SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS: ESARBICA CONFERENCE ON THE THEME “ARCHIVES, RECORDS, AND MEMORY IN DIGITAL SPACES AND GLOBAL CHAOS,” GAUTENG PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA, 14 – 18 August 2023

Archives, records, and memories are now created and preserved in digital spaces. Others are created in an environment where chaos emanates from wars, disasters such as floods or fire, and pandemics such as Covid-19. These archives, records, and memories must be captured and managed properly. Those that are lost in chaos need to be recovered. Those that are born digital also need to be managed and preserved for posterity. Those that are non-digital need to be converted into digital formats to be managed and preserved in digital environments. These archives, records, and memories are in different media and formats such as paper, audio-visual, digital, oral history, objects, etc.

The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) will be hosting a biennial conference with the theme “archives, records, and memory in digital spaces and global chaos” from 14-18 August 2023 in Gauteng Province, South Africa.

National and international speakers will address problems and solutions relating to the conference’s theme. They will answer questions related to managing and preserving archives, records, and memory in augmented technologies and digital spaces, as well as those at risk from chaos (global or local), such as wars, disasters, pandemics, etc.

Papers, panel discussions, workshops, lightning talks and posters on topics that address the theme and sub-themes of the conference will be considered for inclusion in the conference programme. Accepted papers will be considered for publication in the ESARBICA Journal, provided the authors submit full papers and consent. A peer-reviewed process will be followed to ensure quality publications are included in proposed journals.

Papers covering the following sub-themes in relation to the main theme will be considered:

Sub-Themes:

Preservation legislation, policies, strategies, and workflows
- Collections care;
- Infrastructure for archives;
- Legislation and policy;
- Standards;
- Security;
- Ownership and Copyright;

Chaos: archives, records and memory
- Disruptive technologies;
- Disasters;
- Risk management;
- Wars;
- Climate change;
- Recoverability of memory, archives, and records;
- Hybrid environments;
- Resource sharing;
- Governance;
- Disputed collections;
Case studies, best practices, and novel initiatives: memory, archives or records

- Cross-platform access services;
- Implementation processes;
- Lessons learned;
- Digitization projects;
- Digitalization;
- Collaboration;
- Preservation of distributed and cloud-based systems;
- Advocacy and outreach/public programming;
- Community archives;
- Indigenous archives;

Digital space

- Digital transformation;
- Artificial Intelligence;
- Digital storage;
- Ethics;
- Infrastructure;

Training and education: memory, archives, and records

- Building capacity in novel technologies and practices;
- Career management;
- Curricula effectiveness;
- Continuous professional development;
- Professional associations;
- Research and development;
- Mentorship;

Panel discussions, workshops, papers, posters and lightning talks will form part of the programme to expand knowledge and share information pertaining to the theme. Practice-based papers will be highly encouraged.

Important Dates:

Submission of abstracts: 28 February 2023
Notification of acceptance of abstracts: 03 April 2023
Paper submission: 02 May 2023
Camera-ready papers: 05 June 2023

Abstracts of less than 250 words should be submitted online via the link: