From Fragmented Records to Reliable Victim Data: Information Systems for Long-Term Post-Conflict Recovery

Laboratory of Military Ecotones

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Individual lives and comparable evidence

Each life has a particular history

Records share investigable relationships

Comparison preserves differences in context

A growing collection needs a research framework

Different records describe different moments

A family reports a disappearance

A prison list records detention

A burial document records a location

A later register assigns an official status

The production of documentary visibility

Institutions decide what they record

Categories determine who becomes visible

Destruction and exclusion leave different gaps

Digitisation carries earlier choices forward

The record and the person

Sources contain specific claims

Person records connect biographical evidence

Events and places retain their own identities

Research conclusions remain distinguishable from sources

Traceability and correction

Every claim retains its source and context

Repeated copies retain their common origin

Contradictions remain available for examination

Corrections preserve the previous conclusion

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

Three records and an unresolved identity

Family testimony describes an arrest

A detention list contains a similar name

A burial record gives another spelling

These fictional records suggest a connection

Different outcomes of reconstruction

Evidence may support a common identity

The connection may remain provisional

Records may concern different people

An unresolved case remains part of the inquiry

Patterns across different conflicts

Repeated forms of record fragmentation

Different routes to identification and recognition

Unequal visibility of groups and places

Changing access to evidence over time

Five directions of investigation

Provenance and dependence between sources

Reconstruction of identities and events

Institutional selection and missing groups

Comparative patterns of documentation and recognition

Correction and institutional change over time

Assistance within a documented inquiry

Extraction and comparison of source material

Search across languages and name variants

Candidate connections for expert examination

Recorded decisions and identifiable responsibility

Technical reliability and human institutions

People define the system's boundaries

Accurate entries can form a selective account

Institutional purposes can change

No architecture guarantees lasting impartiality

The system after its founders

Founders establish demanding research principles

Routine administration changes incentives

Categories and access may become narrower

The system's own history becomes evidence

Reliable knowledge remains revisable

Individual lives support systematic investigation

Evidence and interpretation retain distinct histories

Long-term recovery includes unresolved human fates

Reliability remains an ongoing research obligation

Methodological sources

Gibbs and Nikolaenko (2026)
From Incident Records to Conservation Intelligence · Article 53

Nikolaenko (2026)
From Individual Events to the Morphology of Military Contamination · Article 32

The Record Can Be Rewritten, the Consequences Remain
Archives, Artificial Intelligence, and the Memory of War · Article 90

Conceptual working notes supplied for this presentation
Post-war transformations, science, and the production of knowledge