

**Iowa State University**

---

**From the Selected Works of Harrison W. Inefuku**

---

September 26, 2011

# University Archival Repositories in South Africa

Harrison W. Inefuku, *University of British Columbia*



Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/hinefuku/8/>

# University Archival Repositories in South Africa

Harrison W. Inefuku

*WMA Annual Meeting*

*Honolulu, HI*

*September 26, 2011*

# Apartheid

- Apartheid government in place between 1946–1994
- Strict segregation between four racial groups: Whites, Blacks, Coloureds and Asians
- Race determined where individuals could live, work and study

# Apartheid and Archives

- Apartheid system
  - Inequalities in education/literacy
  - Prosecution, censorship, bannings
  - Homelands archives
- States Archives Service
  - Acquisition policies
  - Destruction of record
- Post-apartheid: transformation

# Changes in Universities

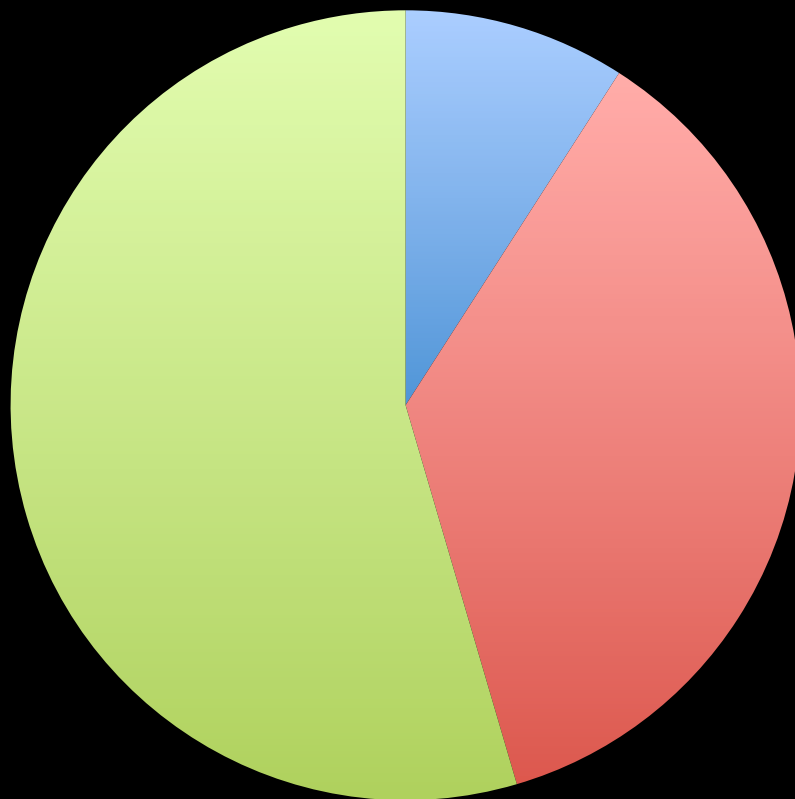
- Opening admissions/hiring to all races
- Restructuring of higher education system
  - Mergers/name changes

# Methodology

- Survey of university archival repositories
- Four parts:
  1. Development of acquisition policies
  2. University records
  3. Non-university records
  4. Archival philosophy and South Africa's archival system
- 11 responses, 33% response rate

# Results

Does your repository acquire:



■ University records only

■ Non-university records only

■ Both

# Results

## Factors that stimulate changes to acquisition policies

- Space limitations
- Change in focus from historical to contemporary
- Changes in management
- Changes in curriculum/research focus



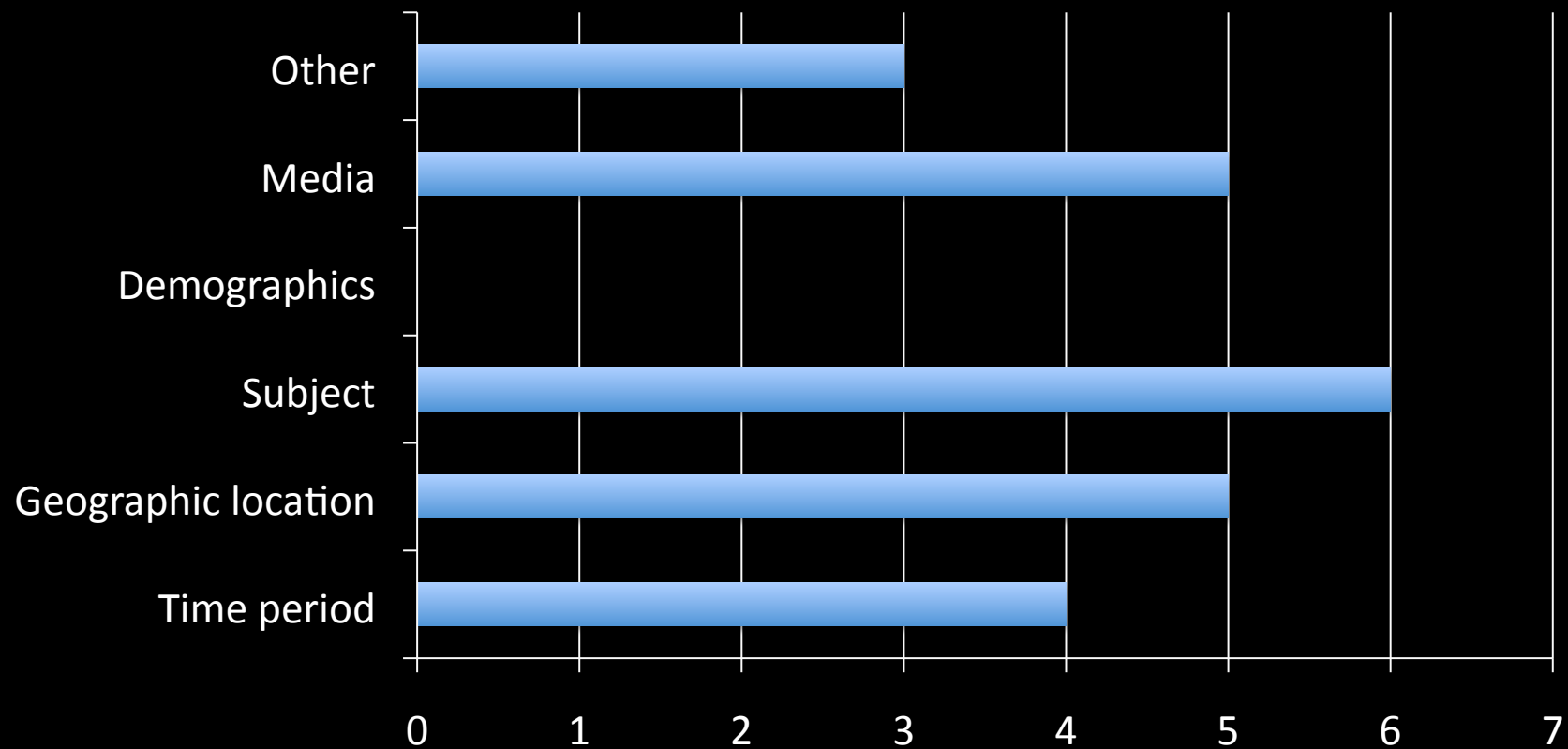
# Results

## Challenges in fulfilling acquisition policy

- Lack of space
- Lack of funds
- Competition from other repositories/limited availability of records

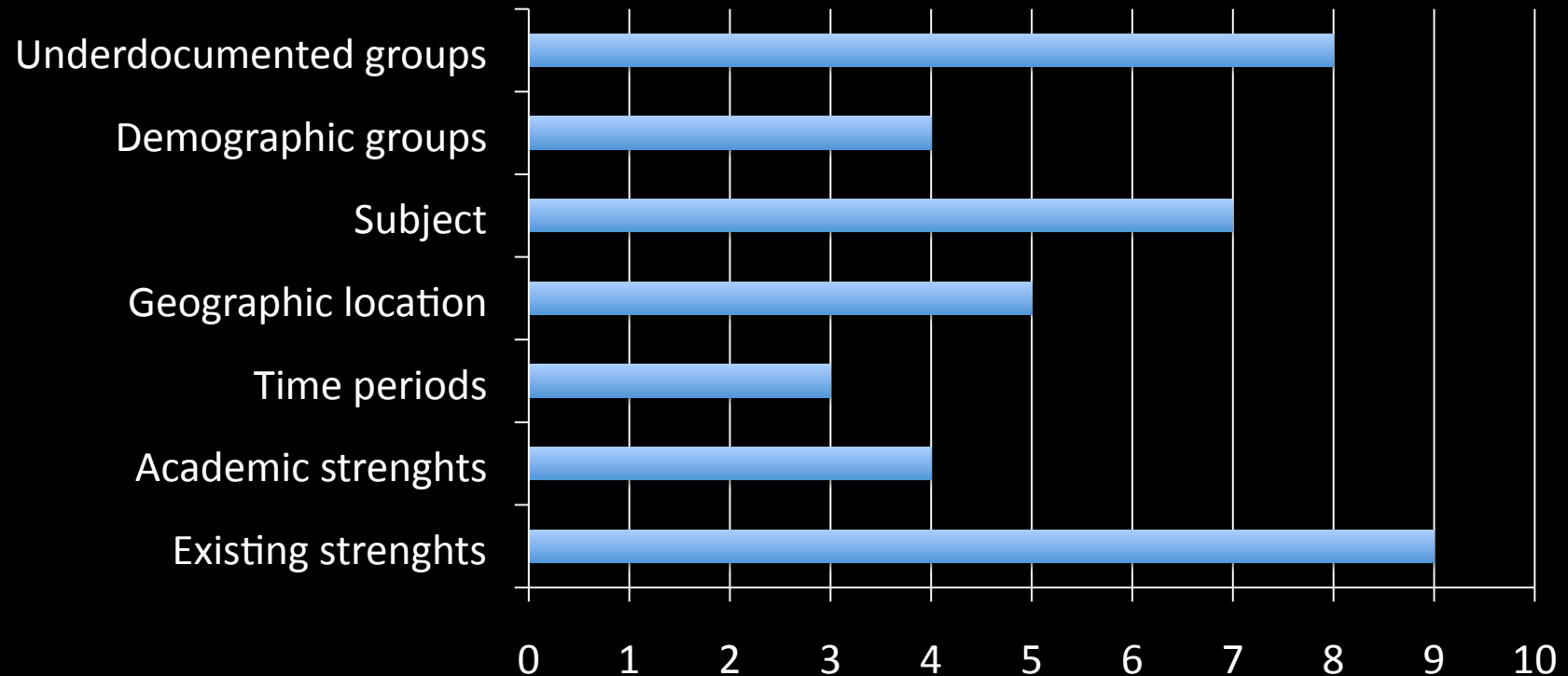
# Results

## How are areas of specialization defined?



# Results

**How much influence do the following factors have in determining areas of specialization? (# rating 4 or 5/5)**



# Conclusions

- Contribute to documenting society by focusing on areas of specialization, forming “part of the whole”
- Strive to be research centres of excellence, bolstering reputation of repository and university
- However, fulfillment of acquisition policies hampered by lack of resources, cooperation

# Challenges

- Unfamiliarity with local academic customs
- Constructing a survey sensitive to legacy of apartheid
- Access to technology
- Literature difficult to obtain
- Response rate!

# Potential Future Research

- What is the role of the university archives in documenting society?
- In regards to South African university archives, how is transformation reflected in university archives?

# Selected Bibliography

Harris, Verne. "Redefining Archives in South Africa: Public Archives and Society in Transition, 1990–1996" in *Archives and Justice: A South African Perspective*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2006. 305–336.

Koopman, Jewel Margaret. "Staff Attitudes to Access and Outreach in KwaZulu-Natal Archives." Master's thesis, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 2003.

Samuels, Helen Willa. *Varsity Letters: Documenting Modern Colleges and Universities*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1992.

Sulej, Zofia. "Changing Landscapes: The University Archive in a New South Africa." *ESARBICA Journal* 28 (2009); 146–171.

Thompson, Leonard. *A History of South Africa*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001.

Wallace, Brian and William K. Wallach. "Documenting South Africa's Liberation Movements: Engaging the Archives at the University of Fort Hare" in *Archives, Documentation and Institutions of Social Memory*, eds. Francis X. Blouin, Jr. and William G. Rosenberg. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005. 321–332.