

Microfilm, Law and Scientific Information

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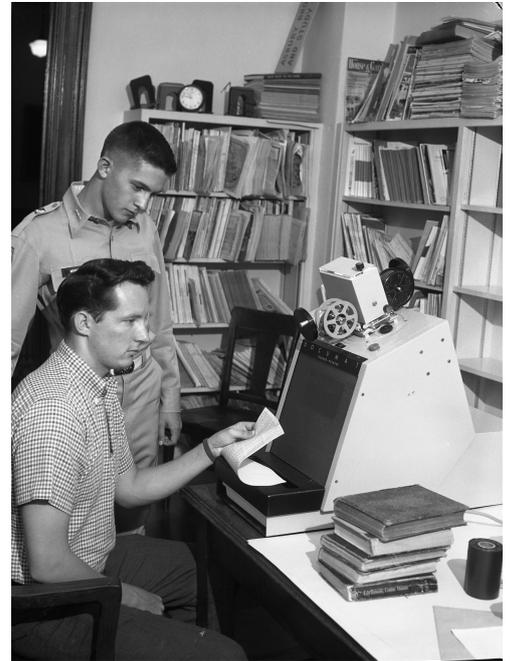
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Tuesday, 7 May 2019 15.15-17.00 (CET). Reception to follow. Tvärsnittet, Kopparhammaren, Norrköping

Remember something called microfilm? In this seminar organized by the ERC-funded project "Patents as Scientific Information, 1895-2020," (PASSIM) we look closer at this all-but forgotten media-technology and its relationship to law and scientific information.

In "Microfilming Patents: Copying, Law, and Media Theory," José Bellido considers the effect of microfilm polarity on patent examiners' performance, arguing that the history of patents can be understood as a history of media and their effect of reading, examination and search of scientific information. Through microfilm, he investigates the ways in which copying technologies, concepts and practices affected the perception of the role of (and space for) patents: storage space, file integrity, duplication costs and the development of patent search centers.

In "Dreams of the Minuscule" Matts Lindström explores some of the early perceptions of microfilm, while also trying to answer a series of questions concerning the interconnected relationships of science, the production of information and the imaginary of microfilm: how was the medium perceived and anticipated in the context of scientific practice? What futures were imagined and projected based on this new means of information production and storage? How did the specific materialities and practices which constituted microfilm affect these perceptions and anticipations?



Introduction by Eva Hemmungs Wirtén, Professor in Mediated Culture and PASSIM PI

Speakers

José Bellido is a researcher in the PASSIM project who teaches law at the University of Kent, United Kingdom. He is interested in the history of intellectual property and has recently edited a collection entitled *Landmark Cases in Intellectual Property* (Oxford: Hart, 2017). He is a member of the International Society for History and Theory of Intellectual Property (ISHTIP) and the IBC network, a multidisciplinary network on intellectual property rights, business and commerce and is a member of the Newton Fund - Social Sciences Panel (British Council). He has been a visiting fellow at UNSW (University of New South Wales) and NYU (New York University). He is the author of several works exploring the history of copyright history and the constitution of intellectual property as an academic discipline.

Matts Lindström is a media historian focusing on the cultural history of information. He defended his dissertation in the History of ideas in 2017, for which he was awarded the Johan Nordström and Sten Lindroth award for prominent scientific achievement. He has also co-edited two anthologies and published several book chapters presenting different aspects of his research. As a doctoral student at Stockholm university (2011-2017) he was part of the multidisciplinary Research School for Cultural History. He has been a teacher at both Stockholm University and KTH Royal Institute of Technology and been associated with cultural heritage projects at the Swedish National Library. He currently works as project coordinator for Digital Humanities Uppsala, Uppsala university.