

## **Dr Anne Thurston OBE**

Anne Thurston has been a pioneer in defining international solutions for the management of public sector records. Between 1970 and 1980 she lived in Kenya where she conducted research and subsequently worked as a locally engaged civil servant in the Kenya National Archives. In 1980 she joined the staff of the School of Library, Archive and Information Studies at University College London, where she was a Lecturer and then a Reader in International Records Studies. She established the International Records Management Trust in 1989.

During the 1980s, Dr Thurston began work on defining new strategies for development and training in the field of records management in developing countries. Working in East and West Africa, she developed a practical field training programme that involved rebuilding collapsed record-keeping systems. She also carried out an extensive survey of record keeping systems in the Commonwealth, examining records management practices in 32 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. These experiences provided the basis for designing an MA course in Records and Archive Management (International) at University College London as well as a post-graduate research programme. Several dozen of Dr Thurston's former students have become directors of national archives or university lecturers in records management.

On the basis of the survey findings, the UK Department for International Development, then the Overseas Development Administration, funded two initial records management improvement programmes, in The Gambia and Ghana. Dr Thurston established the International Records Management Trust to administer these and other projects. She left University College London in 1996 to concentrate fully on the work of the Trust.

Recognising the impact of the rapid changes in the use of information technology in developing countries in the 1990s, Dr Thurston structured the Trust to take account of the impact of technology on the management of information and records as well as the requirements for restructuring paper records to support information needs in the electronic work environment. She created three programmes within the Trust to develop and share solutions: consultancy services, capacity building and development research.

Dr Thurston was a member of the UK Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Records from 1994 to 2000. She was awarded an OBE for services to public administration in Africa in 2000. She currently serves on the international advisory panel for the Endangered Archives Programme, which is administered by the British Library on behalf of the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund.

## Work Experience

<b>1989 to present</b>	<b>International Records Management Trust</b> Director
<b>1980 to 1996</b>	<b>University College London, School of Library, Archive and Information Studies</b> Lecturer in Overseas Administrative History (1980 to 1983); Lecturer and Co-coordinator, MA in Records and Archives Management (International) (1984 to 1993); Reader in International Records Studies (1993 to 1996).
<b>1980 to 1998</b>	<b>Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London</b> Research Fellow (1980 to 1998); Member Board of Management (1993 to 1996)
<b>1989 to 1996</b>	<b>International Council on Archives</b> Member, Section on Archival Education and Training
<b>1988 to 1996</b>	<b>Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Records Managers</b> Training Adviser (1988 to 1992), Honorary Secretary (1992 to 1995), Acting Executive Secretary (1995 to 1996)
<b>1980 to 1983</b>	<b>Oxford Development Records Project</b> Research Officer
<b>1978 to 1980</b>	<b>Kenya National Archives</b> Research Officer, Officer in Charge of Private Records Collections

## Project Experience

Dr Thurston has directed a range of international projects, notably:

Management of Public Records Project (1994 to 2000: UK Department for International Development), which involved developing an extensive package of basic training material for international use, available through the Trust's website without charge.

The Evidence-Based Governance Project (2001 to 2004: World Bank), which involved consultations with government officials and records professionals from 38 developing countries through face-to-face, electronic and video conference meetings; the development of 12 case studies; and the development of records management capacity assessment tools.

Fostering Trust and Transparency in Governance: Investigating and Addressing the Requirements for building Integrity in Public Sector Information systems in the ICT Environment (2006 to 2008: DFID), which involves an investigation of the requirements for managing records in the information technology environment, particularly in relation to the intersection of pay and personnel information and the development of good practice guidance and training materials.

She also has directed or quality assured projects in countries including Belize, Ghana, India, Malaysia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

## **Publications**

Transparency in Government in the Electronic Environment', *AccountAbility Forum*, 2006  
*Fostering Trust and Transparency through Information Systems*, *PREM Note 97*, World Bank Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network, 2005

*Evidence-Based Governance in the Electronic Age*, video film, International Records Management Trust/World Bank, 2003

*Walking on Files: New Solutions from Tanzania for Managing Payroll and Personnel Information*, video film, International Records Management Trust, 2000

*The Right to Evidence: Electronic Governance and Access to Official Records in Malaysia*, video film, International Records Management Trust, 1999

Records Management as a Public Sector Accountability Function', *Transparency International Annual Report*, 1998

Records Management as a Public Sector Accountability Function', *International Journal of Government Accounting*, October 1997

*The Return to Democracy: Accountability and Documentary Evidence in The Gambia*, video film, UNDP, 1997

*Personnel Records: a Strategic Resource for Public Sector Management*, Commonwealth Secretariat, 1997 (with Piers Cain).

Records Management in Africa: Old Problems, Dynamic New Solutions', *Records Management Journal*, vol 6 no 3, December 1996

*Towards Good Government: Records Management and Public Sector Reform in Tanzania*, video

film, International Records Management Trust, 1996

*Protecting the People: Records Management and Citizens' Rights in Ghana*, video film, International Records Management Trust, 1996

Speaking a New Language: Advocating Records Management in the Developing World', *Records Management Bulletin*, issue no 72, 1996 (with Piers Cain)

Records Management and Archival Education', International Council on Archives, *Janus: Archival Review*, Pan-African Conference, 1996.1

The Public Sector Records Project: Managing the Records Lifecycle', *Archival Review: Inter Regional Conference on Archival Development*, International Council on Archives, *Janus Special*, 1995

The Management of Public Sector Records Project: Managing the Records Lifecycle', *Information Development*, vol 11, no 4, December 1995 (with Piers Cain)

*Electronic Records in the New Millennium: Managing Records for Businesses and Government*, video film with teaching notes and discussion guidelines, University College London, 1995

*Sources for Colonial Studies in the Public Record Office. Volume I: Records of the Colonial Office, Dominions Office, Commonwealth Relations Office and Commonwealth Office*, HMSO, London 1995; *Volume II: Records of the Cabinet, Foreign Office, Treasury and other Records*. HMSO, London 1998

*Guide to Archives and Manuscripts Relating to Kenya and East Africa in the United Kingdom*, Volumes I and II, Hans Zell Publishers, 1991

The Training of Archivists from Developing Countries: a Commonwealth Perspective', *Archivaria*, No 20, Summer, 1985

The Kenya Copying Project', *African Research and Documentation*, No 23, 1980 and No 27, 1981