

## THE FUTURE IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE, OR?

A lot of changing is going on. But what's new? The daily archive life means to be in the past, the present and the future at the same time. The earlier techniques and documentation walk hand in hand with the new era. At least this is the situation for many Archives. Of course there are differences due to the different types of Archives but last year we made a questionnaire and found that 65% of the Archives still had card catalogues in use. (Tomorrow's workshop 1)

We have to provide our costumers with images coming from film as well as 2 inch tapes. Even if we try to convert the old formats, knowledge and some equipment of the old ones has in most cases to be kept. And who in the digital era will know anything about nitrates, film copies, 1 and 2 inch except of these people in the Archives.

If we can't be able to migrate continuously we will always have to keep knowledge of the old formats etc. And looking to reality, how many of the Archives here can say that your collections consists only of the formats easiest to use in the companies production process or that you have the

Formats needed for the end-users research process?

Our major collections are not Digitalbeta, Dv or m-jpegfiles used in our daily production.

But this is not anything new. It's always been like that.

There is also the issue of different program types and program formats not to mention virtual reality productions that has to be documented and you can never relax and say, now is our catalogue rules ready. It has to be changed. But I do think that today we are better in flexibility and do understand what in the old knowledge that should be kept.

We learned to be aware of new technology but also not to take too much for granted. At one time we thought that free-text should exclude all old classification skills and needs. But we where wrong. We learned that the free-text in a large database wont give you a good result if your information are not selected and structured. The examples goes on and on. Even if we will see a lot of automatic analyse tools in the future I think that it's a long way ahead before we can exclude all structure and trough everything into a large basket. I even do think that structure will be more and more important in the future communication and information society.

Looking into the documentation field again we can easily see that lots of changes has taken place. We have used or use card catalogues, microfiche and different on-line databases. Conversion of old data-formats to new ones is an on going process. Its not an easy task, often you will loose some information on the way.

A certain database built with one technique requires other types of information than another database will do using other tools and structures.

This is also one difficult task for the future image-files. How will we succeed in converting our collections from one old image file-format to another? (Workshop 2 Digital archiving). There are no standards even if we at times do believe that there are or will be a standard. Why should it be different in the future? Our archive is filled with standard formats.

So when we look into the new era of changes and promised solutions for our problems be aware of the past. Don't let the present destroy the futures heritage. Because I do o believe that the future will be exactly as it used to be.