

*Commentary*

## Overview on archival science and archivists

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### DESCRIPTION

The study and theory of creating and curating archives, which include collections of documents, recordings, and data storage devices, is known as archival science. To create and curate an archive, one must first obtain and assess recorded materials, as well as have the ability to access them afterwards. Archival science aims to enhance methods for evaluating, storing, maintaining, and classifying recorded items in order to achieve this goal. Data that is not intended to change is preserved in an archival record. Archives must be trustworthy in order to be useful to society. As a result, it is the role of an archivist to authenticate archival items, such as historical documents, and ensure their dependability, integrity, and usability. An archivist is a professional who evaluates, collects, organises, preserves, controls, and gives access to records and archives that are deemed to have long-term worth. Letters, diaries, journals, other personal documents, government documents, sound and/or picture recordings, digital files, or other physical artefacts are some of the types of records kept by archivists. Archival science is also called as Archival studies.

Because of the diverse nature of the job in various companies and work contexts, archivists require a diverse set of abilities. The requirements such as to assist patrons with their research, those who work in reference and access-oriented professions should have good customer service abilities; To help extend the life of cultural items, a basic understanding of conservation is required. If not properly stored and maintained, many forms of media can deteriorate; and although many historical collections are made up entirely of paper documents, archivists are increasingly being faced with the new issues provided by the preservation of electronic data, necessitating them to be forward-thinking and technologically adept.

In regard to indigenous, communal, and human rights archives, archival studies have revealed a resurgence of post-custodial discourse. According to reports, archival institutions in the global north frequently form oppressive alliances with institutions in the global south. It would only entail the exchange of precious materials from the global south and the unjust benefitting from them, resulting in further inequality. In order to remove colonial and imperialist connotations, archival studies have given strategies to decolonize archive activity, particularly in the case of post-custodial partnerships. Michelle Caswell, a well-known researcher and archivist, used the phrase “symbolic annihilation” to describe the distortion of marginalised communities in their own archives in her archival studies. This omission can also be seen in archive regulations, as well as standards for description and annotation. The maintenance of community archives, as well as the use of accurate language and descriptions, is critical for their accessibility and inclusivity. This would ensure that neglected community values are taken into account, as well as contribute to critical archival dialogues about historical documentation’s silence.

In archival science, provenance refers to information about the origins, custody, and ownership of an item or collection; information about the origins, custody, and ownership of an item or collection. Provenance refers to the person, family, or organisation who created or received the items in a collection as a fundamental premise of archives. Preservation, like provenance, is concerned with presenting archival items in the best possible light. The primary objective of archivists is to preserve the record, as well as the context in which it was created, and to make this information accessible to the user.

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