Towards inclusive archives through the collection of sports memories at the Gauteng Provincial Archives in South Africa

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Presentation Outline

Overview of South Africa and the Gauteng Province

Brief History of South Africa and Gauteng - Archives and Record-keeping

South Africa as a rainbow nation

Project – Transformation of the Gauteng Provincial Archives through the collection of sports memories

Project Highlights

Conclusion
Where is South Africa?
Gauteng Province

Interesting facts about Gauteng:
• Gauteng means ‘Place of Gold’ in Sesotho
• The administrative capital of South Africa - Pretoria is found in this province
• Economic hub: mining, manufacturing, scientific and medical research, tourism and agriculture
• Smallest but the most populated province
• The province is home to two (2) important public archival repositories- The National Archives and Records Service of South Africa (NARSSA) and the Gauteng Provincial Archives.
South Africa was colonised by Dutch settlers (Boers) and the British. This happened between 1652 – the early 1990s.

1806-1901: Under British rule, the custody of records was under the Colonial Secretary.

1922: First Archives Act was passed. Under the apartheid regime this Act was repealed in 1953 and 1962.

1994 – The collapse of the apartheid regime through democratic elections.

In 1996 the South African Government adopts a new Constitution. The new Constitution promulgated the National Archives and Records Service Act (No 43) of 1996.

Schedule Five (5) of the Constitution instructs the decentralisation of archives.

Nine provinces = Nine Provincial Archival Repositories guided by Provincial Archival Legislation.
Brief History of South Africa – Gauteng Provincial Archives

- 2009 – started with drafting archival bill, Gauteng Provincial Archives and Records Service Act No 5 of 2013 was passed.
- 2015 – appointment of the Gauteng Provincial Archives Advisory Council by MEC
- 24 October 2018 – Official opening of archival building
- Collection of non-public records in terms of Chapter 4 section 10(e)
- Advisory Council proposed decolonization of the content of archives through oral history project on sports archives, as well as creation of an inventory of non-public records in the Province.
- MoU signed with the University of South Africa to enter into agreement on the project
South Africa as a Rainbow Nation

- The apartheid regime enforced the ideology of separate development, **which led to disparities between the different racial groups in the country.**
- The apartheid regime enacted legislation and systems **to ensure secrecy** and documented the history of those who were privileged at the time.
- Democratic South Africa (post-1994) - The Constitution of South Africa Act no. 108 of 1996 started dismantling these detrimental systems with **an emphasis on an open government and transparency.**
- The NARSSA Act and the various provincial archival legislation **strive for proper record keeping**, representing all **South African communities**.
- **Transformation** is a crucial activity in spheres such as education, the economy, archives, and records keeping.
- Current and past research report the skewed picture that the SA public archival repositories represent due to a lack of records on previously marginalised communities.
- We have limited information on activities aiming to change this status quo.
Project: Transforming the Gauteng Provincial Archives
Opening of the Gauteng Provincial Archives
Project information contd.

- Project started in 2019
- Project progress affected by pandemic lockdowns 2020 - 2021
- Public archives in South Africa are struggling to transform due to a lack of political will, budget cuts, high staff turnover and other problems
- The project aims to: educate archivists, preserve oral sports heritage, strengthen collaborative efforts, and contribute to research and change (transforming archives)
- Oral history research techniques – most community information on sports heritage is tacit (not documented)
- Raise awareness about these formerly undocumented sporting heroes/sheroes as part of community development.
- Publication of research outputs/ Conference presentations/ Workshops and training to empower archivists country-wide (lessons learnt)
- Team members from UNISA- N Saurombe, M Ngoepe, I Schellnack Kelly, Z Mkra and Postgrad Students: J Matshotshwane and F Ramphele. Team leader from the GPAR – S Mbuyisa
## Road runners

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<td>Margaret Sedibane</td>
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<td>Johannes Kekana</td>
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<td>James Mokoka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Leserwane</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>76</td>
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Findings and recommendations from currently completed project

• Most of the awards, medals and sports memorabilia are kept at the homes of these athletes and are not adequately preserved.

• The GPAR and other heritage institutions should collaborate and help preserve these accounts and memorabilia for posterity.

• GPAR can assist in proving the legitimacy of specific accounts.

• Communities are eager to share their accounts... Sadly archivists and other heritage professionals are not actively seeking these accounts. More archivists and repositories need to get involved.

• Great project, but it is crucial to pay attention to legislation, ethics and guidelines that govern the acquisition and access to information in South Africa.
Raising awareness about sports heritage

Community members at the GPAR
Storytelling
and
The narration of sportsmen/sports women accounts
Updating the community about the project
Archivists from Gauteng Provincial Archives
In conclusion:

• The project empowers masters and doctoral students
  • Joseph Matshotshwane completed his master's and is now registered for a PhD to inform curriculum in the area of archives and oral history.
  • Francinah Ramphele is registered for master's focusing on memories of sports sheroes.

Research topics:

- Towards inclusive archives through the collection of sports athletics at the Gauteng Provincial Archives Repository
- Inclusion of citizen archives in the Gauteng Province: a case of township sports games
- Voices of marginalised sports sheroes at the Gauteng Provincial Archives

• Action-oriented outcomes and inform archival collection policy

• Publications of outcomes in peer-reviewed journals

• Conference paper presentations at three (3) local and one (1) international conferences
Future Prospects:

• Seek more funding, i.e., research grants and government funding, to expand the project

• Venture to collect memories of other sporting codes: Boxing and Netball

• Developing Open Educational Resources (OERs) to place on the UNISA Institutional Repository that can be used by archivists for free country-wide

• Oral history research methods training for academics and archivists

• Strengthen our postgraduate programme in archives and oral history research
We would like to acknowledge our sponsors:

1. Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts and Culture
2. South Africa- National Research Foundation (NRF)
3. The University of South Africa

Thank you for listening...
For more information, you can contact us via email at mnkennp@unisa.ac.za.

Comments and Questions are Welcome!