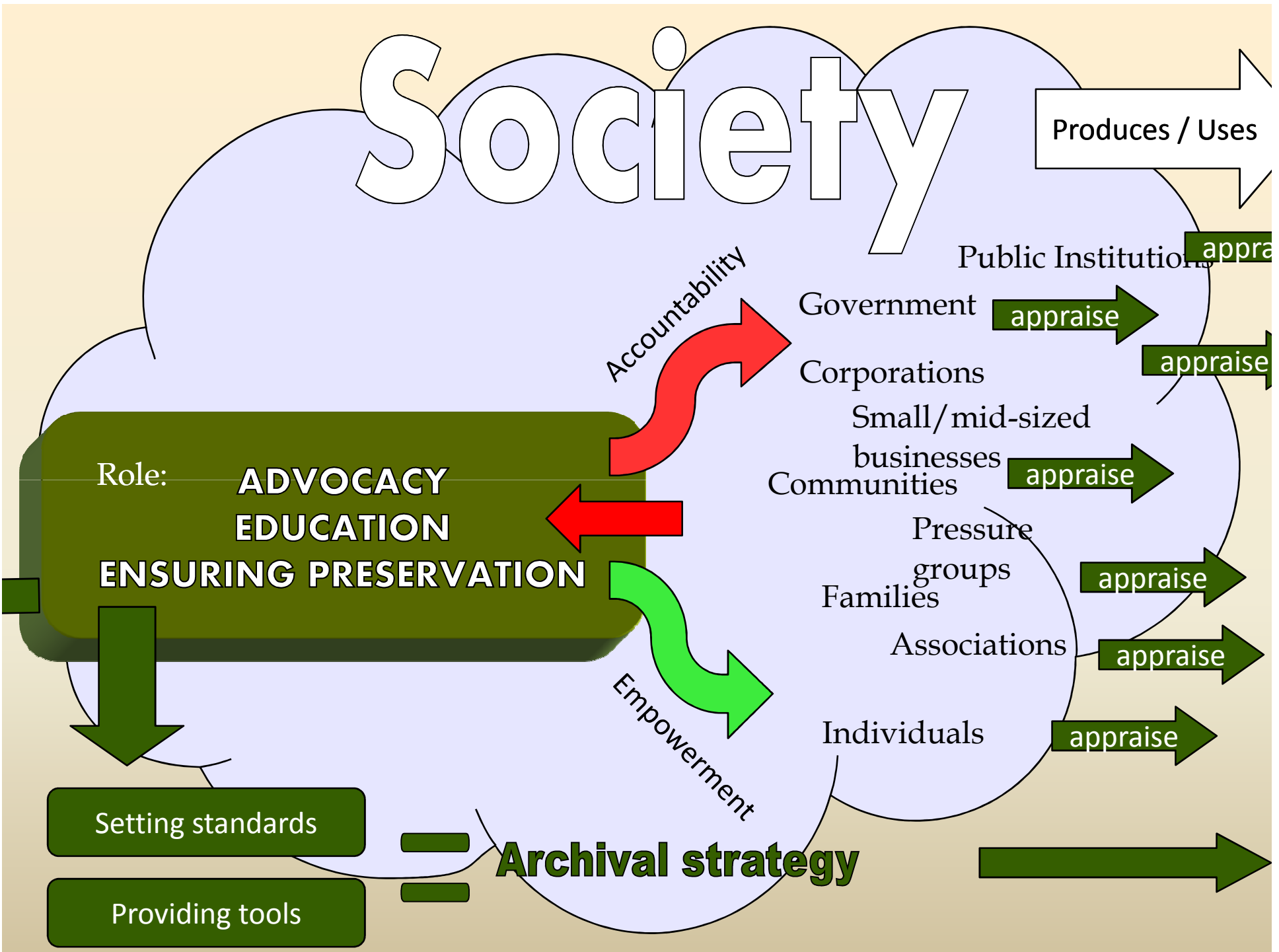
appraise

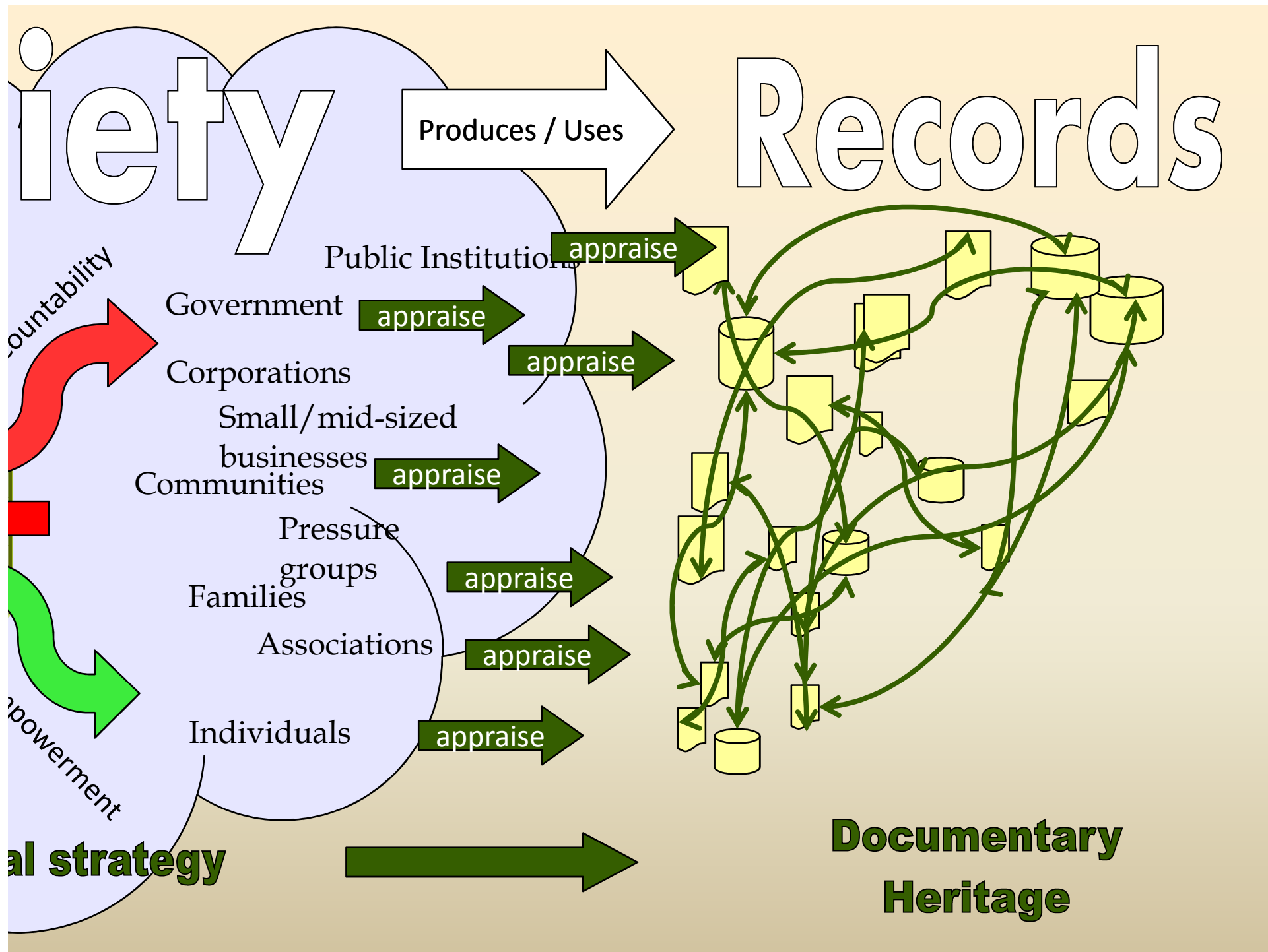
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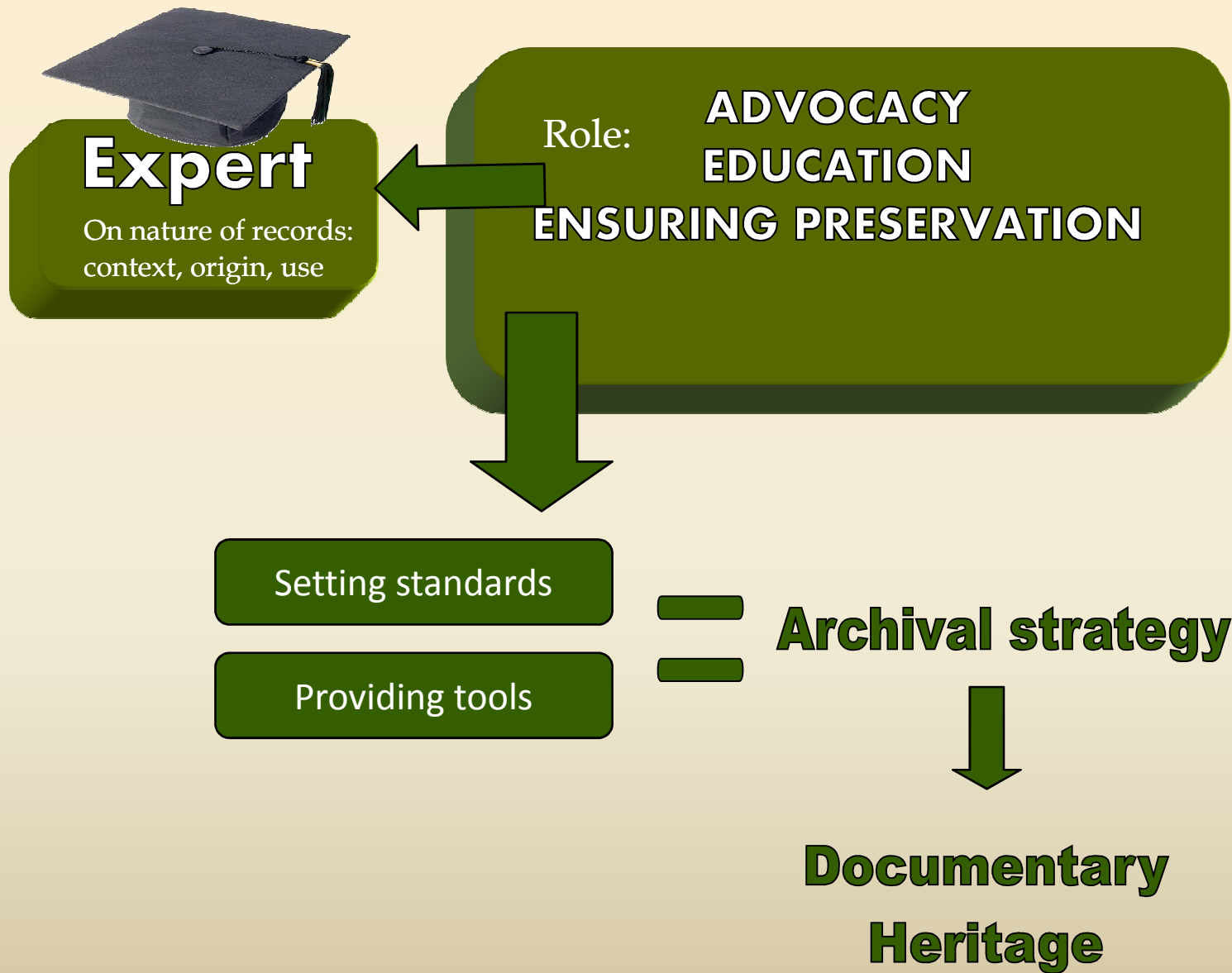
appraise

appraise

appraise







# Back in 2011: Critical Questions

- ▣ How do you see the future?
- ▣ And what do you think would be the role of the archivist in appraisal?





# The End

