

Resource Collection Archives and Dealing with the Past

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Archives and Dealing with the Past Project

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Schweizerische Friedensstiftung
Fondation suisse pour la paix
Fondazione svizzera per la pace
Swiss Peace Foundation

Executive Summary

This collection of resources is compiled on an ongoing basis by swisspeace within the framework of the Archives and Dealing with the Past Project, a joint venture between the Human Security Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Federal Archives and swisspeace.

The resources are listed along the following categories: UN Reports; Manuals and Guidelines; Blogs and Newsletters; Software, Databases and Online Services; Website Selection; and Publications. The collection contains resources in English, French, German and Spanish, while the Website Selection contains other languages as well.

The collection makes no claim to be complete. For feedback or suggestions, please contact: dwp@swisspeace.ch.

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1 UN Reports

UNESCO General Conference, 38th Session, Paris, 2015

Adopted Draft Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of and Access to Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form, 30 July 2015

[Download](#)

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 7 September 2015, A/Hrc/30/42
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence, Pablo De Greiff, Annex: Set of General Recommendations for Truth Commissions and Archives, 27ff

[Download](#)

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 14 April 2011, A/Hrc/17/2
Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Seminar on Experiences of Archives as a Means to Guarantee the Right to the Truth

[Download](#)

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 21 August 2009, A/Hrc/12/19
Right to the Truth. Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

[Download](#)

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), 25 July 2005, E/Res/2005/30
Resolution on Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law

[Download](#)

UN Commission on Human Rights, 18 February 2005, E/Cn.4/2005/102
Report of the Independent Expert to Update the Set of Principles to Combat Impunity

[Download](#)

UN Commission on Human Rights, 18 February 2005, E/Cn.4/2005/102/Add.1
Report of the Independent Expert to Update the Set of Principles to Combat Impunity, Addendum

[Download](#)

UNESCO, 1997

Archives of the Security Services of Former Repressive Regimes.

Report by Antonio González-Quintana Prepared for UNESCO on behalf of the International Council on Archives

[Download](#)

UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 26 June 1997, E/Cn.4/Sub.2/1997/20

Question of the Impunity of Perpetrators of Human Rights Violations (Civil and Political)

[Download](#)

2 Manuals and Guidelines

Amnesty International and Codresia, 2000

Ukweli: Monitoring and Documenting Human Rights Violations in Africa

[Download](#)

HURIDOCS, 2001

Micro-Thesauri: A Tool for Documenting Human Rights Violations

[Download](#)

Huskamp Peterson, Trudy, 2012

Principles of Access to Archives

International Council on Archives, Committee on Best Practices and Standards

[Download](#)

Huskamp Peterson, Trudy, 2005

Application of ISAD(G) for Human Rights Archives

International Council on Archives

[Download](#)

Koford, Amelia, 2011

Tutorial for Archival Research on Women's Human Rights

The University Of Texas at Austin

[Download](#)

Le Goff, Armelle and the International Council on Archives (ICA), 2011

The Records of NGO's: Memory to be Shared: A Practical Guide in 60 Questions

International Council on Archives, Paris

[Download](#)

Moore, Ruth, 2008

Conversation Guide on Dealing with the Past

Healing Through Remembering, Belfast

[Download](#)

Witness Archive Guide, 2013

Activists' Guide to Archiving Video

[Download](#) (pdf)

Nunez, Bryan, 2012

Introducing Informacam, the Next Release of the Securesmartcam Project

WITNESS.

[Download](#)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2004

Istanbul Protocol: Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Professional Training Series No 8/Rev. 1, HR/P/PT/8/Rev.1

[Download](#)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2015

Rule-Of-Law Tools for Post-Conflict States: Archives

UN, New York/Geneva

[Download](#)

Open Society Justice Initiative, 2004
[Access to Information Monitoring Tool: Report from a Five-Country Pilot Study](#)
Open Society Institute, New York/Budapest/Abuja
[Download](#) (pdf)

Pearce-Moses, Richard, 2012
[A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology](#)
Society Of American Archivists
[Download](#)

Rosenstein, Barbara J.; Hedges, Ronald J. et al., 2007
[Managing Discovery of Electronic Information: A Pocket Guide for Judges](#)
Federal Judicial Center, Washington D.C.
[Download](#)

Rushing, Amy; Anderson, Summer et al., 2012
[Human Rights Documentation Initiative Metadata Guidelines for Audio Version 1.1](#)
University Of Texas Libraries, Austin
[Download](#)

Rushing, Amy; Anderson, Summer et al., 2012
[Human Rights Documentation Initiative Metadata Guidelines for Video Version 1.2](#)
University Of Texas Libraries, Austin
[Download](#)

Syria Justice and Accountability Centre, 2014
[Manual: Documenting Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Violations in Syria](#)
Syria Justice and Accountability Centre, The Hague/Washington D.C.
[Download](#)

USC Shoah Foundation Institute, 2010
[USC Shoah Foundation Institute Thesaurus \(Abridged\)](#)
University of Southern California
[Download](#) (pdf)

[3 Blogs and Newsletters](#)

[Archiving Human Rights](#)
WITNESS Blog

[Archivists Watch](#)
A nexus between information and social justice

[HURIDOCs Blog and News](#)

[ICT 4 Peacebuilding](#)
Exploring the use of information and communications technology for conflict transformation

[International Council on Archives](#)
Listserv

[Librarians and Human Rights Blog](#)

[Newsletter of the Human Rights Working Group](#)
International Council on Archives

[The Documentalist](#)

Center for Research Libraries, Global Resources network

[Tombouctou Manuscripts Project](#)

Blog and News

[Unredacted. The National Security Archive, unedited and uncensored](#)

4 Software, Databases and Online Services

[Archive-it](#)

Archiving service that allows the user to collect, catalog and manage his own digital collection

[eyeWitnessApp](#)

Easy-to-use camera app that safely captures and stores metadata important for accountability and justice

[Guide to Archives of International Organizations](#)

UNESCO Database that presents the holdings and how to access the archives of International Organisations

[Human Rights Documentation Initiative](#)

Initiative committed to long-term preservation of fragile and vulnerable records, promotion and secure usage of archival materials, and the advancement of research and advocacy. University of Texas, USA

[Human Rights Web Archive](#)

Initiative to select, preserve and provide access to internet resources, specifically at-risk websites. Columbia University Libraries and Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, USA

[IFLA Risk Register for Documentary Cultural Heritage](#)

Offers institutions, organisations and individuals from all countries/regions, holding unique documentary heritage collections in areas at risk of natural disasters or conflict, to register their collections with the IFLA Risk Register. It aims at compatibility with Blue Shield and UNESCO activities in this area.

[Martus](#)

A secure information management tool to create a database and back this data up remotely to your choice of publicly available servers, developed within Benetech's Human Rights program

[Mukurtu CMS 2.0](#)

A community oriented digital archive and content management platform

[Multilingual Archival Terminology](#)

An interactive, online database of archival terminology usage

[New Tactics in Human Rights](#)

Online Conversation on "Archiving Human Rights for Advocacy, Justice and Memory" (An online platform for dialogues on practical human rights related issues, see also search function for past conversations)

[OpenEvsys](#)

Database application to record human rights violations and analyse data

[Open Society Archives \(OSA\)](#)

Collects, preserves and makes accessible documents related to recent history and human rights, develops archiving tools. Archival Laboratory at the Central European University, Budapest (HUN)

[Parallel Archive \(PA\)](#)

A personal scholarly workspace, research network and digital repository, developed by OSA

[Responsible Data Forum](#)

Collaborative effort to develop useful tools and strategies for dealing with the ethical, security and privacy challenges facing data-driven advocacy

[Transitional Justice Database Project](#)

Global data base of over 1000 dealing with the past mechanisms (Trials, TRCs, Reparations, etc.). University of Wisconsin, USA

[Truth Commission Digital Collection](#)

Digital Collection that contains decrees establishing truth commissions and similar bodies of inquiry worldwide, and the report issued by such groups. United States Institute of Peace, USIP

[Ushahidi](#)

Software tools for information collection, visualization and interactive mapping

[Websites at risk](#)

Offers access to security copies of several websites about human rights in Sri Lanka

5 Website Selection

5.1 Organizations and Working Groups

[Archivists without Borders](#)

International organization of archivists that collaborate in the development of cooperation projects and solidarity in the field of archival science and documentary heritage; affiliated countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Spain, Ecuador, France, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay

[European Coordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation](#)

Holds annual meetings to exchange information and experiences on human rights documentation

[Human Rights Data Analysis Group \(HRDAG\) \(USA\)](#)

HRDAG develops information technology solutions and statistical techniques to help human rights advocates build evidence-based arguments

[Human Rights Working Group \(HRWG\) of the International Council on Archives \(ICA\)](#)

HRWG disseminates information on the importance of archives to defend human rights, develops standards and norms documents, runs projects and publishes a monthly newsletter

[HURIDOCS \(Switzerland\)](#)

NGO that develops tools and techniques to document human rights violations and a network platform for human rights NGOs to exchange experiences and best practices

[International Center for Transitional Justice - ICTJ \(USA\)](#)

International NGO specialized in transitional justice

[International Coalition of Sites of Conscience](#)

Worldwide network of historic sites, museums and initiatives dedicated to remembering past struggles and addressing their contemporary legacies

[National Security Archive](#) – The George Washington University (USA)
Pioneer in evidence-based research and primary source documentation on international affairs:
Among other functions the NSA is a library and research archive of declassified U.S. documents

[Swisspeace's Archives and Dealing with the Past Project](#) – (Switzerland)
Supports and initiates archival and documentation projects related to dealing with the past mechanisms

[TRIAL – Track impunity Always](#) (Switzerland)
NGO that fights against impunity of the most serious crimes by a large number of projects in the areas of litigation, public information, lobbying and research

[Videre Est Credere](#) (UK)
NGO that provides equipment and training to safely gather video evidence of human rights violations, and verifies, archives and distributes material to those who can create change

[Witness - See it. Film it. Change it.](#) (USA)
Focuses on video advocacy work: training and support in the use of video and storytelling as tools to document human rights violations

5.2 [Exhibitions / Virtual Museums](#)

[FAMA Collection – Siege of Sarajevo 1992-1996](#) (BIH)
Broad virtual collection of events, places and human experiences of the Siege of Sarajevo

[no voices, no faces – nobody we knew. ICA online exhibition](#)
An online exhibition that underlines the crucial role of archives in the fight against violations of human rights

[Sound Archives - European memories of the Gulag](#) (FR)
This virtual museum collected statements of former deportees, photographs, documents from public and private archives and films on the deportation of people from European territories to the Gulag from 1939 to 1953

5.3 [Research and Documentation Centres, Human Rights Archives](#)

[AAAS – American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) (Washington)
Collection of resources of scientific responsibility, human rights & law program, which addresses the ethical, legal and human rights issues related to the conduct and application of science and technology

[Akevot Institute for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Research](#)

[Archivo Nacional de la Memoria \(ANM\)](#) (Argentina)
The ANM is a decentralized body within the competence of the National Human Rights Secretariat and was created to reconstruct and preserve historic and social memory especially on the infringement of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Argentina

[Armenian National Institute](#) (Washington)
The ANI is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the study, research, and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide. It collects and organizes documentation attesting to and preserving the memory of the Armenian Genocide, with extensive archival holdings from American, British, French, Vatican, and other official repositories

[Brasil: Nunca Mais Digital](#) (Brazil)

Collection of nearly one million pages of digitized court documents from Brazil's Military Supreme Court documenting over 7000 cases between 1964 and 1979

[B'Tselem – Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories](#)

Collects and publishes testimonies and comprehensive reports on human rights violations in the occupied territories. Video documentation is one of the central components of the NGO's work

[Center for Research, Documentation and Publication](#) (Kosovo)

Aims to advocate for Transitional Justice through the development of objective memory and the promotion of initiatives that normalize community and regional relationships

[CSVJ – The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation](#) (South Africa)

Since 1994 CSVJ runs a transitional justice programme that engages in research and interventions projects on amnesty, accountability, reintegration, memory, reparations, truth etc. They co-edit the renowned International Journal on Transitional Justice

[DC-Cam The Documentation Center of Cambodia](#)

Independent research institute that has been documenting the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge era since 1995

[Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past](#) (Croatia)

Founded by several peace building NGOs to encourage and initiate dealing with the past processes and public dialogue and to establish factual truth by collecting data and research on war events and trials

[DWP Kosovo – Dealing with the Past](#) (Kosovo)

Online platform to present and initiate projects related to dealing with the past in Kosovo

[Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR](#) (Germany)

Ensures management, preservation, and access to records and archives of the Stasi

[Forschungs- und Dokumentationszentrum Kriegsverbrecherprozesse](#), Philipps-Universität Marburg (Germany)

International research and documentation centre on war crimes trials

[Humanitarian Law Center](#), Belgrade (Serbia)

Supports post-Yugoslav societies in dealing with their past through research and documentation on human rights violations, justice and institutional reform and public information and outreach

[Human Rights Archive](#), Duke University Libraries (USA)

Collects and provides access to materials generated by organizations and individuals working in the field of human rights

[Institut Supérieur d'Histoire du Mouvement National](#) (Tunisia)

ISHMN is known for their broad archival holdings on the colonial history, but also involved in archives and human rights questions related to the recent history in Tunisia

[Institute of National Remembrance](#) (Poland)

Responsible for gathering, assessing, disclosing and custody of documentation created between 1944-1989 by Polish security agencies, including records on repression and crimes against Polish citizens

[Kigali Genocide Archive](#) (Rwanda)

Collects, archives and disseminates records on the 1994 genocide against Tutsi and moderate Hutu in Rwanda; e.g. oral testimonies, maps, transcripts of gacaca court proceedings, radio etc.

[KontraS – The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence](#) (Indonesia)
Broad activities in the promotion of human rights and dealing with the past initiatives in Indonesia

[Memoria Abierta](#) (Argentina)
Collected and made accessible a broad range of documents on the military dictatorship in Argentina in order to construct and preserve a collective memory

[Memorial](#) (Russia)
Awareness-building and research activities that aim to restore historical memory, advocate human rights, and commemorate victims of political repression

[Pervasive Monuments](#), Horizon Digital Economy Research, University of Nottingham (UK)
Project that seeks to investigate the ways in which mobile, internet and other digital technologies are currently being, and might be, used to build and support monuments and lasting memorials

[Platform of European Memory and Conscience](#)
Platform project of several organizations that are active in research and documentation, education and awareness raising about the totalitarian regimes in the Visegrad region in the 20th century

[Protocols for Native American Archival Materials](#) (USA)
The protocols are a set of best professional practices for culturally responsive care and use of indigenous archival material; the protocols focus on American Indian archival material held by non-tribal organizations, but are also interesting for other contexts

[Reconstructing Historical Memory](#)
Resource materials on storytelling, historical clarification, documentation, truth telling, and memory work initiatives; a project by the Historical Memory Commission of the Center of Memory of Colombia and the University of British Columbia

[Security Services Archives](#) (Czech Republic)
Ensures management, preservation, and access to archival material of security services of former totalitarian regimes in Czechoslovakia

[SENSE Online Documentation Center “Storm in the Hague”](#)
The first [SENSE](#) online documentation center, a comprehensive, interactive narrative “Storm in the Hague” about the ICTY’s work on the operation “Storm” by the Croatian military in August 1995. It was created in cooperation with the Serbian National Council (SNV) in Croatia and Documenta - Centre for Dealing with the Past.

[Sleuk Rith Institute](#) (Cambodia)
A center for genocide studies founded by DC-Cam. It consists of a museum, a research center and a school to learn about the Khmer Rouge era

[South African History Archives – SAHA](#)
Independent human rights archive dedicated to documenting and providing access to archival holdings that relate to past and contemporary struggles for justice in South Africa

[Zochrot](#) (Israel)
NGO whose goal is to introduce the Palestinian Nakba to the Israeli-Jewish public. The website offers testimonies, maps of destroyed Palestinian villages etc.

6 Publications

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The Tuol Seng Archives and the Cambodian Genocide

In: Archivaria 45 (Spring 1998), pp. 5-26. [Download](#)

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Genocidal Archives: The African Context – Genocide in Rwanda

In: Journal of the Society of Archivists, Vol. 26, Issue 1 (2005), pp. 105-121.

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Archivos y Derechos Humanos

In: Colección Archivos siglo XXI, 7, TREA, Gijón.

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Colección de Informes, 1, Guatemala. [Download](#)

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Archivos y derechos humanos en América. La Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos

In: Comma, International Journal on Archives, Issue 2 (2010), pp. 123-130.

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The Dictator's Secret Archives. Rationales for their Creation, Destruction and Disclosure

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Barrera, Giulia, 2011.

Secrets and Files: Access to Archives in Italy from WWII to the Present

In: Acervo, Revista do Arquivo Nacional 24 (1/Suplemento), pp. 69-84. [Download](#)

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In: Archival Science 9 (3-4), pp. 203-214. [Download](#)

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Documenting Truth

International Center for Transitional Justice, New York. [Download](#)

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In: Latin American Research Review, 35 (2), University of Texas Press, pp. 160-182. [Download](#)

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Centro de Documentación y Estudios, Asunción. [Download](#)
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Die Rolle der Archive in der politischen Auseinandersetzung um die Aufarbeitung der Vergangenheit
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