

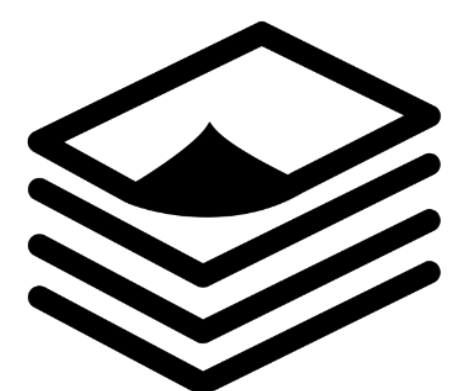
DATA ARCHEOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: DOCUMENTING THE DATA OF EL SALVADOR'S CIVIL WAR

THE DATA

In 1992 at the end of El Salvador's 13-year civil war, several NGOs and a UN Truth Commission began systematically documenting human rights atrocities perpetrated during the war, using personal testimonies, military records, and other documents. By its very nature, **human rights data is complex, personal, and sensitive**. Privacy and data security are of utmost importance.

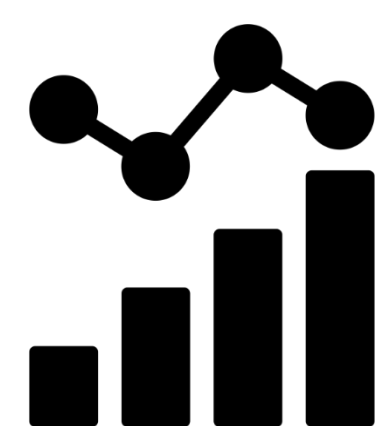
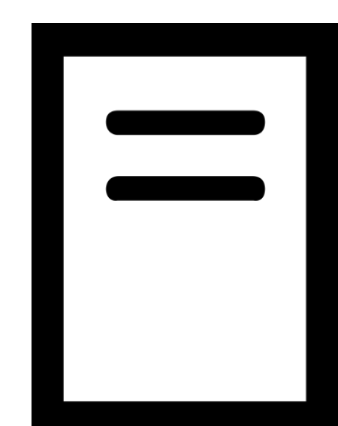
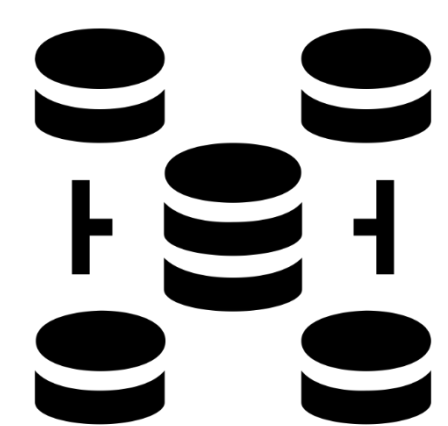
THE WORK

As part of the project's exploratory phase, we developed a data management plan and an initial data dictionary for one set of database files. This included **meeting with stakeholders** and experts in the field, **examining database file extracts**, **proposing potential metadata values**, and creating a data dictionary, **developing recommendations** for managing sensitive data, in collaboration with UW Libraries and UW-IT, and **using tools** such as: EZID, DMPTool, iPython Notebooks, and GitHub.



THE FUTURE

Researchers ultimately hope to examine, standardize, and map fields across databases, providing a fuller picture of the human rights violations committed and supporting the efforts of scholars, legal teams, and the Salvadoran people for truth, accountability, and justice.



THE CHALLENGES

Each database was designed differently and greatly limited by early 1990s computer processing and storage costs. These files changed organizational hands multiple times over a 25-year period with limited accompanying documentation, and most information about metadata values was lost.

THE GOALS

Thanks to modern technologies and FOIA-acquired CIA documents about the civil war, the UW Center for Human Rights is preparing to re-examine and complete an analysis of the entire database collection.

