Archives of development in the UN Secretariat: murky past, unclear future

Bridget Sisk

Archives.un.org
ARMS and Recordkeeping in the UN
History, mandate and resources

- Three roles: records management, archives management, advisory services and expertise
- Access to records and archives
- Advice, guidance, collaboration
Overview of UN archives
1946-2012

- 23,500 linear feet paper records: headquarters focus
- 3,000 reels microfilm; 8000 photographs from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency
- 25,000 drawings and blueprints of UN facilities
- 300 historical maps
- Electronic archives
Access to UN archives and records

- Strictly confidential: requires declassification
- Confidential: released after 20 years
- Access and declassification request can be made at any time
- Public access, internal access, privileged access
Development archives in ARMS
Archives of NY-based agencies

- UNICEF
- UNDP
- UNFPA
Research: Reflections on United Nations Development Ideas
The digital preservation imperative: planning for the *long-term accessibility* and usability of authentic digital information

Risk:

inability to provide services, manage programmes and operate business functions efficiently because of digital information that is *not accessible or usable*