Types of risk

- War and invasion, various types of armed conflict
- Civil war, rebellion, insurgency, government reactions
- Repressive regimes, suppression of dissent and dissidence
- Disasters: fires, floods, earthquakes
- Lack of archival resources, mould, dust, insects, rodents
- Local environmental factors, humidity, pollution
- Climate change issues and changing sea-levels
Used terminology

- Documentary Heritage at Risk (UNESCO)
- Archives at Risk (ICA and others)
Regions where documentary risk is significant

- War zones (internal and external armed conflicts)
- Iraq and Syria
- Afghanistan
- Pacific Islands where sea-levels are rising
- Previously repressive regimes, e.g. in Latin America
- Burma, Yemen, Palestine
- In 2022, Ukraine
Responding to risks to archival holdings

- Financial aid for conservation and preservation
- NGO intervention
- Diplomacy
- The international role of the UN and UNESCO
- Making copies of archives at risk, especially digitally
- Removing archives at risk to another country – which should be seen as a last resort
Issues and controversies with "archival rescue"

• Some previous archival rescues have been very well-intentioned but unstructured

• Some previous archival rescues have in fact been pretexts for the purloining of the cultural heritage of another country
The work of the Endangered Archive Programme
ICA Congress, Seoul, 2016

• Session on Safe Havens
• Support from ICA Sections and the project on "dissident authors" (PEN International & ICA-SLA)
• Support from UNESCO representatives
• Support from ICA President and past-President
• Volunteers to participate
• Offer from swisspeace to host initial meeting
Guiding Principles for Safe Havens for Archives at Risk

Principle 1: Dealing with the Past
Principle 2: Last resort
Principle 3: Transparency
Principle 4: Legality and Agreement
Principle 5: Main Goal
Principle 6: Ethics
Principle 7: Fair agreement
Principle 8: No financial profit
Principle 9: Processes in agreement

Principle 10: Ownership
Principle 11: Duration
Principle 12: Anticipating succession
Principle 13: Constituent spirit
Principle 14: Legal environment
Principle 15: Control of material
Principle 16: Physical characteristics
Principle 17: Professional standards
Principle 18: Rapid response
GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SAFE HAVENS FOR ARCHIVES AT RISK

The Guiding Principles take into account the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Archives, the rights of victims and societies as well as the obligations of states enshrined in international law, namely the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the four Geneva Conventions. In a nutshell, the eighteen principles seek to ensure that the terms and conditions of a safe haven agreement between a sending and hosting institution comply with the principles of legality, fairness, transparency and conflict sensitivity.
Safe Havens for Archives at Risk initiative

Seeks to promote safe haven arrangements that comply with good practice standards defined by the Guiding Principles for Safe Havens for Archives at Risk by:

• Facilitating contact between institutions holding archives or records at risk with suitable hosting institutions

• Providing guidance or specific advice concerning safe haven solutions and provide support in cases of disputes

• Contributing on questions related to safe havens for archives at risk at the policy level

www.safehavensforarchives.org
The Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee of the initiative consists of a group of twelve archival experts with experience in safeguarding archives at risk. It consists of members of the following institutions:

**International institutions**
- International Council on Archives (ICA)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

**Governmental institutions**
- National Archives of Finland
- National Records of Scotland
- Swiss Federal Archives (SFA)
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

**Non-governmental institutions**
- International Institute for Social History (IISH)
- UMAM Documentation and Research
- University of Reading
- University of Texas at Austin

**Individual experts**
- Trudy Huskamp Peterson
- David Sutton

The role of the Advisory Committee is to further develop the topic of safe havens for archives at risk at the policy level, and to advise the Secretariat on incoming requests, support it in finding suitable hosting institutions. The Advisory Committee meets every three to four months.
COMMENTARY TO THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SAFE HAVENS FOR ARCHIVES AT RISK

The Commentary on the Guiding Principles was written with the aim to outline the individual principles and their intent in more detail. The commentary also entails examples that illustrate the application of the principles.

Download (English)

MODEL AGREEMENT

The Model Agreement was drafted with the aim to support the sending and hosting institutions in clarifying all necessary considerations to be agreed upon before the transaction of archival holdings or records.

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 Télécharger (Français)  تحميل (عربي)

Скачать (русский)  Завантажити (укр.)
Website

Safe Havens for Archives at Risk Initiative

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE
Find out about the background of the initiative and read testimonials.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Learn more about the Guiding Principles for Safe Havens for Archives at Risk.

WHO WE ARE
Get to know the organizations behind the initiative.

RESOURCES
Get access to diverse materials and news on the topic of safe havens for archives at risk.

9th Annual Conference
of the International Council on Archives

ROME
19-23 September 2022
Our support

- Guatemala NGO archive (technical support)
- Marshall Islands (technical support)
- Archive of the former National Police of Guatemala (documented work process)
- NGOs from Uganda, Morocco, South Caucasus, among others
"Safe havens for archives at risk" and ICA's commitment

- ICA's representative: Arda Scholte

- Importance of the mechanism of Safe havens for archives at risk
  - for ICA
  - for each individual archival organisation

- Next steps:
  - How to practice the general principles
  - How can ICA's several points of expertise be of help
    (risk preparedness, emergency management, legal advice, etc)
Conclusions

ICA participants:

• Section on Archives and Human Rights (SAHR)
• Programme Commission (PCOM)
• Expert Group on Legal Matters
• Section for Archives on Literature and Art (SLA)
• The ICA Secretariat in Paris
Conclusions

Other participants have included:

- UMAM Documentation and Research, Lebanon
- National Center of Historical Memory of Colombia
- Historical Archive of the National Police of Guatemala
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- National Archives of Finland
- Swiss Federal Archives
- National Records of Scotland
- International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam
In summary

2016-2022: Seoul Congress to Rome Conference

Successful collaborative achievement

Wide consultation on the Guiding Principles

Endorsement by ICA

A continuing Advisory Committee

Contributors welcome!

The project website: please visit!
Thank you!

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