Convergence of librarianship, archival, museum studies to improve the education of managing digital collections.:
Africa Experience

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Historical Perspective - LIS

- 1930 – Witnessed the need for LIS education
- 1944 – Library education or training introduced in Ghana
- 1961-63 – Local educational facilities made available in West and East Africa (Gupta & Gupta, 1997)
Historical Perspective – Archival studies

- 1971-75 – Archives and records management education established regional training centers in Sub-Saharan Africa by the International Council of Archives and UNESCO (Mwiyeriwa, 1988: 171)
  - 1971 – Senegal for Francophone countries
  - 1975 – Ghana for Anglophone countries
- After 1976 – increasing need for skilled labour led individual nations to start their own programs with a parallel curriculum (Katuu, 2009: 136)
Limitation

- Only English-Speaking countries
- Schools collaborating with INASP (International Network for Availability of Scientific Publications) and eIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries)
- Excludes all library training programmes conducted by libraries, and library associations
- ESARBICA (Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives)
There is a strong relationship between Archives and Records Management education, and political power, e.g. in countries where the national archives are placed in a ministry with wide ministerial powers their operations are bound not to suffer = true for Public Universities.

Nigeria, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Botswana, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Lesotho, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland (Mnjama, 2005; ESARBICA, 1999) [ordered by advancement and number of schools]
Current Status of Education for Library, Archives, Museum Professionals in Africa

- Institutions with 'Records and Archives' as part of the faculty, school or department name, show strong divergence between librarianship, archival, museum studies e.g. Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, & Zimbabwe

- Institutions with 'Librarianship' as part of the faculty, school or department name, show strong convergence between librarianship, archival, museum studies e.g. East African School of Library and Information Science, Makerere University, Uganda
Current Status of Education for Library, Archives, Museum Professionals in Africa

- Countries with historical foundation on records and archives training have more archival schools than their counterparts; and show strong divergence exists between librarianship and archival studies e.g. Department of Library and Archival Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria; [Kenya Vs Uganda] (Onyancha & Mokwatlo, 2011)
Program Structures for Archival and Records Management Education

- Undergraduate Certificate – one year full time theory and practical training (CRAM)
- Undergraduate diploma – two years full time theory and practical training (DRAM)
- Bachelor – 3-4 years full time theory and practical training includes industrial or internship attachment, (BRAM)
- Postgraduate Diploma – are being phrased out in most institutions (PGDL)
- Masters – requires 2 years fulltime including research
Models of Archival and Records Management Education in Africa

a) Pre-appointment education – induction

b) On-the-job introductory education and training

c) Post-appointment continuing education

d) Short course training for skills development

e) Graduate level education

f) Awareness raising for non-archives and records management personnel
Examination of Specific Curricula

There is a big disparity in Archives and Records Management - as well as LIS - curriculum not only around the continent but also within the countries.

- Courses taught on archives and records management in LIS curriculum
  - Without archival specialisations - Information and Documentation Services, Records Management, and Archives administration and museology;
Observations

- A number of LIS schools in Africa teach courses on archives and records management - Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, etc (Over 30 programmes, Katuu, 2009: 136)

- Archives and records management core curriculum is based on information science and some schools offer specialization in library science, archival science, and information resource management, E.g. Moi University, Kenya

- During the Final/Third Year of the bachelor degree, students choose specializations from: Library Science, Publishing and Book Trade, and Archives and Records Management. E.g. Mak. Univ., EASLIS, Uganda
Current status of Convergence in Africa

- There is no evidence of museum studies as a core or specialisation in the LIS curriculum. Archives and records management curriculum list only one course - Management of Museums; similarly Library and information science lists Archives administration and museology;

- Based on the review of programs in Africa, there is a growing tendency of the divergence of library education and Archive and Records Management Studies, and no evidence of museum studies at all.

- There are no joint degrees or joint programs with other non-LIS departments within or outside the university.
Thank You For Listening to Me

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Group Discussion

What social, cultural and political contexts are encountered in the U.S. and Canada that might be relevant to the discussion of Archival and Records Management Education in Africa?