

2nd Trento Workshop on The Ethnography of Documents
Wednesday, June 18th, 9-11, 2-3:30
Levico Room, DISI

The experiential research methods of ethnography continue to attract people working with digital technologies, not only to inspire design but also as a basis for a deeper and longer engagement with the wide range of digitally-mediated phenomena. Working with written records and other documents is another type of ethnographic work whose recognition is growing. This developing field combines the openness of “hanging out,” long seen as an advantage of the ethnographic imagination, with recognition of how documents can be active agents. This recognition is allied with a number of developments, in fields as diverse as Science and Technology Studies and Cultural Studies, that can be captured in the phrase, “techno-materiality.”

The purpose of this workshop is to build on the momentum of last year’s workshop on the ethnographic study of documents. A number of papers from the field will be available for preparatory reading at: <http://disi.unitn.it/~dandrea/workshop/> Participants should also think about the one or two sorts of documents that they are now or intend in the future to work with, so that these can be considered from an ethnography of documents perspective. Additionally, the facilitators’ proposal to write an article on the ethnography of documents for the upcoming 4th Edition of the *Handbook of Science and Technology Studies* has been tentatively accepted, so another part of the workshop will consider what topics to include in that article.

Workshop facilitators:

Dr. Kalpana Shankar, Lecturer and Information Studies Scholar,
School of Information and Library Studies, University College, Dublin,
Ireland

Dr. David Hakken, Information Ethnographer, Director of the
Social Informatics Program, School of Informatics and Computing,
Indiana University-Bloomington, USA, and University Fellow, University
of Trento

Participation in the workshop is free but limited to 25 people. Please sign up by sending an email to: dhakken@indiana.edu