

**ANNE BARRETT AIC, MA, BA Hons, FIRMS**  
**Diploma Archival Administration, Diploma Librarianship**  
**Imperial College London Archivist & Corporate Records Manager**  
**Freeman of the City of London**

Anne Barrett is Imperial College London Archivist & Corporate Records Manager,

**She describes her job:**

‘As much about looking forward as looking back, collecting today for tomorrow:  
If I am not aware of what is happening in Imperial’s life today, I can’t ensure we have a full record of Imperial, its work and culture to inform Imperial’s future life.’

**Background and early career**

Anne has worked at Imperial College London since 1982, coming from 2 years at the Radcliffe Science Library in Oxford, she worked in Imperial’s library, creating the conservation style book repair system and becoming the Preservation Officer.

This experience led her to being recruited to lead Imperial’s Archives in 1989, and also to being one of the few people who has taken both the Librarianship and the Archive Administration Diplomas at University College London, in 1985 and 1992 respectively.

She gained her MA on *George Eliot’s Reading* whilst undertaking her Diploma in Librarianship, and is working on a PhD relating to an aspect of Imperial’s 19<sup>th</sup> century archival collections.

**Academic Papers and Talks Given**

Anne has a track record of giving seminars talks and conference papers on her thesis material, archival matters and the history of Imperial for her work at Imperial, and also nationally and internationally.

**Contribution to the Archive and Records Management Community: Committees and Mentoring**

Anne has worked on many archival and history of science related committees, believing that members should actively contribute to the purpose of the committee, not simply sit on a committee.

She also believes it important to assist new members of the profession **e.g.** through mentoring, either for her team members in their early career, or via the ARA mentoring scheme.

**ARA magazine contributions** selecting topics and seeking out contributors to write content and editing for the Science Archives issues of the ARA Magazine.

**Committee Contributions to Organisations and National/International Bodies and their Users**

**Purpose and commitment:**

The purpose of committee membership is to aid the work of the archival and records management community and its audiences.

**Anne’s major commitments to national and international archival work are in the founding and membership of committees with that purpose.**

**UK committee membership:**

- AIM25 founding committee member 2000 then founding Trustee of CIO 2016-

- The Centre for Scientific Archives founding Chairmanship of the charity 2009-
- Archives for London committee member 2006 Chairmanship 2011- (AfL's purpose is advocacy for London Archives and collaboration between practitioners and archival users)
- UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, UK Committee
- Archive and Library committees of other major science organisations in London:
  - The Royal Astronomical Society
  - The Royal College of Surgeons of England
  - The National Archives:
    - Higher Education Programme (HEAP)
    - Records at Risk
    - Science and Technology Archives Group
- The History of Geology Group of the Royal Geological Society committee

#### **British Standards Committees (British Standards Institution)**

- Topics:
- Conservation and care of archive and library collections
- Records Management

#### **International Committee Membership**

- 8 years membership of the American Institute of Physics Archives, Library and History Committee in Washington DC.
- Scientific Universities Group of the International Council on Archives 1994-
  - Chairman Scientific Archives subcommittee 1998-2002

#### **International Standards Committees (ISO International Organization for Standardization)**

- Topics:
- Archive and library buildings requirements;
- Records Management with Blockchain

#### **Imperial College London Work**

Being Archivist of Imperial College London is an ideal opportunity for an inquisitive person like Anne to find out about the new ideas, innovations and contributions to the scientific, technological, medical and business worlds being made by Imperial, and identify them for recording or collection for the archives.

For her, the archivist role means working across this breadth of Imperial, meeting many people at all levels in academic and administrative roles and working with student groups and making innovations and discoveries herself, such as:

#### **Work on Imperial's Women Members**

##### **Major Publications: *Women At Imperial College Past, Present and Future*,**

In 2017 Anne's seminal 484-page book: *Women At Imperial College Past, Present and Future*, was published, senior academic women requested she write it as part of her work on women in science. Publisher: World Scientific

**Chapter in a book:** *Where Are the Women? How Archives Can Reveal Hidden Women in Science* Anne Barrett in *The Palgrave Handbook of Women and Science since 1660* eds Claire G. Jones, Alison E. Martin Alexis Wolf. Palgrave Macmillan 2021

**Women Wikithon** Anne runs this annually, online, with external colleagues in engineering and culture. **Purpose:** to improve on or add new entries about women in STEM to Wikipedia. Editor training is given and anyone who books onto the session can contribute.

### **Systems:**

Introducing Data Protection systems for the 1<sup>st</sup> act in 1998, thereby laying the foundation for Imperial's full time Data Protection section today; introducing a digital records management system, and a digital preservation system, (Archivematica) across Imperial.

### **Culture**

Instigating Imperial's annual Act of Remembrance with the College Chaplain from 2014 to commemorate the start of WWI and the involvement of Imperial's members, at which attendance can exceed 100 people.

Staging major exhibitions over the years to celebrate Imperial's landmarks, including the Centenary in 2007, for which she wrote the timeline for the website, Anne contributes to the information about Imperial available to internal and external interests.

Anne was archival advisor on Imperial's History Group in 2020-2023, and, since then, extending her archival responsibility for Imperial's artwork, she is Co-Chair of the Artwork Group, with the remit to commission portraiture of underrepresented people of Imperial, past and laying strong foundations for the future of that work.

Anne Barrett  
April 2024