

**RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION:
KEY TO FOSTERING ACCOUNTABILITY, GOOD GOVERNANCE
AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TANZANIA**

Esther Ndenje-Sichalwe
Information Studies Programme, University of KwaZulu-Natal
E-mail: esthersichalwe@yahoo.com

and
Patrick Ngulube
Department of Information Science, University of South Africa
E-mail: ngulup@unisa.ac.za

Received: 19 May 2008
Revised: 15 December 2008
Accepted: 13 January 2009

Abstract

This article discusses the role of records in fostering accountability, good governance and the protection of human rights. The article addresses the inter-relationships between recordkeeping, accountability, good governance and the protection of human rights. It explores the issues of access to information contained in records and its role in the protection of human rights. The article also underscores the role of records management in the implementation of public service reform programmes in Tanzania and the role of the National Archives of Tanzania in promoting public accountability. The article noted that the absence of a records management policy and an access to information law in Tanzania has affected the records management practices and access to information. The article also established that due to lack of an access to information law, Tanzanian government ministries, and departments do not feel legally obliged to give citizens access to the vital information they hold. The article proposes a way forward which includes strengthening the records management practices, promotion of access to information laws and training of records management staff in the public service in Tanzania.