



Special points of interest:

- * Imagine doing away with paper? Read article on E-records page 2.
- * Rack your brains trying to figure this out. Who said that?
- * Get a few tips on page 3.
- * Take out your diaries and check out forthcoming events.

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From the Editor

I welcome you to this issue of the National Archives of Zimbabwe Newsletter after such a long break. This is well balanced issue vis-a-vis professional, technical and social issues. Many thanks goes to all who contributed to make this issue a possibility and I take this opportunity to welcome contributors for our next edition. To make this newsletter a pleasant read, I invite members to form a Newsletter Committee which will spearhead the publication of our own special –National Archives of Zimbabwe Newsletter! Happy reading and look forward to our next issue!

Friends of the National Archives of Zimbabwe

In the past the National Archives of Zimbabwe (NAZ) has been ranked best on the continent of Africa. Whether this is still the position is not known. However, for our Archives, the NAZ, to have achieved such a position at one time shows

“To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men and women in the future. A nation must believe in three things, it must believe in the past, it must believe in the future, it must above all believe in the capacity of its own people so as to learn from the past, they gain in judgement in creating their own future” Franklin D Roosevelt (1941).



View of the main entrance

that it has the capacity to excel. However, strategies have to be devised to facilitate the excelling of the NAZ towards its previous heights. Establishing “Friends of the Archives” can be the starting point. “Friends of the Archives” will operate in conjunc-

tion with the NAZ. It will enlist potential members of the community who may be interested in participating in the activities of the network. The network will be governed by a constitution and registered under the Private Voluntary Act.

Electronic Records: Towards paperless information?

Computerised

systems can manipulate large amounts of information and generate a wide range of information products. They offer speed, diversity, flexibility and a rich and comprehensive documentation of process, and it is no wonder that they have been so quickly embraced around the world as a critical information management and com-



Will we ever do away with this?

munication tool. Electronic records means information which is generated electronically and stored by means of computer technology. The information can exist either in structured applications, which hold transactional records (i.e. Persal, Logis etc) or in unstructured application (i.e electronic records generated on individual PC, and in E-mail systems). Three properties are necessary to ensure the maintenance of the essential characteristics of a

record, namely content, structure and context. Records which are created by using the hardware and software technologies of today should remain available, usable, understandable and authentic over a long period of time. Electronic records need to be migrated to new hardware and software platforms constantly to enable them to remain accessible. Migration strategies have to be planned for during the design phase of the electronic records system. This should be carried out without the loss of any information. *To be continued.*

“Electronic records means information which is generated electronically and stored by means of computer technology”

Laughter the best medicine.

There were three men who were trapped on a deserted island. One man found a magic lantern. He rubbed it and a genie came out. The genie asked for them to say their wishes, the first man wished to go home so did the second man, The third man said, “I am lonely, I wish my friends were back here with me”.

An 83 years old golfer went home to his wife and had this to say:

Golfer: I am losing my eyesight, when I hit the ball I can't see where it goes.

Wife: Take my brother with you the next time you go.

Golfer: That's no good he is 103!

Wife: True, but he has good eyesight

So the next day the golfer went with his brother-in-law.

Golfer: Did you see it?

Brother -in-law: Of-course I did. I have perfect eyesight.

Golfer: Where did it go?

Brother-in-law: I can't remember!

T. Makoni

Who said that? From our internal correspondent (My comments in parenthesis)

“Vana Mboneke makutofunga kuti mava maofficers, ndogona kuzvireversa, mapepa enyu achiri kutenderera”(HR maybe?)

“Manje zvamava kuenda kuchena tichadzidziswa nani?”

“Ah motatarisa Tonhodzai uyo nemupfanha Ruwo ndovachiri kutevedzera manotes” (A fashion guru of Model 6 Agency?)

“Kana Director vachidhakwa, ko

kuzoti isuwo zvedu vanhu.”. (After having one or two too many)

“Kanjani, kanjani munin'ina zviri kutodii?” (I think I know this one)

“Ana Brandy nanaNyoni dzidzai ndokutorai mave maassistants angu. Ndaita macomputers pamaarchivist ose so ndini ndichaitwa Automation Archivist ndokutorai. Lets go to school akomana.” (Encouragement is never bad is it?)



JWAZ

And the big one, “Hey , mutumba asekuru!” (Anenge aiva nezvinhu)

From around the world

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future." -Paul Boese

Plan to ban miniskirts in Uganda. Simon Lokodo, Uganda's Ethics and Integrity Minister said, "Any attire which exposes intimate parts of the human body, especially areas that are of erotic function, is outlawed. Anything above the knee is outlawed. If a woman wears a miniskirt, we will arrest her." Ladies what do you think? Gentlemen's voices also welcome.

The African Bank of Development

defines "middle class" as those spending between \$2 and \$20 per day. By its own admission though, about 60% of those only spend between \$2 and \$4 per day (one of them) and remain in what the bank calls a "floating class", a vulnerable position "barely out of the poor category" with "the constant possibility of dropping back in the event of any exogenous shocks" (Source: News from Kubatana 07 May 2013).

"Be on guard against science without humanity, politics without principle, knowledge without character, wealth without work, commerce without

conscience and worship without sacrifice" -Mahatma Gandhi.

"In matters of principle, stand like a rock; in matters of taste, swim with the current." -Thomas Jefferson.

When the decision was being made to give a name to this "colony", suggestions given were "Zambezia" (from Zambezi River) or

"Charterland" (from the Charter given to the BSAC by the Queen in 1890) However, the "colony" was eventually named Rhodesia- from- we all know (Cecil John Rhodes).

TODAY'S WORD Proverbs 30:5

Grooming

The way one dresses says a lot about you and where you come from. Beauty starts from the inside coming out. One should avoid demeaning oneself through dressing in the name of fashion. Some people are victims of fashion trends. A great wardrobe is not about quantity but quality and great co-ordination. Looking good starts with the basics.

- Bathing. Need I say more?

- Skin products. Use the same product for your facials and body. Perfumes should be sprayed on your neck, behind ears and stomach. Reserve deodorants and anti-perspirants for armpits.
- Jewellery. Silver is the best because it is neutral. Long earring go with open tops and studs with closed tops.
- Colour combinations. Identify colours that go with your complexion and features. Wear light colours on the upper part of the body and dark shades on the lower parts, for instance, white blouse and black skirt. Light colours enhance facial features.

L. Makuwaza

Occasionally be like a Christmas tree and experiment with colours. Invest in your wardrobe, do not be stingy!

Staff News



Human resources are still strained as some sections are operating with limited personnel. The situation is

made worse by the government's current recruitment freeze for vacant posts. NAZ will have to make do with the current staff available.

Obituary. One of our former Archivist, Martin Kanji, died on the 15th of April 2013. He joined the Archives on 17 March 1997 as an Archivist. On the 1st of August 1997 he was transferred to Mutare Records Centre and as of the 1st of January 1998 he assumed the Chief Archivist position

at the Harare Records Centre. Mr Kanji resigned and joined the National University of Science and Technology on the 2nd of September 2005. He is survived by his wife and three children. May his soul rest in peace.

Resignations. Mrs Masumbuko from the library section, Rumbidzai Kam-basha, Editorial and Mr Ndokera from the Records Centre.

National Archives of Zimbabwe News

In retrospect.

The 2008 hyperinflation was a good year for an archivist, unfortunately a lot of events passed by without any documentation at NAZ. I remember about 16 people being ferried in a single trip in a Mazda B1800 truck from town to workplace and vice versa because there was no sufficient fuel to run many errands. I remember Mugove requesting to be put in the Guinness Book of Records for being the first female Orderly to work consistently for such tiresome tasks. I remember one morning, Munhu waMwari, Chitsike high up on a dry tree top chopping fire wood. Whether it was for domestic use or for sell I do not know. Seeing Mdhara Kashiri splintering logs was a pathetic sight. This was made worse by stories of people cooking sadza as early as 9am so that they would have the energy to walk to town, and wander from one bank to the other looking for money. I remember Mutimhodyo eating unroasted nuts straight from the pockets of his jacket drinking with a cup of black tea. It was a common thing to dismiss researchers by 3pm and lock offices because Desk Duty Officer was told that there was no fuel to ferry staff to town, one had to use public transport or walk (with the latter being the most likely). This was often fused with sentiments such as "Saka ndiani oudza Jonso?" (Who then can tell Mr Johnstone that we are closing now?).

In memory of the year 2008 I say lala nokuthula, R.I.P, it is now your 5th Anniversary. Vouchers brought some smiles on the faces of government workers because it was now the era of multicurrencies. People will remember civil servants singing and twisting Sulu`s song "Zvatinoita kwedu tinobheja mavoucher tichifadza vagona". Subsequent resignations by senior staff members were however uncalled for. It resulted in provincial staff members being summoned to come and fill in these vacant positions. It's unfortunate that just a single year seem not to have been enough for one dear brother who had promised to leave no stone unturned in making things straight - he found greener pasture and bid farewell.

Money lubricates things. A staff bus was purchased after a former librarian bellowed in a meeting with the Director that rain had pounced on them on their way to town. In his own words he said, "Ha shefu takanaiwa, ende takanaiwa zvechokwadi, dai matiitirawo bhazi" (Sir we were pounced by rain, truly we were soaked, it is better that you purchase a staff bus for us). Even svikiro (spirit medium) at Chibondo confessed that he too wanted the T&S. With economic stabilization, staff members have unconsciously engaged in dressing competitions. For men, the top three has been consistent but one long standing cadre is to be dropped off because, "hanzi akudzokorora hembe". Some cannot find a place because they are accused of colour-blocking, "Hanzi vanonyanya kupesanisa bhachi netrousers". A petition has been put forward to the HR to help in scrutinising some gentlemen whose attire raises suspicion as to their office of allegiance (twuma bhachi twavo twunofungidzirwa kuti ndetwe pfuti).

I am pleased to take it from the notebook that NAZ staff members are making strides in advancing their education for whatever reasons whether by choice or default. Whether they intend to serve their master or not is something else. A wide range of professional courses are being undertaken. It's pleasing to see 90% of the lowest ranks now possessing National Certificates despite the employer having frozen transfers and promotions - what a pity.

"Until lions have their own historians the story of the hunt will always praise the hunter" Achebe. Let's write our own history." Patriotic staff.

From the Notebook by L. Muchefa.

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Preserving the Nation's Documentary Heritage

I Hope you have enjoyed this edition of the National Archives of Zimbabwe Newsletter. Many thanks to those who have contributed to make this issue such an interesting read (Though the Editor would have loved to have many articles). A thank you in advance to those who will contribute in the future. It is my hope that in the near future an electronic version of the newsletter will be available online. Through your commitment and cooperation I look forward to that very exciting reality. May I take this opportunity to invite staff members who are passionate about seeing our NAZ newsletter grow to get in touch with me so as to craft the way forward. A newsletter committee would be a good thing to start with. For any comments and/or contributions get in touch with me, Until next time, au revoir!

Kudakwashe Mavingire (Editor)

[Www.archives.gov.zw](http://www.archives.gov.zw)

Interesting Facts (This is not Fiction-its true)

Approximately 2 of every 100 (2%) women in the world have a supernumerary nipple. Which is a 3rd nipple.

In 1938, *Time Magazine* chose Adolf Hitler *for man of the year*.

Many people who read the word yawn or yawning begin to feel the urge to yawn.

Cold weather makes fingernails grow faster.

The active ingredient in most toothpaste is called sodium fluoride. Sodium fluoride can be lethal, young children using regular toothpaste with this ingredient should be monitored. Even swallowing small amounts can cause stomach prob-

lems or worse.

The speaker of the house of commons is not really there to speak, the speaker can call on others to speak their opinion and ensures rules are enforced but may not speak his own opinion and must remain politically impartial at all times.

In cards, the only king without a mustache is the king of hearts.

According to an article in a popular financial magazine, starting something stupid can turn your life from mediocre to thrilling and amazing, and put you right on track.

Most Orange juice is yellow in color not orange.

(www.interestingfacts.net)

Forthcoming events

22nd ESARBICA Biennial General Conference, 3-7 June 2013, Nairobi, Kenya.

Gweru Records Centre Silver Jubilee July 2013

3-7 June 2013, Zimbabwe International Book Fair.

Zimbabwe Agricultural Show, 23-31 August 2013