

Title: High value public sector information: A model to prioritise sustainability programmes

Author Names: Trish O’Kane *
Selena Smeaton *

(* Joint Presentation)

Author Affiliations:

Trish O’Kane: Associate Consultant, Enterprise Information Management, for The Knowledge Warehouse, NZ.
Charter Member (MRIM) of the Records and Information Professionals of Australasia.
Member New Zealand Computer Society.

Selena Smeaton: Associate Consultant, Enterprise Information Management, for The Knowledge Warehouse, NZ.

Author Biographies:

Trish O’Kane is an engaging international presenter, with much experience presenting in New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and in Europe. Trish has 14 years experience consulting in information and records management across a wide range of government, local government and corporate agencies. She is active in Australasian and ISO recordkeeping committees. Trish is the Chair of the International Review Group established by Standards New Zealand to promote engagement by the New Zealand community in standards.

Selena Smeaton has developed conceptual frameworks, undertaken information audits, and developed information strategy, in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom, across the public, private and NGO sectors. She has an in-depth understanding of the machinery of government, and the legislative and regulatory frameworks under which government information is managed, as well as hands-on experience in implementing unstructured information systems. Selena is currently completing a Master’s degree in Information Management.

Format: Oral presentation (including slides)
50 minutes with 10 minutes for questions

Abstract:

The New Zealand Digital Continuity Action Plan (DCAP) is a world-first initiative that will prevent important public records being lost and ensure today’s information is available tomorrow. Goal Four of DCAP acknowledges that not all public sector information needs to be kept for the long term, and instead focuses on the considered identification of the ‘right’ public sector digital information – that with long-term business value at a whole of public

sector level. The Knowledge Warehouse worked closely with Archives New Zealand to investigate and model the functions of public sector agencies in order to identify the highest value functions of government, and to establish what digital information supports those functions.

The project used a combination of publically available information sources to identify and model high-level functions, ranging across Treasury budgets, Machinery of Government and Ministerial Portfolio information, existing Disposal Authorities, legislation and agency reporting. In addition, interviews and workshops were held with key public sector and academic experts with broad oversight, expertise and knowledge of public sector form and function. Measures of value and existing ranking and priority-based value frameworks were identified, including diverse interpretations of value such as scientific, economic, and social value.

A value framework was created and applied to the model of public sector functions, establishing which functions and agencies produce the highest value digital information. The resultant whole-of-public-sector function model and methodology enables Archives NZ to proactively prioritise high-value public sector digital information, so that it can establish and target programmes for long-term sustainability.