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## ARCHIVAL SCIENCE AND IMPACTS OF SOCIAL CHANGES TO ARCHIVES/ARCHIVAL SCIENCE

### Abstract

*Archives as definition is a collection of historical documents or records providing an information about a place, institution, or group of people. All the information that archives provides are recognized as a national memory, at the same time these information do not refer only to physical records but also include electronic records. The author discusses about archival science and different ideas or theories and views. The paper gives the overview over the issue, how the society recognizes archival science through certain period of time and what impact had social changes on the archival science, especially in Oman. Furthermore, paper focuses on challenges that include new regulation of accessing the archival record in various countries, the introduction of further education that has modified and improved archival science discipline to educate modern generation scholars on how and why they create archives. The author discusses the emerging the network-based information and communication system and what and necessary changes affecting dealing with records.*

**Key words:** archival science, social changes, digital records, archives

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Archival science is the theory of or study of evaluating, preserving, storing, and cataloging recorded materials in documents, recordings, and information storing devices. Data that is stored in archives is the information that is not intended to change. For one to build and minister an archival record must need and evaluate the verified materials. Reliability, integrity, and usability of data make archival materials be preserved and understood as a historical document. The records are expected to represent the activities they were meant for, verify what they claim to be, and present the image of archives through a collection of content (Barry, 2010).

Records emerged already in ancient times, firstly by recording on the rocks, so we find the rock art as the earliest records system. This type of records helped human to discover and understand the activities and worshipping through time. It also recorded how climates change have extinct from planet earth or from parts of it. Many evidences were found in East Oman from the period of early 780-130.000 years ago.

Historically, archives have existed for many years; we can say because more of the archival paradigm rather than the library science, since by adding the different elements it became archival science. Since then, archival science has much extensively developed mostly in the nineteenth century. By then, the study approach of modern scientific history and legal concepts of evidence was influential to archives. The consequences of this interference led most archival societies operating with public data centered and concentrated on making modifications of principles for archival description and arrangement consistent with the privacy policies of those societies. That situation accentuated the real nature of archives and the conditions of their formation. According to Ataman (2009), the community that practiced manuscript and some national records choose to follow bibliographic practices of control of the subject.

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However, in the twenty-first century, archival science have drastically changed as much as apprehensive. As far as history is concerned, archives have gone through significant changes as well as facing many tests along the way. The challenges have impacted archival science and its practices too. Even today, archival science is still experiencing changes and new problems. The most important cause of this challenges is occurred generally in the social changes, being more precisely change in communication practices of communities such as the latest technology, development, and spread of new information (Barry, 2010). In the end, the reason of archival science has raised questions. For instance, currently system based information and communication services have succeeded over data processing task earlier carried out by archival science, then the item that is still hanging around is that what want does one have with archival institutions and historical or traditional records. Is to keep the information available according to the retention schedule in order to enable the researcher and scholars to identify?

## **2. IMPACTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE TO ARCHIVAL SCIENCE**

From the 1980s the community of archives such as national and international community has testified unusual professional move. It is a fact that in the course of development, archival science has advanced from auxiliary science to become a new discipline, and it is becoming a science taught in the Universities and colleges. Moreover, organizing conferences and seminars in this particular study. The following are several social changes to archival science:

Archival science and records have become critical to society. Firstly, with the development of new information society, people are creating further information and records more frequently than before. The original files are being generated through the use of an electronic system, mobile phones and computers, and the internet. Following the new technology, a new arena of archive and record making are available for multiple users and uses (Keough and Wolfe, 2012). people are using the systems from a distance and that created awareness to the society.

Another essential feature that has led to the development of archival science has been the introduction of a new legislation in several countries that allows freedom of information, which has led to the right to use records instrumental governing public none elective government officials and politicians. Moreover, cloud computing has revolutionized the way of institutions to do business. Many benefits in this service for institution's and societies.

Furthermore, because of new regulations to access the files, there has been a major change in way how archival science is being implemented in various countries. Back in days, the users of archives were historians, people were seeking documentation of rights of possessions, and academic researchers. In the new era reasonably large part of the community requests most specifically in municipal archives are from groups and individuals seeking for documentation of past public neglect and discrimination or persecution (Hutchinson and Weller, 2011). The new era has made archivist progressively understand that archival science is a collection of memories rather complete and trustworthy as they have believed before.

Social change has led to archival education, which is new in various countries. Traditionally, one practiced and learned procedures and techniques with close supervision from a colleague or archivist or invigorated to some of the professional stored records. With the new social changes today, this is regarded as not sufficient for archival professionals. The previous curriculum of archival education has been revised

to form a program that qualifies archival professionals to work both in institution and administrations depending on the quality of science in the archival discipline (Huvila, 2015). The changes have prompt development of a simple program to provide students who are willing to follow archival regimen with an extensive comprehension of archival science. Dealing with archives means both, a system and a social phenomenon. This program is detailed to focus on community functions of archival science and records, to provide the students with how and why documents are formed as proof of transaction and actions by creators of records. In Oman, archival science was not known very well in public as much as it deserves, but after the establishment of National Records and Archives Authority and introducing and entering this science into the universities and colleges, the intensification awareness of the institutions and the community took another direction quickly and brought clear and growing interest in it.

The societal change over the last four decades has moved the archival science professionals into new archival administration and institutions. Most importantly, in collective positions. One of the causes of this is the increased ethical issues in society; two decades ago, this was not an issue at all. Today all record managers play a vital role associated with the new societal responsibility of archival science. In today's community the social changes have entirely changed how archival science work, are not only formed to be administrative resources for archivists but are formed to help and serves as transparency resources; answerability and democratic governing of states, to make documentation and ensure safety rights of the community and lastly be a property of falsifiable facts of the previous duration (Huvila et al., 2008).

However, the emergence of digital technology has challenged classical archival science. The real understanding of these new models are scarce to make a description of the systems record keeping and electronic appearance of records; This is the reason that has led to the replacement of classical archival concepts and some re-interpreted by only more existing models. An example of this is the unique traditional notion of records. It is unique because there is only one written document. This document contradicts newspapers, books, and journals that people use. What makes archival documents or records being unique is their nature, which exists and the individual transaction and activity they are claimed to offer rather than the unique character of the record (Hartley, 2010).

Archival science, in general, is extensively experiencing the changes of our times. New documents of storing data have emerged, such as databases. These databases have no individual states, unlike the archival records, the information to be is stored in them is constituted by the data and together with a series of actions of obtaining the results from the data. The emergence of these databases came about because of the transient information reflecting the community's everyday communication such as large volumes of tweets and emails forcing archival science to face up new challenges (Huvila, 2015). Since archives have no concepts to make a selection of data based on merit, the databases took advantages of this factor and analysis large volume of information and made a selection as required by the data users.

### 3. CONCLUSION

Material change such as technology, development, among others, has made archival science undergo extensive development of the last three decade. Today's archivist has increasingly become societal actors that have been placed between the records, administration the netizens asking for documentation and broader society. The emergence of a new type of documents, an exponentially increasing number of born-digital data to be preserved, along with changing anticipation of users, on the contrary, comes with new challenges to both archival science discipline and archival scholars (Huvila et al., 2008).

To some extent, the gap between archival institutions and users have been rapidly growing as earlier, the more individual and collegial association between archivist and researchers is being substituted with casual and many, and different associations as well as the more expanded audience (Ataman, 2009). Several users of archival holdings visit archives in specific cases, for instance in a situation where the material or item in seek has not been digitalized, or if they require individual consultation in the course of study and investigation.

Archives as definition is a collection of historical documents or records providing an information about a place, institution, or group of people. All the information that archives provides are knows as nation memory, in the same time these information does not restrict only for physical records but also include electronic records. There are many theories in archival science but we have to provide an overview. It should be read as one science with different ideas or theories and views. The society was not recognizing the importance of archives so it did not keep the documents, photo, or any other archival materials, but they dispose them after certain period fear of attracting insect, dusts or pests. On the other side a few people recognizes the importance of this. However, the government institutions before organizing the archival management was not having a specialist in archival science, we were able to see accumulating document at organizations regardless the fact are they valuable or not valuable for nation memory and their disposal in random manner without any regulations until archival science organize this process. Around 7% of the governmental documents transferred to National Archives were forms as national memory. The discipline of archival science has extensively been affected by social changes. Some of the changes have affected the subject positively and others negatively. These changes pose new challenges to archive professionals not only because they change the data of the archives but also to modify the ideas about the data and its place in the new community and culture. Some of the most focused challenges include; the changes experienced in the new regulation of accessing the archival record in various countries, the introduction of further education that has modified and improved archival science discipline to educate modern generation scholars on how and why they create archives. Increased ethical issues that have prompted how archival science work in the society, the creation of new information frequently that has become impossible for archival science because of its voluminous data. Finally, the emergency of network-based information and communication system; digital data that has forced out a new way of preserving and storage of data. From the impacts of social challenges on archives, it is suggested there is a big need to keep files in existences by reinventing the discipline to adjust to the changes in the new generation.

All the claims elaborated in this paper indicate the positive and the negative impacts of social change on archival science. However, as far as changes in society still emerge, that does not mean that the community should discard archives or go away with them. This means archival science discipline should recreate itself to make adjustments to the changes in society. If corrections are not made according to the demand of the new era, the memory preserving institutions they will find themselves in a collection of the archival tradition of the past.

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