National Archives and Records Service of South Africa

in partnership with

University of South Africa

Presents

The 1st Annual National Records Management Conference

Conference Theme:

Rethinking Records Management in the Multiverse: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in South Africa

Date:
19 -20 August 2025

Venue:
Senate Hall, University of South Africa
Muckleneuk Campus, 0003
Tshwane/Pretoria

This conference addresses the evolving landscape of records management in South Africa, where effective information governance has become fundamental to democratic accountability, legal compliance, and institutional continuity. Records management is the backbone of transparent governance, enabling citizens access to information, supporting judicial processes, and preserving the nation's administrative and cultural heritage. Integrating AI and emerging technologies is transforming traditional records management practices through automated classification, intelligent retrieval systems, and predictive analytics, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance information accessibility and decision-making processes. However, these technological advances present significant ethical and legal challenges for records professionals, including data privacy protection, algorithmic bias in classification systems, digital sovereignty concerns, and maintaining the delicate balance between automated efficiency and human oversight in sensitive governance contexts. Climate change further complicates records management responsibilities, threatening physical records/archives while demanding sustainable digital preservation strategies and raising critical questions about our duty to future generations in safeguarding documentary heritage. This gathering brings together records management professionals, technologists, legal experts, and policymakers to explore how the profession can harness AI's transformative potential while upholding the fundamental principles of records stewardship, ensuring ethical data governance, and building resilient systems that serve South Africa's democratic and developmental aspirations.

Sub themes:

- Policy, Ethics, and the Digital Shift
- AI and Machine Learning in Practise
- Digitisation and Digitalisation in the South African Landscape
- Systems and Tools
- Digital Intelligence: Capacity and Training
- Legal, Ethical and Compliance Issues
- Environmental Sustainability in Records Management

Important Dates:

Submission of abstracts: **18 June 2025**
Notification of Acceptance of Abstracts **18 July 2025**
Any questions can be sent to: Recordsmanagementenquiries@dsac.gov.za

Submission of Abstracts:
Abstracts related to the sub-themes should not exceed 500 words, and should address or contain the following:

- Theme and title of the paper, which also reflects a clear description of the topic and its importance or relevance
- Name(s) of the author(s)
- Contact details of the author(s), inclusive of e-mail(s) and contact telephone number(s)
- Institutional affiliation(s)
- The theme that the abstract relates to within the conference sub-themes outline.
- Keywords

Abstracts for the conference must be submitted to: https://forms.office.com/r/KCCspcEKmZ

The authors of the accepted abstracts must submit their PowerPoint presentations by **15 August 2025**. Qualifying authors will be notified, and an appropriate submission link will be provided.

Any questions can be sent to: Recordsmanagementenquiries@dsac.gov.za

Conference Registration link: https://forms.office.com/r/i2hbB7TL52

Registration Fee: FREE

Venue: Senate Hall, UNISA, Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria, South Africa