

MOVING HISTORY

TOWARDS A POLICY FOR THE UK MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVES

P R E F A C E

This document sets out ten principles as the basis of a policy for the public sector moving image archives in the UK. It is the product of the UK Film Archive Forum, the organisation which represents these archives.

The Forum took as its starting point the need for a formal and coherent policy, recognising the specificity of the moving image archives and their role within the wider archival community in the UK. The document was drafted to complement An Archives Policy for the United Kingdom, which articulates the need for a network of regional film archives, and A Scottish National Archives Policy, from which the overall structure derives.

The policy objectives and principles set out in this document are intended to inform guidelines and policies to further the aim of achieving a recognised and properly funded UK-wide network of moving image archives.



PUBLIC SECTOR MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVES

DEFINITION

Repositories for the custody and preservation of, and access to, the history of our times as recorded on film, videotape and other moving image formats. Such archives contain works made by amateur and professional producers for cinema, television and other purposes. These archives encompass the history and culture of moving image media and respect the integrity of the works above any commercial or short term exploitation. These institutions operate for the public good on a 'not for profit' basis.



THE UK FILM ARCHIVE FORUM'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

- Principle 1 - **Moving Image Archives**
The care of film, video and other moving image materials must be recognised as a specialist activity which holds a distinctive place within the wider archive community.
- Principle 2 - **Co-ordination of Policy**
There should be a complete network of mutually supportive public sector moving image archives throughout the United Kingdom.
- Principle 3 - **Legislation**
There should be comprehensive and consistent legislative support for moving image archives nationally and regionally.
- Principle 4 - **Acquisition and Preservation**
Moving image archives should be committed to acquiring and preserving materials on the original medium, informed by internationally agreed standards for care and conservation.
- Principle 5 - **Documentation**
To support the moving image collections in their care, archives should seek to acquire, create and preserve complementary documentation and other related materials.
- Principle 6 - **Access**
There should be the widest possible public access to all preserved materials.
- Principle 7 - **Education and Research**
Moving image archives should seek to further the use of their collections in teaching, learning and research.
- Principle 8 - **Professional Education**
All those with curatorial responsibility for moving image archives should have relevant archival qualifications or appropriate professional experience.
- Principle 9 - **Funding**
There must be adequate funding at national and regional levels to enable moving image archives to meet all core functions.
- Principle 10 - **Ethics**
The work of all moving image archivists must be underpinned by adherence to an established professional code of ethics.

