

A Review of ESARBICA Resolutions 1969-2005

N. M. Mnjama

*Department of Library and Information Studies
University of Botswana
E-mail: mnjamanm@mopipi.ub.bw*

Abstract

This article provides a summary of the major issues addressed during the general conferences of the Eastern and Southern African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) held between 1969 and 2005. It discusses some of the major resolutions passed during the general conferences showing the progress that has been made in implementing them within ESARBICA member states. The article concludes by suggesting that, as a professional association, ESARBICA has been a major instrument in the development of archives and records management programmes and services in the region.

Introduction

During the 18th Biennial General Conference of the Eastern and Southern African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) held at Gaborone, Botswana, between 25th July and 29th July 2005, the issue of how far ESARBICA member states had implemented past ESARBICA resolutions was raised. However, since many of the participants had not participated in previous ESARBICA conferences, it was not easy to assess the extent to which ESARBICA member states had or had not implemented past ESARBICA resolutions. This article reviews the progress that has been made

in implementing the resolutions since the Inaugural General Conference that was held in Nairobi in 1969.

ESARBICA, which until 1984 was known as the Eastern and Central African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ECARBICA), is a professional association of archivists and records managers working within Eastern and Southern Africa, which was launched in Nairobi in 1969. The name was changed to ESARBICA in 1984, when it was realised that a good number of Central African countries wished to establish their own regional branch and also based on the need for ESARBICA to reflect that the bulk of the membership was drawn from Eastern and Southern African countries. ESARBICA meets on a rotational basis every two years. Currently, ESARBICA is made up of 12 countries namely, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Zanzibar. Until 1995, Sudan was an active member of the East and Central African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, but since then, she has opted to join the Arab Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ARBICA). Despite the fact that Uganda is within the Eastern African region, she has never really been an active member of the branch, but archivists and records management professionals from the country have repeatedly participated in several ESARBICA initiatives, such as workshops and conferences. Efforts to bring in Ethiopia and Somalia into this regional grouping have not been very successful either, while Somalia still remains the only country in the region without a functional national archives. Until the late 1990s, Seychelles was an active member of ESARBICA, but of late, her interest seems to be towards an association covering the Indian Ocean Islands.

The general aims and objectives of ESARBICA are to:

- (a) establish, maintain and strengthen relations between archivists of all countries in the region and between institutions, professional bodies and organisations, which are concerned with the custody, organisation or administration of archives.
- (b) promote all measures for the preservation, protection and defence against all manners of hazards of the archival heritage of the region, and to further the progress of all aspects of the administration and preservation of archives.
- (c) facilitate the use of archives of the region by making these more widely known and by encouraging greater ease of access.
- (d) promote, organise and co-ordinate activities in the field of archives in the region.
- (e) sponsor professional training of archivists in the region.
- (f) co-ordinate with other organisations or institutions concerned with the documentation of human experience and the use of that documentation for the benefit of mankind.
- (g) generally carry out the aims and objectives of the International Council on Archives.

Membership into ESARBICA is divided into the following five categories:

- Categories A and B consist of national, state or territorial archive directorates and professional associations. These members have voting rights during general meetings. This is in line with the parent constitution of the International Council on Archives of which ESARBICA is a branch.
- Category C members are drawn from institutions and associations concerned with the administration or preservation of records and archives or with the professional training of archivists.
- Category D consists of present or past members of any archival institution, service or training centre.
- Category E is comprised of individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to archival work in the region, and have been elected as honorary members of the association.

ESARBICA is governed by an Executive Board, which consists of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary-General, a Deputy-Secretary General, a Treasurer, an Editor and a Vice Editor. The office bearers serve for a fixed term of two years, and may be re-elected to the same positions, but are not allowed to serve more than two terms. The membership of the Board consists of all directors of the national archives in the region. The main activity organised by ESARBICA is a general conference, which is held every two years. Normally, each general conference is preceded by a two-day pre-conference seminar for junior archivists. The pre-conference seminar runs concurrently with ESARBICA Board meeting.

ESARBICA Resolutions

An examination of ESARBICA resolutions indicates that since its inception in Nairobi in 1969, ESARBICA has held a total of 18 general conferences as indicated in the Appendix. ESARBICA has consistently met every two years since 1969. General conferences have been held in the capital cities of all the countries of the region, except for Lesotho and Seychelles. This is a commendable effort, when ESARBICA is compared to other International Council on Archives (ICA) branches in the African region, such as the West African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (WARBICA) or the Central African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (CENARBICA). The main reason for this success may be attributed to two factors. First, the region shares a common language (English) in comparison to the West African branch, where language barrier between French speaking and English speaking countries is a major concern. Secondly, in comparison to the Central African region, Eastern and Southern African countries have enjoyed long periods of political stability.

Issues Covered by ESARBICA Resolutions

A review of ESARBICA resolutions indicates that each general conference has been organised around a specific theme. At the end of each general conference, resolutions are adopted, which each member state is expected to go and implement and

report back in the next general conference. The list below provides an indication of the broad areas covered by resolutions adopted during the general conferences.

1. Regional co-operation and records management in East and Central Africa. The focus under this particular resolution was based on the need to foster close co-operation between archivists and records managers in the region.
2. Requests to establish national archives in Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Somalia. In the early years these countries had no functional national archives and there was need to encourage governments from these countries to establish national archival institutions.
3. Training of archivists, records managers and technicians. In the late sixties and early seventies, there were no known trained African archivists and the need to provide archival training was crucial.
4. The East African Community archives. East African Community had been in existence since 1927, and had accumulated vast quantities of records. These records were considered extremely valuable to the East African region, hence the need to have them managed professionally.
5. Staff visits and exchange of information. This was considered a crucial benefit to archivists in the region as it provided avenues for exchange of ideas and acquisition of new skills.
6. Retrieval of migrated archives and joint microfilming and copying projects. Eastern and Southern African countries had some of records located in metropolitan cities and the need to develop a common strategy for the acquisition of migrated archives was considered necessary, as a way of supplementing locally available records in the region.
7. Preservation of private, business, parastatal and ecclesiastical archives in national archives. The general conferences did acknowledge the need to preserve records from organisations that had played a role in the socio-economic development of the region, hence this particular resolution.
8. The Vienna Convention on the Succession of State Property, Archives and Debts 1983. General conferences supported efforts being made by United Nations through international instruments (especially the Vienna Convention of 1983) in order to resolve conflicts arising out of records located outside the countries of their origins.
9. Access to archival resources in the region. Promotion of the use of archives and removal of access restriction on archives were of major concern at various general conferences.
10. Membership fees and subscriptions. Reasonable subscription fees to ESARBICA were recommended by the general conferences.
11. Publication and transmission of ESARBICA Newsletter and other publications. The general conferences were keen to see that knowledge relating to archival developments in the region was shared through various publications, hence resolutions to that effect.
12. Compilation of guides to sources of African history. Archivists were concerned about the need to increase the availability and access to records documenting African history through publication of guides and other finding aids. This would in turn ensure that balanced African histories were written.
13. Adoption of uniform standards of measurement. In this particular resolution, the interest was in developing uniform and standard measures for reporting statistics on records acquisitions, volume and storage capacity, etc.
14. Concerns for Zanzibar Archives. Due to uncontrolled climate conditions and poor facilities in the Zanzibar Archives, ESARBICA was concerned that unless measures were taken to address the situation, the region was bound to lose valuable collections.
15. Machine readable records. ESARBICA was concerned that the introduction of computers was generating records that needed to be handled differently from the well known paper based records.
16. Relationships with ICA, other regional branches, universities, libraries and research institutes. Links with other professional associations and bodies were a major concern to ESARBICA,

as there was a need for collaboration with other professional associations operating in the region.

17. Status and role of archives in African States. ESARBICA was concerned that archivists and records managers were not accorded the status and recognition that they deserved in order to carry out their mandates effectively.
18. Microfilming and reprographic facilities in the region. ESARBICA did acknowledge that microfilming and reprographic technologies were not readily available in the region, and that there was need to acquire such facilities and also share expertise in these areas.
19. Collection and organisation of oral traditions. ESARBICA was keen to ensure that the voiceless (or majority of citizens whose experiences are not documented in archival records) were given a voice through an aggressive oral archives collection programme.
20. Conservation of archives materials and standards of archives buildings. In the early years, most national archives were housed in temporary buildings and ESARBICA was concerned that purpose-built buildings were made available for the storage of archives.

As indicated above, ESARBICA resolutions have covered several issues. The discussion that follows highlights some of the major issues that have been presented before the general conferences, and the extent to which they have been addressed by the individual member states. The areas that will be examined are: development of archival services, placement of national archivists and the status of national archivists, the restitution of migrated archives, archival legislation, access to archival collections, preservation of archival collections, archival training, technological developments, archives buildings and facilities, and the collection of oral sources.

Development of Archival Services in ESARBICA Region

As could be seen from the above resolutions, one of the major concerns of ESARBICA was the development and evolution of archival services in the region, particularly within those nations, where national archives were non-existent. To a very large extent, this resolution has been achieved with the exception of Somalia, where no archival service

exists. Uganda too has not had any formal archival service. To date, it remains a non-member of ESARBICA. Other archival institutions in the region are at various stages of development, with some being well established in their own purpose-built buildings, others are accommodated in leased or rented premises, which have been converted into archival repositories.

In the early years, one of the major concerns of archivists from the region was the problem of inadequate storage facilities for the records selected for permanent preservation. Various resolutions were therefore passed urging national governments to address this problem. As a result of the resolutions passed on archival buildings and facilities, many of the national archives are now housed in purpose-built buildings (e.g. Botswana, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe), while others like the Kenya National Archives are housed in buildings that have been converted into national archives. Many national archives have also opened regional records centres to cater for records being created in their provinces and districts.

Apart from the creation of national archives, the general conferences have also been concerned with issues that impact on the actual organisation, management and access to archives. Dealing with backlog accumulations of records has been one of the challenges facing archivists in the region, and resolutions urging national archives to address this problem have been passed. On the whole, while some archival institutions in South Africa, Kenya, Botswana, Zanzibar, Tanzania and Zambia have made considerable progress in managing their archival heritage, the same may not be applicable to Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Uganda. For example, Lwesya (1999) in a report to the ESARBICA Board meeting held in Zanzibar in 1999 revealed that in Malawi "inadequate funding for most of our services has made the institution stagnant." Malawi is not the only country that has experienced zero growth in archives and records services in the region. For some years, Tanzania experienced zero growth until the mid-nineties and early 2000, when, with the assistance of donor funding, the National Archives has now begun to function effectively. Lesotho too has not seen any major developments in the recent past.

The development of archival services for the East African Community, a regional federation of East

African partner states dates back to 1927. It had attracted considerable debate in the early years of ESARBICA, but this never took place because the community itself collapsed in 1977 and the management of the archives of this organisation was passed over to Tanzania National Archives which continues to manage them up to now (Mnjama, 2000)

Owing to pressure and reports tabled before ESARBICA general conferences, Zanzibar was able to secure donor assistance to rehabilitate the archives collections. This is at least one area, where the resolutions passed by the general conference had produced tangible and meaningful results.

Access to Archival Collections in the Region

Several resolutions have been passed on issues pertaining to access to the rich archival heritage in ESARBICA region. Based on resolutions urging member states to reduce closure periods, and to re-examine rules and regulations governing access to archival holding, most of the member states had reduced their closure periods from 50 years to 30 years, and in the case of Botswana, to 20 years. Any forms of discrimination between local researchers and foreign researchers have also been abolished, and procedures for granting access to archival materials have also been streamlined. It is also gratifying to note that due to resolutions urging archival institutions to compile appropriate guides and other finding aids, many collections have now become available for public inspection. Photocopying arrangements have also been made available in most archival institutions, thus ensuring that researchers are not inconvenienced.

Most archival institutions in the region grant access to their holdings on the understanding that researchers would deposit copies of their findings with them. This has been a problematic issue to address, because many foreign scholars fail to honour this undertaking, once they return to their home countries to compile their findings.

Placement of Archival Institutions and Status of National Archivists

Some archivists in the region have attributed the problems inflicting archival institutions in the region to the placement of these departments within government ministries. It is for this reason, that in the early years, ESARBICA passed resolutions

urging national governments to consider the placement of national archival institutions under ministries with wide inter-ministerial powers and also to give national archivists the status of head of department, equivalent to other governments' heads of departments. Presently, the placement of national archives within government ministries still reveals great variations. Some national archives, such as Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe, are placed under the Ministry of Home Affairs, whereas in Namibia the National Archives is under the Ministry of Basic Education and Culture. In Tanzania, the National Archives was recently moved from the Ministry of Education to the Civil Service Department. In South Africa, the National Archives falls under the Ministry of Arts and Culture. It is only in Swaziland that the National Archives falls under the Ministry of Tourism, Communication and Environment. In Lesotho, the National Archives is a small component of the Department of Culture, which falls under the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture. Although it cannot categorically be stated that there is any real disadvantage in being placed under those ministries, experiences gained in other commonwealth countries such as Ghana and The Gambia indicate that where the national archives is placed under a ministry without wide ministerial powers, its operations tend to suffer.

Technological Developments in ESARBICA Region

ESARBICA members have expressed their concerns during the general conferences about the impact of information communication technologies on managing records, and have passed several resolutions urging their member states to explore the possibilities or forge links with information technology experts in order to develop strategies for managing electronic records.

Although ICT usage and adoption in many archival institutions in the region is still in its infancy, archival institutions (being the main players in the management of records) are still expected to contribute effectively towards the management of electronic records. A survey carried out by Mutiti (2001), the then Director of Zambia National Archives, revealed that "very little had been done to develop electronic records management programmes in the region." The major observations that were made

in her report showed that:

- the most common application of computers was in the area of word processing.
- seven national archives in the region had embarked on automation of their archival services.
- no digitisation programme had been launched in all the national archives.
- only one national archives had put in place rules and regulations to govern the use of electronic records in the public sector.
- lack of legal or administrative framework within which to operate an electronic records management programme.
- several national archives had their own local area networks (LANs).
- only three institutions were engaged in the acquisition of electronic records.
- several archival institutions were linked to the Internet and some had embarked on programmes to create their own websites.

Mutiti identified the major constraints hampering the development of electronic records management programmes as: lack of adequate technical expertise, resulting in archivists and records managers focusing on the management of paper-based records at the expense of electronic records, and failure by national governments to understand the role of national archival institutions in managing records including e-records. Many of these challenges are yet to be resolved. Many of the problems relating to the management of electronic records stem from the fact, that usually governments, adopt different information communication technologies without consulting the national archives staff on how best to manage records that will emanate from these technologies.

Preservation and Conservation of Archival Materials

One of the concerns expressed in the different general conferences relates to developments in conservation and reprographic facilities. Except for Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe, where conservation facilities are fully operational, the rest of the archival institutions lack such facilities, as well as trained personnel in this field. For a considerable number of years, Zimbabwe was known for its

excellent conservation and reprographic facilities. However, with the current political and economic crisis in the country, much of the work on preservation and conservation has been suspended. Kenya has rather been fortunate, in that with the support of donor agencies such as UNESCO, it has been able to mount some training programmes for conservators. It has also tried to maintain its conservation facilities, but a lack of specialist training in this area has reduced the type of conservation work that could be carried out. Swaziland, on the other hand provides a typical example of the state of conservation activities in the region. In her country report to ESARBICA Board meeting held in Pretoria in July 1997, Mthethwa (1997), the Director of Swaziland National Archives, lamented that "presently, no repair work is undertaken and a lot of records are in danger of falling apart." Much of the work now being carried out has been restricted to microfilming and binding. It can therefore be concluded that resolutions relating to the development of preservation facilities are yet to be fully implemented in the region.

Training of Archivists and Records Managers

In the early years of ESARBICA's existence, the question of training of archivists and records managers received considerable attention during general conferences, with various resolutions being passed in support of establishing a regional training centre for English speaking archivists. Established in the mid 1970s, with the financial support from UNESCO, the Regional Training Centre for Archivists in Accra, Ghana enjoyed the support of all ESARBICA member states until economic problems beset Ghana in the late 1970's, leading to the withdrawal of participation of ESARBICA member states. By the time member states stopped sending their students to Ghana, the Regional Training Centre had trained a pool of archivists from virtually all the countries in East and Southern Africa, many of whom went on to occupy senior positions in their respective national archives. The region now boasts of several schools offering certificate, diploma, undergraduate and graduate programmes. Archival schools have been established in Botswana (University of Botswana), Kenya (the Kenya Polytechnic, Sigalala Polytechnic, the School of Professional Studies in Nairobi, Moi University and Kenyatta University), Tanzania

(School of Library Archives and Documentation Studies, Bagamoyo), Zambia (the University of Zambia), Zimbabwe (National University of Science and Technology) and in several colleges and universities in South Africa. In this respect, it could be safely inferred that the aspect of training is being adequately addressed in the region. Realising that not all national archives are in a position to establish conservation facilities, the 2005 General Conference adopted a resolution calling upon "national archival institutions, educators, and other stake holders to partner in setting up regional conservation training facilities for the benefit of ESARBICA members".

Archival Legislation in ESARBICA Region

Archival legislation plays a crucial role in the management of public sector records, as it provides the legal framework under which the national archives operate. A survey of archival legislation in the region reveals that except for Tanzania and Uganda which have enacted new legislation enabling national archives services to manage records from the time of creation to their ultimate disposition, most of the other national archives are still operating under archival legislation modeled along the United Kingdom model. The greatest weakness in operating under such archaic legislation is that it is very restrictive when it comes to dealing with records in new media, such as electronic records and on issues relating to increased access to government-held information. Moreover, as most of the countries in the region (except for South Africa) are still operating without any meaningful freedom of information legislation, citizen's rights' of access to information are not guaranteed. Linked to this are official secrets acts which prohibit civil servants from disclosing information to the public.

The Uganda National Archives Act, and the new Tanzania National Archives Act, were all drafted with the assistance of the International Records Management Trust, a records management consulting firm based in the United Kingdom. However, the National Archives Act of South Africa does not strictly conform to the British model, as it was largely influenced by Australian and Canadian thought. There is therefore, need to review archival legislation in the region and specifically those areas of archival legislation which restrict access to information.

Migrated Archives

In the late seventies and early eighties, the issue of archival claims (commonly known by many archivists as migrated archives) was very popular in ESARBICA general conferences. Resolutions urging the initiation of migrated archives programmes were passed. Also, resolutions urging member states to consider joint microfilming programmes for records of common interest were adopted. Based on these resolutions, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Botswana are known to have carried out extensive surveys of records held in European metropolitan cities, with Kenya eventually having two of its archivists in London for a period of about ten years copying records at the Public Records Office (Musembi, 1982). While urging member states to take practical steps to obtain copies of the records held outside their national boundaries, national archivists were very much aware that migrated archives fall into different categories as described below.

In 1983, a United Nations Conference on the Law of Succession in respect to State Property, Archives and Debts was held in Vienna, Austria to try and develop an international treaty for resolving archival claims. The Treaty, which came to be known as the Vienna Convention on the Law of Succession in Respect to State Property, Archives and Debts was, however, not ratified by many of the Western Powers, thus rendering the convention unworkable. Realising that not much could be achieved through the Vienna Convention, a new resolution was passed in 1984, urging members to explore other ways of solving conflicts arising from migrated archives. It could be concluded that the resolutions relating to the retrieval of migrated archives remain valid, and issues surrounding this problem are yet to be sorted out, possibly through bilateral arrangements.

Management of Audio-visual Materials

Of all the archival materials available in the region, perhaps the most neglected archival resource are audio-visual collections, which remain unprocessed, and hence inaccessible to researchers. During the 1991 General Conference held in Gaborone, Botswana, a resolution was passed urging trained audio-visual archivists to form a sub-regional committee on audio-visual archives. A survey carried

out by Matangira (2003) from the Zimbabwe National Archives covering the Eastern and Southern African region found that most archival institutions had done very little to develop their audio-visual archiving programmes. Although some countries, such as Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, had acquired vast quantities of audio-visual materials in the form of films, photographs, phonographic discs, videos, maps and microforms, these were not managed adequately due to lack of specialised equipment, training and inadequate storage facilities. In South Africa, the management of audio-visual collections is directly under the National Archives, but in most member states, audio-visual records are still held by the various departments, such as mapping and surveys agency, radio broadcasting and television stations. Due to a lack of trained archivists in the field of audio-visual materials, there is a strong evidence to suggest that virtually all the national archives in the region are ill-equipped for the management of audio-visual materials. Despite these limitations, national archives such as that of Zambia have proceeded to collect audio-visuals. This author does not foresee a situation in the immediate future when national archives will be endowed with facilities and trained personnel for managing audio-visual archives. This view was also expressed by Hamooya (2003), the then Acting Director of Zambia National Archives, who has rightly observed that "financial constraints, make it extremely difficult to convert all old holdings to modern storage media, and to keep abreast with technological changes." Perhaps, the way forward is to declare institutions holding audio-visual collection places of deposit for archival purposes as long as these places meet some minimum archival standards for the storage of audio-visual materials. Therefore, there is a need for the respective Departments of Information to be declared as places of deposit for sound recordings, as provided for in most of the archival legislations in the region.

Archives and Records Management in the Private Sector

Concerns about the management of private sector records, whether held by individuals, the churches or private businesses, have been expressed during general conferences, while resolutions have been passed urging national archivists to forge collaborations with the private sector in order to ensure the survival of valuable documentary sources

that originate from them. Although some organisations have deposited their archives with national archives and others with national universities, many of the records created in the private sector remain inaccessible and their whereabouts unknown. National manuscripts registers are not readily available in the region. Except for South Africa where a national register of manuscripts is maintained, the rest of the region lack a national register of manuscripts. In 2004, Zambia compiled a Guide to Non-Governmental Archives in Zambia. But having said this, it does mean that all private sector organisations have neglected their records. Many non-public organisations, particularly banks, mining companies and large parastatal bodies have now employed full-time archivists, and this is indeed a welcome development.

Oral Traditions

An examination of ESARBICA resolutions indicates that perhaps one of the issues that have received and continue to receive the most attention during general conferences is that of the collection and preservation of oral traditions. The need to collect and preserve oral traditions stems from the fact that most archival collections held in the region do not adequately document the experiences of the common man. Archival collections are seen to document the histories of colonial administrators and their African collaborators. To many archivists in the region, the only way of filling or correcting existing gaps on who is remembered and who is forgotten, who remains visible or remains invisible in their archival holdings can only be achieved through an aggressive oral archives collection programme. Varying views have however been expressed as to who should actually collect the oral traditions, with one camp suggesting that the archivists role should be restricted to their custodial role, some advocating collaboration between archivists and research institutions, and yet another camp, insisting that the archivists themselves take responsibility for the collection of oral traditions. Despite these varying views, it is cheering to know that considerable work has been done on collecting oral traditions in Zimbabwe (Manungo, 2001), Botswana, South Africa (Hatang, 2001) and Kenya.

The Way Forward

As a professional association, ESARBICA must be commended for its efforts towards the development of archival services in the region. However, there is a need for ESARBICA to take stock of its achievements and failures, consolidate its strengths where necessary and at the same time, critically determine why it has failed to implement some of its resolutions. Moreover, it can not be over emphasised that mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of its resolutions need to be put in place, maybe through a team of professionals who are preferably non-directors of archival institutions. Unless this is done, many of the resolutions passed during general conferences will remain unfulfilled. Secondly, as the association matures, there is a need to encourage the development of specialist sections within the association, such as the audio-visual section, electronic records section, preservation and conservation section and other technical committees. This will enable the association to address the needs of specific sections, which are currently not being adequately catered for in the general conferences.

Conclusion

Professional associations play major roles in the development of the profession. Hall (1996) has observed that a professional association is "a group of individuals from the same or allied professions who come together to form an association with the object of meeting, exchanging views on professional matters and advancing the interests of their profession." As a professional association, ESARBICA must be commended for the efforts it has made towards the advancement of the profession in the region. The general conferences have not only been fora for the exchange of ideas and information, but they have also been the avenues through which archivists can collectively voice their views on matters impacting on archival services in the region as a whole. Through their resolutions, major strides have been taken in the areas of training, restoration of archival services in Zanzibar, and common understanding on issues related to records of liberation movements. Now the member states are all embracing issues of records management, good governance and public accountability. Efforts are also being made to address the challenges posed by the introduction and adoption of information communication technologies. Although

the picture painted in this paper is that of a very successful professional association with major areas to celebrate about, there are many resolutions arising out of the general conferences, which are yet to be dealt with. Among these are resolutions relating to the development of close working relationships with other professional associations in the region, joint microfilming programmes and compilation of guides to sources of African history.

References

- Hall, K. (1996) The Role of Professional Associations in Archival Development In: *Janus, Archival Review: Pan African Conference*, pp.110-113.
- Hamooya, C (2003) Overview of the National Archives of Zambia Audiovisual Collections, A Paper Presented at the FIAT/IFTA Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia, 8-11 April 2003. Available at: http://www.fiatifta.org/aboutfiat/members/archive/zambia_nat_arch.html. Accessed on 8th November, 2004.
- Hatang, S. (2001) Jonah Swallowed by the Whale: The Challenge faced by the Archives in Archiving Orality With Special Focus on the Oral History Pilot Project. Paper Presented at the 16th ESARBICA General Conference held at Harare, Zimbabwe, 23-27 July 2001
- Lwesya, K. L. (1999) National Archives of Malawi Country Report 1998-1999, Report Submitted to ESARBICA Board Meeting, Zanzibar 1999, p.4
- Manungo, K. D. (2001) Archives and the Collection and Management of Oral History from Zones of Conflict. Paper Presented at the 16th ESARBICA General Conference held at Harare, Zimbabwe, 23-27 July 2001.
- Matangira, V. (2003) Audiovisual Archiving in the Third World- Problems and Prospects: An Analysis of Audiovisual Archiving in ESARBICA Region. *ESARBICA Journal*, 22: 43-49.
- Mazikana, P. C. (1977) Migrated Archives: The Position of Zimbabwe. Paper Presented at ECARBICA 7 Seventh Biennial Conference and Seminar of the East and Central Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, Harare, 13th-17th September, pp.30-32.

- Mnjama, N. M. (1982) ECARBICA and Migrated Archives. *Ecarbica Journal*, 5: 28-30
- Mnjama, N. M. (2000) The Records of the East African Community. *African Research and Documentation*, 82: 3-12.
- Musembi, M. (1982) "Retrieval of Migrated Archives: The Kenyan Experience. Paper Presented at ECARBICA 7 Seventh Biennial Conference and Seminar of the East and Central Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, Harare, 13th-17th September, pp.8-19.
- Mutiti, N. (2001) The Challenges of Managing Electronic Records in ESARBICA Region. *ESARBICA Journal*, 20: 58-59
- Mthethwa, D. (1997) Country Report by Director of Swaziland National Archives to ESARBICA Board Meeting, Pretoria, July 1997, unpublished.
- *N.M. Mnjama is Associate Professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana. He attended the University of Nairobi, Kenya, the University of Ghana, Legon and the Universities of Cambridge and London, both in the United Kingdom. He holds BA, PG Diploma Archival Studies, PG Diploma Historical Studies and PhD.

Appendix: Distribution of ESARBICA Conferences 1969-2005

Name of General Conference	Year Held	Venue
Inaugural General Conference	1969	Nairobi, Kenya
2nd General Conference	1972	Nairobi, Kenya
3rd General Conference	1974	Lusaka, Zambia
4th General Conference	1976	Blantyre, Malawi
5th General Conference	1978	Khartoum, Sudan
6th General Conference	1980	Nairobi, Kenya
7th General Conference	1982	Harare, Zimbabwe
8th General Conference	1984	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
9th General Conference	1986	Mbabane, Swaziland
10th General Conference	1989	Lusaka, Zambia
11th General Conference	1991	Gaborone, Botswana
12th General Conference	1993	Mangochi, Malawi
13th General Conference	1995	Windhoek, Namibia
14th General Conference	1997	Pretoria, South Africa
15th General Conference	1999	Zanzibar, Tanzania
16th General Conference	2001	Harare, Zimbabwe
17th General Conference	2003	Maputo, Mozambique
18th General Conference	2005	Gaborone, Botswana

Copyright of African Journal of Library, Archives & Information Science is the property of African Journal of Library, Archives & Information Science and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.