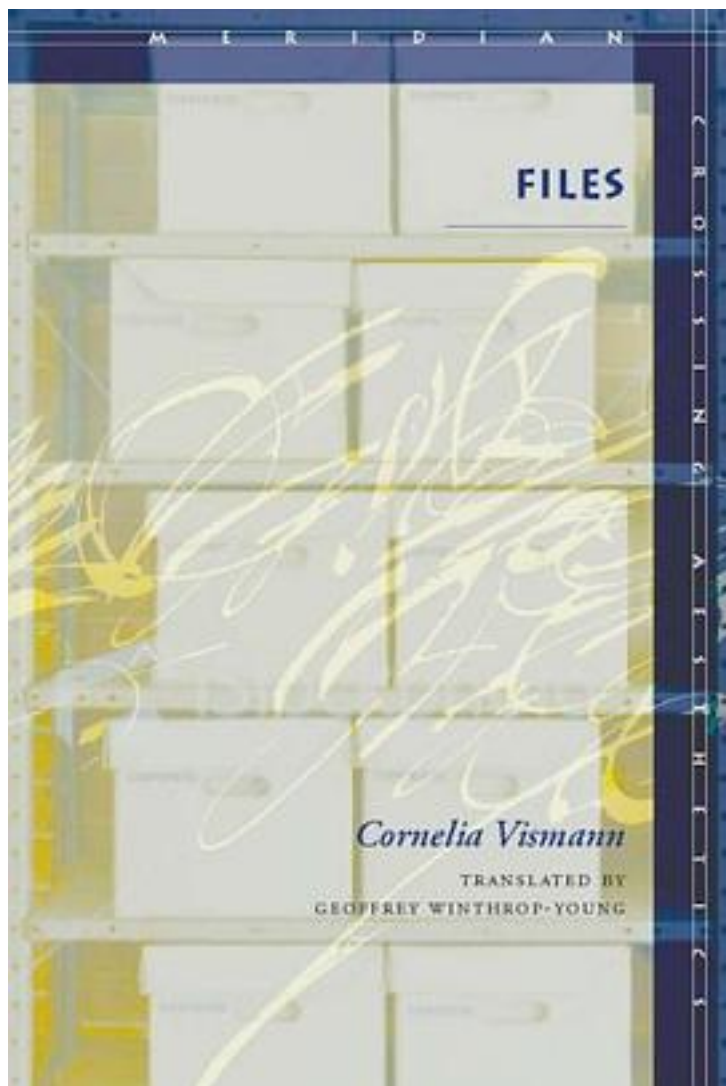


Files



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Quod non est in actis, non est in mundo. (What is not on file is not in the world.) Once files are reduced to the status of stylized icons on computer screens, the reign of paper files appears to be over. With the epoch of files coming to an end, we are free to examine its fundamental influence on Western institutions. From a media-theoretical point of view, subject, state, and law reveal themselves to be effects of specific record-keeping and filing practices. Files are not simply administrative tools; they mediate and process legal systems. The genealogy of the law described in Vismann's *Files* ranges from the work of the Roman magistrates to the concern over one's own file, as expressed in the context of the files kept by the East German State Security. The book concludes with a look at the computer architecture in which all the stacks, files, and registers that had already created order in medieval and early modern administrations make their reappearance.

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评论

真沒想到這本這麼好看，也有可能是譯者語言功底太好了，讀起來讓人欲罷不能。對我來說最出彩的是前三章，用故事把files的兩大基本功能transmission and storage嵌套在法律和政務的歷史中（用卡夫卡的故事講structure of referentiality那段如此順滑！）其實仔細來看files在法律發展的過程中並沒有像Ranke想的那樣"store an unadjusted history of becoming"，而是以preamble-barrier和act of canceling的身份變成了一種新的arcane power。以Bartleby為archétype的法律文員也通過否定的speech act完成了新的cancellation。（仍需二刷）

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书评

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