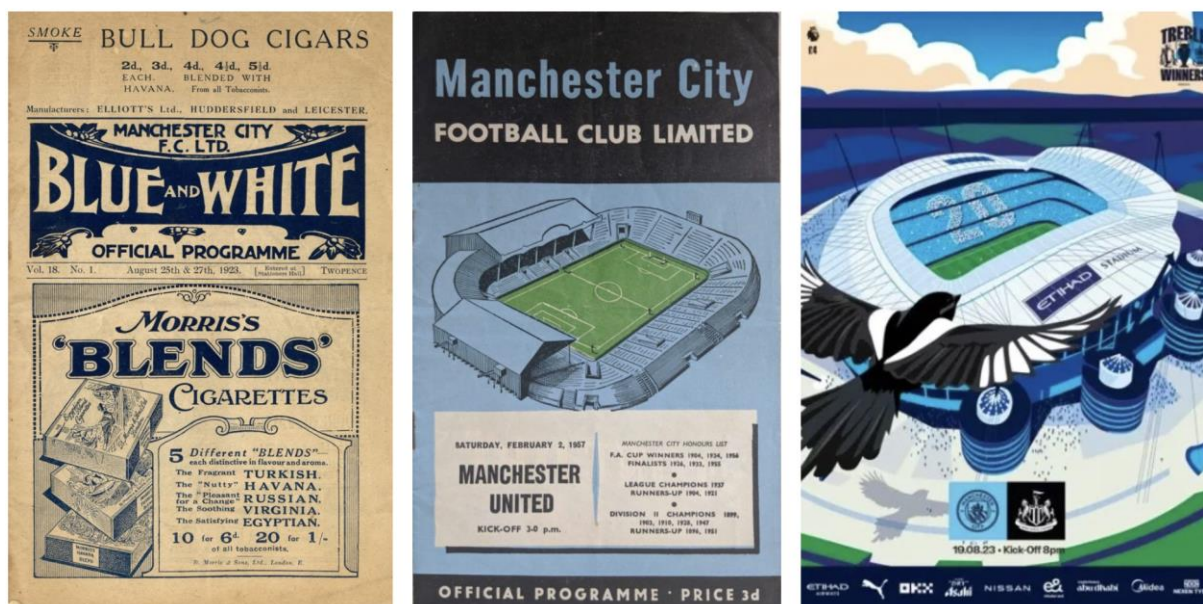


## Educating the Next Generation of Information Professionals: The Role of Academia in training Future Sports Archivists and Curators

Undoubtedly, sports are regarded as the most powerful tool uniting humanity, particularly the games of soccer have been seen to have a striking positive effective than any sporting activities in the world and has continue to evolve and develop over time both at National level and club ownership level.

### Programmes 1900-present day



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Over the last few decades, the game of sports has witnessed a strong evolution and development. Sports managements are investing hugely to preserve their history and promote their cultural heritage to drive business growth. History and heritage have become a major factor in promoting sport business and attracting both supporters and athletes. This interesting development create opportunities and challenges for archivist of the future generation. For archivist, this means that more challenging duties and responsibilities requires new skills and work approach. The academics must find a way to equip the next generation of archivists with the requisite skills, and knowledge to meet need for archivists and curators in sport sector. This underscores the evolving roles of archivists in sports, highlighting the significance of preserving history cultural and heritage as well as promoting businesses. Hence this presentation on “**Educating the Next Generation: The Role of Academia in training Future Sports Archivists and Curators**”, will explore the importance of academia in shaping the future of sports archives.

As an academic, this presentation is inspired by my current experience in teaching the postgraduate students in Library and Archives Studies at the University of Manchester and also my role in developing and designing programme curriculum and course unit modules, taking into accounts the diverse, evolving nature of archival science and future knowledge and skill set needed by potentials graduate to meet the teeming need of the labour market in the sport archives sector.

In my recent pedagogical approach to teaching and learning, I invited two guest speakers from the sports sector, the Archivist of Manchester City Football Club in England and a Curatorial Assistant of the Manchester Archives and Museum both in Manchester, who talked my students through the practicalities of working as an archivist or curator being among top global football clubs in the world. The talk also featured the evolving role of sports archivist and curators in the digital age. The purpose of inviting the practitioners was to foster collaboration between the academia and the sports sector to expose the opportunities in the sports business to students, this will allow graduate to diversify their career. This underscores the importance of collaboration between academia and industry, advocating for partnerships, guest lectures, and research opportunities to improve the sector.

[MANCHESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB ARCHIVE](#)

## 1904 FA Cup final



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In the light of the forgoing, I will explore the role of the academic in preparing the next generation archivist and curators for role in the sports sectors. The point of view is based on my personal experience in teaching and research including the real-life case study from the invited guest speakers from the football club. I will explore discussions on sports archives with special attention to the critical intersection the academia and the industry.

I will begin this presentation by exploring the growing importance of sport archives in preserving history and cultural heritage. This will be followed by discussion on the pivotal role of academia in preparing future professionals for roles in sport archives. My discussion will highlight the essential skills and knowledge areas that academic programmes should focus on, emphasizing the need for a robust curriculum that balances theoretical understanding with practical applications, including the importance of providing students with hands-on experiences, such as internships and practical projects.

In second theme in the presentation, I will explore the importance of collaboration between academia and sport sector, emphasizing on establishment and strengthening of partnerships between academic institutions and sports organizations. This offers valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange, guest speakership, and collaborative research projects, such collaborations enrich the learning experience and contribute to the advancement of the archival practise in sports sector.

Furthermore, the third theme will address the need for continuous professional development needs of sports archivists and curators. Such approach and initiative will promote lifelong learning as essential step in keeping abreast with emerging trends, technologies, and best practices in the field. Certification and accreditation programs will also be discussed as mechanisms for ensuring the continued excellence of professionals in sports archiving and curation.

#### MANCHESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB ARCHIVE

### Former exhibition space



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In conclusion, I will discuss the need for continuous advocacy and robust approach to training future sports archivists and curators, one which combines academic rigor with practical experiences and industrial collaboration. By equipping the next generation with the necessary skills, knowledge needed to meet the demand for job and creating an opportunity for networking, academia plays a crucial role in driving innovation and excellence in the of sports archives sector.