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Searching and researching archives

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Searching and researching archives

REUNA Bergen Workshop 2008-05-13

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In this presentation I juxtapose two web pages, analyzed as archives: the Gertrude Bell archives (<http://www.gerty.ncl.ac.uk/>), and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) of Iraq official web page (<http://www.iraqcoalition.org/regulations/>).

Following Jacques Derrida and Ann Laura Stoler, I argue that these archives should be researched not as sources of knowledge, but rather as the structuring and production of knowledge of law and colonial power. Researching law and colonial power in this way the similarities and dissimilarities in structuring the two archives as specifically online archives are analyzed in the presentation, pointing at the ways in which documents, texts, data is provided, presented and coded – and what the specific archival techniques of the two archives can tell us about law and its relation to power and colonial discourse.

Litterature:

Jacques Derrida () *Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression*, Chicago: Chicago University Press

Ann Laura Stoler (2002) "Colonial Archives and the Art of Governance", *Archival Science* 2: 87–109