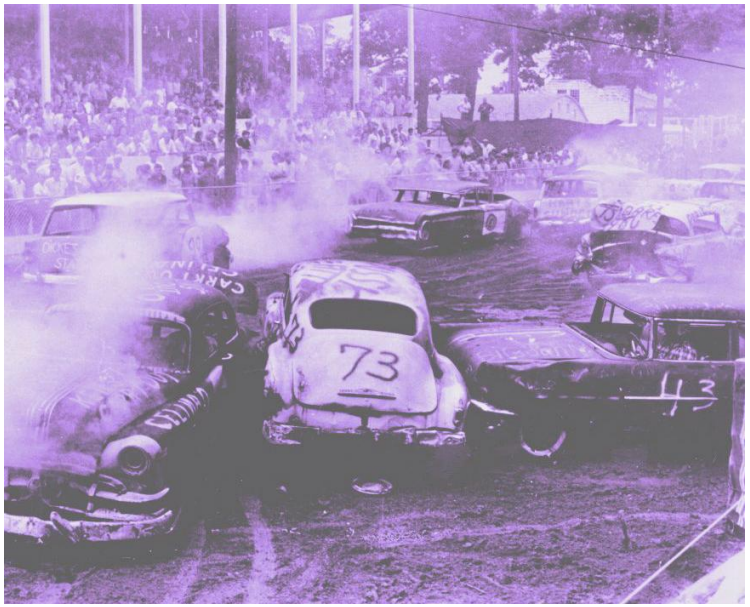
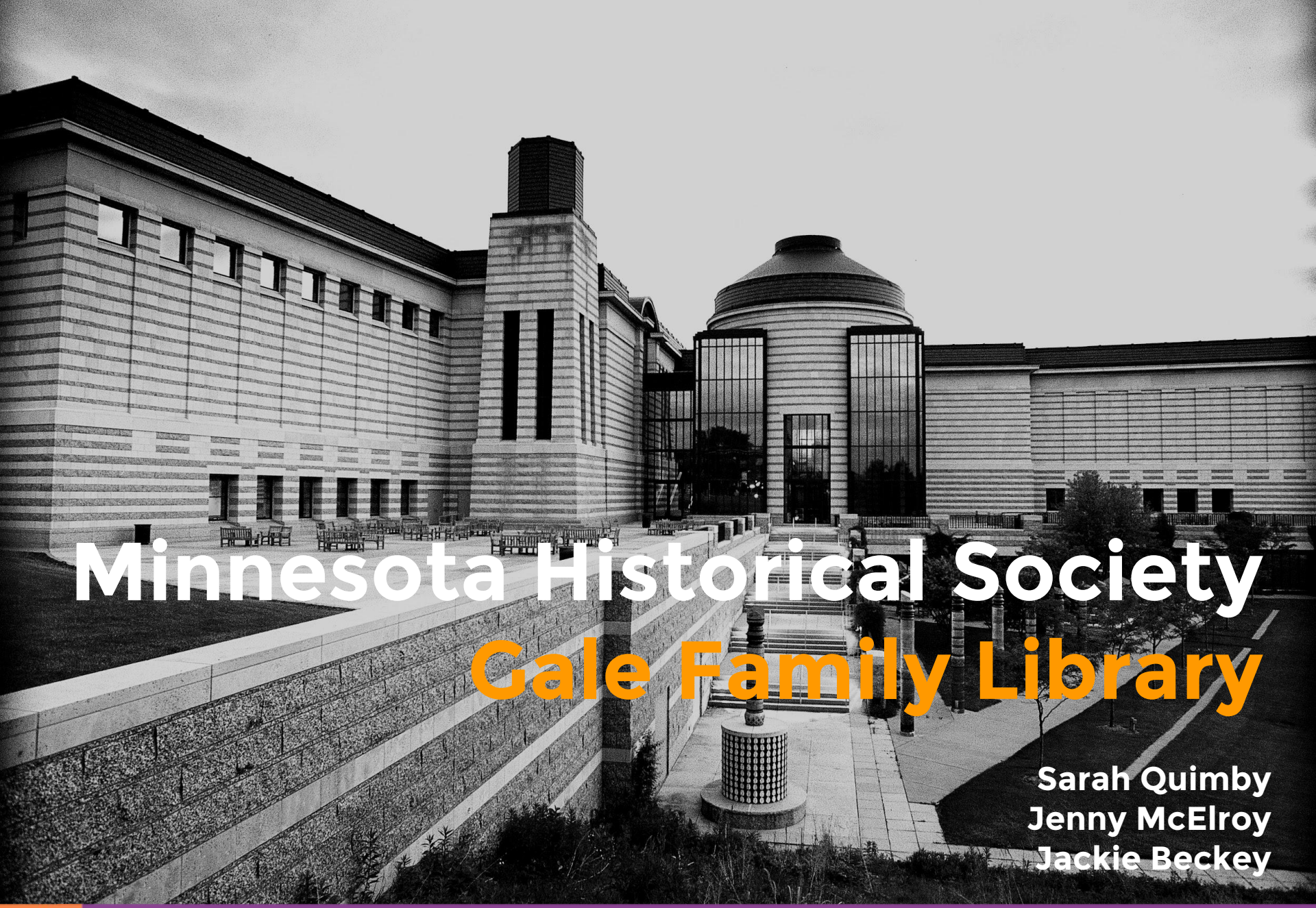
Single Search with SOLR

...or what to do when everything goes to &#$@





Minnesota Historical Society

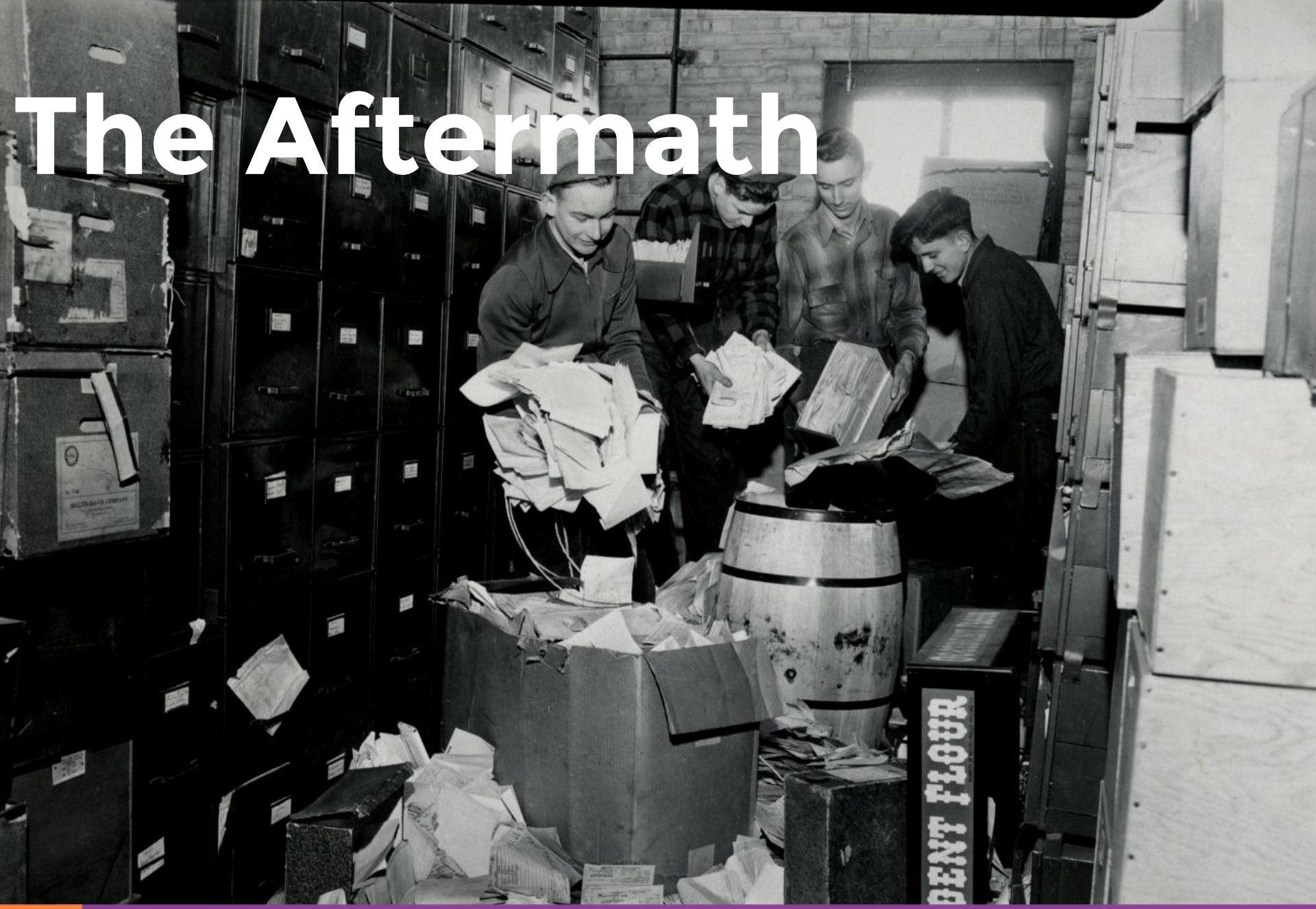
Gale Family Library

Sarah Quimby
Jenny McElroy
Jackie Beckey

The Backstory

PeopleFinder

The Aftermath

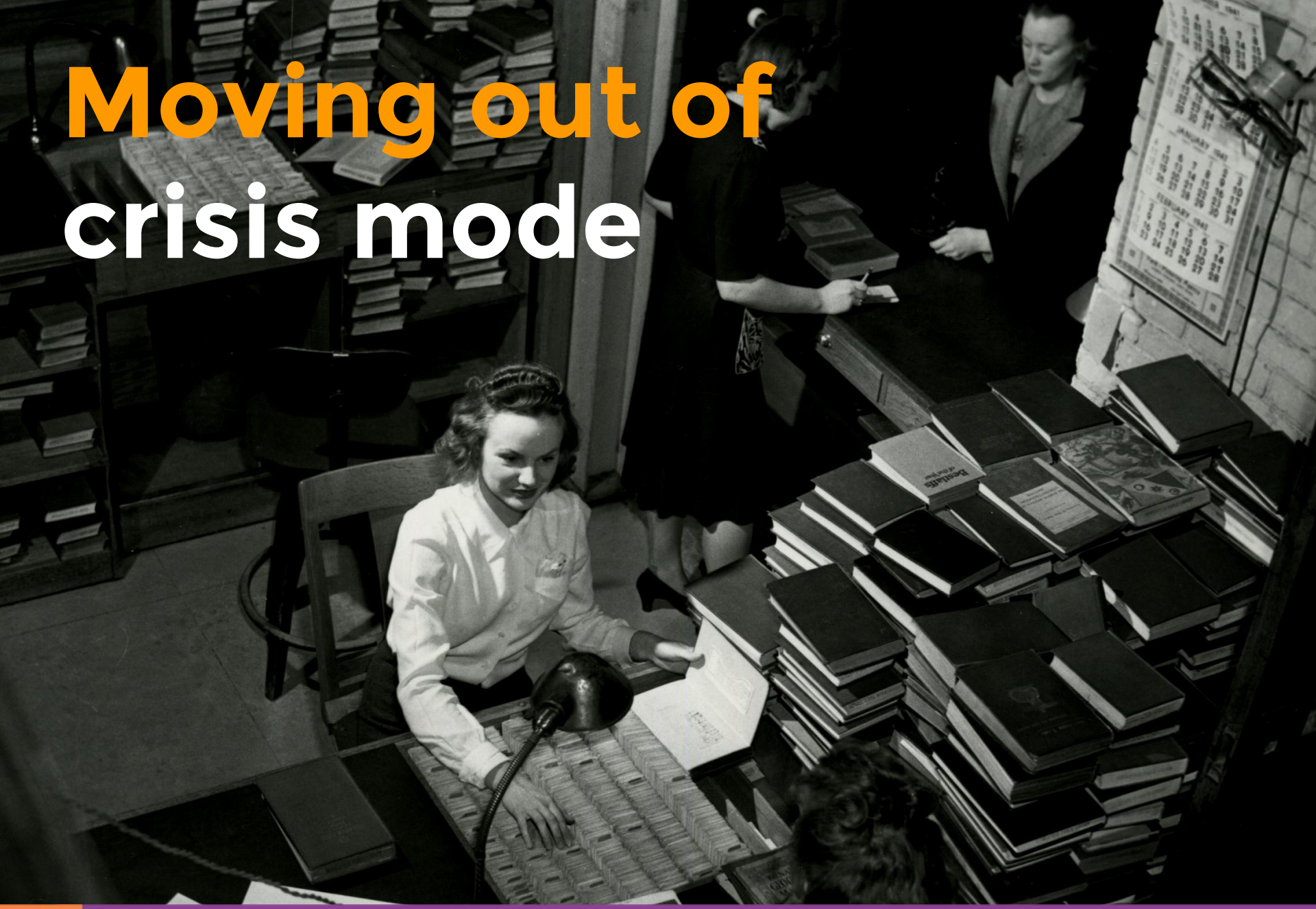


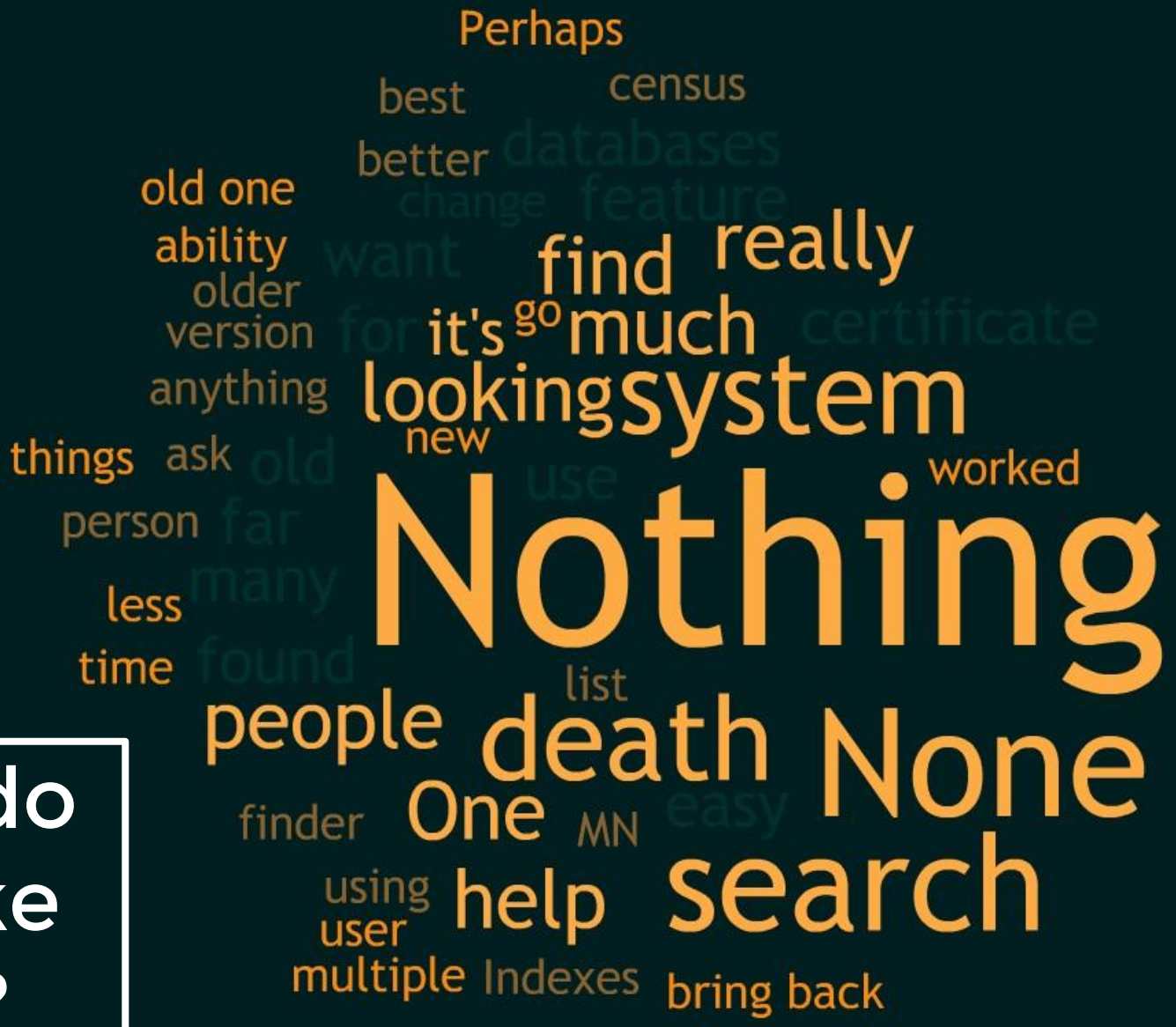
Crisis Management
Systems & Styles

Crisis Management
Partnerships

Crisis Management Tools

Moving out of crisis mode





What do you like best?

Lessons Learned

Red Flags

Searching historical records: What

Searching historical records: What

Name: Rude, Baby Girl

Birth Certificate Index | Text | 1912-44064

Birth: March 17, 1912

County of Birth: Ramsey County, Minnesota, United States

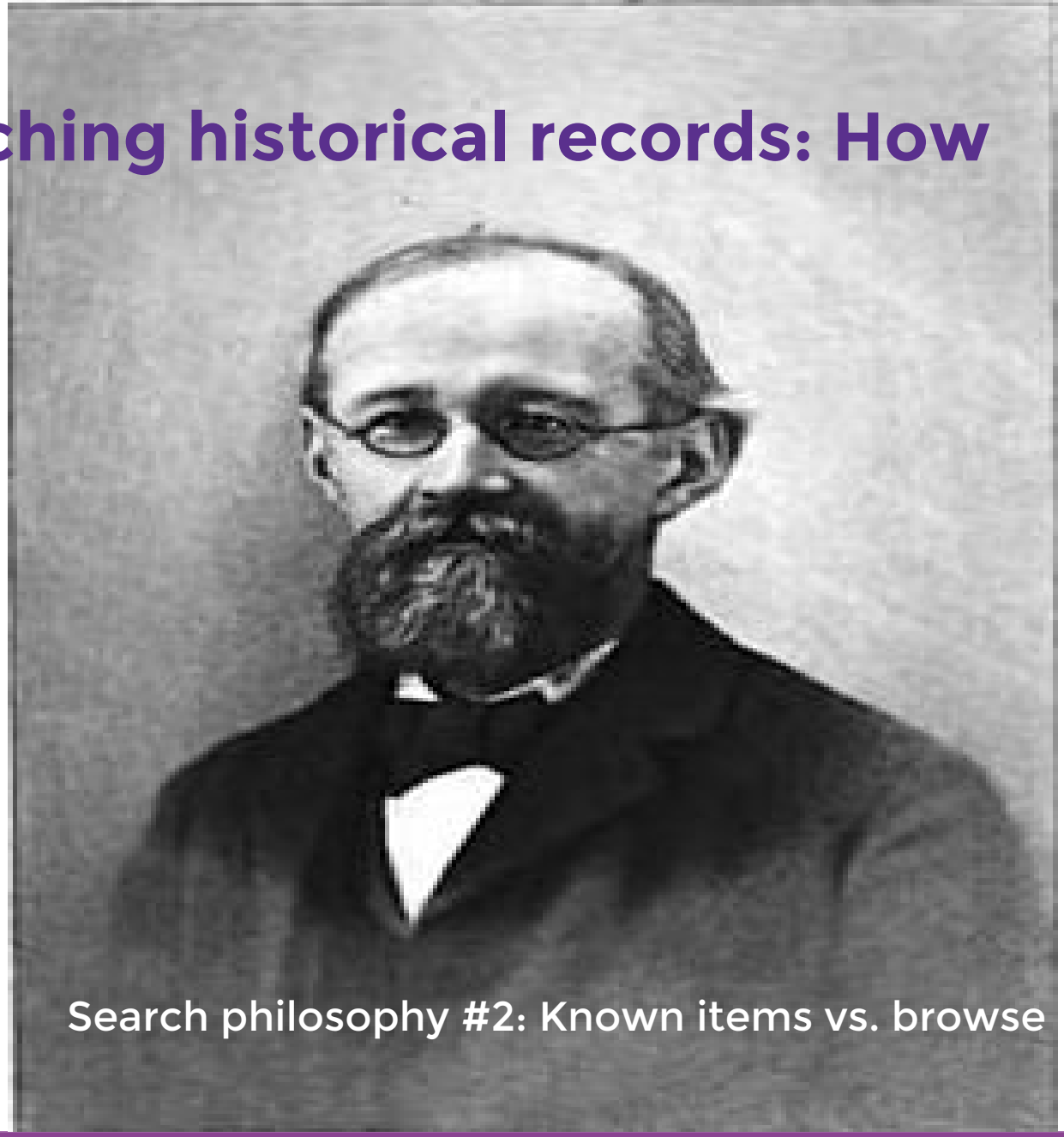
Mother's Maiden Name: Star

http://people.mnhs.org/finder/bci/1912-44064

Searching historical records: How

Simple search v. Advanced search

Searching historical records: How



Search philosophy #2: Known items vs. browse

Searching historical records: How

Search philosophy #3: Everything vs. specific things

The Vision

The ubiquity of online access inspires a vision of a single search across *all* collections, without regard for where the assets are housed or what institutional unit oversees them. A "Google-like search across our collections" showcases the compelling body of materials, extending the status of "leading" and "foremost" collections in a particular area or discipline from the physical into the virtual world. Incorporating other resources such as lectures, course content or educational materials into the single search "promotes intellectual connections." Searching by "my term, not your term" yields satisfactory results for every interaction, while result sets including "forest" (broad) and "tree" (specific) views allow multiple paths into the resources. Any desirable unit of information is never more than "two clicks away," allowing easy navigation through resources.

Zorich, Diane, Günter Waibel, and Ricky Erway. 2008. "Beyond the Silos of the LAMs: Collaboration Among Libraries, Archives and Museums." Report produced by OCLC Research. P.13. Online at: http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2008/2008-05.pdf

Searching historical records: Who

Klaus Stopp. Printed birth and baptismal certificates of German Americans. c.1880. Klaus Stopp Collection # 625. Online at: https://www.newberry.org/genealogy-teachers. Accessed March 13, 2016

Gathering data

What users want

- Separate searches for vital records
- Separate fields for first name and last name
- Fewer clicks

To sum up:

Know your users and their search habits.
Different users have different needs!

Know your data and your metadata!

Advanced search(ers) = simple results

Index fields for vital records: Last name, first name, mother's maiden name (when available), county, year (at a minimum)

Questions?

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