

G19 – Mapping Human Rights Archives

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Background

Human rights archives, as defined by Caswell (2014), are collections of records that document systemic abuses of power, encompassing not only the work of human rights organizations and truth commissions but also records created by communities, NGOs, and individuals who document violations. Viebach (2021) extends this idea with the concept of transitional archives, emphasizing their evolving nature and the ongoing negotiation between records, justice, and reconciliation. This project maps human rights archives worldwide contributing to a broader landscape of initiatives such as *Memorias Situadas* (CIPDH-UNESCO) and the now-defunct *Mapa de Archivos y Derechos Humanos*.

Methods

Data for this project is gathered through a systematic literature review, drawing on works such as Boel et al. (2021) and Viebach et al. (2021), alongside information sourced from open-source investigation initiatives available online. Collected data is managed using **CollectionBuilder-Sheets** and **Google Form** submissions, ensuring both accessibility and scalability. As an ongoing and collaborative effort, the project remains open to new contributions, which can be submitted via: bit.ly/SAA2025-G19.

References

Boel, J., Canavaggio, P., & González Quintana, A. (2021). Archives and Human Rights. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429054624>

Caswell, M. (2014). Defining human rights archives: Introduction to the special double issue on archives and human rights. *Archival Science*, 14(3), 207–213. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10502-014-9226-0>

Viebach, J. (2021). Transitional archives: Towards a conceptualisation of archives in transitional justice. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 25(3), 403–439. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13642987.2020.1811693>

Mapping human rights archives revealed lessons in provenance, international cooperation, and their ongoing dialectical evolution.

