

# #DPClinic July - Digital Humanitarian Archives Toolkit

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# The Humanitarian Archive

Founded 2021, humanitarian related material from individuals and small organisations

20th/21st century (mostly 1980s onwards)

Topics:

- Humanitarian medicine
- Food security, drought, famine
- Disaster preparedness and emergency response
- Refugees and IDPs
- Fundraising and activism

Other humanitarian archives:

- Internally maintained: UNHCR, ICRC, IFRC
- Deposited: Oxfam, Save the Children



Save the Children staff in Darfur. The Jonathan Falla Collection, University of Manchester Library.

# Risks for humanitarian archives

## Humanitarian work:

Working in fast paced emergency settings

Working with few resources

In situations with little infrastructure

Projects/missions are temporary postings

Experiencing rapid turnover of staff



Dr Tony Redmond in a temporary hospital at the Iran/Iraq border, 1991. Tony Redmond Collection, University of Manchester Library.

## Archives need consistent funding and resource for:

Safe, secure storage

Continued knowledge about and custody of their contents

For digital archives: consistent monitoring, renewing storage, managing large volumes and changing ways of working

# Digital Humanitarian Archives Toolkit

## What is it?

A structured online guide to creating and maintaining digital archives which requires no preexisting knowledge/experience and uses as few resources as possible

## Who is it for?

Humanitarian organisations interested in maintaining their own archives, especially smaller organisations and fewer resources/knowledge

## What is next?

Preliminary, testing stage - based on feedback and discussions

Workshop at iPRES 2026

Developed version to be published later this year

# Humanitarian Archive Emergency (HAE) project

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Running 2025-2026

Consolidating global efforts across sectors to preserve humanitarian digital archives and data

Creating a census of archives and data at risk in the humanitarian field

Developing short term reporting, rescue and triage approaches

Regional workshops internationally – toolkit included as part of suggested remedies there.

# Demo



[www.digital-humanitarian-archives-toolkit.com](http://www.digital-humanitarian-archives-toolkit.com)

Website is currently down – please check back later!

Lee la guía en español:

<https://dhatoolkit.github.io/toolkites/>

اقرأ دليل الأدوات باللغة العربية

<https://dhatoolkit.github.io/toolkitar/>

Consultez le guide en français:

<https://dhatoolkit.github.io/toolkitfr/>

Read the toolkit in English

<https://dhatoolkit.github.io/toolkiten/>

Feedback form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/qS5nXpr4w>

# Discussion

*Delivery method – currently e-learning to suit sector (needs to be useable on different devices)*

*What could work better – a workbook? Website?*

*Creating a sector specific advocacy tool as well as technical advice: showing possibilities of archives as well as work involved*

*What works and what doesn't?*

*Specificity of remit – making clear this can't and won't deal with all issues (e.g. medical records, records management)*

*How do you decide what is/isn't relevant?*

*Finding 'good enough' instead of best practice*

*How do you choose what is essential and what can, if needed, be sacrificed?*

# Final questions?

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