

**500** FIVE  
HUNDRED  
YEAR  
ARCHIVE

**FHYA**

**EMANDULO**

# Outline

- FHYA's aims
- What is the FHYA?
- Why an archival framework?
- Why AtoM? Benefits and limitations
- EMANDULO

# FHYA's Aims

- **Promote and support research into the persistently neglected remote southern African past**
  - Perceived absence of archival material for this period - **no archive in place but materials in:**
    - Collections, that are often *Undated...Misidentified... Dispersed...Difficult to access*
    - Circulation in social life  
(E.g. clan praises and histories)
- Undertake **digital archival curations** and **facilitate new engagements** (not archival management and custody)

# What is the FHYA?

- **Conceptual intervention:**
  - Releases materials from forms of colonial framing
  - Elicits further materials from diverse settings
  - Convenes them together in a refigured archive
- **Technical intervention – digital exemplars to enable refiguring:**
  - AtoM option (500 Year Archive)
  - Low-resource archive option (EMANDULO)

# Why an Archival Framework?

Archives organised by *respect des fonds*:

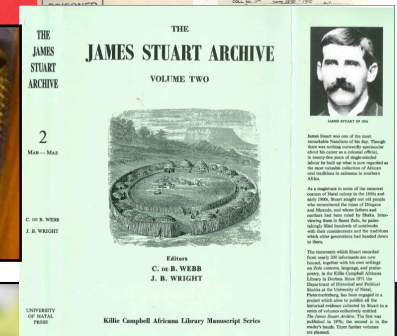
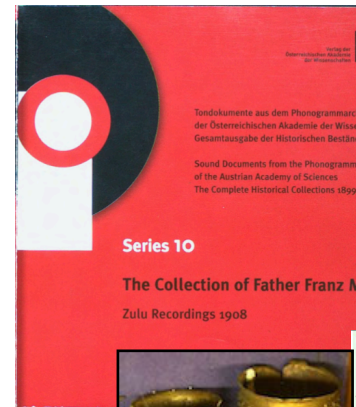
- Makes clear how the materials concerned were assembled and deposited in preservatory institutional settings

## In contrast:

- *Museum collections* - classify items in terms of ethnic and/or cultural categories
- *Herbaria* - classify items by taxa & species
- *Private holdings* – idiosyncratic organisation

# Why AtoM?

- *Respect des fonds* & RAD
- Could be used to keep a record of:
  - Shaping of materials over time
  - Previous taxonomies and preservation practices
- Brings materials together – audio, texts, images, objects, botanical specimens, books etc.
- Institutional & technical support – UCT & eResearch



# Limitations – organic growth

- Institutional materials
- Researcher's materials, e.g. field notes
- Living archive like clan histories and praises
- Non-repository based materials

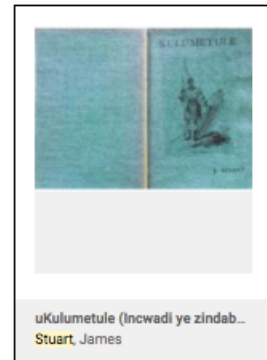
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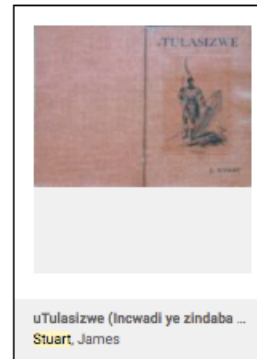
uHlangakula (Incwadi ye zindaba...  
Stuart, James



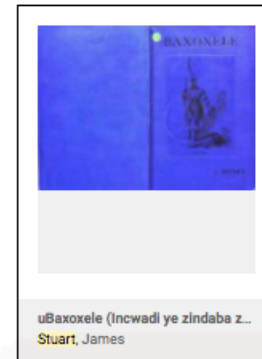
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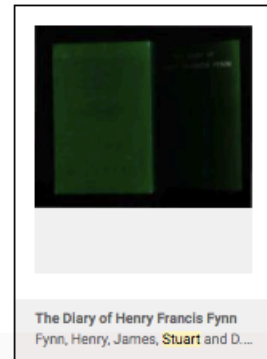
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Stuart, James



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Stuart, James



The Diary of Henry Francis Fynn  
Fynn, Henry, James, Stuart and D...

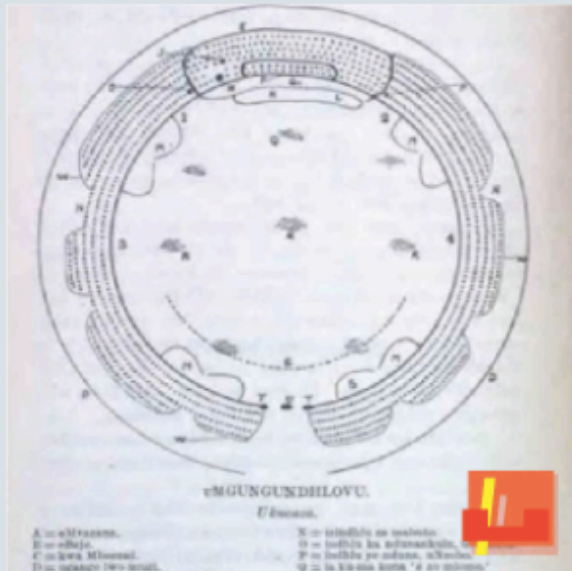
# Limitations – maximum searchability

- Search across:
  - Institutional materials
  - Additional Resources
  - User inputs
- Highlight search terms
- Issues of search weighting





# Limitations – curatorial experimentations



## uMgungundlovu: through the eyes of the izinceku (FHYA podcast)

The podcast is based on accounts of life at uMgungundlovu given in their old age by four men who, in their youth, served at uMgungundlovu.

[uMgungundlovu: through the eyes of the izinceku \(FHYA podcast\)](#)



## "Ukudibana kwezimpondo" (The meeting of the tusks)

Composed and performed by Thokozani Mhlambi, 2020.

["Ukudibana kwezimpondo" \(The meeting of the tusks\)](#)



## IsiCoco Polisher: a Charismatic History. (Justine Wintjes, KwaZulu-Natal Museum)

This visual essay explores the practice of making and wearing headrings at uMgungundlovu.

[IsiCoco Polisher: a Charismatic History](#)

# Limitations – sustainability and expense

- Customisation – expense of updating and maintaining
- Lack of local expertise

**A homegrown solution...?**

# Why EMANDULO?

- Facilitates **organic growth**
- Expense and sustainability – **low resource, low maintenance, high resilience**
- Facilitates **experimentation**

The screenshot shows the EMANDULO website interface. At the top left is the logo 'EMANDULO' in a colorful, blocky font. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT FHYA, USINGEMANDULO, MAKERSAND SHAPERS, SEARCH, and CONTACT US. Below the navigation is a large banner image featuring two men in a desert landscape. A red and yellow graphic element is overlaid on the right side of the banner, with the text 'FEATURED PRESENTATION Ndllovu kaThimuni'. Below the banner is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search FHYA Curations' and a 'GO' button. Underneath the search bar is a section titled 'Browse FHYA Archival Curations' in red text. This section displays three featured curations: 1. 'James Stuart Materials - an FHYA curation' showing a document with handwritten text. 2. 'uMgungundlovu Materials - an FHYA curation' showing two pieces of braided metal. 3. 'Father Franz Mayr Materials - an FHYA curation' showing three small circular objects, possibly buttons or coins.