

## **Competition of Principles? Transparency as the Aim of Archival Description (Karsten Kühnel, ITS)**

The referent opposes the principles for archival arranging and description according to pertinence and to provenance and enquires their utility in order to describe large collections of special archival institutions like the ITS. He elucidates that the aim of archival description is to make archives transparent and in this way usable. It can be most likely achieved – also for collections – by describing after the documents' provenances. This, however, can be done only virtually at the ITS because the preservation of the current order is extremely important for fulfilling its current mandate of tracing and for documenting the historic development of the ITS as organisation. The referent explains that the methodology of virtual archival description causes that this process becomes coevally the process of building up and defining the separate archive groups and also the archives' tectonics as a whole. Considering Terry Cook's theories as being adaptable for the ITS's situation, who says, that archival fonds would not longer have to be defined as physical things but as complexes of mutual relationships, archival units lose their former uniqueness of tectonic assignment. In respect of the relativity of their existence the referent recommends not to use any longer the terms of an archival fonds, archive group or records group otherwise than in contexts of archival sciences and of user support, especially not in juridical contexts (like in a scale of fees etc.).