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.