

The Archival Solidarity project of the ICA Section of Records Management and Archival Professional Associations (SPA/AS) encourages sharing of information about archival assistance, cooperation and international outreach projects - archivists supporting archivists to promote archival development.

Here is one story of a project involving East Timor and Australian archives and archivists:

The island nation of East Timor (Timor-Leste) became independent in 2002. In the following months, a national archives was established and a truth commission was appointed. Archivists from Australia supported both institutions. As the closest archives to East Timor, the Archives of the Northern Territory provided an initial assessment and recommendations for assistance. The National Archives of Australia supplied about 8,000 archives boxes and some furniture to the National Archives and Records Service of East Timor. The archivist of Queensland Rail, Delene Cuddihy, took a leave of absence from her post and moved to Timor for two years to serve as archives advisor to the truth commission. She arranged for several librarians and archivists from Australia to work in the truth commission archives and library for periods of up to three months. The New South Wales and the Queensland Branches of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) both provided funds for archival development during this time. These actions of archival solidarity were important assistance to the new archives. Further acts of solidarity are ongoing; in 2006 the ASA arranged for the recently appointed truth commission archivist to attend the ASA annual conference and to undertake professional development in Australia.

We invite individuals, organizations and institutions to share their stories. Write to:

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**Archival Solidarity** is a project of the International Council on Archives (ICA) that aims to co-ordinate efforts in the international

archives community to carry out foreign assistance projects to develop tools and expertise for developing communities and communities in transition. Visit our web site:

<http://archives3.concordia.ca/Solidarity/default.html>