

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Some Theoretical and Methodical Questions</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	One Craftsman, One Operation	3
1.3	Dismantling Things in an Organized Way	7
1.4	On the Shoulders of Giants	12
1.4.1	The Experience of Father Busa in 1949	12
1.4.2	The Colloquium of the École Normale Supérieure de Saint-Cloud, 1965	13
1.4.3	Lawrence Stone in the Early 1970s	15
1.4.4	The First Computation Manual for Historians	17
1.4.5	Reconstructing Historical Communities: A Pioneering Project	18
1.4.6	Manfred Thaller and the Kleio	20
1.4.7	The Fichoz system	21
	References	22
<b>2</b>	<b>Some Computer Issues</b>	<b>25</b>
2.1	On Granularity	25
2.2	Database Models	28
2.2.1	Flat-File	28
2.2.2	Hierarchical	29
2.2.3	Graphs	29
2.2.4	Key-Value	30
2.2.5	Document-Oriented Databases	31
2.2.6	Relational Databases	32
2.2.7	Conceptual, Logical and Physical Models	40
2.3	Visual Form of Databases	44
2.3.1	Different Ways of Viewing Data	44
2.3.2	Colors	47
2.3.3	Forms	47
2.4	Technique and Theory: Everyday Problems and Practical Decisions	48

2.4.1	Homonyms .....	48
2.4.2	Update, Standardize or Maintain the Original? .....	50
2.4.3	Date Formats .....	51
2.4.4	Full Text or Excerpts? .....	52
2.4.5	Data Reuse .....	52
2.4.6	Fuzzy Information .....	53
2.4.7	The “Remarks”, “Comments” and “Notes” Fields .....	55
References	.....	55
<b>3</b>	<b>Research Engineering</b> .....	<b>57</b>
3.1	Introduction .....	57
3.2	Initial Survey .....	57
3.2.1	Creation of Teams .....	58
3.2.2	Training .....	59
3.3	Collection Strategies (Archives Survival Tips) .....	60
3.4	Manual Filling of the Database .....	62
3.5	Importing Data and REGEX Usage .....	63
3.5.1	Importing Data (Analog) .....	64
3.6	Database Administration .....	64
3.6.1	Checking Data .....	65
3.7	Problems and Dangers in Collective Databases .....	66
Reference	.....	68
<b>4</b>	<b>Constructing Databases: Some Concrete Examples</b> .....	<b>69</b>
4.1	Introduction .....	69
4.2	Source-Centered Databases .....	70
4.2.1	Baptism Records .....	71
4.2.2	Public Deeds .....	77
4.2.3	Correspondence .....	80
4.2.4	Dialogical Sources .....	82
4.3	Method-Centered Databases .....	83
4.3.1	Prosopography .....	83
4.3.2	Demographic Analysis (the “Henry Method”) .....	85
4.3.3	Social Network Analysis .....	86
4.3.4	Multi-task Databases .....	89
References	.....	91
<b>Appendix A: Original Documents (Chapter 1.3)</b>	.....	<b>93</b>