

The WSA Archive collections contain sound recordings, film and video (classified as audio visual archives), paper records, photographs, publications, media clippings, artworks, maps and plans, ephemera and electronic records. They contain correspondence, talks, minutes and reports and much more, all of which document in various ways, what happened when.

Archive material can and should be used. They bring history to life and with today's technology this is possible via new and varied means.

Digital technology does not eliminate the risks faced, it changes the way that risk needs to be managed.

**The most critical of items include the following:**

- The sound recordings of Bapak's talks.
- The infrastructure and administrative framework, including funding and resources. The archive system is currently overcomplicated for an organisation this size..
- Establishment of one WSA Archive to complement the work of the archive in Indonesia, together with a revised security backup system able to deal with digital records to replace the 'five international archive centres' plus individual units, plus backup locations.

The recommendations:

1. That a framework for the work of the WSA Archives is established which will ensure sustainability beyond transient office bearers, at any level with the WSA.
2. That it is necessary to establish in the short term one professionally managed WSA archive to complement the work of the WSA archive in Indonesia. This will simplify the currently difficult to manage and resource – five archive centres, plus additional individually managed private archives concept, currently scattered in fragmented bits all around the world. It would bring under one consistent management system all audio-visual archives, as well as the records needed to show the development of the WSA over time. It does not preclude the establishment of 'country' archives, which may or may not take some responsibility for looking after backup material in additional geographic locations.
3. The current system of security backup material needs a revised format and framework, in conjunction with item 2. Different skill sets and management systems are needed to cope with new technology. New agreements need to be

- determined to clarify ownership of backup material, how it is supervised and maintained and the expertise and systems needed to deal with digital material.
4. That the WSA enables fundraising and establishment of a dedicated or permanent fund in liaison with MSF and SPI for the purpose of providing stable funding and resources for the archival needs of the association on a permanent basis. The absence of such a fund and a dedicated management system inhibits facilitation of the real archival needs of the WSA. Current funding decisions are often ad hoc and subject to the understanding or focus of transient office bearers, rather than long term preservation planning based on professional standards. This kind of system costs far more and can be guaranteed only to deliver very poor results in the longer term.
  5. That the WSA needs to appoint a WSA Archivist to represent and manage the overall archival needs of the WSA. Now is the time to ensure professional practice and standards right across all areas of the WSA archives so that if the eyes of the world are suddenly to be opened to Subud, it is ready. The parameters of this role need to be very clearly defined in line with current archival practice and then very clearly communicated across all sections of the WSA. It would be a paid position under an initial three year contract to implement the most critical developmental needs facing the WSA archives and includes a training and education program to aid the establishment of country archives and to build on the availability of expertise with the WSA.
  6. To support that function and, the long term preservation needs of the WSA, it is recommended that the WSA establish an advisory council - Advisory Council for Archives, Copyright and Publications (hereinafter called the ACACP) to facilitate and support the changes needed to the archive system.
  7. That the first ACACP is formed immediately, together with the WSA Archivist for an initial three year term to ensure continuity between congresses. At the end of that period, participants would be replaced on a rotating basis as needed to ensure both freshness and stability. It's recommended that the first council be made up initially of representatives from SPI and MSF and would permanently include whoever had the role of WSA Archivist. This body would report to the WSA annually. See initial brief below which includes the ability to coopt additional expertise as needed.

It also seems necessary to clarify the current relationship between the archive in Indonesia and the World Subud Association/WSA Archives. This archive was established by the WSA in the late 1980s and subsequently put under the custodial care of YMS (formerly YSBD) on behalf of the WSA/ISC. A coordinator was appointed to liaise between the two and work programs were to be under the general umbrella of the former SAI (Subud Archives International) system. Over time this has changed and the archive is now represented as a unit of YMS, rather than as a unit of the WSA archives system.