KNOW MEANS KNOW

Using radical empathy to digitize sexual content

Sophie Hollis, UNC Chapel Hill
WHAT ARE “SEXUAL MATERIALS?”

• Pornography/erotica
• Depictions of sex- and gender-based violence
• Materials related to sexual orientation
STEP 1: DEFINING CONSENT

• Reach out to living stakeholders (if possible)
• Consider context of acquisition
• Weigh potential harm to four parties of stakeholders: (Caswell & Cifor)
  • Material creators
  • Material subjects
  • Users
  • Larger community
WHO GETS PRIORITY?

“...An archival approach marked by radical empathy would require archives to make survivors and implicated communities not just a target group of users, but central focal points in all aspects of the archival endeavour, from appraisal to description to provision of access.”

—Michelle Caswell and Marika Cifor, “From Human Rights to Feminist Ethics: Radical Empathy in the Archives.”
CASE STUDY: THE FRONT PAGE

- Connect with publishers and editors
- Start with small sample
- Provide clear paths for removal and user feedback
STEP 2: ADDRESSING METADATA CHALLENGES

- Which authorities should be used?
- Who decides appropriate subjects?
- Should we use metadata at all?
WORKS CITED


QUESTIONS?

SOPHIE HOLLIS
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
sophsohn@ad.unc.edu