

# FIELD GUIDE TO SPATIALIZED ARCHIVES

## Master's Thesis

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### What is this Guide?

This booklet channels research into critical cartography, phenomenology, and media theory into a heuristic around exploring archives, from the institutional to the informal, in order to resolve theory and practice within a taxonomy that creates space for new discoveries.

### How can you use this guide?

The Field Guide is intended to offer a range of uses from a quick skimming of main ideas, to a rich investigation of the concepts. It offers diagrams, theory, and practical case studies to help realign and attune one's attention to the ordering that happens all around us. The purpose is to thicken one's understanding of how information is collected, processed, and disseminated, and to uncover the effects of when archives are made spatial.

### Dialogue

The guide's definitions, questions, and themes are presented as a basis for further exploration into the academic literature and contemporary archival practices that unpack, repack, and schematize spatialized archives. These pages do not aim to be comprehensive records, nor determinist orders. Rather, they provide entry points to the material. By tracing the trajectories through which data travel on their way to becoming spatialized archives, this guide will outline a protocol through which we can operationalize data and interrupt its effects.

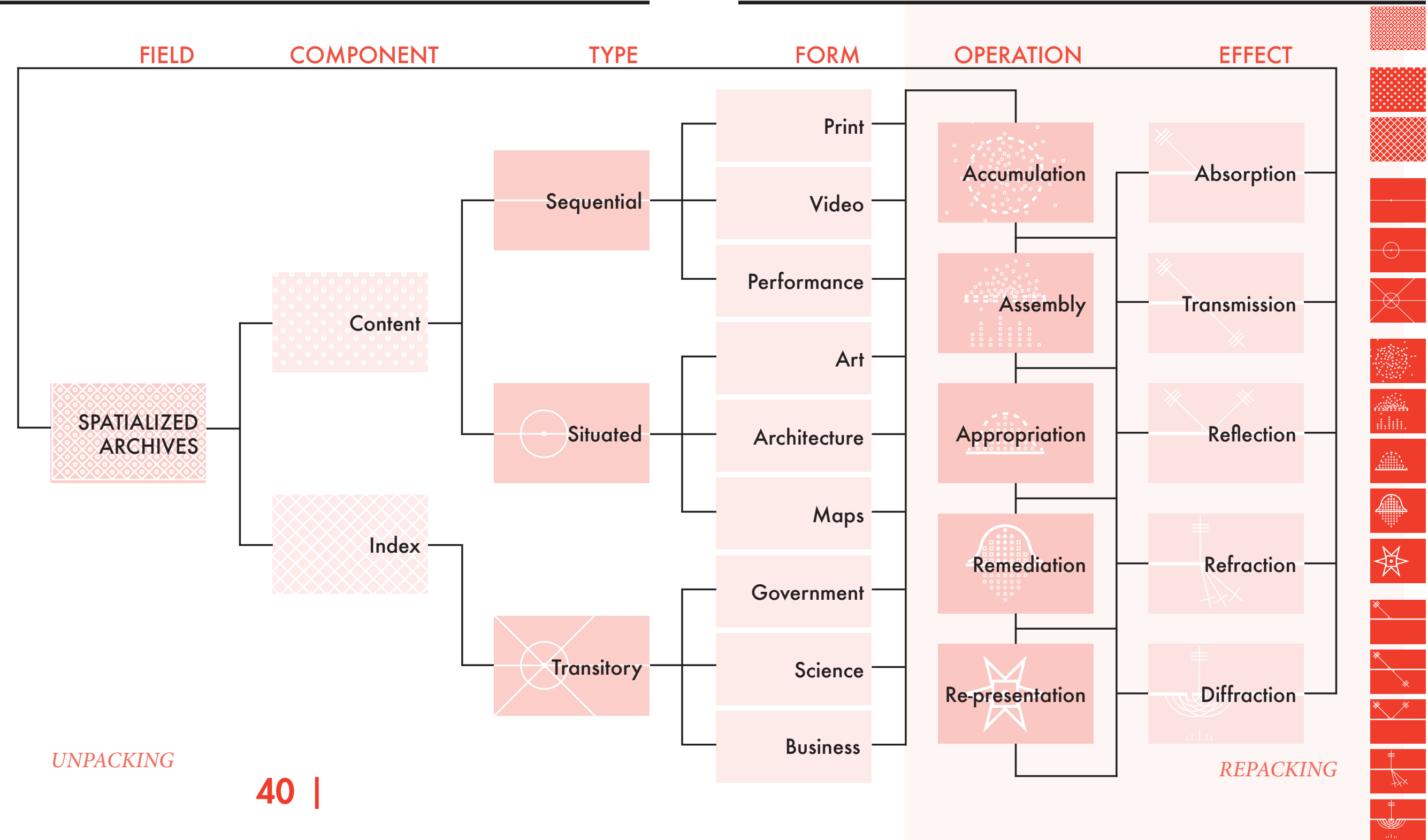
### Practice

The third section offers a pathway to diagram objects, projects, and concepts that one may encounter in everyday life. Particular archival forms are not restricted to specific disciplines, nor are professions restricted to any one form. Included are a series of spatialized diagrams of projects completed by the author as a way of showing how this framework can accommodate anyone's work that falls into and disrupts traditional disciplinary practices.

## THE FIELD

### WORKING THROUGH COLLECTIONS

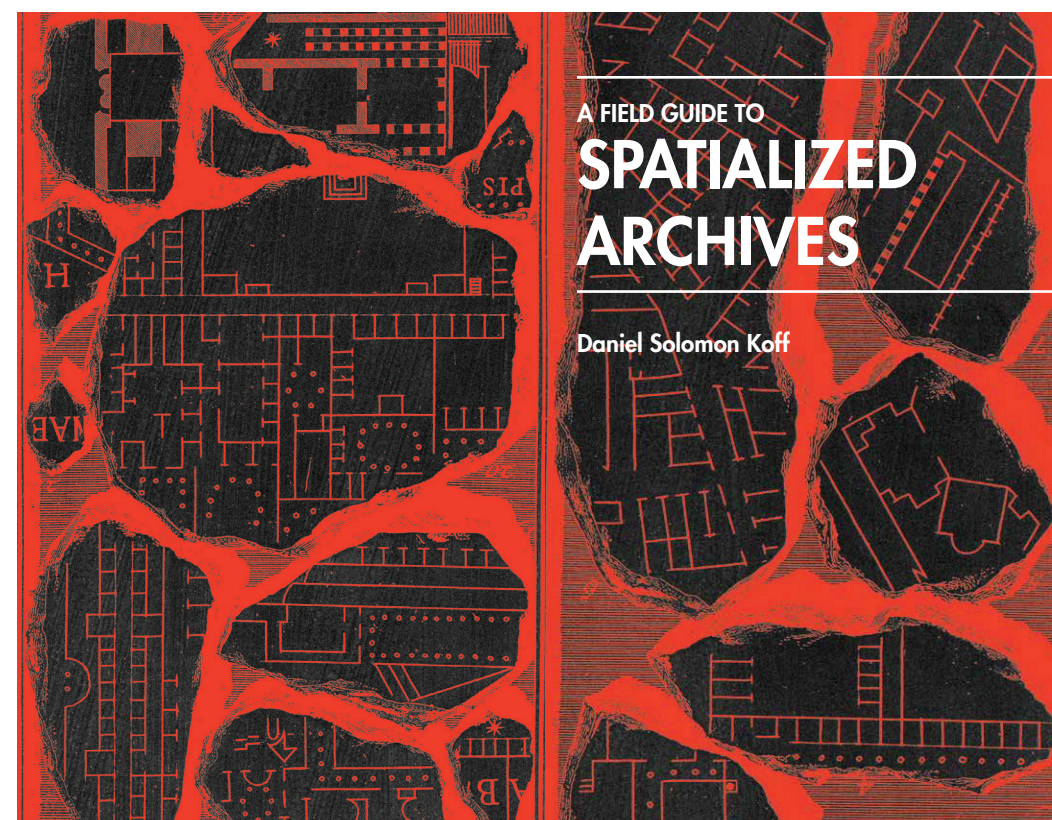
Place your project in the field of spatialized archives and follow the circuitry to unpack and repack it through this classification schema. While the boundaries between categories may be fluid, this chart will help you pull apart practices that are often seen as simplistic and effectual.



UNPACKING

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REPACKING



## OPERATIONS

### FORMING AND REFORMING DATA

- ACCUMULATION**  
the acquisition and gathering of material. A (pre)conscious activity wherein vernacular forms of knowledge may emerge and take root as a collection.
- ASSEMBLY**  
the gathering, sifting, and sorting of material into categories. A phase of sedimentation where gravity orders material. Because nothing is yet fixed, such categories may be upturned and reoriented.
- APPROPRIATION**  
the deliberate rearranging of material and its indexical organization to further one's own agenda. A definitive re-placing of content from its original context into new categories that generates new ideas.
- REMEDIATION**  
the pulling apart of a composition into its fragmentary elements. Like rainbows of light from a prism, archives can be pulled apart into fragmentary layers, or pushed together into a cohesive whole by shifting the speed and direction of knowledge. It operates as narrative.
- RE-REPRESENTATION**  
an experiential tour through a collection. An illustration of an interpretation: an archive's curated and edited form for distribution and dissemination of information.

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