Works in progress and more speculative pieces
Breaching the silos: towards Archive 2.0

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Abstract: The role of the Archive in society has shifted from being an instrument of administrative power and accountability, to becoming a heterogeneous mix of institutional, corporate, and community repositories of memory. However, this fragmented and contested ‘Archival Multiverse’ presents significant barriers for those trying to locate and access records. Web 2.0 interoperability techniques are one mechanism by which organisational and cultural divides may be overcome to achieve memory narratives from a plurality of perspectives. This work-in-progress paper describes a current project to investigate the issues surrounding the development of a Web-based API for archival systems that conform to the Australian Series Systems Model. By creating and evaluating an API reference model and proof-of-concept implementation, it is hoped that a path toward a standards-based Archival Commons may emerge.