

Aalborg November 12, 2012.

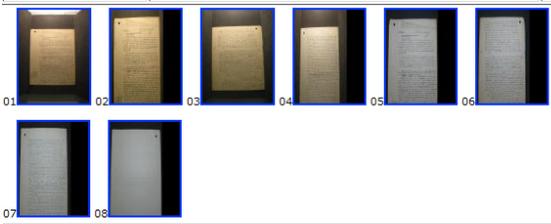
Introduction: Prior databases as follows needed to be established, based upon examination of boxes as they appear at the Bodleian Library - Special Collections Reading Room (SCRR), and based upon the box lists and bibliography from the Arthur Norman Prior website at [www.prior.aau.dk](http://www.prior.aau.dk) ([www.priorstudies.org](http://www.priorstudies.org))

After three visits to Oxford (Jan 2011, Mar 2011, and Jan 2012) where the contents of the boxes were photographed to a very large extent, resulting in more than 5000 photos, the website [research.prior.aau.dk](http://research.prior.aau.dk) now (April 12) holds 5416 of these photos with a considerable number of photos from the Dropbox to be added, and more to follow. The database can be accessed after login:



Photos are grouped into documents and the text in each of the photos can now be transcribed in an interface shown below. Comments can be added in the editor to the right:

No.	Author	Title	Date
99	Arthur N. Prior	Evolution <span style="color: red;">Box 6</span>	00 00 1950



**General comment:**

HWU. Ca. 1950? Per Hasle: "Not really a full manuscript, but rather a fragmentary bunch of notes. --In the winter 1949-50 there was a controversy on 'evolution' in the NZ Listener, involving ANP, one G. H. Duggan, and a few others. These notes were in all likelihood written in this connection. (See Scrapbook Listings in 11, section 3, items 4 and 9.)"

**User Jørgen 'Admin' Albretsen**  
- latest edit of comment: 17-01-2012 15:14:42 (GMT+1)

During Oxford-stay January 2012 a second set of photos were made. These photos are numbered 05-06-07-08. 08 (page 4) is empty, ANP has just put the page number 4 on top of page...

**User Jørgen Albretsen**  
- latest edit of comment: 16-01-2012 18:47:33 (GMT+1) - can enter comments

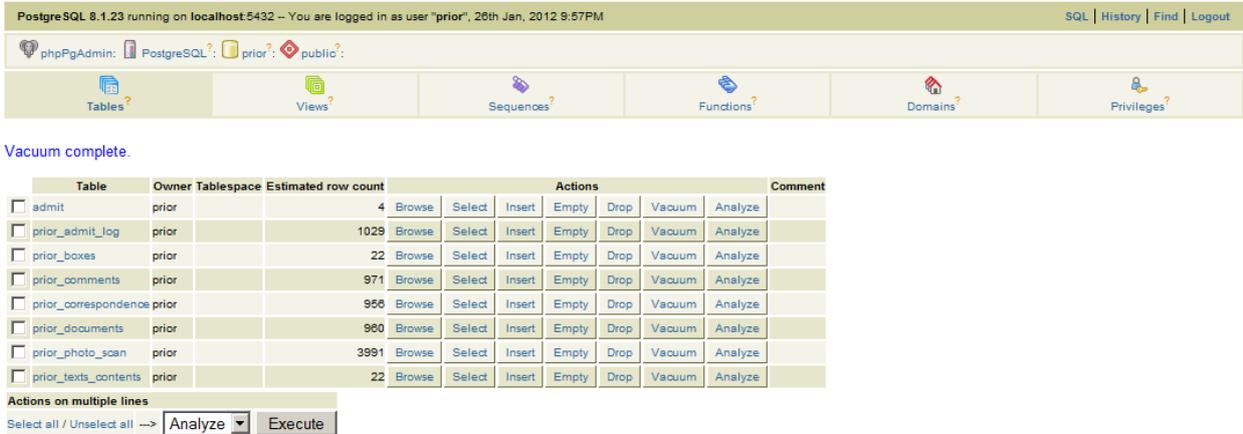
Let us jump from Newton and his offshoots to another scientific theory that has had a good deal of influence outside the particular scene that it belongs to. I mean the biological theory of evolution. I think, by the way, that if you want to hear something about this subject from a somewhat different point of view from my own, you would be able to do so at 8 p.m. tomorrow night, where Mr. Duggan will be addressing the ??? Society on the subject.

Let us begin with certain facts that are common knowledge:

1. The earth is populated with a large number of living creatures and a large number of different species or kinds of living creatures.
2. All these living creatures have come into being as the offspring of other living creatures. At all events, we have never seen them coming into being in any other way. There is a possible exception to this, however. There are certain things so small that they pass through filters and cannot be seen through microscopes, though some of them can be photographed through microscopes, by means of rays of shorter wavelength than visible light. These little things behave like living beings - movements ?????? - and they are responsible for certain diseases in plants, animals and human beings. They are called filter .... viruses. They .... I think, .....

Some of them seem so small that they are they are just

The database is implemented in PostgreSQL:



PostgreSQL 8.1.23 running on localhost:5432 -- You are logged in as user "prior", 26th Jan, 2012 9:57PM

phpPgAdmin: PostgreSQL: prior: public:

Tables Views Sequences Functions Domains Privileges

Vacuum complete.

Table	Owner	Tablespace	Estimated row count	Actions								Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> admit	prior		4	Browse	Select	Insert	Empty	Drop	Vacuum	Analyze		
<input type="checkbox"/> prior_admit_log	prior		1029	Browse	Select	Insert	Empty	Drop	Vacuum	Analyze		
<input type="checkbox"/> prior_boxes	prior		22	Browse	Select	Insert	Empty	Drop	Vacuum	Analyze		
<input type="checkbox"/> prior_comments	prior		971	Browse	Select	Insert	Empty	Drop	Vacuum	Analyze		
<input type="checkbox"/> prior_correspondence	prior		956	Browse	Select	Insert	Empty	Drop	Vacuum	Analyze		
<input type="checkbox"/> prior_documents	prior		980	Browse	Select	Insert	Empty	Drop	Vacuum	Analyze		
<input type="checkbox"/> prior_photo_scan	prior		3991	Browse	Select	Insert	Empty	Drop	Vacuum	Analyze		
<input type="checkbox"/> prior_texts_contents	prior		22	Browse	Select	Insert	Empty	Drop	Vacuum	Analyze		

Actions on multiple lines  
Select all / Unselect all --> Analyze Execute

[Create table](#) | [Create table like](#)

and specifically, the tables and the fields in each table comprising the database, are as follows:

*prior\_photo\_scan*

photo\_scan\_id, item, comment, person, ordering, docdate, regdate, editdate

*prior\_documents*

document\_id, title, description, day, month, year, date, boxdate, regdate (=docdate), editdate

*prior\_boxes*

With an auxiliary database

*location* to label the boxes correctly (key box\_id). Contains text strings of the form: “Box xx: <title>” e.g. “Box 02: The C.L. Hamblin Correspondence”.

*prior\_boxes*: boxes\_id, box\_id, title, description, regdate (=boxdate), editdate

*prior\_correspondence*

correspondence\_id, from\_person, to\_person, content, comment, docdate, boxdate, regdate, editdate, prior\_classification

The four databases are linked so to speak downwards, cf. the above:

docdate in *prior\_photo\_scan* links to regdate in *prior\_documents*

boxdate in *prior\_documents* links to regdate in *prior\_boxes*

regdate(=docdate) in *prior\_documents* links to docdate in *prior\_correspondence* and  
regdate(=boxdate) in *prior\_boxes* links to boxdate in *prior\_correspondence*

prior\_classification can be Paper, Paper other, Letter, Letter other, Other.

For users to add comments the following database has been established:

*prior\_comments*

comment\_id, comment\_to\_text, userdate, commentdate, regdate, editdate

userdate links to admit\_regdate in *admit* (admit\_id, ..., user\_first\_name, user\_last\_name,  
admit\_regdate)

commentdate links to docdate in *prior\_correspondence*

Each unique userdate (admit\_regdate) can have one and only one record in the database. When a text in *prior\_correspondence* is edited, it is first checked, if the userdate in question has already made comments on the text, and that record is retrieved for the userdate in question to update. If not, a new record is inserted. Each text has pr. default a record in *prior\_comments*. These records are characterised by having userdate=regdate (ie. “the system” is the user who made this comment). They contain bibliographical data, general metadata, Per Hasle’s notes from box lists, etc., which is typed or copied in when the text is first inserted into the Prior database system.

To ensure that no text previously entered in the content field of the *prior\_correspondence* database accidentally gets deleted, a backup database has been established:

*prior\_texts\_contents*

content\_id, old\_content, userdate, content\_regdate, old\_editdate, editdate

userdate links to admit\_regdate in *admit* (... as above...)

content\_regdate links to regdate in *prior\_correspondence*

When user edits entry in *prior\_correspondence*, first content is copied to old\_content and editdate is copied to old\_editdate.

When user clicks Save, check is performed if content in *prior\_correspondence* has changed (≠). if so, record is inserted into *prior\_texts\_contents* with old\_content and old\_editdate defined as above, and with userdate to log which user made the change, content\_regdate to locate the record in *prior\_correspondence* where content was changed, and editdate to get the timestamp.

As researchers around the world sign up for the Virtual Lab for Prior Studies, they are asked to choose which texts (papers and/or letters) they would like to transcribe. To keep track of this process, this database is created:

*prior\_transcribers*

transcriber\_id, transcriber\_regdate, transcribe\_text\_regdate, regdate, editdate

transcriber\_regdate links to admit\_regdate in *admit* (... as above ...)

transcribe\_text\_regdate links to regdate in *prior\_correspondence* (docdate in *prior\_documents*)

A record in this database tells the system that userdate is allowed to transcribe the text designated by transcribe\_regdate (regdate) in *prior\_correspondence*. (which contains both papers and letters, with prior\_classification to make the distinction). Other users of the VL will be able to read any more or less complete transcription, and they will be able to make comments in their own comments field – see *prior\_comments*. It is possible to assign the same transcribe\_regdate to several userdates.

In connection with *prior\_transcribers* another database is needed to control the proofreading of transcriptions:

*prior\_proofreaders*

proofreader\_id, proofreader\_regdate, proofreader\_text\_regdate, regdate, editdate

It is important that *prior\_proofreaders* and *prior\_transcribers* can be related:

*prior\_proofreader* => proofread\_text\_regdate=transcribe\_text\_regdate <= *prior\_transcriber*

A boolean **published** must be added to cover all cases:

proofread and published => No transcription, no images(?), only link to pdf.

not proofread and published => The Springer Case with *The Fable of the Four Preachers*

proofread and not published => Transcription READONLY

not proofread and not published => business as usual

Upload of files:

Allowed when: transcriber, not proofread, nor published...

*prior\_centenary*

centenary\_id, first\_name, last\_name, email, telephone, organisation, department, address, postalcode, cityname, country, centenary\_activity, regdate, editdate

Database to keep track of who has received the CFP, who has submitted, who is attending, etc...

The persons invited to the Centenary have often published articles citing Prior's works. An auxiliary database is established, connected to the *prior\_centenary*.

*prior\_citations*

citation\_id, citationer\_regdate, bib\_post, cited\_prior\_work, regdate, editdate

citation\_regdate links to regdate in *prior\_centenary*

(Subject to change without further notice)

/Jørgen Albretsen