

Identity Rubric / Legend

Symbols are designed around concepts of self, power relationships, and lived experience. They are intended to be machine-readable and visually unambiguous across all written languages.

To be recorded on verso face of tablet

HOME LOCATION (FORMAT)

DDD° MM.M' SS.S" X DD MM.M' SS.S" X

PRIMARY PARTNER

- Parent/Caregiver
- Spouse
- Teacher
- ◇ Colleague/Friend
- Self/None

AUTHORITY OVER ME

- Up to 3 symbols, RANKED
- Parent
- Spouse
- Employer
- ▽ State
- ▽ Church
- None

LIFE EVENTS

Up to 3 symbols, RANKED

- Marriage
- Separation
- Childbirth
- Child death
- Sibling/Partner death
- Parent death
- Abandonment
- Community joined
- Community left
- ⊗ Injury

MY AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY

Up to 3 symbols, RANKED

- Family
- ▲ Farm/Earth
- ∞ Community
- ▽ Constituency
- ▽ Congregation
- Self

SELF (IDENTITY)

- Child/Ward/Pawn
- ▽ Leader
- ◇ Collaborator
- Connector
- Searcher
- Nurturer
- Pariah
- Hermit

SELF (EMOTIONAL STATE)

- Content
- Insecure
- Integrated
- Dis-integrated
- ⊗ Excited
- Afraid
- Angry
- Surviving
- ⊗ Determined
- ⊗ Confused
- Hopeless
- Alone

SELF (SOCIAL DYNAMICS)

- ▮ Improving
- ▮ Diminishing
- ◆ Stuck
- Welcome
- Unwelcome
- Misunderstood
- ▽ Subjugated
- ▽ Victimized

ROLE

Up to 3 symbols, RANKED

- Laborer
- ⊗ Wright/Maker
- ▲ Farmer
- Teacher
- Student
- Parent/Caregiver
- ▽ Officer
- Scribe
- Navigator
- ▮ Manager
- Solo/None

WELLNESS (SEGMENT)

- Physical
- Mental
- Spiritual

(and for each, mark):

WELLNESS (STATE)

- Flourishing
- OK
- Ill



Regional Foundry - Record Storage

Carousels of shelves are arrayed in 10 shelving modules around a rotatable central hub in each regional Foundry. Each module is designed to hold 10 years worth of tablets for children born in that decade.

A manually-operated indexing shuttle on the carousel's frame allows insertion/retrieval of tablets to and from the shelves.

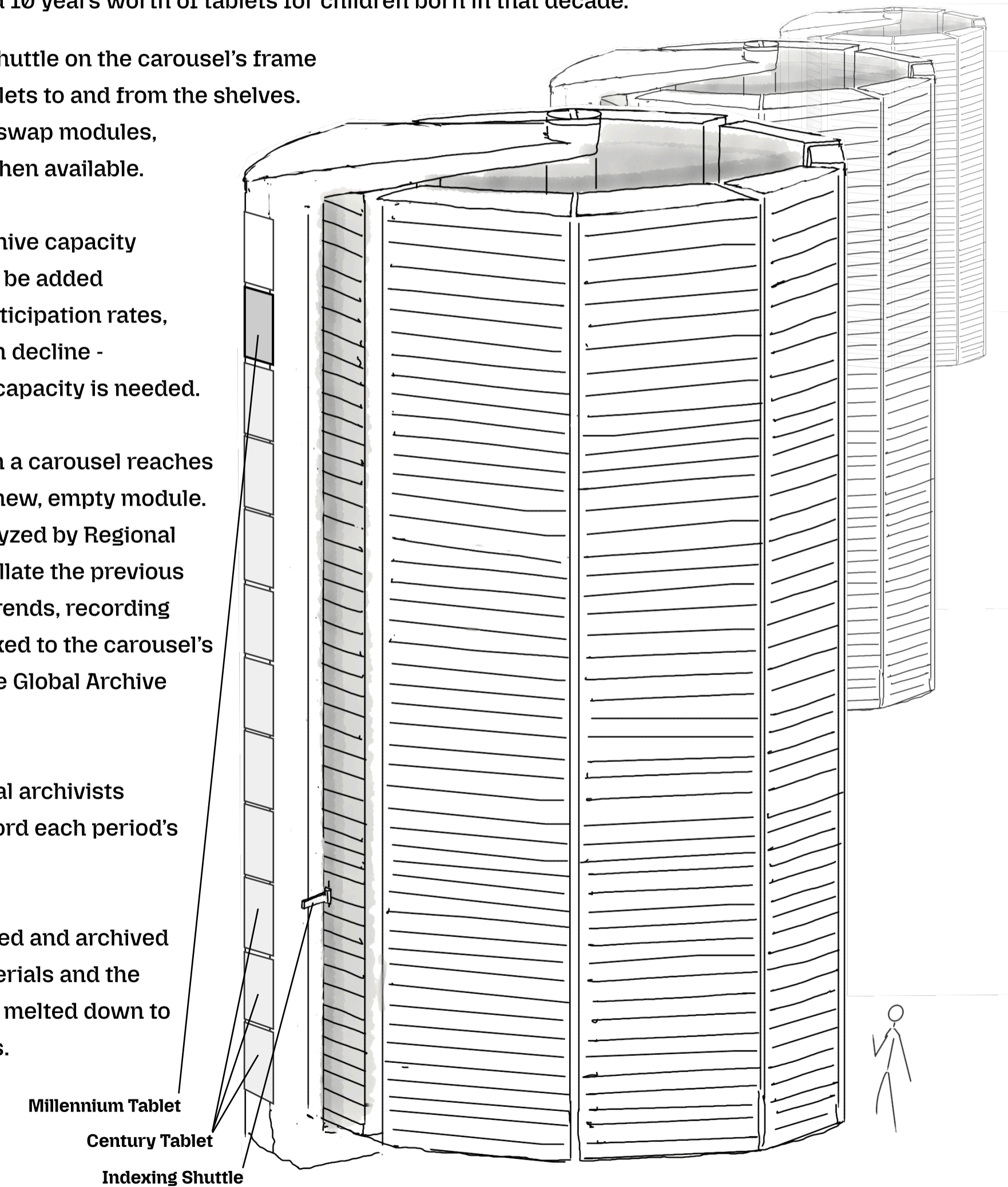
Heavy manual tackle is used to swap modules, but can be assisted by power when available.

Depending on each region's archive capacity needs, additional carousels can be added to accommodate increasing participation rates, or - if birth rates or participation decline - redistributed to regions where capacity is needed.

As the oldest shelving module in a carousel reaches end of life, it is replaced with a new, empty module. Its contents are tallied and analyzed by Regional Foundry archivists, who also collate the previous 100 years' data and statistical trends, recording them onto a Century Tablet affixed to the carousel's frame, and reporting them to the Global Archive for analysis.

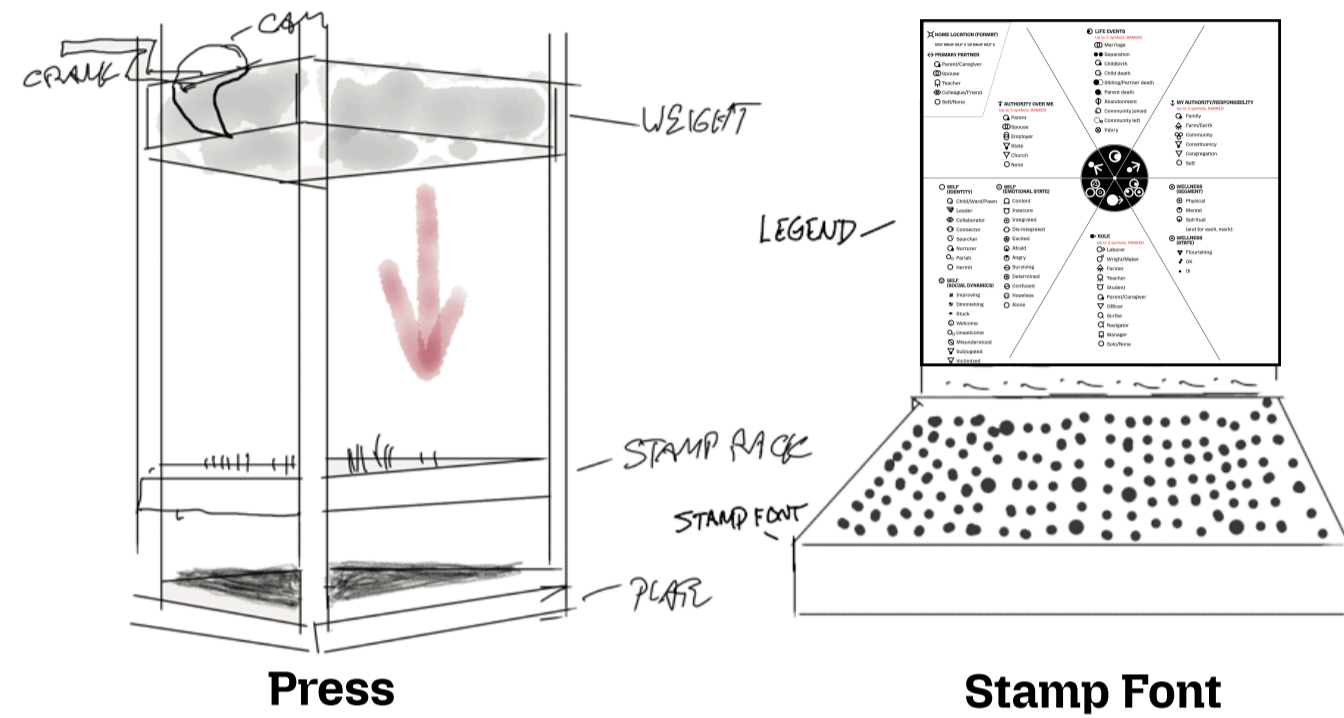
Every 100 and 1000 years, global archivists gather, collate, analyze, and record each period's data and statistical trends.

Individual tablets may be retained and archived for posterity, pending cost, materials and the availability of archive space - or melted down to provide material for new tablets.



Toolset

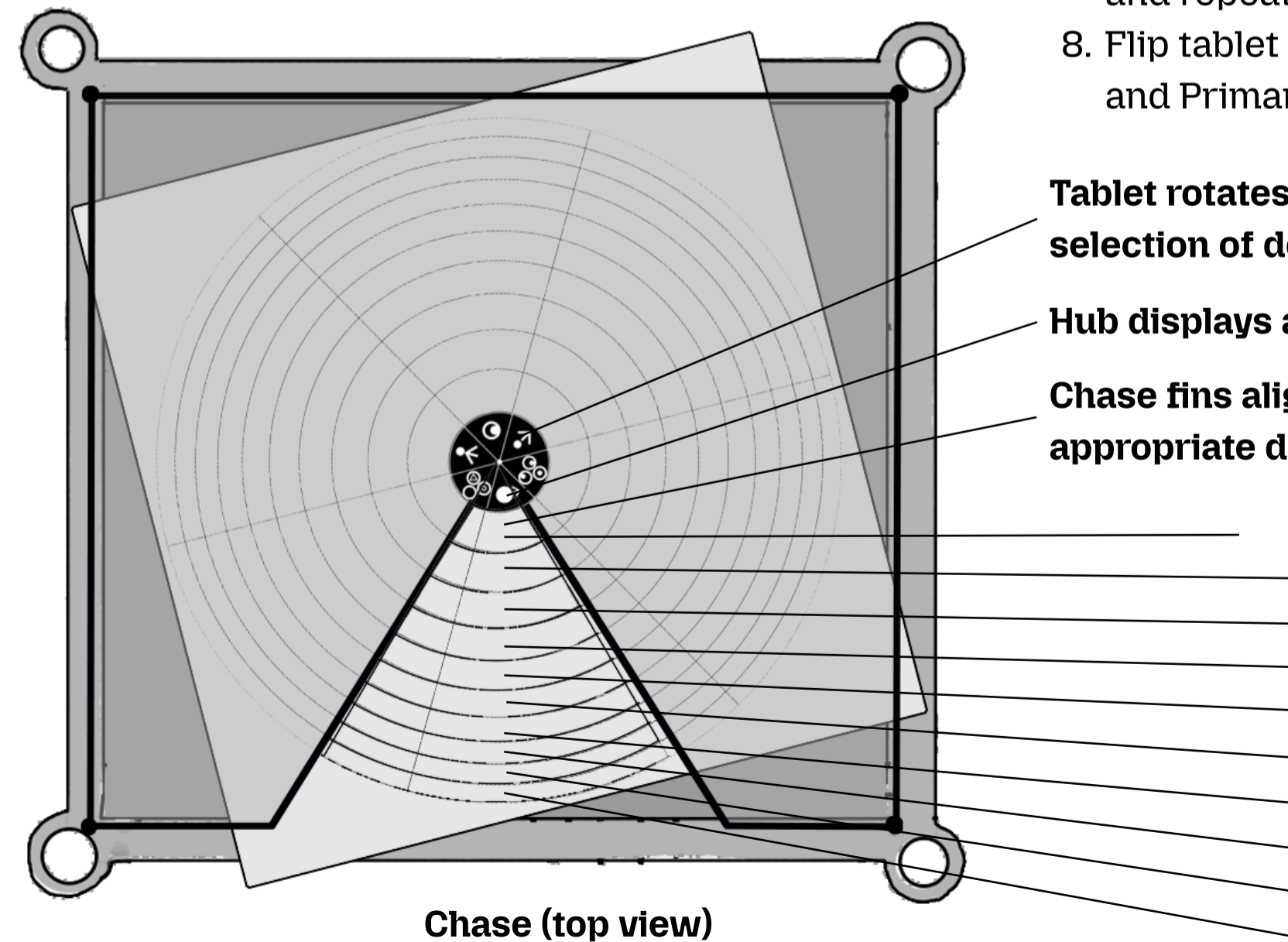
Built from inexpensive, easily tooled metals such as medium-carbon steel, the press is a simple machine.



The stamps are forged of high-carbon steel, and the tablets of durable, but markable phosphor bronze.

Process:

1. View the Legend (10-year-olds might need guidance)
2. Choose appropriate symbols from the Stamp Font for the current Axis to be stamped (e.g. Self / Emotional State)
3. Spin the Tablet to position that Axis on the Platen
4. Insert and lock the Stamps into the Chase for the appropriate Axis and decade
5. Raise the Strike Plate with the snail-cam Crank
6. Release the Strike Plate - which falls sharply onto the Stamps, marking the Tablet
7. Return Stamps to the Font, rotate Tablet to the next Axis, and repeat the process until all 6 (six) Axes are marked.
8. Flip tablet over to mark the verso with current Location and Primary Partner



- Tablet rotates on bearing to allow selection of desired Axis
- Hub displays active symbol of active Axis
- Chase fins align chosen Stamps to the appropriate decade

Hand Crank drives snail cam (or similar mechanism) to raise, then release Strike Plate.

Steel frame guides motion of the Strike Plate

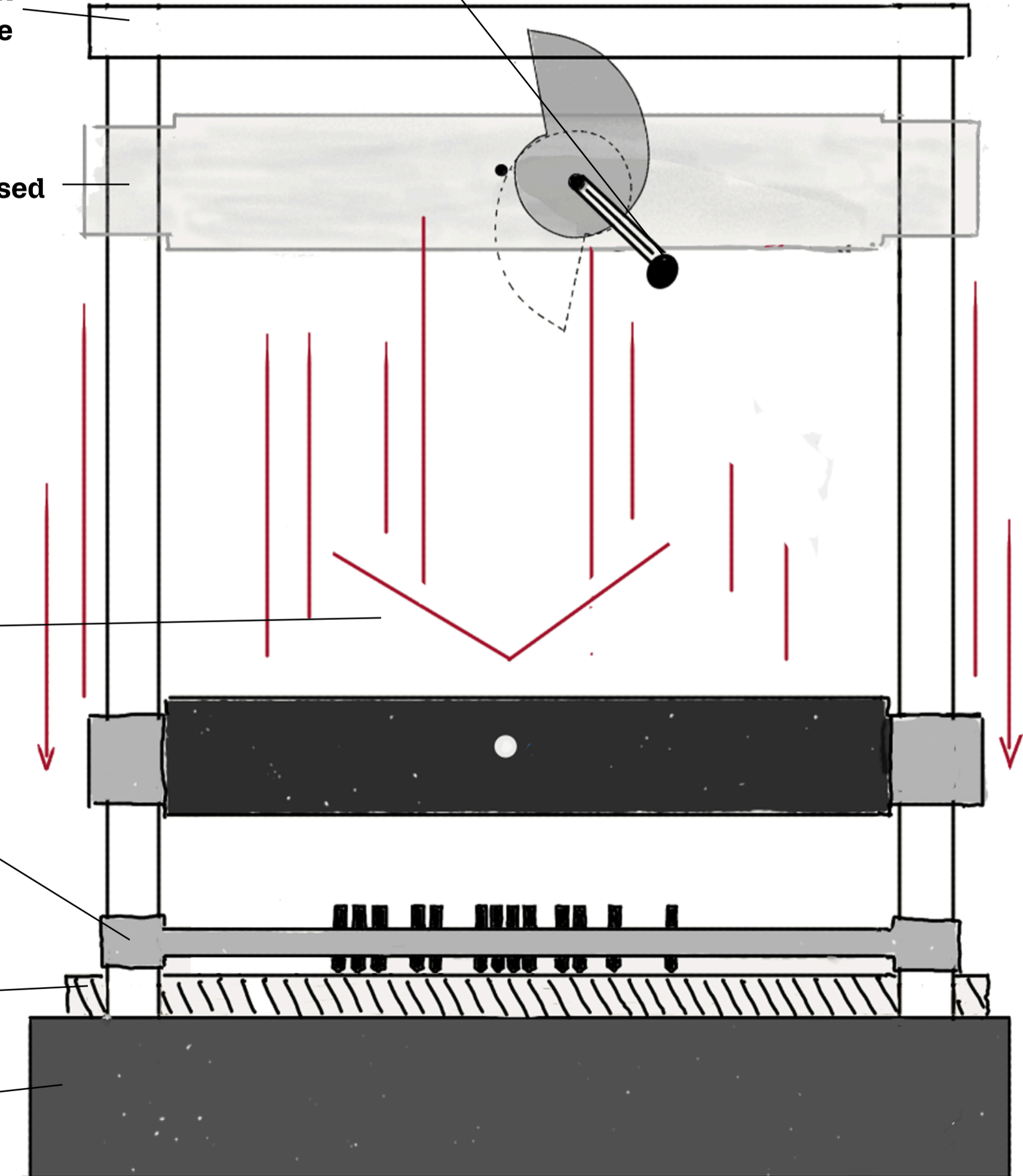
Strike Plate raised

Strike Plate drops swiftly

Impact strikes Stamps in Chase

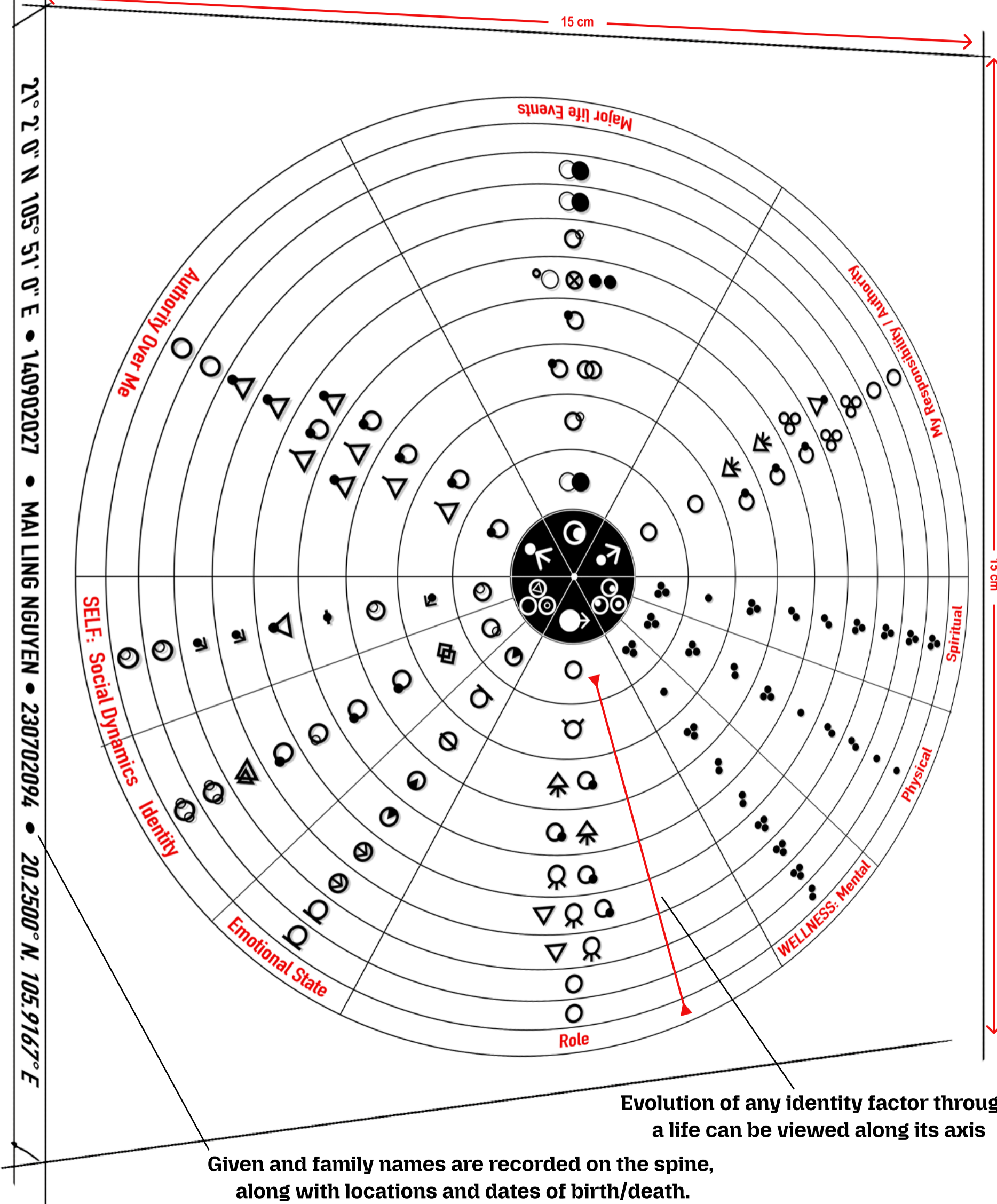
Stamps mark bronze Tablet, updating record

Platen of solid iron holds Tablet to ensure firm impact and clear marks



Prototype Press (side view)

A Life: Mai Ling Nguyen - 140902027 - 230702096 - First stamped by her mother just after her birth in Hanoi's Old Quarter, on September 14, 02027, Mai Ling Nguyen's tablet shows the path of her life and evolution of her identity.



Evolution of any identity factor through a life can be viewed along its axis

Given and family names are recorded on the spine, along with locations and dates of birth/death.

Age 0-10: Formative years

She stamps her own tablet at the regional Foundry on her 10th birthday. Her childhood was happy, and she was healthy, but when she is 9, her sister dies unexpectedly.

Age 10-20: Adolescence

By 20, her tablet reflects her reaching adulthood and completing her formal education, but bears the emotional scars of her sister's death. She reports poor emotional and spiritual health. She has felt angry and diminished, and leans into the Buddhist philosophies and teachings her parents gave her in childhood.

Age 20-30: Work life, marriage, and motherhood

She completes university and deepens emotional ties to a new boyfriend. Turning away from political strife in Hanoi, her family moves to work on a cooperative rice farm in the Mekong Delta, and she now considers herself a farmer. She marries her boyfriend, and bears a daughter - marking the new primary partner as a spouse and her new location on the tablet's verso. She records now feeling more secure in herself, and more healthy overall.

Age 30-40: Another child, political upheaval, the beginnings of a split

She bears a son, continues farming - and witnesses a massive shift in government structure; the ideological struggles that pushed her family to move 12 years ago have radicalized partisans into polar extremes. She aligns with moderate centrists, and begins teaching foundational principles in the evenings - viewing herself as a voice for reason. Government hardliners start condemning "cultural deviants" like her. Her husband grows more conservative, and they drift apart.

Age 40-50: Crackdown, separation, injury, and loss

Her marriage crumbles amid arguments with her husband over the government's suppression of teachers like her. During a protest turned violent, Mai Ling's daughter is killed, and she is badly injured by government militia gunfire. As she recovers, the couple agree to separate, but remain married to continue ensuring government support for their young son. She lives now very much under the party's thumb. Her record of identity and health reflect the stress.

Age 50-60: Resilience, a new role, and improved outlook on self

As the authoritarian government oversteps, moderate politicians gain influence and forge a more-stable ideological and cultural footing for the nation. Inspired, she runs for and wins election as a leader of the farming cooperative where she has continued to work. She no longer feels oppressed, now seeing herself on the upswing as a connector of like-minded progressives and mediator of partisan conflicts in daily interactions in her farm and home neighborhood.

Age 60-70: Leadership, connection, and resolution

Under a now fully-stabilized government, her leadership of the farm cooperative and work, connecting people to more-meaningful and fruitful personal and professional relationships amplifies her sense of self and sustain her emotional and physical health. Early in the decade, both parents die within days of each other. She grieves, but continues to teach and now pours her emotional life into doting on her son's children. She passes the farm's leadership to younger farmers.

Age 70-80 Retirement, family ties, illness

She recedes in retirement. While she remains deeply engaged with family and friends, and interested in politics, her health declines, and she develops lung cancer.

Age 80-83 Declining health, death

Despite advanced care, she succumbs 3 years later. Now, her tablet now shows how family life, relationships to power, and significant events shaped her identity and her physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Foundry archivists fold her Tablet's data into the living, millennia-long Record of human identity on earth.