

EMPOWER26 Programming Details

How Records Management and Information Governance Powers AI

Speaker: Dr. Hill

Strong records management and unified information governance are the foundation AI needs to work effectively. When information is organized, trustworthy, and managed consistently from the moment it is created, AI becomes more accurate, reliable, and useful.

This session introduces the principles of the Unified Information Governance Model™ and shows how clear structures, consistent practices, and a unified file plan help organizations reduce risk, improve transparency, and prepare their information for modern AI tools. Attendees will leave understanding why governance is not a barrier to AI—it is the power source behind it.

AI Governance Starts with Information Governance

Speakers: Susan Gleason & Andrew Ysazi

Artificial intelligence is no longer experimental. It is becoming embedded in enterprise applications, business processes, and everyday decision-making. As organizations deploy generative AI, autonomous agents, and intelligent automation, traditional information governance programs are being challenged in new and complex ways.

This session bridges information governance and AI governance by demonstrating how established governance principles—including ARMA's Principles, data governance, lifecycle management, records management, privacy, cybersecurity, and emerging international AI standards—apply to AI-enabled environments.

Attendees will explore how AI changes the information lifecycle, why metadata and paradata become essential evidence, how AI governance aligns with traditional governance disciplines, and what organizations should begin implementing now to prepare for increasingly autonomous AI systems and agents.

The IG Reality Check: Auditing What Users Actually Do

Speaker: Dani LoPiccolo

Many organizations are building strong information governance programs and compliant systems, yet still struggle with adoption in everyday work. When tools and processes are difficult to use, people create workarounds that increase risk and weaken governance outcomes.

This practical session introduces a usability audit approach that helps organizations evaluate whether IG controls work in real workflows—not just on paper. Participants will examine four dimensions of IG usability: findability, clarity, efficiency, and user behavior.

Through short interactive exercises, attendees will assess common scenarios such as document storage, naming conventions, and information sharing. They will leave with a repeatable method for identifying friction points, closing gaps between policy and practice, and improving program effectiveness.

From Noise to Support: How to Get Your Vocals Heard Above the Roar

Speakers: Tod Chernikoff & Amy Pawle

In a fast-moving and resource-constrained business environment, IG professionals need more than policy language—they need clear, repeatable messages that resonate across the enterprise.

This session offers ideas and practical methods for using existing organizational communication tools to raise awareness of your IG mission, vision, methods, and resources. Attendees will learn how to strengthen stakeholder support, build a broader advocacy network, and keep messaging fresh as business needs evolve.

Is Your Information Ready for AI? A Practical Peer Readiness Roundtable

Speakers: Dan Sabre & Eric Schmitz – Access

Many organizations are moving quickly to adopt generative AI, AI agents, and AI automation, but the value and risk of these tools depend on the information they can access. This interactive lunchtime roundtable workshop will help records and information governance professionals assess whether their information environments are ready for responsible AI use—without requiring technical expertise.

Participants will assess their organization's readiness for responsible AI by exploring key questions around information quality, governance, privacy, retention, and accountability. Through moderator guidance, discussion, polling, and real-world scenarios, each table will identify common challenges and share practical solutions. Participants will leave with a concise peer-tested readiness questionnaire they can use back at the office and actionable steps to strengthen responsible AI adoption in their organizations.

Stop Selling Governance. Start Selling Risk!

Speaker: Steve Weissman – Holly Group

Why do records and governance programs so often stall, underperform, or never fully launch? Because most senior leaders are not focused on records or governance—they are focused on risk and how to reduce it.

This session reframes information governance as a strategic risk-management priority. Attendees will explore the connection between information and organizational risk, such as data sovereignty, privacy, business resilience, audits, and AI investment, and receive practical tips, techniques, and a template for presenting governance in a way decision-makers understand.

How to Mature Your RIM Program with a RIM Playbook

Speaker: Jesse Wilkins – Opensity Solutions

If your entire RIM team won the Powerball tomorrow and retired, would their successors be ready to keep the program going? With a well-built playbook, the answer can be yes.

In this interactive session, attendees will learn how to build practical RIM playbooks that support program continuity, consistency, and maturity. The session will cover the key components to include, how to write individual “plays,” and a 10-step process for building a playbook from start to finish.

Attendees will leave with the knowledge needed to begin building their own RIM playbooks—and access to a free template to help them get started.