Advocacy Committee Endorses the International Council on Archives' "Universal Declaration on Archives"

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (ART) Advocacy Committee endorses the International Council on Archives Universal Declaration on Archives and agrees that the Declaration is an important step in improving understanding and awareness of archives among the general public and key decision-makers.

The ART Advocacy Committee encourages all ART members to review the Universal Declaration on Archives and to show their support for the Declaration by signing the Universal Declaration on Archives Register.

THE DECLARATION:

- Defines archives to include all recorded decisions, actions and memories in all formats including paper, digital, and audio visual;
- Recognizes the uniqueness of archives in the way they provide authentic evidence of human actions;
- Emphasizes the key role of archives in ensuring administrative transparency and democratic accountability;
- Supports democracy and human rights, and preserving collective social memory;
- Explains the role of archivists as skilled professionals who care for archives and provide access to them;
- Highlights the key requirements for good archival management.


The Universal Declaration on Archives (UDA) was developed by a special working group of the International Council on Archives (ICA) and was adopted by the 36th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO on November 10th, 2011. The ICA has created a register of support for the UDA and is currently gathering signatures from archivists worldwide who agree that the UDA is a powerful, succinct statement of the relevance of archives in modern society. This support from archivists will help establish the Declaration as a professionally accepted document and will influence the way it is perceived by non-archivists, especially those in developing countries working to establish archives at the national and local levels.

The names on the Register will be made publicly available together with the registrant’s city and country of residence, comments, and the date the register was signed.

For up-to-date information regarding the Universal Declaration on Archives, please visit the International Council on Archives’ Universal Declaration on Archives page.