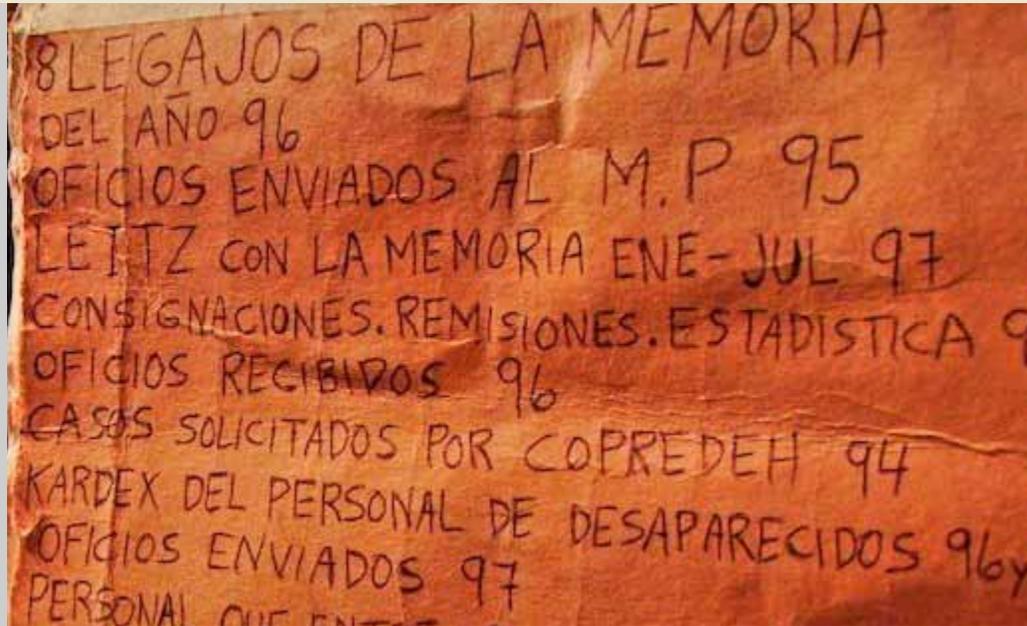


HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION

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In This Issue

The several items in this issue revolve around the theme of human rights documentation. In 2007, CRL convened a [Global Resources Forum](#) on that subject. The forum, cosponsored by Columbia University Libraries and the University of Texas Libraries, brought together activists, scholars, jurists, librarians, and archivists to probe the issues surrounding the survival and integrity of evidence of human rights violations. The event inspired a number of subsequent, innovative library efforts to preserve critical documentation pertaining to recent campaigns of genocide in Rwanda, Guatemala, the former Yugoslavia, and elsewhere. These efforts and CRL's longstanding work in this field, which has ensured the survival of such important bodies of evidence as the files of the Khmer Rouge's notorious Santebal police and the records of Brazil's secret military trials of the 1960s and '70s, represent the important contribution of North American research libraries to modern society. CRL is pleased to continue to support such worthy undertakings.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
President

The University of Texas at Austin is digitizing the *Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional*, which contains millions of documents, dating from 1882 to 1996, that chronicle the activities of Guatemala's National Police. Courtesy of *Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional*, Guatemala.

Human Rights and Electronic Media: a CRL Study

James T. Simon

Director of International Resources

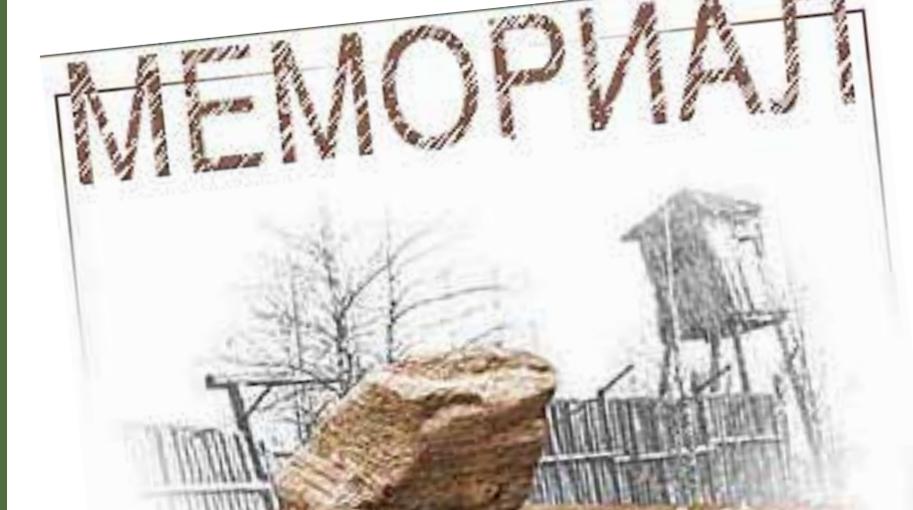
Sarah Van Deusen Phillips

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Human Rights Organizations like [Russia's Memorial](#) have constructed networks to collect and share information and reciprocal exchange of documentation.

Background

In 2008, the Center for Research Libraries received an award from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to assess the practices and technologies used by a variety of human rights monitoring groups in the United States, Mexico, Rwanda, and Russia to create and collect documentation, particularly electronic documentation.

From the collection of reports of violence following the 2008 Kenya elections to the widely shared videos of the protests of the Arab Spring, human rights organizations (HROs) around the world increasingly collect, create, and disseminate documentation in electronic form. While electronic “evidence” has been present through a variety of media for more than four decades, the recent explosion of communication technologies and emergence of social media–sharing tools via the Internet has offered unprecedented opportunities for the collection, use, and distribution of digital materials by advocacy, legal, and scholarly groups.

At the same time, the technology that allows for cell-phone video transmission and geo-referenced feeds (via Twitter or China’s Sina Weibo, for example) can be used by government or security forces charged with maintaining strict control of their respective populace to block—or worse, track—messages and information distributed by critics, protestors, and other human rights proponents. Tensions between wide accessibility and security of information present new challenges to HROs.

Analog collections such as the Guatemalan police archives (*see [related article in this issue](#)*) or the “Archive of Terror,” uncovered intelligence files documenting Paraguayan security forces in Operation Condor (1975), are examples of print materials surviving for years in obscurity. Groups such as the Cambodian Genocide Program and *Brasil: Nunca Mais* (*see [related article in this issue](#)*) secured and stored these collections of documents until they could be used by the source communities, often decades later.

With the fragility of digital data and rapid obsolescence of technology, troves of digital content probably would not survive if untended in similar conditions. The implications of the long-term use and storage of digital materials led CRL to propose the assessment of international and regional organizations’ use of electronic documentation and to create a set of recommendations for libraries, archives, and HROs to manage these assets.

Nature of Electronic Evidence

Human rights violations are diverse in nature, stemming from willful transgressions against—or neglect of—basic principles stated in the International Bill of Human

Rights and subsequent instruments. Evidence of human rights violations, correspondingly, comes in many forms and is created for many purposes.

Human Rights electronic evidence is any information created or stored in digital form that is relevant to establishing the occurrence of a human rights event. It is collected on an increasingly diverse array of devices including computers, cell phones, video recorders, and cameras. It may consist of first-person (primary source) recordings of events; testimonials and statements after the event has occurred; news articles and videos; forensic evidence collected with the intention of establishing facts of what occurred; and any manner of additional materials collected through real-time monitoring or subsequent investigation. The types of documentation created may include, but are not limited to:

- digitally generated images and digitally encoded audio and video
- networked communications, such as e-mail and text messages
- information created and disseminated via web-based technologies (web pages, blogs, Twitter posts, and other social media)
- human- or computer-generated files in “born-digital” format (text files, word-processing documents, spreadsheets, data files, indices, logs)
- database records, indices, reports, and supporting management systems
- records of transactions (including communication logs and financial transactions)
- court records, testimonies, and supporting documentation gathered as a result of judicial processes, and
- digitally converted evidence from content previously contained in analog formats (scanned images of a physical document, digitized audio or video, etc.).

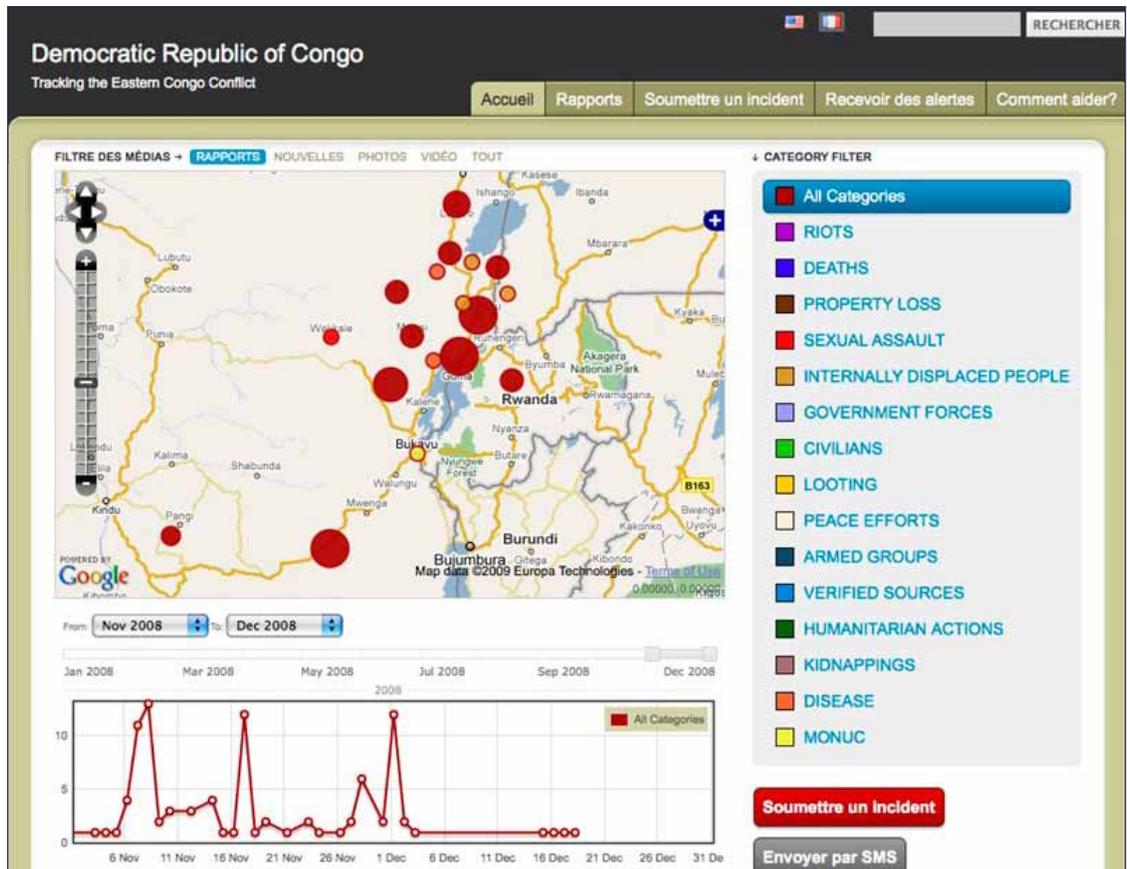
Documentation “Lifecycle”

The “lifecycle of human rights documentation” presented here describes the multiple (and often overlapping) steps involved from the creation of documentation resulting from a human rights violation through to the final stages of long-term preservation and maintenance of the evidence. CRL’s study seeks to document and describe the various types of electronic evidence being collected today, the uses of such material by organizations or political institutions, and the ultimate destination of that material. Equally important is the potential of a secondary lifecycle in which the stored information is used for later purposes such as scholarship, further social action, and memory initiatives.

In the documentation lifecycle of human rights violations, evidence is first generated pertaining to a particular event. Where an act has occurred by a perpetrator (government body or non-state actors) against a victim, the types of evidence created may include physical and documentary evidence, as well as testimonials or supporting information captured after the fact.

Collecting evidence of sudden and disruptive human rights abuses at the time of an actual event is difficult; the nature of these events makes them an accidental opportunity, rather than a deliberate plan of action. New technologies hold particular promise for this type of event. Efforts by groups such as [WITNESS](#) (video advocacy) and [Ushahidi](#) (crowd-sourced reports via SMS) demonstrate new approaches by rights organizations to use digital technologies for evidence collection and crisis response, as well as for longer-term human rights campaigns.

HROs and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) play an important role in monitoring human rights events in troubled areas. In the documentation lifecycle,



Ushahidi, a nonprofit tech company, uses open source software for information collection. Its website uses an interactive mapping function to track riots, looting, sexual assaults, disease, and peace and humanitarian efforts. This map tracked the 2008 eastern Congo conflict. ©2008–2011 Ushahidi, Inc.

monitors collect information, verify and authenticate such data, and use the information to address immediate human rights problems. While HROs are often the first-responders to a human rights crisis, monitoring usually occurs over a protracted period of time, aided by personal contacts, organized processes of information gathering, and, increasingly, technological tools.

First-hand fact gathering, victim and witness interviews, and analysis of data all are increasingly conducted and manipulated in electronic format. Many monitoring organizations use MP3 recorders, video cameras, and digital cameras to document events and witness testimony. The University of California, Berkeley Human Rights Center, employs [handheld smart phones](#) (equipped with solar chargers) to collect survey data and record interviews on the human impact of violence in Central African Republic, among other areas. The [Satellite Sentinel Project](#) monitors potential hotspots in Sudan through satellite imagery analysis combined with field reports. [SwiftRiver](#) (an Ushahidi initiative) seeks to evaluate the first flood of data from a crisis area through semantic analysis and verification of posts.

As ongoing documentation of human rights violations continues to build, the lifecycle of data takes a variety of paths, with different intended uses and temporal values. Media outlets may pick up and broadcast information to inform the public of occurring events. HROs and IGOs responsible for collecting information may pursue additional evidence or further testimonies to corroborate a case or build toward a larger advocacy campaign. Organizations disseminate findings through reports, press releases, and other formats to mobilize action or affect policy change. HROs with a legal focus may conduct further documentation to prepare a case for litigation, defense, or other means of transitional justice.

The Mexican organization Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos, which advocates its mission as “Todos los derechos para todas y todos” uses the software to record violations and establish relationships between cases and registrants.

The significance of the electronic dimensions of this stage of the lifecycle is easily evident. The dissemination of media information and advocacy material via the Internet has fundamentally transformed how HROs conduct campaigns. Online tools such as YouTube and Flickr, as well as social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook, make it easy to distribute images, stories, and other literature. “Citizen journalists” (contributors to blogs, podcasts, wikis, and a variety of social media sites such as [Global Voices Online](#)) produce content that may not reach mainstream media outlets, as well as individuated analysis that may provide context to particular events.

In this documentation stage, evidence undergoes a process of refinement and authentication. Various actors (media, HROs, and independent third parties) attempt to verify the accuracy of the reported human rights violations and the authenticity of the available evidence. They trace electronic evidence back to its source, whenever possible, or check against a number of indicators to gauge its reliability. This process is iterative and rarely straightforward, but still an important part of transforming “documentation” into “evidence.”

In many cases, documentation projects engage in collaborative networking among similar organizations to provide substantiation to cases, produce a richer story about the past, and further the purposes of each organizations’ efforts. Networking and reciprocal exchange of documentation occurs in a variety of formal or informal settings, dependent on the landscape and conditions in which the organizations work. HROs such as [Memorial](#) in Russia and [Ibuka](#) in Rwanda have constructed networks of organizations to collect and share information. Less-formal networks (such as grassroots organizations in Chiapas, Mexico) exist in regions without robust support for civil society structures. While local organizations may pursue their individual agendas, the process of centralizing and sharing information provides a broader venue for awareness and promotes more rigorous documentation practices.

Documentation at this stage may also undergo normalization and structured organization, depending on the intended use of the content. HURIDOC’s [OpenEvsys project](#) provides HROs with software to document and manage information on human rights violations, replete with controlled vocabularies to codify types of events, victims, perpetrators, and sources. Organizations such as the [Cambodian Center for Human Rights](#) and [SOVA Center for Information and Analysis](#) in Russia use this software to document violations and display organized information over the web. The Mexican organization [Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos](#), which advocates its mission as “Todos los derechos para todas y todos” (RedTdT) uses a modified version of the software and thesaurus to record violations and establish relationships between cases and registrants.

These organizational processes help documentation assessment, a key activity of HROs and monitoring agencies. Collection of evidence conducted in a consistent, organized manner can demonstrate whether trends or patterns of violations exist. Identifying patterns of serious violations will strengthen evidence and may signify that more serious human rights violations have occurred. As information produced by smaller HROs is passed on to mid-sized specialized groups and larger national and international organizations, the structured and processed data may be used to assess broader patterns of violations.

The use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in assessment of human rights violations is a topic of growing interest around the globe. [Amnesty International](#) and its various sections and affiliated groups submit reports and field notes through its [Amnesty Digital Asset Management](#) system for internal assessment and reporting. [HURIDOCs](#) provides training and capacity building for other rights

organizations in documentation practices, and develops software and documentation systems specifically tailored to the human rights context. Benetech's [Human Rights Data Analysis Group](#) (HRDAG) designs and builds information management solutions and conducts statistical analysis on behalf of human rights projects. Groups such as the [Network for Human Rights Documentation–Burma](#) (ND-Burma) use this software to centralize information that Burma human rights groups collect through interviews and other fact-finding efforts.

It should be noted that assessment is not the sole realm of human rights organizations. Academic institutes (for example, the [Measurement and Human Rights Program](#) at the Kennedy Center for Human Rights Policy), research centers (such as the [Global Network Initiative](#) at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society), public policy institutes (*e.g.*, the Center for Democracy & Technology), and individuals also engage in assessment of rights issues and specific violations.

The end-use stage of the documentation lifecycle can be difficult to define, highly dependent on the mission of the organization and objectives for collecting information. Some of the stated purposes for documentation efforts studied in CRL's assessment of various institutions include (but are not limited to):

- to create an accurate historical record
- to provide a voice for the persecuted
- to educate and inform the population to promote respect for human rights
- to develop appropriate community responses to alleviate suffering or prevent further abuses
- to advocate for transitional justice (truth commissions, prosecutions, reparations, etc.)
- to pursue accountability for atrocities and human rights abuses
- to affect policy change and reforms among governing bodies at a local, national, or international level, and
- to commemorate the past and preserve the memory of an event or conflict.

Each of these purposes may demand differing levels of preparation and scrutiny in the collection and use of documentation, electronic or otherwise. Reports of events may be picked up by mainstream media for current awareness purposes without significant verification requirements (reports on the 2009 Iran protests, for example, relied heavily on crowd-sourced information via Twitter delivered from a particular demographic, which strongly influenced the narrative presented in the Western media). By contrast, digital videos or other evidence collected for prosecutorial purposes demand rigorous standards for establishing authenticity, reliability, integrity, and chain of custody.

Whatever means HROs use to define success of a particular advocacy strategy, once the appropriate outcome is achieved, organizations wishing to support further action in the future must determine the long-term utility and retention requirements of electronic documentation. Many large and established HROs such as WITNESS and Amnesty International have implemented data management systems and protocols to support the organization and storage of evidence, supporting data (and applied metadata), field notes, and communications surrounding these items.

More commonly, however, smaller institutions lack basic digital capacity to store and maintain digital evidence (much less the electronic transactions of the organization itself). Issues of trust, security of information, technical obsolescence, and even reliable Internet access can all prevent organizations from relying on electronic

storage solutions. In these events, collaboration with external trusted partners may be a viable solution. The University of Texas at Austin's [Human Rights Documentation Initiative](#) (HRDI) has established digital preservation partnerships with organizations that create human rights documentation to preserve and make accessible the historical record of genocide and human rights violations. The HRDI provides organization-specific training, infrastructure, and ongoing support. The partner institutions maintain control and ownership of the digital files, while allowing Texas to secure digital copies for safekeeping. Other institutions, such as Columbia University's [Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research](#) and Duke University's [Human Rights Archive](#) capture the print and electronic records of specific HROs, including (via web harvesting) the electronic publications and documentation on the organizations' websites.

Use of Electronic Documentation for Legal Purposes

As described above, documentation may be prepared for use in formal human rights investigations and judicial processes. Organizations such as [Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas](#) (Frayba) in Mexico and Memorial (Russia) assume legal representation for victims of injustice so that their cases can be litigated. These organizations assemble case files of testimony and supporting evidence (including electronic documentation) to pursue remedies in national or international instances, such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights or the European Court of Human Rights.

Electronic evidence used to establish the grounds for indictments, or to provide the basis for an international investigation, is subject to increased scrutiny by government and intergovernmental authorities. Through its assessment, CRL has produced two detailed reports describing the conditions under which electronic evidence may be considered as evidence in courts of law. Lucy Thomson's report on the precedents and current challenges of electronic evidence in legal settings provides a thorough background to the issues of authentication and reliability. The second report, produced by the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice—*New Wine in Old Wineskins? New Problems in the Use of Electronic Evidence in Human Rights Investigations and Prosecutions*—describes legal issues surrounding electronic evidence in the international criminal courts and human rights investigations. These reports are accessible via the [project web page](#), along with numerous other reports and case studies.

Conclusion

While the lifecycle of electronic documentation of human rights violations as described above presents a linear progression of documentation, the path is rarely clear-cut, as CRL's assessment of various organizations makes clear. Nor is the lifecycle truly a closed circuit. Sometimes the intended uses of a piece of evidence help define its format and content; at other times the evidence is first captured and then used later within unanticipated contexts. Materials collected for advocacy purposes may be reused in legal processes, which are then stored, discovered, and analyzed later for scholarly purposes. CRL's Human Rights Electronic Evidence Assessment report documents in more detail some of the conditions in which evidence is used for "downstream" purposes. The regenerative properties of evidence and its diverse uses underscore the importance of maintaining and protecting the resources in the long-term. Libraries, archives, and human rights organizations must work in tandem to assure that responsible stewardship of this data is maintained for future uses. ❖

The Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional de Guatemala at the University of Texas



The University of Texas at Austin has digitized about 12 million of the 80 million documents from the *Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional*. The digitized documents will soon be available on the University of Texas website. Courtesy of *Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional, Guatemala*.

On April 13, 2011, the University of Texas Libraries took delivery of 12 million documents from the *Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional de Guatemala* (AHPN), the Guatemalan National Police Archives. The delivery was not, as one would imagine, a truckload of paper files, but was in the form of six pounds of computer hard drives. These documents are digital copies of the original archive materials, which remain in Guatemala.

In 2005, a chance investigation in an abandoned Guatemala City barracks led to the discovery of millions of documents, dating from 1882 to 1996, that chronicled the activities of Guatemala's National Police. The National Police were the enforcers of the oppressive military dictatorship in Guatemala during 36 years of internal armed conflict. The documents include such items as personnel lists for the major police units in the capital and other major cities across Guatemala, instructions to police forces on how to properly conduct interrogations, surveillance photographs of student leaders later assassinated by the National Police, and fingerprints and other records of thousands of executed activists.

In the 1990s, the final years of the country's nearly four decades of armed civil conflict, the Guatemalan government and police had denied the existence of the National Police records during investigations by both the United Nations and the Catholic Church. Once discovered, the archive became the focus of an intensive international conservation effort, funded by the Swedish, Swiss, Spanish governments and others. Years of neglect had taken its toll on the paper files, many of which had become brittle and suffered serious mold and insect damage.

In all, the *Archivo* consists of approximately 80 million documents, about 12 million of which have been digitized and will soon be available from the University of Texas at Austin (UTA) website. More documents are being digitized every year and will be added to UTA's digital collection.

The *Archivo Histórico* is an extremely important body of human rights evidence. It provides an extraordinarily comprehensive record of a tragic but pivotal moment in the recent history of the Guatemalan people. The *Archivo* has become a crucial body of evidence for attempts to prosecute members of the security forces involved in human rights violations during the internal armed conflict. It has provided valuable information on atrocities committed against the citizens of Guatemala, and on the fate of victims of those atrocities.

This exceptionally challenging body of material demands a high degree of curatorial and technological sophistication to manage. The enormous digital collection requires

sizable computer storage and security requirements. It includes a wide variety of document types: photographs, printed and bound materials, and handwritten texts. Although these materials have all been digitized, the descriptive metadata for the digital files is quite thin, with little indexing. The multitude of stakeholders in the future of the archives—including the Guatemalan courts, human rights groups, victims of violence and their survivors, advocacy groups, and historians—will require a variety of well-designed protocols for permitting and controlling access to sensitive materials in the archive.

The University of Texas at Austin is uniquely qualified to deal with the challenges of this important project. The archive was the result of a partnership between the [AHPN](#) and three institutions at UTA: the [Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice](#), the [Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies](#), and [University of Texas Libraries](#). The partnership involves not only the placement of the digital archive at the University of Texas, but also the exchange of technical expertise, cooperation in research, and capacity-building for legal and academic networks. The Law School's Rapoport Center specializes in “work on human rights at the intersection of scholarship and advocacy.” The Teresa Lozano Long Institute houses a wealth of faculty and graduate student research expertise on Guatemala, and has deep ties to the region. The University also has access to the Texas Advanced Computing Center and its robust capabilities for digital content analysis, indexing, and mining. These capabilities will be indispensable for dealing with a body of digital material as large as the *Archivo Histórico*.

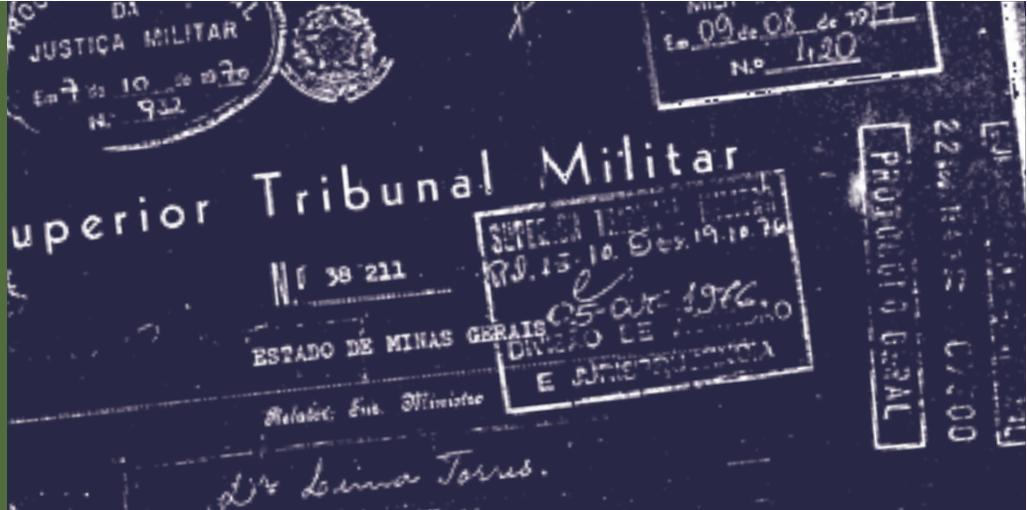
The University of Texas Libraries and the Rapoport Center have established a credible record of collaboration on human rights archive projects. In its recent innovative work with the archive of the UN Tribunal for Rwanda, the University pioneered the adoption of a noncustodial model in preserving records and documents. This approach departed from the traditional “collecting” approach taken by many libraries and archives, in favor of working to create local preservation capabilities. This UTA approach is conducive to strengthening the capacities of “memory” institutions and civil society in the country of origin.

Fred Heath, Vice Provost, University of Texas–Austin, and former chair of the CRL Board of Directors, recently reflected on the transfer of the digital archive to the University, “Thus, the cultural heritage of the [Guatemalan] nation will remain in country—a reversal of a century or more of ‘tail lights going north’ with national patrimony and a total volte-face in the way U.S. research universities are viewed by nations to our south. Now we just have to prove ourselves worthy of their trust.” ❖

Nunca Mais: Human Rights Evidence Rediscovered

James T. Simon

Director of International Resources
Center for Research Libraries



Superior Tribunal Military document, 1970. From the *Brasil: Nunca Mais* collection, which contains one million pages from the cases of more than 7,000 persons arrested, convicted, and/or executed by Brazil's Military Supreme Court between 1964 and 1979. Copied in secrecy, the official records document human rights violations by the military government in Brazil during this period.

The following article was drawn from statements and presentations commemorating the launch of the [Brasil: Nunca Mais Digital](#) website and from project documentation.

In June 2011, the Center for Research Libraries and LAMP announced a major partnership effort with the Ministério Público Federal in Brazil to digitize nearly one million pages of the collection *Brasil: Nunca Mais*, which contains court documents (*processos*) from Brazil's Military Supreme Court. These proceedings document the cases of more than 7,000 persons arrested, convicted, and/or executed by the Court between 1964 and 1979.

Project History

In 1979, a group of religious officials and lawyers began an extremely ambitious project: to access records of the Superior Tribunal Militar (STM) containing information and evidence of human rights violations committed by agents of the repressive apparatus of the state during the military dictatorship (then still in power). The project aimed to avoid possible loss of the documents due to destruction during the country's democratization process. The parties involved in the effort—including lawyers involved in the defense of political prisoners—viewed the preservation of these records as essential for future study on this phase of Brazil's history.

The project's founders realized that the *processos* could be accessed and taken off site for reproduction, taking advantage of a 24-hour period permitted by the Court to remand the cases. Reverend James Wright of the United Presbyterian Church of Brazil and Cardinal Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns, archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of São Paulo, volunteered to coordinate the activities from São Paulo. The organizers requested and obtained financial resources from Philip Potter, the secretary general of the World Council of Churches, with the assistance of Charles Roy Harper, pastor and member of that entity.

In early 1980, Wright and his colleagues rented a room near the Court and leased three Xerox machines to copy the *processos* as they were delivered by lawyers sent to withdraw each case. They sent the copies to Sao Paulo, first in night buses, and later by car or airliners. During the course of the project, the organizers became increasingly concerned over the possible seizure of the material. They decided to microfilm the copied pages of all court records and send them abroad for safekeeping.

After nearly six years of working in secrecy, the organizers completed the task. Reproduction of the 707 lawsuits consulted totaled about one million copies on paper and 543 rolls of microfilm. The project team also created a 12-volume index called *Projeto A* to provide organizational access to the contents. *Projeto A* contained, among other data: (i) how many prisoners passed through the military courts, (ii) how many were formally charged, (iii) how many were arrested, (iv) how many people reported having been tortured, (v) how many people disappeared, (vi) what methods of torture were practiced, and (vii) where prisoners were detained. Additional information contained names of doctors and employees, as identified by political prisoners.

Considering the difficulty of reading and even handling this material, Dom Paulo commissioned *Projeto B*, a volume summarizing the major components of *Projeto A* in a space 95 percent smaller. Journalists Ricardo Kotscho and Carlos Alberto Libanio Christo (Betto) were selected to undertake the task, coordinated by Paulo de Tarso Vannuchi. Editora Vozes (linked to the Catholic Church) agreed to publish the book, naming it *Brasil: Nunca Mais* (Never Again). In fear of possible censure, the organizers also found an overseas publisher; Random House released the work under the title *Torture in Brazil*.

On July 15, 1985, four months after the resumption of the country's democratic rule, *Brazil: Never Again* was published. The national and international press highlighted the publication, which was reprinted 20 times in its first two years, reaching a 37th edition in 2009.

Dom Paulo decided to donate the original project documentation to an institution to make it public. The State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) accepted the documentation, with the promise that the material would be made widely available for consultation and reproduction. Both the complete copies of the 707 cases (about 1 million pages), and annexes containing about 10,000 documents ("arquivo de material apreendido") were transferred to the "Arquivo Edgard Leuenroth" at UNICAMP.

The original 543 rolls of microfilm with the full contents of the cases were sent to the Latin American Microform Project (LAMP) at the Center for Research Libraries. LAMP became interested in the *Brasil: Nunca Mais* project in 1987, when Lygia Ballantine, director of the Library of Congress field office in Rio de Janeiro, reported to LAMP on the project and the status of the microfilm, which at the time was in the possession of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Europe. In June 1987, LAMP chair Laura Gutierrez-Witt (University of Texas at Austin) proposed to Wright that the collection come to LAMP, where it would be widely accessible to researchers from academic and research institutions throughout North America. Wright immediately accepted this proposal, and the collection was transferred to the Center for Research Libraries in October 1987.

Making the Collection Accessible

While the collection has been available through CRL since 1987, the content was until recently largely inaccessible due to a lack of a finding aid for the microfilm. LAMP made several attempts to devise a means of access to the collection, but given the size, complexity, and relatively rushed nature of the preservation process, easy solutions proved elusive. In 2000–01, CRL staff painstakingly combed through each reel to identify the location and content of every *processo* and related files. The final reel guide (accessible through [CRL's online catalog](#)) serves as a research complement to the 12-volume printed index, and is sorted both by reel number and by BNM (project) number.

In January 2011, Marlon Alberto Weichert (Procurador Regional da República, Ministério Público Federal) contacted CRL to explore a partnership to digitize the full collection of reels. Weichert had found that over time, the paper archive in Campinas had suffered losses in the course of its use. Essential pages of historical significance were missing, including testimony of political prisoners that included the names of their torturers. LAMP's Executive Committee discussed the project at length and readily agreed to collaborate on this endeavor. LAMP contributed duplicate negatives of the reels for scanning in Brazil.

The collection of case files, indexes to the collection, supporting documentation from the *arquivo de material apreendido*, and other materials related to the project are currently being scanned at the Arquivo Público do Estado de São Paulo, after which the files will be accessible as open access material on the Internet. The Ministerio is expected to contribute up to \$200,000 to the project, with additional contributed funds and work by the project collaborations.

CRL and LAMP are pleased to have been guardians of the *Brasil: Nunca Mais* collection until it could be made more broadly accessible. After more than 40 years of relative obscurity, the *Brasil: Nunca Mais Digital* project seeks to restore this valuable contribution to Brazil's historical and cultural patrimony, while boosting the availability of the material for research by civil society and Brazilians seeking the truth. ❖

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