



United Nations
Archives and Records Management Section

*Protecting the Present
Preserving for the Future*

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

Bridget Sisk

Archives.un.org

World Bank colloquium: using history to
inform development policy

Washington DC – Oct. 2012

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

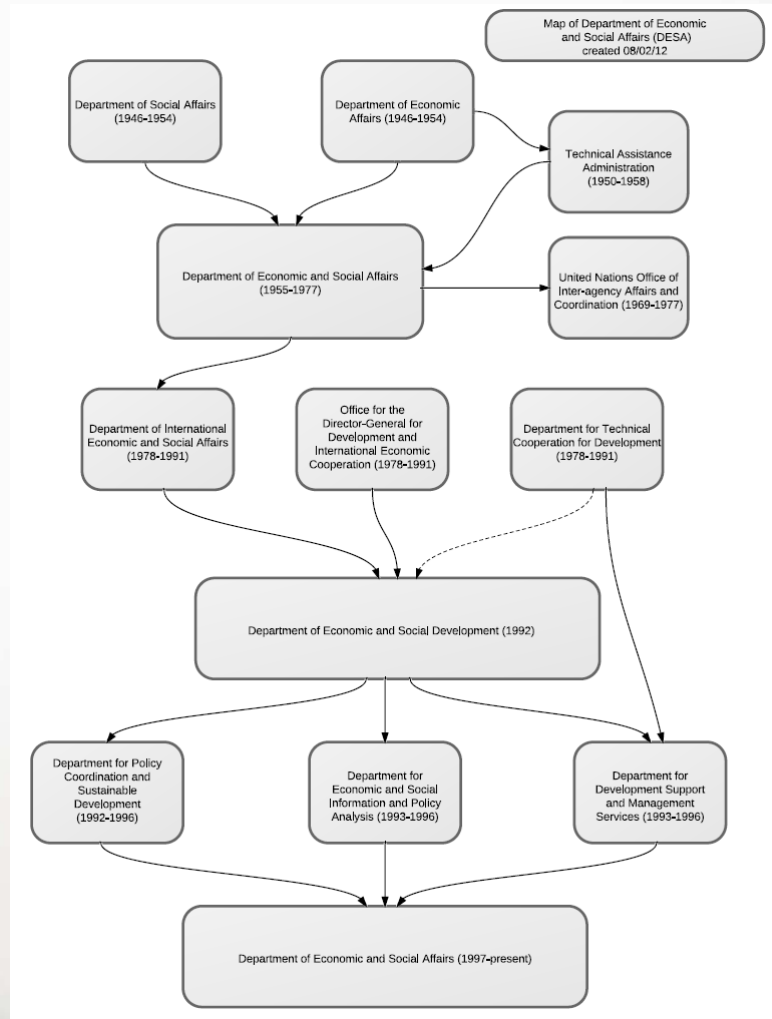
1946-2012

- 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

DESA 2012

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the United Nations Statistics Division website. The browser's address bar shows the URL `unstats.un.org/unsd/databases.htm`. The website features a blue header with the UN logo and the text "United Nations Statistics Division". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Statistical Databases", "Publications", "Methods & Classifications", "Meetings & Events", and "Technical Newsletters". A search box labeled "[Site search]" is also present. The main content area is titled "UNSD Statistical Databases" and includes a section for "Links to Statistical information" with links to "National statistics", "International statistics", and "UNSD working partners". A central section titled "UNdata" with the tagline "Bringing Information to the World" describes the new internet-based data service. Below this is a "Data Search" box with a search input field and a "Go" button. The page lists several databases: "Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE)", "Census Knowledge Base", "Demographic Yearbook system", and "Distat, the United Nations Disability Statistics Database". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system clock as 11:19 AM on 10/26/2012.

United Nations Statistics Division

UN Home | Department of Economic and Social Affairs | Economic and Social Development Home | About us | Contact us | Site Map

Home | Statistical Databases | Publications | Methods & Classifications | Meetings & Events | Technical Newsletters | [Site search] Go

UNSD Statistical Databases

Links to Statistical information

- [National statistics](#)
- [International statistics](#)
- [UNSD working partners](#)

CD-ROM and other e-files for purchase

Most Division datasets are available as special orders or sales publications. See [Electronic format](#) in the Division's Publications list.

UNdata *Bringing Information to the World*
A world of information [Overview...](#)

The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has launched a new internet-based data service for the global user community. It brings UN statistical databases within easy reach of users through a single entry point. Users can search and download a variety of statistical resources of the UN system. [enter...](#)

Data Search

[Commodity Trade Statistics Database \(COMTRADE\)](#)
Comtrade provides commodity trade data for all available countries and areas since 1962. Currently, it contains almost 1.75 billion records. [more...](#)

Free access to all of the data available in the UN Comtrade database (with download limit of 50,000 records per data query; no limitation on number of data queries). Premium service (personalization feature and bulk download of millions of records / data streaming via web services) is available for a fee.

[Census Knowledge Base](#)
The Census Knowledge Base, a fundamental part of the resource centre for the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, is a repository of documents relevant for the field of population and housing census taking. [more...](#)

[Demographic Yearbook system](#)
Statistics on population size and composition, births, deaths, marriage and divorce. [more...](#)

[Distat, the United Nations Disability Statistics Database](#)
Basic statistics on human functioning and disability. [more...](#)

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