Preface

Everyone familiar with archive preservation will agree that it is more demanding in tropical climate zones than elsewhere. One might even say that archive management in tropical zones is more governed by the climate than by any other professional concern. The ‘to be or not to be’ of archives in such zones is dictated more by the climate than by any other influence; whatever the level of investment, the fact is that the climate is always hostile to the survival of natural polymers.

This bibliography is therefore written for all those who are interested in the typical problems developing countries face in safeguarding their archives. It is intended to make the numerous sources of information accessible, including those on the internet. As the preservation problems of archives, libraries and museums show many similarities it includes many titles from our cousins in preservation. The subjects dealt with reflect some of the most pressing and distinctive issues of tropical preservation. Part One chiefly consists of annotations and quotations from the listed authors. These are arranged in such a way that they can speak for themselves. Occasionally, however, clarifications and additions are included. Other titles are arranged according to their particular subject. By using an inductive method this study offers more than the classic annotated bibliography. In Part Two the bibliographic data is listed alphabetically and arranged by chapter. The appendices contain a glossary of the many abbreviations used in the text and an extended list of addresses of all institutions mentioned, including their URL addresses.

It will not remain the static paper product the reader at present hold in his hands. In the very near future the European Commission of Preservation and Access (ECPA) in collaboration with the National Archives of the Netherlands, will publish it on their website, together with other surveys, as a searchable database. The ECPA and the National Archives intend to update these important sources of information on a continuous basis, as well as the URL and Email addresses which are constantly changing.

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The preservation of archives, the intellectual archival heritage of mankind, is a wonderful but difficult task. Especially when this archival heritage is built and stored in countries in tropical climate zones like Indonesia. Therefore we are glad to present this bibliography on Preservation of Archives in Tropical Climates which has been realised with the enthusiastic cooperation of the National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia, the National Archives of the Netherlands and the International Council of Archives. May it serve as a goad to the better preservation of archives in general and in tropical climates in particular and contribute to the understanding of the special problems facing preservation of archives in tropical climates.

Dr. Maarten van Boven
National Archivist
National Archives of the Netherlands

Dr. Muklis PaEni
Director General
National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia