

ESARBICA JOURNAL

**JOURNAL OF THE EASTERN
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
REGIONAL BRANCH OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON
ARCHIVES**

Volume 42

2023

ISSN 2221-6442 (Print), ISSN 2221-6450 (Online)

Dear esteemed readers

It is with great pleasure that we introduce volume 42 of the Journal of the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA), which is a special issue featuring selected articles presented at the 27th ESARBICA conference that was held from 14-18 August 2023 at Birchwood Hotel, Gauteng, South Africa. As the guest editors of this special issue, we are delighted to present a collection of research, insights and innovations that emerged from the conference sessions.

ESARBICA biennial conference, which takes place every two years, attracts many professionals, experts, researchers and academics from Eastern and Southern Africa. The 27th ESARBICA conference was organised around the theme “Archives, Records, and Memory in Digital Spaces and Global Chaos”, was attended by over 500 delegates, both physical and virtual. Over 50 papers were presented at the conference which demonstrate rich array of research and ideas. Out of 50 papers, only 20 articles were received from the authors for possible publication in this special issue. After a rigorous peer reviewed process, only 12 papers were selected for inclusion in the final publication. While we understand that all papers had value and can in a way offer a contribution to the body of knowledge, reviewers ensured that only the most impactful and more valuable contributions are shared with the academic and practice community.

In this special issue, readers will find rich tapestry of research covering a wide range of sub-themes including:

- Preservation legislation, policies, strategies, and workflows
- Chaos: archives, records and memory
- Case studies, best practices, novel initiatives: memory, archives or records
- Digital spaces
- Training and education: memory, archives, and records

We believe that the findings generated from these papers will serve as invaluable resources for scholarship and practice in the field of archives and records management. By engaging with the diverse perspectives provided by the papers covered in this special issue, readers are guaranteed an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the complex challenges facing the industry within the region. We encourage every reader to go through this issue with curiosity, engaging deeply with work presented by the authors who have dedicated their expertise and insights for your benefit.

We would like to express our gratitude to all authors for their contributions to the body of knowledge, to the peer reviewers for their contributions in ensuring that the quality of the work produced by the journal remains intact, and to the conference organisers and all partners for providing a platform for sharing innovative ideas and reporting on the work that various professionals are working on.

Sincerely

Prof Nampombe Saurombe and Dr Makutla Mojapelo
ESARBICA Guest Editors for the special issue, Unisa – Department of Information Science