

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.

Source: <http://www.ica.org/13343/universal-declaration-on-archives/universal-declaration-on-archives.html>

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.