

## Annual Conference Brussels, 23-24 November 2013 “Accountability, Transparency and Access to Information” Call for Papers

### Overview

It is time for the International Council on Archives to hold a high quality conference on records and information management issues. Current trends such as the Open Government Partnership and the Open Data movement, combined with the on-going challenges and opportunities offered by modern technology mean that all areas of government and society, whether they know it or not, are considering recordkeeping issues. ICA’s first ever Annual Conference, “Accountability, Transparency and Access to Information” aims to tackle these issues from the bottom up and the top down, from practical solution-based case-studies, through international and collaborative case studies to high level government and international initiatives.

As a global organisation, ICA is aware that legal obligation, societal expectation and cultural behaviour are not the same the world over. International debate on the subject may reveal conflicting views and interests over, for example, intellectual property rights. Other areas of difference may be around access to technology of both providers and those accessing information. Openness may also be a concept that varies in definition and importance depending on a variety of factors such as political systems, citizens’ awareness and education levels, and the value put on privacy or commercial interests. and be Discussion of these issues

The 2013 Programme Committee is looking for relevant papers from good speakers who can provoke the ICA community and its wider stakeholders to reflect on and debate these very real challenges. The ICA leadership and the Programme Commission are spending more and more time on these crucial issues and the Annual Conference conclusions will feed directly into ICA’s work.

You do not have to be an ICA member or even work in archives or records management to submit a proposal, we are actively encouraging people outside our wider network to come and challenge us to meet their expectations and see their own pressing concerns from their perspective.

### Preliminary Programme Outline

Conference Title:

“Accountability, Transparency and Access to Information”

## Professional Programme Themes:

1. Citizens engaging with government, archives and history
2. Records providing evidence of rights
3. Legal issues:
  - a. Freedom of/Access to Information
  - b. Truth and reconciliation processes
  - c. Personal data protection
  - d. Confidentiality in business, fighting crime, matters of state, international affairs
  - e. Intellectual property
4. Role/contribution of archivists and records managers in/to accountability, transparency and access to information:
  - a. What do they contribute?
  - b. Should/do they lead?
  - c. How can they play a lead role?
5. Initiatives:
  - a. IRMT
  - b. FAN<sup>1</sup>
6. Delivering access
  - a. User perspectives
  - b. Digital/internet access (greater access and transparency or potential for careless handling of personal data?)
7. Records Management
  - a. Connection between transparency, effectiveness and responsibility?
  - b. Is it more expensive to “do right”, does it take more time?

## Deadline:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013

## How to submit:

Candidates are strongly advised to read through the **abstract submission notes** before filling out the **abstract submission form**. The form should be submitted to [crockett@ica.org](mailto:crockett@ica.org) by the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

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<sup>1</sup> Fan could have a half-day strand on the Open Government Partnership, providing updates on OG projects, maybe from Philippines and South Africa?

## Conditions for participation

ICA is not in a position to offer any support to speakers and accepted candidates must register as participants and pay the registration fee. Presenters' and speakers' travel, accommodation and related costs cannot be met by ICA and no speakers' fees are payable.

## Notification

All candidates will be notified of acceptance or otherwise via email by the end of March 2013. The decision of acceptance of abstracts is at the discretion of the Programme Committee.

## Paper and PowerPoint submission

There is no obligation to prepare a full paper, but in case speakers wish to do so, this can be published on the ICA website. Speakers are also welcome to submit their papers for publication in ICA's Journal "Comma".

All speakers must provide their PowerPoint presentation to the technical team at the Conference Centre before their session begins.

More information will be provided on both these aspects in due course.