

## International Comparisons between Archival Institutions and Systems

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There are many claims to best practice, institutional excellence or even that a given national archives is the best in the world. This session will explore whether we can know that an institution or system is indeed 'the best'. Does such a claim, or the aspiration to judge institutions in such a way, make sense at all, given the profound differences in history, language and culture? If yes, what should the criteria of evaluation be? And how should the criteria be applied - through benchmarking, comparative analysis or peer review? ICA could help by organizing benchmarking groups. But is this what ICA should be doing?