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*What is the archive? Where is the archive?*

Traditionally, discussion of archives in an academic context has tended to be limited to historians' concern with sources. In recent years however, discourses about archives have developed in a number of other academic disciplines: in language, politics, psychology, sociology and cultural studies. Here a more critical theoretical view of archives as a whole has developed, reflecting a concern with the importance of archives to society, rather than simply with the archive as a holder of historical sources.

At the same time, literary studies have also provided a new forum for more discussion of the nature of archival documents, of archives as source for the novel and of archives as individual and collective memory. Recent widening interest in archives as a whole and their relation to language, construction and representation promises that new interpretations and understanding of literature and of archives may emerge. Additionally, techniques of literary criticism and of textual analysis together with theories taken from narrative cinema and film criticism may enable insights which will help us understand the relationship between the individual and the archival text.

Does this mean that the archival document is a site for tension or collaboration?

In this paper, the author considers these multidisciplinary developments and asks what fruitful co-operation may develop in the future