



international institute
of social history

Collecting digital archives from our major archive creators

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Objectrepository IISG.

Huub Sanders, IISG curator
International Organizations,
finding the way to Amnesty
International, London.



Some of our starting points:

- **Our archive creators are not obliged to do anything.**
- **We are discussing customized, one-time solutions.**
- **We try to talk about the documents as much as possible, and about IT as little as possible.**
- **We try to acquire the files and metadata, if existing, not the systems they are produced and kept in.**
- **We ask the archive creator not to give us floppy disks, zipdrives, cdroms, dvds.**
- **We document what we are receiving and doing.**
- **Nothing is accessible without prior permission from the archive creator.**

Some of our early findings:

- There is willingness to cooperate.
- Transferring digital files raises questions on security and privacy, so we have to invest in building trust.
- Size doesn't matter (yet).
- Receiving 'personal' email archives is a challenge.
- When you go asking for digital archives, you will get a lot of paper as well.



Frank de Jong, IISG curator Netherlands, checking books at the Dutch Labour Party office after discussing the digital archive.