



CIVIC
ECOSYSTEMS
INITIATIVE

CIVIC ECOSYSTEMS INITIATIVE INSIGHTS & IDEAS

INSIGHTS FROM THE JUSTICE ARCHIVE

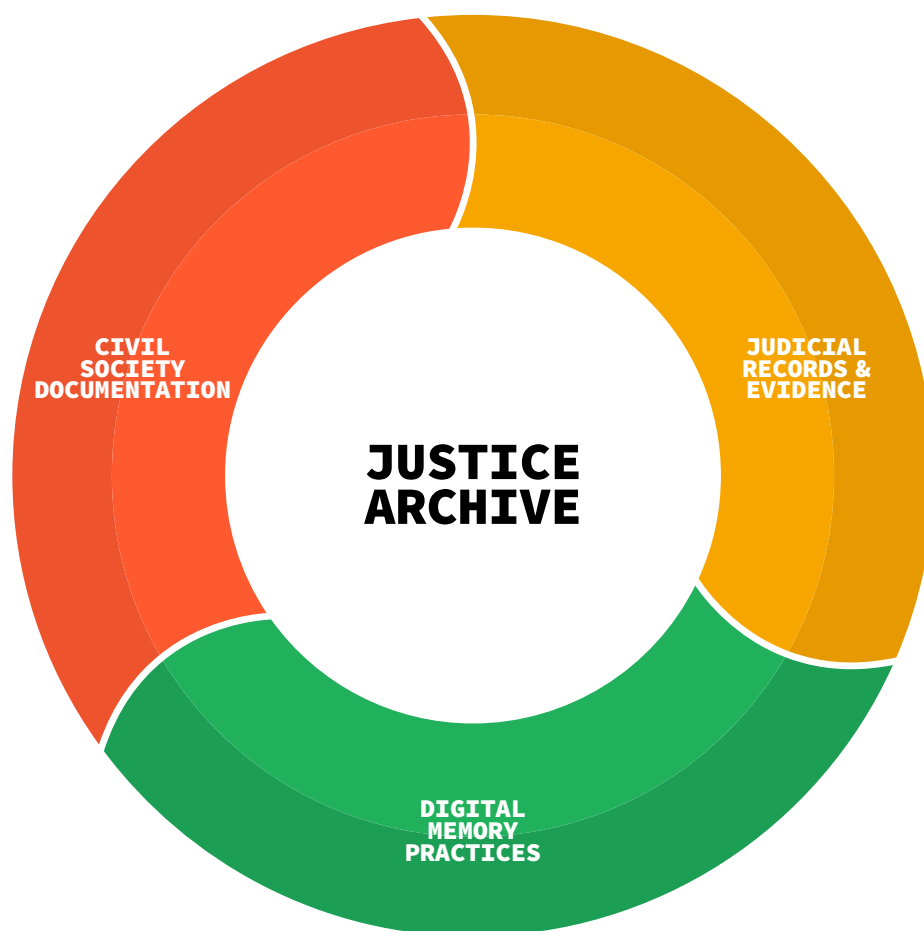
HOW DOCUMENTATION AND JUSTICE ECOSYSTEMS CO-EVOLVE AND COALESCE

IAVOR RANGELOV
RUTI TEITEL

Civic ecosystems for documentation and justice often emerge and self-organize spontaneously in situations where serious human rights abuses occur.

When they successfully leverage their complementarities, documentation and justice ecosystems co-evolve and coalesce in ways that can strengthen the documentation, catalyse justice, and create space for narrative change and memory work.

The emergence of the [Justice Archive](#) is an example of how these pathways unfold in countries facing threats to democracy. Civil society documentation acts as a catalyst for justice processes such as criminal prosecutions and strategic litigation that generate their own records and evidence. In turn, these records provide a basis for digital memory practices addressing democratic anxieties in the present and laying the foundation for societal change in the future, thereby extending the scope and impact of the ecosystems.



Analysis of the Justice Archive in two global regions – [the Americas and the Balkans](#) – suggests that digitization is a critical strategy that can be used in different ways:

- Digital Archiving strengthens the ecosystems – preserving and protecting the records and enabling ecosystem constituents to access and use them.
- Digital Memory Activism expands the ecosystems – repurposing and redeploying the records for narrative change and memory work by other actors.

CIVIC ECOSYSTEMS INITIATIVE

CIVIC ECOSYSTEMS INITIATIVE INISIGHTS & IDEAS

© IAVOR RANGELOV AND RUTI TEITEL – CIVIC ECOSYSTEMS INITIATIVE 2025. THIS WORK IS LICENSED UNDER A CREATIVE COMMONS ATTRIBUTION 4.0 INTERNATIONAL LICENSE WHICH PERMITS USE, DISTRIBUTION AND REPRODUCTION IN ANY MEDIUM, PROVIDED THE ORIGINAL WORK IS PROPERLY CITED.