

Preservation of Records of the Great East Japan Earthquake
Statement adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Directors of Public Archives

June 8, 2012

1. The Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011 encompassed earthquakes, tsunami and the nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima, all of which in combination resulted in enormous damage of an unprecedented scale.

Given that a huge amount of public documents were also damaged in the stricken areas, we recognize the importance of continuous efforts to restore these damaged public documents. Also required is to preserve records related to this disaster with a longer perspective. In this context, we reaffirm the shared recognition on the following:

- Public documents comprise a “community’s treasure” and must be preserved properly through, for example, restoration projects for damaged materials;
 - It is our duty to preserve as public documents the records related to this disaster in order to pass them down to posterity; and
 - Efforts will be made to digitize the above-mentioned records under close mutual cooperation among public archives for the purpose of public access.
2. On this occasion, we, as those who have experienced this disaster, pledge long-lasting cooperation in order to fulfill the mission imposed on public archives.