



EDITORIAL

Trust and Transparency in E-Government

Tidsskriftet Arkivs International Conference, October 26 2016

"The Norwegian e-journal Tidsskriftet Arkiv aims to strengthen the scholarly approach to the archives and records management field of practice, and provides an independent arena for professional development and debate. Since the journal was re-launched in 2014, the ambition has been to host a biannual conference on a related topic. In 2016, the theme of the conference was "Trust and Transparency in E-Government".

E-government is a fast growing field of public administration, and e-government initiatives has been undertaken in most countries, however on different levels. E-government enables interaction between governmental organizations, citizens, and businesses in order to achieve increased efficiency in public service delivery, and encourages increased citizen participation and social inclusion. The development of ICT has profoundly changed the way administrations work, and the implementation of e-government and introduction of ubiquitous e-services are changing the interaction between decision makers, administration and citizens, and reshape their mutual relationship. To reach the goals of e-government, public information and services must be inclusive and considered as safe, trustworthy and accountable. Trust in public institutions is often regarded as a condition for societal development, prosperity, and in the end democracy. The trust in public institutions has to a certain extent its foundation in the predictability of political decision-making and transparency of administrative processes, but also on the performance and execution of services.

One desired outcome of e-government initiative is that online-services should be the primary means of interaction between public institutions and citizens; another that public information primarily should be accessible through internet. A result of these efforts is that an increasing amount of digital information is generated; information that could be connected to individual citizens and to individual juridical entities. E-government development thus entails challenges about security and privacy on one hand, and accessibility and availability on the other, combined with recordkeeping issues concerning evidentiality and long-term preservation. The contributions to Tidsskriftet Arkiv's 2016 conference addressed this subject from different perspectives: fundamental conceptual issues, public policy, technological applications, implementation of Freedom of Information legislation, and users' conception of online public information, illustrating the complexity of the issue and its worldwide relevance.

The conference was organized in collaboration with Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA). The program committee included Drs. Herbjørn Andresen and Anneli Sundqvist, HiOA, and Ms Hilde Langaker, National Archives of Norway. Professor Karen Anderson, Mid Sweden University acted as adviser. The conference was chaired by Mr Olav Sata-slåtten, National Archives of Norway. Papers presented at the conference and submitted for publication have been subject to a double blind peer review before final acceptance.