

June 2017

## What Is a Nondocument?

Marc Kosciejew  
mkosciej@gmail.com

Please take a moment to share how this work helps you [through this survey](#). Your feedback will be important as we plan further development of our repository.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/docam>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kosciejew, Marc (2017) "What Is a Nondocument?," *Proceedings from the Document Academy*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 21.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.35492/docam/4/1/21>

Available at: <https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/docam/vol4/iss1/21>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by University of Akron Press Managed at IdeaExchange@UAkron, the institutional repository of The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio, USA. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings from the Document Academy by an authorized administrator of IdeaExchange@UAkron. For more information, please contact [mjon@uakron.edu](mailto:mjon@uakron.edu), [uapress@uakron.edu](mailto:uapress@uakron.edu).

What is meant by a nondocument? Is a nondocument simply the opposite of a document? What does a nondocument look like? What are the characteristics or properties of a nondocument? What makes something a nondocument? What could be a nondocument? What could not be a nondocument?

Is a nondocument a document? Is a nondocument not a document? Is a nondocument a kind or version of a document? Is a nondocument something that was once or originally a document? Or is a nondocument something else entirely?

Can a document become a nondocument or vice versa? What makes or could make a document a nondocument? Can a document be a nondocument and still be a document? Can a nondocument be a document? Can a document be a nondocument, or vice versa, in different contexts? Or is a nondocument a documentary hybrid of something that is considered a document and something that is considered not a document?

Is a nondocument material? Is a nondocument immaterial? Is a nondocument something tactile that can be touched or is it something ephemeral that cannot be touched?

Is a nondocument an object? Is it a record? Is it a text? Is it an image? Is it a sound? Is it an artifact? Is it information? Is it data? Is it a kind of multimedia entity? Is it physical? Is it digital? Is it an event? Is it a thing? Is it a thought? Is it an antelope? Is a nondocument something? Or maybe it's nothing? What actually is or could be a nondocument?

Is a nondocument intended to be a nondocument? Or perhaps a nondocument is intended to be a document but somehow becomes considered, treated, or perceived as a nondocument? Or maybe a nondocument is not intended to be either a document or something that is not a document?

Is a nondocument informing? Is a nondocument informative? Does a nondocument present or make possible information? Can or does a nondocument furnish or provide evidence? Perhaps a document could become a nondocument if its evidentiary value is somehow negated? Or maybe a nondocument could become a document if it is discovered or perceived to have evidentiary value? Or possibly a nondocument is a nondocument its evidentiary value, or lack thereof, notwithstanding?

Is a nondocument processed as a nondocument? Or is a document processed as a nondocument? Or maybe if the processing goes wrong for whatever reason, that

something becomes a nondocument? Or does a nondocument require any processing at all?

Is a nondocument perceived as a nondocument? Does there need to be a phenomenological position for something to be perceived as a nondocument? Can a document be perceived as a document in one instance and as a nondocument in another? Or could a document be perceived as a document and nondocument simultaneously?

If something is perceived to be a nondocument then presumably it is a nondocument? Perhaps it could be perceived as a hybrid between something that is perceived as a document and something that is perceived as not a document? Or if something is perceived to be a nondocument then presumably it could be considered something that might otherwise be perceived as a document but that its particular properties and practices are somehow ignored, violated, or negated thereby making it a nondocument? In other words, it may be perceived as a document but when its properties or practices are somehow vitiated it is rendered as something less than a document – a subdocument? – something that is not quite a document but not quite not a document: a nondocument?

Does a nondocument require certain kinds of practices with it that position it as or make it a nondocument? Are there particular practices unique to a nondocument? Are there certain kinds of practices that can make or turn a document into a nondocument and vice versa? Or are there certain kinds of practices that can make something both a document and nondocument simultaneously? Or if a document requires certain kinds of practices that are neglected somehow, could that dereliction of practice make it a nondocument? Or if a nondocument requires certain kinds of practices that are neglected somehow, could that dereliction of practice strip it of its status or undermine its perception as a nondocument? Or could that dereliction of practice possibly make it or turn it into a document? document?

What is a nondocument experience? Can a nondocument be experienced? If so, what is or could such an experience be or consist of? Who, what, when, where, and how can or is a nondocument experienced?

Is a nondocument authoritative? Could a nondocument be authoritative, have authority, or be perceived as having authority? If a document has or needs authority for its status as a document, if that authority is lost or undermined, does it become a nondocument? Or perhaps if a document was meant to be authoritative, but for whatever reason is not, it is or becomes a nondocument?

Is a nondocument authentic? Can a nondocument be perceived as authentic? Or maybe a nondocument is an inauthentic document? Is a nondocument trustworthy? Perhaps a nondocument is a document that somehow lost its trustworthiness? Is a nondocument reliable, unreliable, or both? Is a nondocument legitimate, illegitimate, or both?

Is a definition of and for a nondocument necessary? If so, should the definition be specific or general, rigid or flexible, or open or closed to interpretation? Or perhaps there could be different kinds of definitions for different contexts or instances of a nondocument? Or maybe there can be no satisfactory or useful definition of a nondocument? Maybe such a definition is not possible?

What are the limits to a nondocument? Are there limits to a nondocument, or perhaps there are no limits?

So then, what is a nondocument?