

## Reviews

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### Podcast: Information Revolution

Since August 2022, Karl Melrose, Judi Vernau, and Michael Upton have created a series of podcasts<sup>1</sup> and companion YouTube videos<sup>2</sup> under the title *Information Revolution*. These cover “topics in information management practice”<sup>3</sup> that relate to government recordkeeping. The Podcast’s introduction page<sup>4</sup> boldly states that topics “are relevant for today and the future”, and “if we get this right, the next big gains in productivity and public good” will come from the information managers, creating a “revolution in information management” that everyone will be a part of.

This is a lofty aim, and one probably dreamt about by many records and information managers working in the government sector who face resourcing issues and misunderstanding about records on an almost daily basis. However, there are hints (for example in the job vacancies) that the records and information management sector is growing, possibly as organisations (re) discover that IT solutions need to be part of wider information governance that systemically embeds good records and information theory and practice. Accordingly, records and information management professionals across Aotearoa need all the free, local, help they can get.

There are now more than twenty *Information Revolution* episodes, many of which are a palatable (and work-day manageable) thirty to forty minutes in length, with a new episode uploaded every two to four weeks. Each podcast or video is presented around a certain theme, with past ones including stakeholder engagement, retention and disposal, information stocktakes, information culture, appraisal, needed skills, EDRMS, Microsoft 365, information architecture and knowledge management.

Information Revolution’s most popular podcast so far (with the rather enticing title *The failure of EDRMS*<sup>5</sup>) has been downloaded eighty-eight times. This small number of downloads is no indication of lack of quality, and a listen / watch soon establishes that all episodes deserve wider reach. Each episode is presented in a way that is knowledgeable and easy to listen to, a bit like listening in on a relaxed but interesting tabletop conversation between professional colleagues. While the three presenters are consultants for two different companies with New Zealand presence (Castlepoint Systems <https://www.castlepoint.systems/> and Metataxis NZ <https://metataxis.com/metataxis-new-zealand/>) they thankfully avoid sales pitches and vendor and affiliate-sponsored ‘wisdom’, instead giving well-rounded discussion based on the presenters’ own broad

spectrum of practical experience. Episodes are strengthened by the presenter's refreshing ability to explain more complex IT, information governance and systems-based issues in ways that many records and information management professionals can both understand and relate to. The terminology is familiar, IT content translated well into records-speak, and the record is kept front and centre. For example, in *Getting seriously digital*<sup>6</sup>, discussion of database issues was interspersed with comments around the nature of the record and record-related situations that commonly occur in the workplace. The speakers also demonstrate awareness of the end user (one quote from *The people stuff*<sup>7</sup> is "so many records systems or programs break when they meet users") as well as the necessary requirements around public archives.

The *Information Revolution* is highly recommended for anyone with responsibility and/or oversight for information and records within the government sector. Its collegial and conversational presentation style ensures that useful and understandable content is covered in a relatively short period of time. Listening will help records and information professionals (and learners) to see elements of practice from different points for view, think about potential solutions, get inspiration for explaining concepts to others, and realise they are not alone when it comes to recognising the value of records within and across organisations.

*Sarah Welland*

## Endnotes

1. Melrose, Karl, Judi Vernau, and Michael Upton, hosts. Information Revolution (podcast). 2022. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://informationrevolution.podbean.com/>
2. Melrose, Karl et al., Information Revolution. YouTube. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9wFnpNy7HZnPMFcyIDKi7Q><https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9wFnpNy7HZnPMFcyIDKi7Q>
3. Melrose, Karl, Judi Vernau, and Michael Upton, hosts. Information Revolution (podcast). 2022. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://informationrevolution.podbean.com/>
4. Melrose, Karl, Judi Vernau, and Michael Upton, hosts. Information Revolution (podcast). 2022. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://informationrevolution.podbean.com/>

5. Melrose, Karl, Judi Vernau, and Michael Upton, hosts. "The failure of EDRMS". Information Revolution (podcast). 2022. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-qhcp8-14132ae>
6. Melrose, Karl, Judi Vernau, and Michael Upton, hosts. "Getting seriously digital". Information Revolution (podcast). 2022. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-kbyc5-14507e1>
7. Melrose, Karl, Judi Vernau, and Michael Upton, hosts. "The people stuff". Information Revolution (podcast). 2022. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-6pcb-12e5431>