



October 7, 2011

H. E. Mr. David Killion  
U.S. Mission to UNESCO  
Miollis House, Room 4.45  
75015 PARIS

Via email: [ParisUNESCO@state.gov](mailto:ParisUNESCO@state.gov)

Ambassador Killion:

At the UNESCO General Conference beginning on October 25, member states will be asked to review and endorse the “Universal Declaration on Archives” as submitted by the International Council on Archives, which adopted the document in October 2010. The text of the Declaration is attached for your information.

The Declaration is intended to recognize the essential role of archives in supporting administrative accountability and transparency, protecting the rights of individuals and organizations, and forming part of the cultural heritage of society. Archives assist in the process of remembering the past through authentic and reliable evidence and information, and thus they help to protect the rights and entitlements of citizens.

The Society of American Archivists, which represents more than 6,000 individuals and institutions and is the oldest and largest archival professional association in North America, is proud to support the Declaration. By doing so, we add our collective voice to those of our colleagues worldwide who are responsible for identifying, preserving, and providing access to records of enduring value.

We hope that we can count on you to support UNESCO endorsement of the “Universal Declaration on Archives” at the upcoming General Conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gregor Trinkaus-Randall'.

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall  
President, 2011 – 2012