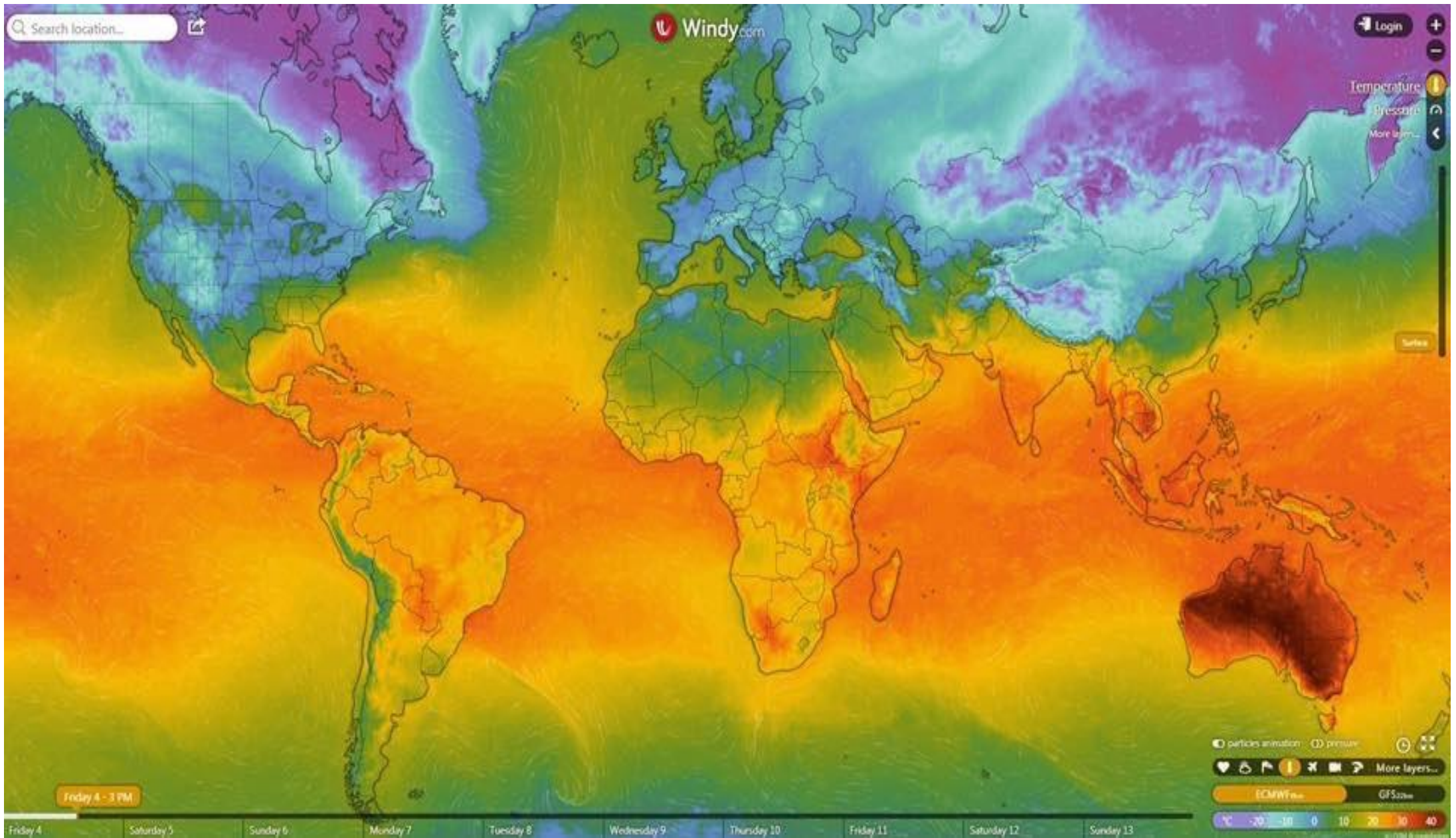


What is a record?

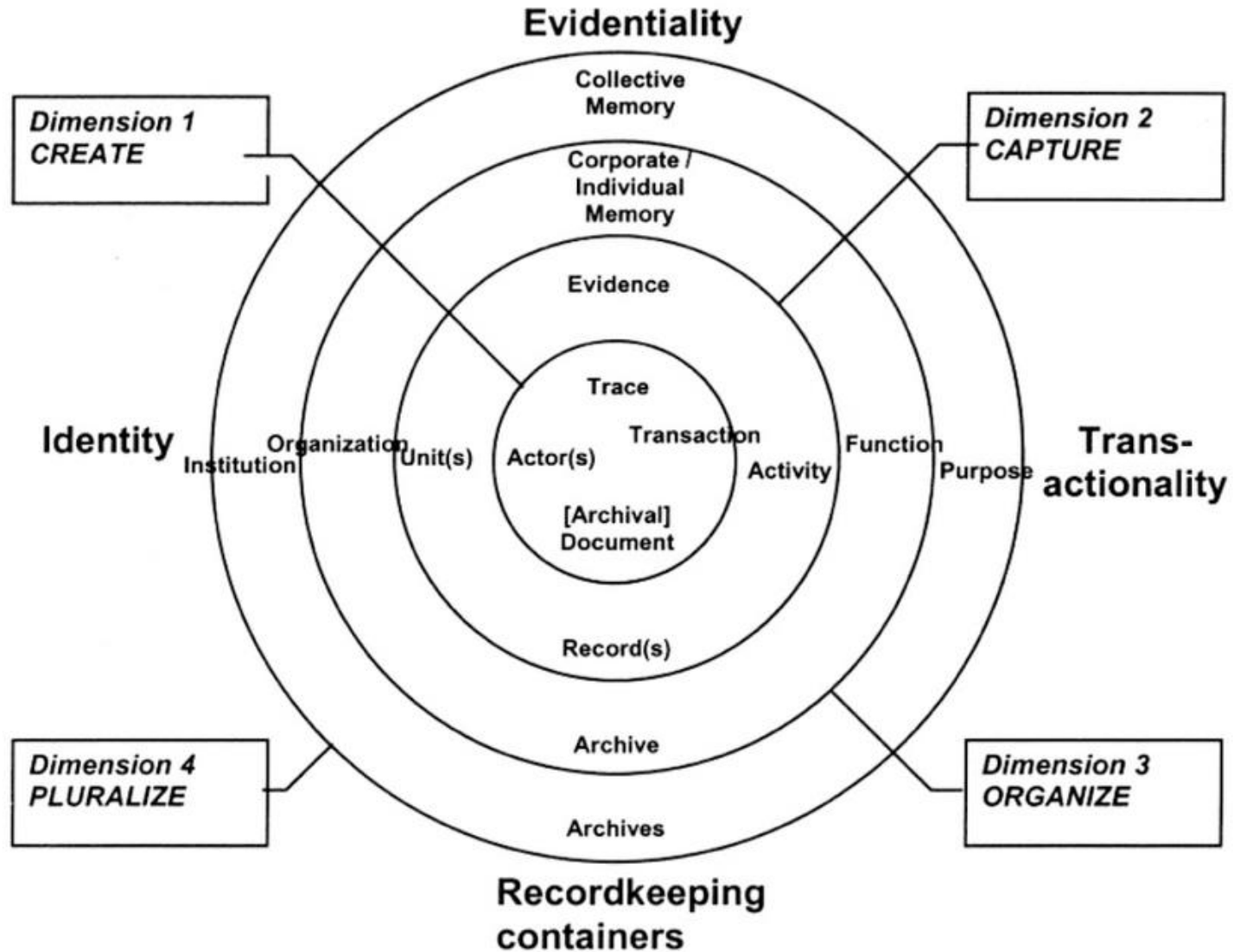
Conceptual thinking in pragmatic practice

Barbara Reed, Recordkeeping Innovation





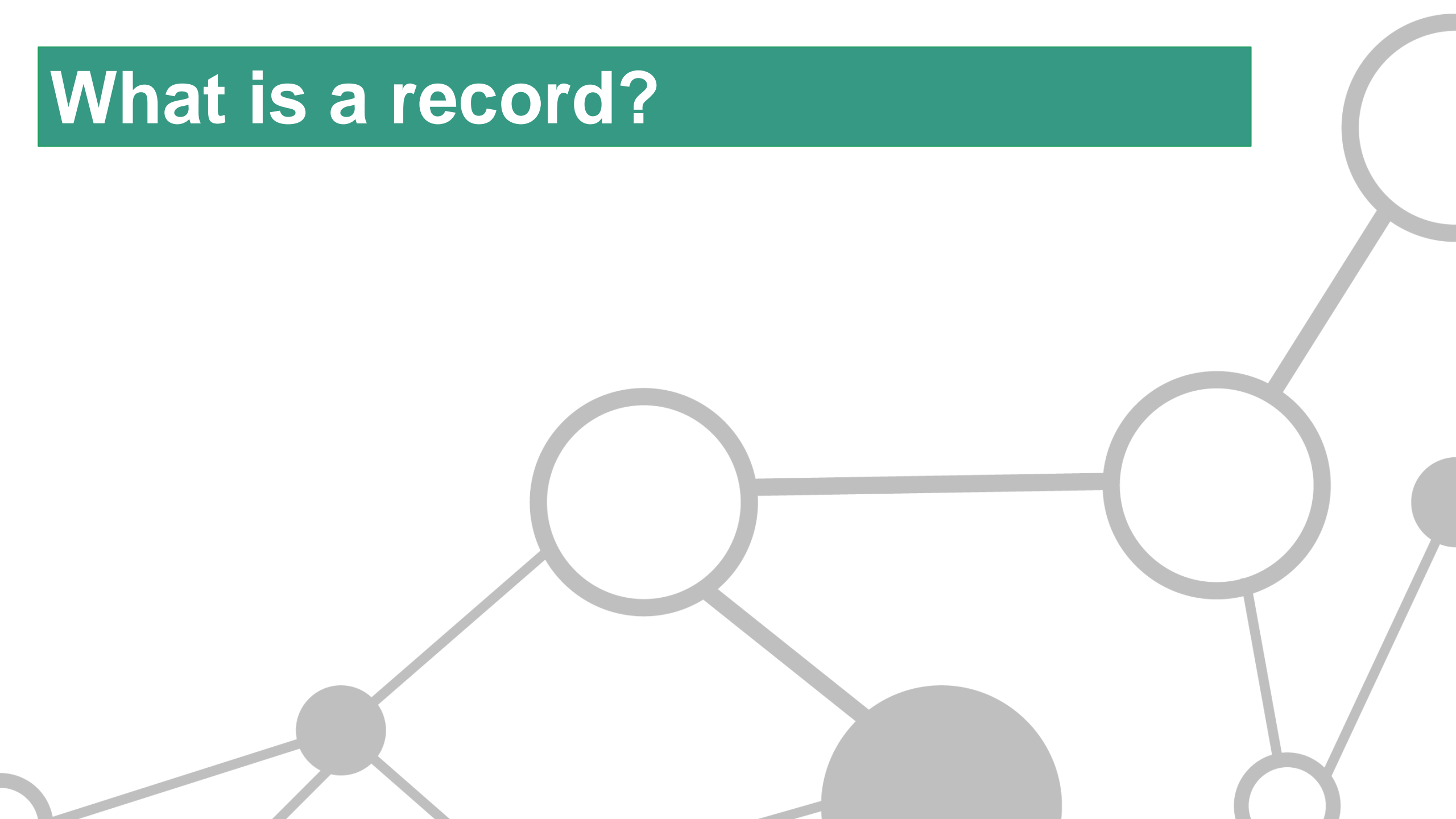
Records Continuum practitioner



This talk

- ▶ What is a record? An approach
- ▶ Three scenarios from practice:
 - ▶ **Archival description: The item level model**
 - ▶ **Records in outsourcing**
 - ▶ **Changing paradigms in rights in records**

What is a record?



Definitions and understanding

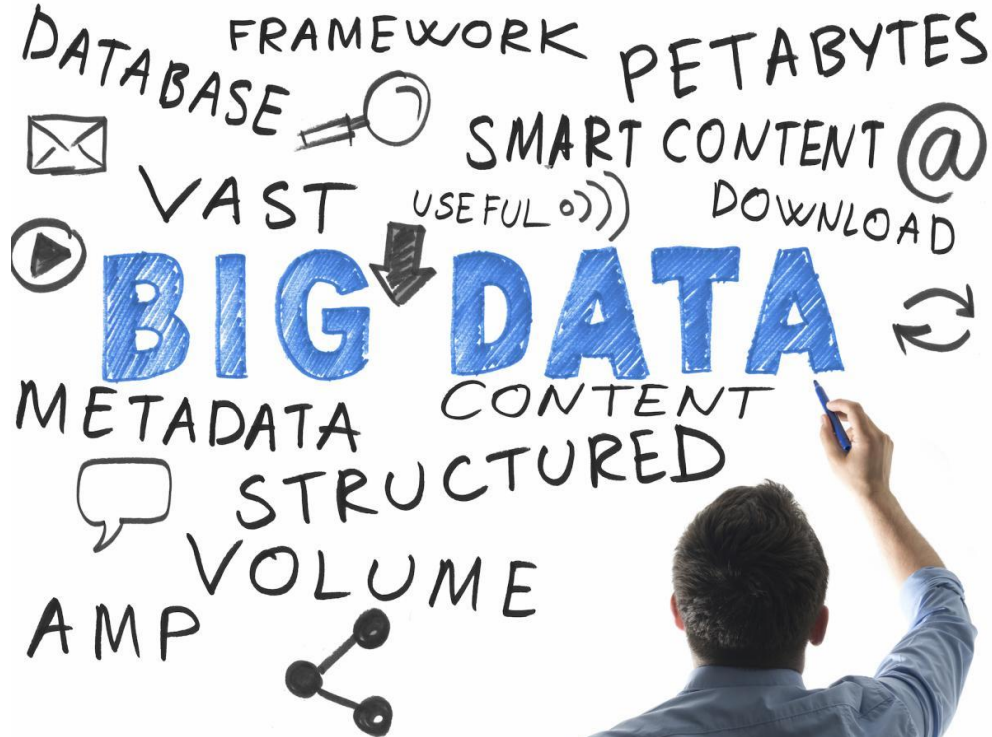
record(s): information created, received and maintained as *evidence* and as an asset by an organization or person, in pursuit of legal obligations or in the *transaction* of business (ISO 15489:2016)



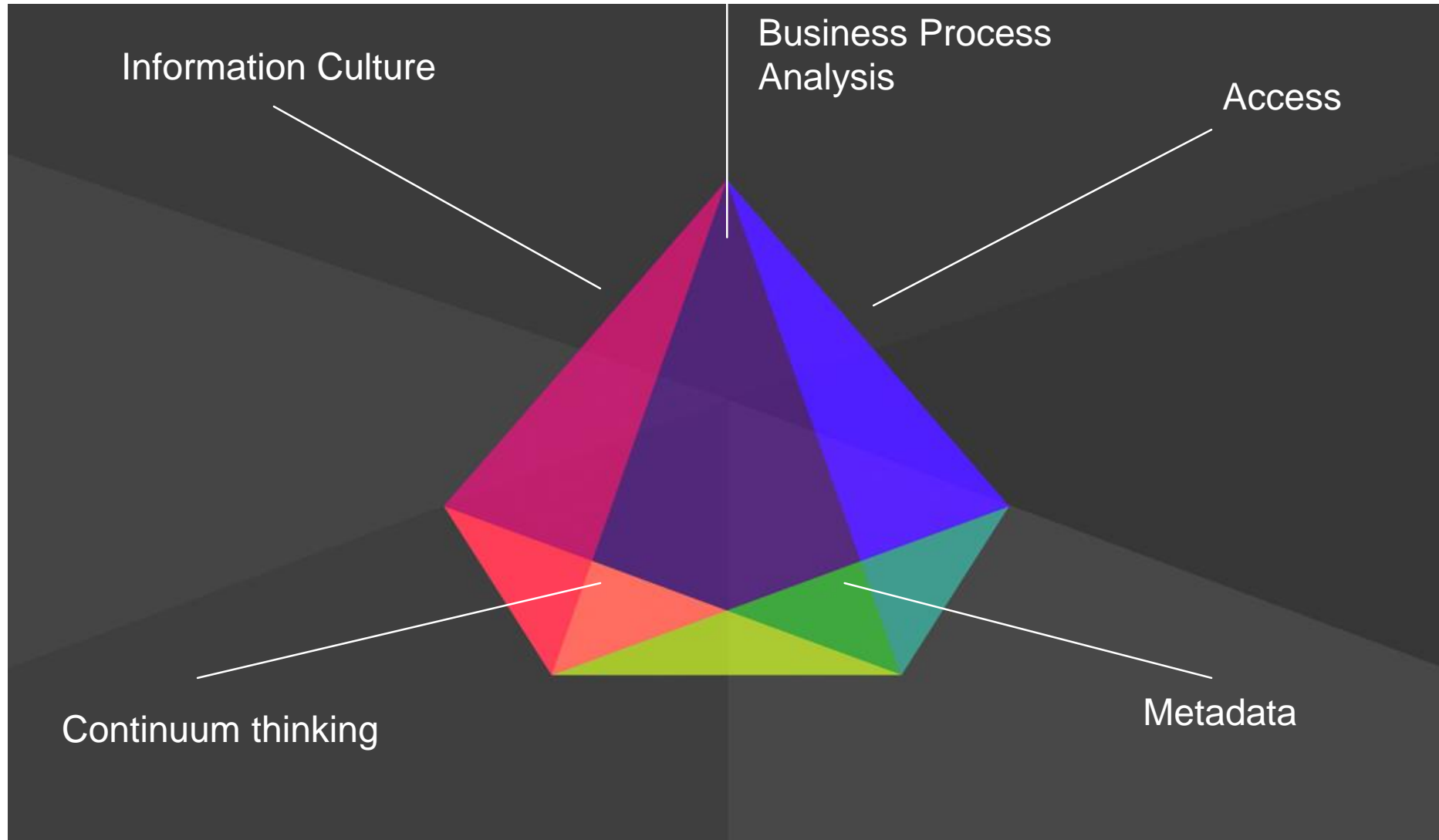
My understandings of 'record'

- ▶ Contingent – depends on context
- ▶ Something can move in and out of the state of 'recordness'
- ▶ Records are never finished – always accumulating metadata about their contexts of management and use
- ▶ Characteristics are assertions
- ▶ Assertions can be definitive or tentative
- ▶ Anything can be a record
 - ▶ Documents
 - ▶ Data bases
 - ▶ Data elements or fields
 - ▶

Technology: disaggregation



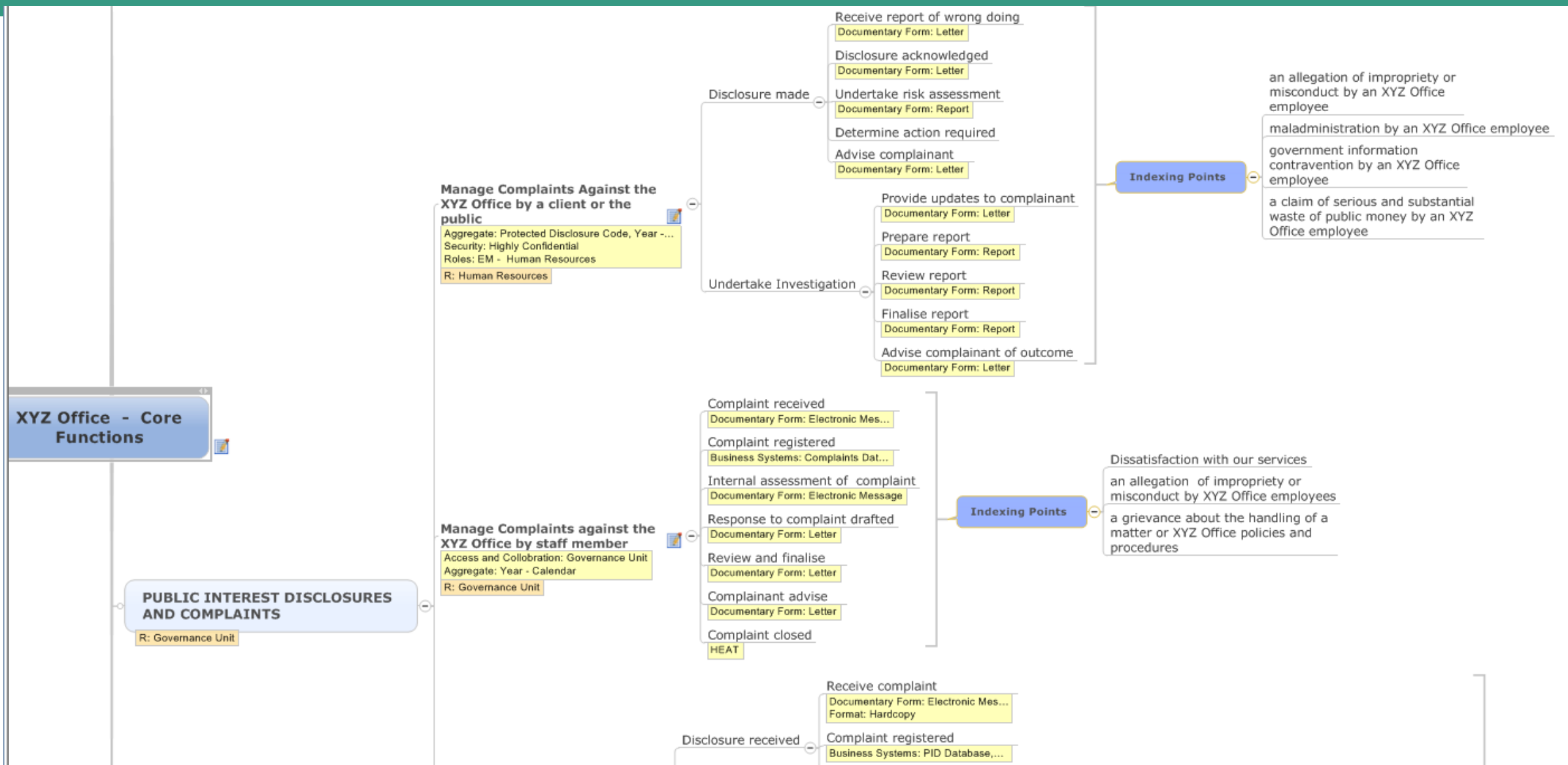
Recordkeeping Informatics





Cascading inscriptions

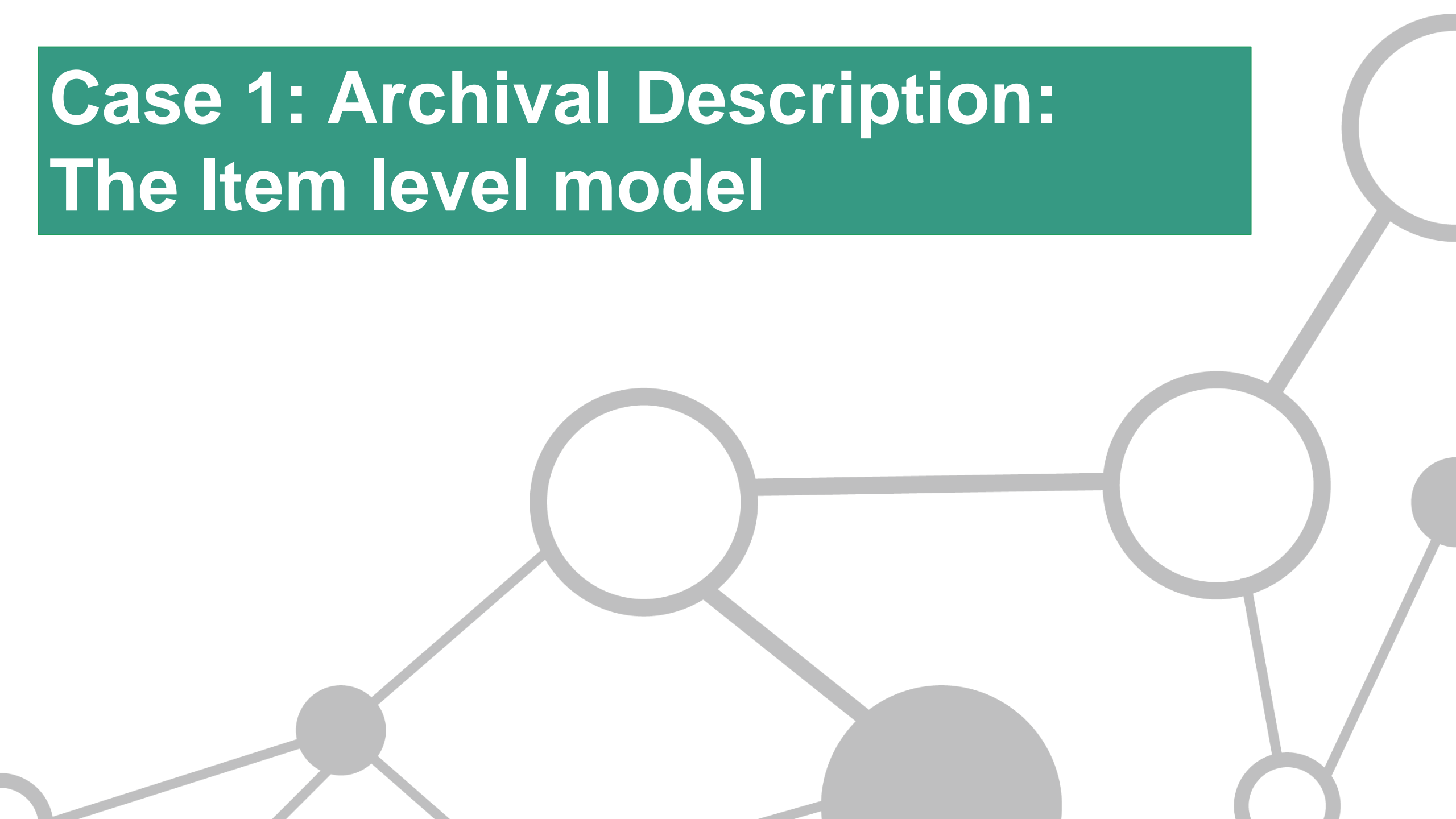
Where do we choose to create records

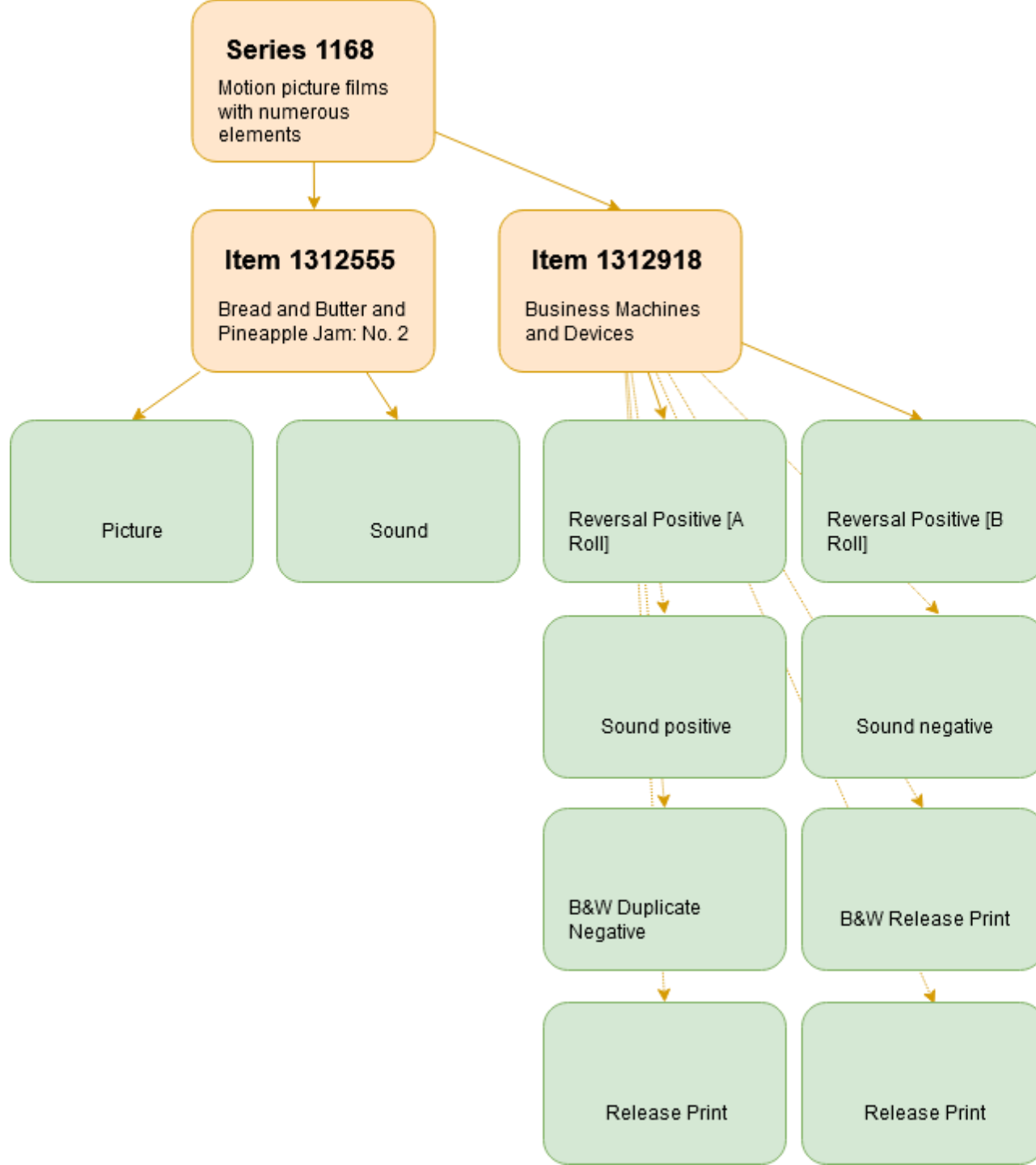




Fractals

Case 1: Archival Description: The Item level model







Rhizomic nature of records:

- Relationships
- Multiple perspectives
- Continuous addition

Implications

- ▶ Archival descriptive models not good enough
- ▶ Much greater granularity required
- ▶ Need for recurring flexible decompositions of 'record' entity
- ▶ Same pattern, but different layers of application
- ▶ Need to enable multiple, simultaneous relationships
- ▶ Do we need to disentangle physical management requirements from intellectual representation?

Case 2: Records in outsourcing



What about the records?

- ▶ Characteristics
 - ▶ Contracted service
 - ▶ What happens at the end of the contract?
 - ▶ What is needed depends on the nature of the transactions
- ▶ Problems:
 - ▶ Formats
 - ▶ Proprietary databases
 - ▶ Ensuring context is preserved
 - ▶ Capacity of commissioning agency to manage the received records

Implications

- ▶ Definition of requirements not present in current contract arrangements
- ▶ Where provisions exist they are too generic
- ▶ Powerful role of proactive appraisal
- ▶ Manage risk (change of management environment, system change as key moments of risk)
- ▶ Agencies as archives?
- ▶ Agencies are having to deal with digital preservation problems before 'archival institutions'
- ▶ Competency is not there

Case 3: Changing paradigms in rights in records



Rights in Records: Personal records



- ▶ Exemplar, and pressing social need, but other examples
 - ▶ Aboriginal Australians
 - ▶ Displaced people
 - ▶ Digital health records
 - ▶ (Korean TTPDR, ISO 17028)

Looking to you, Europe!

▶ GDPR



▶ Management – Nordic My Data model

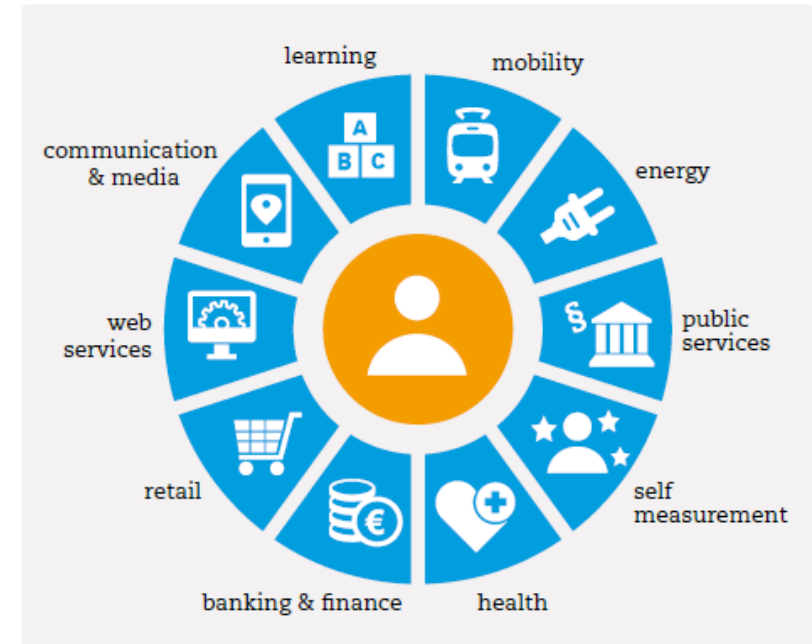


Figure 1.1: Personal data is everywhere. Businesses in all sectors as well as governmental organizations collect increasing amounts of data about us.

Implications

- ▶ We haven't got a framework for managing genuinely co-created and co-managed records
- ▶ How will this affect design and management of current systems?
- ▶ How will/can the systems affect the power balance of individuals and organisations
- ▶ Increasingly much of this is trans-jurisdictional

Conclusions (?)

▶ What is a record?

- ▶ Definitions essential but not the key issue - we need to agree (or acknowledge differences in) the conceptual understandings
- ▶ Anything can be a record - but that is not helpful
- ▶ Records are contingent and context bound
- ▶ Records to be managed need to be analysed as a consequence of the business happening
- ▶ Records better understood as a consequence of processes needed to make assertions about the 'state of recordness'
- ▶ Technology will continue to provide many opportunities to challenge recordkeeping understanding, constructs and practices
- ▶ Recordkeeping is not about technology but is a social and organisational matter