



A suggested vision for the merged archives organisation (MAO)

Introduction

Records and archives facilitate, document, and preserve the memory of all aspects of our lives. In whatever media, they can evidence our rights and responsibilities; personal emotions and intellectual decisions; administrative functions and judicial rulings; individual actions and family histories. They allow us access to the authentic voices of both the present and the past.

MAO believes the creation, care and access to records and archives is of fundamental importance to the functioning of society and that their use for personal, community, social and economic benefit is an essential support for everyone.

Vision

MAO is the lead body for archives, records management and archives conservation ('recordkeeping') in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and as such provides a single voice on all matters relating to the sector within both countries.

MAO embraces practitioners in archives, records management, archive conservation, archive learning, research and outreach, and all related recordkeeping functions, as well as users, owners and the wider community of those with an interest in records and archives.

It fosters, promotes and seeks to broaden the care, management, access to and use of records and archives by everyone for the effective functioning of governance and administration; for education and enjoyment; for posterity and the public interest.

It is a membership organisation which serves as the professional body for those involved in all aspects of recordkeeping in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland and as the main advocate for the sector in its widest sense. It welcomes the membership of all those with interests in archives and records, and seeks to provide a voice for the users and owners of records.

It represents the interests of the British and Irish sector internationally.

Its mission is divided into three co-equal parts: Professionalism, Advocacy and Inclusion.



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Mission

Professionalism

As the professional body for archivists, records managers, archives conservators and other records professionals and para-professionals in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, MAO:

- promotes the interests of its members and serves their career needs.
- supports the professional development of its members throughout their careers in the sector, from initial training onwards.
- researches, develops and promotes the professional skills required by the sector.
- supports and develops the highest professional and ethical standards in all aspects of the way records and archives are managed in all sectors in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland;

Advocacy

As the voice of the archives and record-keeping sector for records professionals, owners, custodians and users in the United Kingdom and Ireland, MAO:

- articulates and advocates the unique identity, role and contribution of records and archives clearly to policy makers, stakeholders and partners in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.
- articulates and advocates to stakeholders, policy makers and the public the importance of the preservation and provision of appropriate access to records and archives.
- encourages develops and facilitates advocacy training for records professionals to enable them to promote their skills within diverse areas of operation.
- seeks to influence the development of policy, practice and legislation as it impacts on recordkeeping and those working in the sector nationally and internationally by leading and coordinating partnerships with related bodies.



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- works for the improvement and development of the sector so that it better meets the challenges of cultural, administrative, financial and technological change.

Inclusion

As a membership body for records professionals, custodians, users, students and other stakeholders throughout the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, MAO:

- seeks to promote equality and diversity in the recordkeeping professions and the sector as a whole.
- supports the work of the sector to engage with wider audiences for archives, as well as providing a voice for existing users.
- works for the improvement and development of community stake holding in archives, by promoting the role of the community archives sector.
- supports the development of volunteer involvement in archives.