

# Exit Music: The Last Time

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...the social and political power of the archive,  
which consists in selecting the traces in memory,  
in marginalising, censoring, destroying, such and  
such traces through precisely a selection...

(Jacques Derrida)



The archive is the domain of ghosts. For we who are living, the ghosts of those not yet born and those already dead call us. They haunt us.

(Verne Harris)





... archival institutions are nothing if they do not primarily embody a community's temporal inclusiveness. Archives serve as agents of openness to the dead and unborn generations, the past and the future, always struggling to achieve symmetry of concern for past and future individuals.

(Brien Brothman)



Contemporary society — sometimes even including its archives — has been prone to marginalize the archival relation, the gift that archives can offer.

‘ (Brien Brothman)

I have only two proposals for archivists:

One, that they engage in a campaign to open all government documents to the public. If there are rare exceptions, let the burden of proof be on those who claim them, not as now on the citizen who wants information.

And two, that they take the trouble to compile a whole new world of documentary material, about the lives, desires, needs, of ordinary people.

(Howard Zinn)