

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES
SUMMER 2011

LIS 2228: An International Perspective on Archives

Class time: Thursdays, 3:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: IS 405
Instructor: Joel A. Blanco-Rivera, PhD candidate, Archival Studies
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Office: IS 605B
Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM or by appointment

Course Rationale

Archival studies have developed a strong theoretical framework, with contributions coming from around the world. Archivists have benefited from developments in arrangement and description from Canada, the UK, and the International Council on Archives. Australian archivists have made a strong contribution for the management of electronic records. And the ideas of archival theorists from around the globe, besides Shellengberg and Jenkinson, have been shared, debated, and applied globally: Terry Cook, Ernst Posner, Sue McKemmish, Verne Harris, to name a few.

This course introduces students with a diverse number of archival issues analyzed from an international perspective. The development of archival theory and practice, along with the establishment of professional organizations and the development of archival standards has put into perspective the important contributions from different countries. In addition, contemporary topics more closely related with issues of access, accountability, and memory offer a great opportunity to understand and appreciate the international contributions to archival science.

It is important for students to understand these issues, bringing them the opportunity of recognizing the global contribution that archives and archivists offer to society. In addition, students will benefit from this course by examining the particularities of archives and archivists from other countries. In general, the course is divided in four main parts:

- Archival history since the 20th century
- International standards
- Case studies
- Archives, social memory and accountability

Course Goals

The general goal of this course is to offer students the opportunity to analyze archival ideas from an international perspective. It offers the prospect of learning and appreciating the contributions made by archivists and records professionals from different regions of the world. This course is also a great opportunity to learn from particular experiences in

other countries and the kind of challenges archivists and records professionals face in their circumstances.

More specifically, at the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify, examine and explain the contributions from key archival theorists internationally.
- Describe the development of international professional organizations of archivists and records professionals in the 20th century.
- Analyze international standards for archival arrangement/description, and compare/contrast standards from various countries.
- Examine and evaluate the role of archives and records in the construction of social memory, and how the international community of archivists and records professionals are facing recent challenges associated to custody, access, accountability and ethics.

Instructional Activities and Materials

Methods of instruction

It is my goal to center this course more in discussion and sharing of ideas with students, therefore it is not teacher-centered, and I expect that students come prepared to discuss the topics each week. More specifically the course will be taught through discussion of required readings and examination of news and cases from other countries relevant to archives and records.

Course readings

All the required readings will be available electronically.

Grading

Your grade will be composed of the following:

Assignment	Due date	Weight
Class participation	Course of the term	25%
Leading class discussion	Course of the term	25%
Presentation of archival topic	Course of the term	20%
Paper	July 28	30%

Participation: In order to have a successful class it is essential that students actively participate during class. Therefore, it is expected that all students read the required readings before each class and come prepared with questions and comments. Online students will have a weekly live chat or conference call session with the instructor to discuss class topics. Days and time will be scheduled during the first week of class.

Leading class discussion: Students will be required to lead one class discussion. Some of these discussions will be worked in pairs. The student(s) will briefly discuss the main ideas of the required readings, and present at least two questions they want to discuss with the rest of the class. In addition to leading the discussion, students are required to submit a review of the readings. This review should be at least 2 pages, single space, and

submitted before class the day you are assigned to lead class discussion (all the reviews should be submitted individually).

Online students: Each student will lead one of the weekly sessions.

Online students are also welcome to join the on-site class on any particular week using communication tools like Skype, if schedule permits. This is not required, but if interested please notify the date to the instructor to set up the communication tool.

Presentation of archival topic from a particular country or region: The purpose of this presentation is to make students familiar with issues that archivists face abroad and with how archives are administered and understood in different regions of the world.

Each student will select one topic to discuss, and the week in which he/she will present. Students are open to select any topic of interest. There is a broad spectrum of themes that can be selected. Some examples are: a recent case involving archives or records management issues, legislation from a particular country, professional organizations or non-governmental groups related to archives and records management. The student is required to post a description of the topic in the Blog “Archives Around the World,” available in Courseweb, by the Wednesday prior to the class at 5:00 pm. One of the goals of this blog is to build a record of content about international archives. Furthermore, since blogs about archives have been growing in the Web, this is a good opportunity for students to engage in the development of a blog. Students are encouraged to submit comments to the blog posts. For online students, it is **required** to submit at least one comment each week, except for when you will be presenting the topic. The length of the blog post should be between 250 and 500 words.

Paper: For the paper you will select a theme related to archives or records management and analyzed it from an international perspective. Possible topics you might consider are:

- o Archival history
- o International standards
- o International developments for the management of electronic records
- o Archives and human rights
- o Archives and collective memory
- o International Freedom of Information laws
- o Archival education

These are only suggestions. Select a topic in which you are really interested. Just make sure the topic is analyzed from an international perspective. The paper should be 10 to 12 pages, double space, and it’s due the final day of class (July 28). You are required to inform the instructor about your topic by week 6.

Use of the Chicago Manual of Style is a requirement.

Class attendance is mandatory. In case you can’t attend the class, please contact the instructor before class via email. Failure to satisfy attendance requirement will result in the student being certified out of the course with a grade of “F” (Failure).

Academic Integrity

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh’s Policy on Academic Integrity (<http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>). Any student

suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process.

Special Accommodations

If you have a disability for which you are requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both the instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union (412-649-7890 and 412-383-7355) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I: ARCHIVES IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Week 1 (May 12): Introduction to the course

This week we present an overview of the course and will put into context the importance of understanding archival issues from an international perspective.

Recommended readings:

Ernst Posner, "Archivists and International Awareness," in Ken Munden (ed.), *Archives and the Public Interest: Selected Essays by Ernst Posner* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2006)

Karen Anderson, "Global Archive and Records-Keeping Research Agenda: Encouraging Participation and Getting Over the Hurdles," *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 28, no. 1 (April 2007): 35-46

Week 2 (May 19): Archival history and theorists

A good foundation of archival ideas requires recognizing the contributions from archival theorists and practitioners. These contributions come from different countries and different periods of time. This week we will examine some of the key archival thinkers and how their ideas influence or challenge current trends in archival science.

Required readings:

Terry Cook, "What is Past is Prologue: A History of Archival Ideas Since 1898, and the Future Paradigm Shift," *Archivaria* 43 (Spring 1998): 17-63.

Terry Cook, "Archival Music: Verne Harris and the Cracks of Memory," in Verne Harris, *Archives and Justice: A South African Perspective* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2007): ix-xxviii

Terry Eastwood, "Jenkinson's Writings on Some Enduring Archival Themes," *American Archivist* 67, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2004): 31-44

Introduction in Ken Munden (ed.), *Archives and the Public Interest: Selected Essays by Ernst Posner* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2006): 9-22

An Xiaomi, "Changes and Directions in Archival Research – The Influence of Michael Cook's Publications in China," in Margaret Procter and Caroline Williams, eds., *Essays in Honour of Michael Cook* (Liverpool University Centre For Archive Studies, 2004)

Week 3 (May 26): Professional organizations: The International Council on Archives

The development of professional organizations during the twentieth century played a key role developing collaborations in various archival aspects, especially regarding standards. One of these organizations is the International Council on Archives (ICA). An examination of the establishment and work of ICA shows not only its contribution to develop standards and international collaboration, but also how American archivists played a very important role in the foundation of this professional organization.

Required readings:

Oliver W. Holmes, "Toward an International Archives Program and Council, 1945-1950," *American Archivist* 39, no. 3 (July 1976)

Sarah Tyacke, "The Establishment of the International Council on Archives' European Archival Programme 1992-96," *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 18, no. 1 (April 1997): 93-103

Jeffery R. Ede, "The ICA: Thirty Years in Retrospect," *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 6, no. 7 (April 1981): 391-398

Keakopa, Segomotso Masegonyana. "Overview of archival and records management developments in the ESARBICA region." *Archives & Manuscripts* 38, no. 1 (May 2010): 51-77.

Wickman, Danielle. "Measuring performance or performing measurements? Measuring the impact and sustainability of the PARBICA Recordkeeping For Good Governance Toolkit." *Archives & Manuscripts* 37, no. 2 (November 2009): 113-126.

Exercise: Visit the website of the International Council on Archives

(<http://www.ica.org>), look at the information about the organization and their different branches and sections.

Part II: ARCHIVAL STANDARDS AND CASES

Week 4 (June 2): Archival Terminology and International Standards

Although the concept of the fonds might be considered one of the main concepts through the history of archives, it is not used uniformly, regardless of language. This is perhaps the best example that characterizes the struggle to develop a uniform archival terminology. In addition, standards went through various developments during the last thirty years of the twentieth century. This week we will examine initiatives during the twentieth century that tried to accomplish this uniformity and why countries implement various guidelines for arrangement and description.

Required readings:

Hilary Jenkinson, "The Problems of Nomenclature in Archives," in R. Ellis and P. Walne, eds., *Selected Writings of Sir Hilary Jenkinson* (London: Alan Sutton)

Jean Dryden, "A Tower of Babel: Standardizing Archival Terminology," *Archival Science* 5, no. 1 (March 2005): 1-16

Jean Dryden, "Cooking the Perfect Custard," *Archival Science* 3, no. 1 (2003): 27-42.

Per-Gunnar Ottosson, "EAC and the Development of National and European Gateways to Archives," *Journal of Archival Organization* 3, no. 2/3 (2006): 262-274.

Eric Ketelaar, "The Difference Best Postponed? Cultures and Comparative Archival Science," *Archivaria* 44 (Fall 1997): 142-148

Recommended readings

Kris Kiesling, "The Influence of American and European Practices on the Evolution of EAD," *Journal of Archival Organization* 3, no. 2/3 (2005): 207-215

Li-Kuei Hsueh, "The Current Status of the Archival Description Standards in the International and North America," *Journal of Library and Information Science* 30, no. 2 (October 2004): 59-68

Laura Millar, "The Death of the Fonds and the Resurrection of Provenance: Archival Context in Space and Time," *Archivaria* 53 (Spring 2002)

Michael Cook, "The International Description Standards: An Interim Report," *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 16, no. 1 (1995): 15-25

David Bearman, "Documenting Documentation," *Archivaria* 34 (Summer 1992): 33-49

Daniel V. Pitti, "Technology and the Transformation of Archival Description," *Journal of Archival Organization* 3, no. 2/3 (2005): 125-138

Week 5 (June 9): International case studies: Part 1

What are the particular experiences managing records and archives from different regions of the world? What are the similarities and differences compare with practices in the United States? What can we learn from these countries? In the next three sessions we will look at a number of specific cases to analyze these questions.

Required readings:

Nils Bruebach, "Archival Science in Germany – Traditions, Developments and Perspectives," *Archival Science* 3, no. 4 (December 2003): 379-399

Gudmond Valderhaug, "Recordkeeping in Local Government in Norway 1950-2000," *Archival Science* 3, no. 2 (June 2003): 205-212

Kristjana Kristinsdóttir, "The Turning Point in 1985. The History of Appraisal and Disposal of Records in Iceland," *Archival Science* 3, no. 2 (June 2003): 97-116

Blanca Desantes, "The Encoded Archival Guide (EAG) DTD and the *Censo-Guía de los Archivos de España e Iberoamérica* Project: An Electronic Guide to Spanish and Iberian American Archives," *Journal of Archival Organization* 3, no. 2 (2006): 23-38.

Week 6 (June 16): International case studies: Part 2

Required readings:

John Abdul Kargbo, "The Connection between Good Governance and Record Keeping: The Sierra Leone Experience," *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 30, no. 2 (2009): 249-260.

Masahito Ando, "Recovering Memory, Sharing Memory: Archives Lost and Displaced in the Asian-Pacific War and the Responsibility of Japanese Archivists," in Margaret Procter and Caroline Williams, eds., *Essays in Honour of Michael Cook* (Liverpool University Centre For Archive Studies, 2004): 14-28.

George Bolotenko, "Frost on the Walls in Winter: Russian and Ukrainian Archives since the Great Dislocation (1991-1999)," *The American Archivist* 66, no. 2 (Fall/Winter 2003): 271-302.

Week 7 (June 23): International case studies: Part 3

Required readings:

Héctor J. Maymí-Sugrañez, "Latin American Archival Theory and Practice during the 1970s and 1980s," *Libraries & Culture* 34, no. 3 (Summer 1999)

Gordon-Clark, Matthew and Shurville, Simon. "To Take Up Arms Against a Sea of Troubles': Finding Safe Havens for the National Archives of Low-elevation Pacific Islands and Nations Threatened by Climate Change." *Archives & Manuscripts* 38, no. 1 (May 2010): 78-93.

Georgete Medleg Rodrigues and Angelica Alives da Cunha Marques, "Archival Science in Brazil: The Establishment of a Scientific Discipline and Its Impact on Training Archivists in the era of Information and Knowledge," *Archival Science* 8, no. 2 (June 2008): 103-121.

Cathrine T. Nengomasha, "Training for the Archival Profession in Namibia," *Archival Science* 6, no. 2 (June 2006): 205-218.

Part III: ARCHIVES AND THE GLOBAL WORK ON MEMORY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Week 8 (June 30): Archives and social memory

The debate about archives and social memory has created a new discourse in which archives are seen not as buildings that preserve representations of the past, but as influencing political and social dynamics of countries. In this session we will examine the growing discourse by the international community of archivists and records professionals about the role of archives in the construction of social memory.

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Analyze the role of records and archives in the construction of social memory.
- Examine the perspective of social memory from the international community of archivists and records professionals.
- Identify areas of further study about the concept of social memory.

Required readings:

Margaret Hedstrom, "Archives and Collective Memory: More than a Metaphor, Less than an Analogy," in Eastwood and MacNeil, eds., *Currents of Archival Thinking* (Santa Barbara, Ca: Libraries Unlimited, 2010): 163-180.

Gudmund Valderhaug, "Memory, Justice and the Public Record," *Archival Science* 11 (March 2011): 13-23.

Rebecca J. Scott, "The Provincial Archive as a Place of Memory: The Role of Former Slaves in the Cuban War of Independence (1895-98)," in Blouin and Rosenberg, eds., *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory: Essays from the Sawyer Seminar* (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2007): 280-290.

Terry Cook and Bill Waiser, "The Laurer Promise: Securing Public Access to Historic Census Materials in Canada," in Avery and Holmlund, eds., *Better off Forgetting?: Essays on Archives, Public Policy, and Collective Memory* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010): 71-110.

Week 9 (July 7): Archives and Human Rights

This session will explore how archives impact the movements toward respect of human rights. We will examine issues related to power, memory and accountability, and what role do archives play in them.

Required reading

Antonio González Quintana, "Archival Policies in the Protection of Human Rights," International Council of Archives, 2009.

Week 10 (July 14): No Class

The instructor will be attending the Archival Education and Research Institute at Simmons College.

Only students will meet for FastTrack weekend on Saturday July 16.

Week 11 (July 21): Archives and Transitional Justice

During the 1980s and 1990s Latin America experience a new wave of democratization after decades of internal wars in Central America and dictatorships in South America. This period also witnessed the fall of former Communists regimes in the Eastern Bloc. As part of the transitions to democracy these countries faced the big challenge of how to deal with human rights violations. This session will address the archival implications related to transitional justice. This includes examining the role of archives in the work of truth commission and investigations of past human rights violations.

Required readings:

Blanco-Rivera, Joel A. "Truth Commissions and the Construction of Collective Memory: The Chile Experience," in Jeannette A. Bastian and Ben Alexander, eds., *Community Archives: The Shaping of Memory* (London: Facet Publishing, 2009)

Blanton, Thomas S. "Recovering the Memory of the Cold War: Forensic History and Latin America," in Gilbert M. Joseph and Daniel Spencer, eds., *In from the Cold: Latin America's New Encounter with the War*. Durham, Duke University Press, 2008)

Tom A. Adami, "Future Perfect? Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding and Archives – the United Nations in Sudan," *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 30, no. 1 (2009): 2-26.

Michelle Caswell, "Khmer Rouge Archives: Accountability, Truth, and Memory in Cambodia," *Archival Science* 10, no. 1 (March 2010): 25-44.

Elizabeth Nannelli, "Memory, Records, History: The Records of the Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation in Timor-Leste," *Archival Science* 9, no. 1-2 (June 2009): 29-41.

Week 12 (July 28): Archives and Pluralism

Archival discourses and practices have experienced an increased in the discussion about documenting under-represented communities in the archives. Indigenous communities and post-colonial archives are two topics included in this discourse. This session will examine how the international community of archivists addresses this important topic.

Required readings:

Kaisa Maliniemi, "Public Records and Minorities: Problems and Possibilities for Sámi and Kven," *Archival Science* 9, no. 1-2 (June 2009): 15-27.

Andrew Flinn, Mary Stevens and Elizabeth Shepherd, "Whose Memories, Whose Archives? Independent Community Archives, Autonomy and the Mainstream," *Archival Science* 9, no. 1-2 (June 2009): 71-85.

Jeannette A. Bastian, "'Play Mas': Carnival in the Archives and the Archives in Carnival: Records and Community Identity in the US Virgin Islands," *Archival Science* 9, no. 1-2 (June 2009): 113-125.

Andrew Flinn, "Migrations, Disputed Heritages and Multicultural Identities: Archives in a Post Colonial Society," *Archives & Manuscripts*, 36, no. 2 (November 2008): 54-75.