Title: *Problems in Store: Technological Solutions to Storage Dilemmas*

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Storage has long challenged the minds of archivists, librarians, inventors, academics, shipping, warehousing—now large IT firms, cloud computing operations, datacenter firms, global container shipping, modern freeports, and current art collectors confront storage obstacles and regularly develop new solutions. The panel brings together papers that consider the problem of *storage*, broadly construed, with particular attention to information storage and to technical solutions developed to resolve storage dilemmas.

Before Amazon was using 'chaotic storage' in their warehouses to (dis)order consumer goods waiting to be shipped, before automakers began using 'just-in-time' logistics to globally-source material production and minimize onsite storage, and before the development of shipping containers became standard in the oversea transportation of commodities, new vehicles for the movement and storage of materials goods and information have been developed to solve our everyday storage problems. The design of boxes, packaging, warehouses, and archives have long drawn on private industry, military technologies, and governmentally supported solutions to informational, agricultural, electrical, or other *storage problems*. Contemporary high-density storage technologies now allow for information dense storage on hard-disks or solid-state drives, while electric battery storage is being intensively researched; these developments are necessarily informed by earlier research, including containers such as the wooden Woodruff file (used to store documents) and early 19th century automotive lead-acid batteries, respectively. This panel seeks to represent a diverse history of storage media, presenting obstacles facing the

development of these systems, while connecting the diverse scholarship and research surrounding these topics.

Interested participants should submit papers connected to the history of storage technologies—submissions might draw on fields neighboring the history of technology including media archaeology, information science, logistical theory, supply chain management, or other related fields that challenge our assumptions surrounding the development of storage technologies and infrastructures. Panelists might question the types of problems that institutions, companies, or individuals faced, and the technical solutions that helped to overcome (or failed to overcome) storage problems of the time. Proposed abstracts might trace histories of storage, asking: what storage problems plague current archivists & librarians, logisticians, art collectors, hoarders, or engineers of information systems, energy grids, or other infrastructures dependent on storage? What types of maintenance are needed to sustain these storage systems, and what risks do we face in the failure of these systems? Is storage overlooked as a critical concept in the present, and if so, how might current scholars address gaps in the discourse? All papers speaking to the history of *storage* will be considered, with a goal of representing the long history of storage in this panel—our definition of storage will be inclusive, where papers on ancient storage containers such as ceramics from Egypt or Rome, standardized physical storage units in the last two centuries, and contemporary digital storage technologies will be considered with equal merit.

Please submit a one-page abstract (maximum 500 words) and a one-page short CV with current contact information by 25 March 2019 to the organizer.