



# ORGANIZING AROUND THE GLOBE

*Around the world,  
organizing challenges are  
remarkably similar*



*Last year when I attended the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) conference, I was surprised to learn that there were organizers from ten different countries in attendance. Having lived and worked in the United States my entire life, I began to wonder how the organizing profession might be different in other countries.*

	Do you work with residential, business or virtual clients?	What is your favorite organizing product or tool?	What is your favorite organizing resource or website?
<p><b>Australia</b>  <b>Angela Esnouf</b>            Creating Order from Chaos  <a href="http://www.creatingorder.com.au">www.creatingorder.com.au</a></p> <p><i>*In many countries, "organised" is spelled with an s instead of a z.</i></p>	Residential, virtual	Outlook calendar	<a href="http://www.dropbox.com">www.dropbox.com</a>
<p><b>Canada</b>  <b>Sylvia Daoust</b>            Niche Designs, Inc.  <a href="http://www.nichedesignsinc.com">www.nichedesignsinc.com</a></p>	Residential, virtual	Anything that mounts to the wall and provides storage	<a href="http://www.orgjunkie.com">www.orgjunkie.com</a>
<p><b>Ireland</b>  <b>Sara Reynolds</b>            Organised Chaos  <a href="http://www.organisedchaos.ie">www.organisedchaos.ie</a></p>	Residential	Labelmaker	<a href="http://iheartorganizing.blogspot.com">iheartorganizing.blogspot.com</a> , <a href="http://www.seejanetwork.com">www.seejanetwork.com</a> , <a href="http://www.ikea.com">www.ikea.com</a> , <a href="http://www.pinterest.com">www.pinterest.com</a>
<p><b>Netherlands</b>  <b>Angelique Bouman</b>            OrganiSERUM  <a href="http://www.organiserum.nl">www.organiserum.nl</a></p>	Residential, small business	Post-It notes, marker, Arc-books	<a href="http://www.nirvanahq.com">www.nirvanahq.com</a>
<p><b>Puerto Rico</b>  <b>Indira Molina</b>            Indira Molina CPO  <a href="http://www.organizatepr.com">www.organizatepr.com</a></p>	Residential, business, virtual	Over-the-door organizers, under-the-bed organizers	<a href="http://www.organizartemagazine.com">www.organizartemagazine.com</a> (in Spanish)
<p><b>South Africa</b>  <b>Tracey Foulkes</b>            Get Organised  <a href="http://www.getorganised.co">www.getorganised.co</a></p>	Business	Labelmaker	<a href="http://www.99u.com">www.99u.com</a> <a href="http://www.lifehack.org">www.lifehack.org</a> <a href="http://www.entrepreneurmag.co.za">www.entrepreneurmag.co.za</a>
<p><b>United Kingdom (UK)</b>  <b>Rachel Papworth</b>            Green and Tidy  <a href="http://www.mygreenandtidylife.co.uk">www.mygreenandtidylife.co.uk</a></p>	Residential, business, virtual	My program: Clear your clutter, stay clutter free and live the life you want	<a href="http://www.bookcrossing.com">www.bookcrossing.com</a>
<p><b>United States (USA)</b>  <b>Denise Allan</b>            Simplify with Denise  <a href="http://www.simplifywithdenise.com">www.simplifywithdenise.com</a></p>	Residential, small business	File Solutions filing system ( <a href="http://www.filesolutions.com">www.filesolutions.com</a> )	<a href="http://www.challengingdisorganization.org">www.challengingdisorganization.org</a>

For example, professional organizing has been around in the U.S. for over 25 years and yet was just established in South Africa in 2008. How does culture, geography and available space play a role in what you need to have organized? For this edition of the magazine, we enlisted professional organizers from eight countries to answer some of the hottest questions about their profession. It turns out there are a lot of similarities. No matter where you are in the world, paper problems, time management issues and clutter abound!

Our expert organizers from both the Netherlands and

the U.K. noted that people were expected to make do, reuse and mend what they had, directly stemming from values going back to World War II. This is similar to those in the U.S. who suffered through the Great Depression and have a hard time letting things go. Our South African organizer mentioned that some people in that culture do not place an emphasis on time management (arriving on time or working to a deadline.) And here in America, our organizer says, “consumption is so easy in the United States; we have 24-hour access to almost anything.”

One of the main curiosities I had about organizing in

Does your country talk about disorganization on TV, radio or in magazines?	What space/area do people most need your help with?	What charities do you donate your clients' items to?	Where do you purchase your organizing products/supplies?
There are occasional talk show segments on radio and TV about getting organised* and time management. We've had a couple of locally-made TV shows. At the moment there are only US shows, the most well known is "Hoarders."	Paperwork	I take anything suitable for pet bedding to the RSPCA. I donate suitable clothing to Fitted for Work and for the rest, I call the Diabetes Foundation.	Department and hardware stores, IKEA ( <a href="http://www.ikea.com">www.ikea.com</a> ), Howard's Storage World ( <a href="http://www.howardsstorageworld.com">www.howardsstorageworld.com</a> )
There is a TV show entitled "Hoarders."	Kitchen, home office	Women's shelters, daycares, children's hospital	Container Store ( <a href="http://www.containerstore.com">www.containerstore.com</a> ), CB2 ( <a href="http://www.cb2.com">www.cb2.com</a> ), For Space Sake ( <a href="http://www.forspacesake.com">www.forspacesake.com</a> )
There are articles on de-cluttering and storage solutions regularly in the home décor magazines. We have Irish TV programs such as "Desperate Houses," and we receive British TV programming which includes "Obsessive Compulsive Hoarder."	Paper and stationery	Oxfam, Vincent de Paul, St. Marie, Keating Foundation	IKEA ( <a href="http://www.ikea.com">www.ikea.com</a> ), Howard's Storage World ( <a href="http://www.howardsstorageworld.com">www.howardsstorageworld.com</a> )
On TV we have a program (translated) "My Life in Ruins." Sometimes there are articles in magazines.	Time management, paperwork, living room, desk	Red Cross, recycle store and special containers. There is a good habit in Amsterdam when you don't want to throw something away, you put it outside on display for someone to pick up.	A local office supply store
"Organizate (Get Organized)" is my own TV segment on the local channels and I have had a segment on the local affiliate of Univision.	Home office, paperwork	Salvation Army, Fundacion a la Mujer (Wings for Woman Foundation)	Department stores
More so in magazines and radio than on TV. For international programs we have access to satellite programs. "The Amanda's" seemd to generate some hype here recently.	Time management	We share with clients a list of charities for animals, elderly, children and terminally ill and let the client choose.	<a href="http://www.tidyfiles.co.za">www.tidyfiles.co.za</a> <a href="http://www.metrofile.co.za">www.metrofile.co.za</a> <a href="http://www.neatfreakshop.co.za">www.neatfreakshop.co.za</a>
Recent TV programs have included "The Hoarder Next Door," "Get Your House in Order" and "Britian's Biggest Hoarder." I've been on BBC Sussex and Surrey.	Home office	I focus a lot on recycling items that are recyclable.	I rarely recommend organising products and promote reusing what you already have.
Organization is constant in American media. We've got "Clean Freaks," "Clean House," TLC's "Buried Alive" and A&E's "Hoarders."	Paperwork	I use Goodwill the most due to the ease of drop-offs, locations and hours they are open. I am happy to research non-profits for special donation needs of a particular item.	Storables ( <a href="http://www.storables.com">www.storables.com</a> ), Container Store ( <a href="http://www.containerstore.com">www.containerstore.com</a> ), Costco ( <a href="http://www.costco.com">www.costco.com</a> ), Staples ( <a href="http://www.staples.com">www.staples.com</a> ), <a href="http://www.filesolutions.com">www.filesolutions.com</a>

different countries was what they actually organized. Did people in Europe face different struggles from those in Canada or Australia? While I was surprised by the answer, it makes sense. Turns out that no matter where you live around the globe, paper is the main issue we all struggle with! Another question I posed to the organizers was how people learn about the services they offer and the fact that there is such a job as a professional organizer in their country. Almost all of them mentioned their website and social media tools such as Twitter and Facebook. This seems to be true, since I found most of them on Twitter! Once again the Internet connects us in a way we could never really imagine.

Living in a cluttered environment can often feel isolating and lonely. It is somewhat comforting to know that people around the world are struggling with the same issues you are. We have compiled a list of professional organizing websites should you need to hire someone to help you tackle the mess. You can also visit our website, [www.gettingorganizedmagazine.com](http://www.gettingorganizedmagazine.com), for a list of organizers around the world along with donation resources in the U.S.

**National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO):** [www.napo.net](http://www.napo.net)

**Professional Organizers in Canada (POC):** [www.organizersincanada.com](http://www.organizersincanada.com)

**Australian Association of Professional Organisers Inc. (AAPO):** [www.aapo.org.au](http://www.aapo.org.au)

**Dutch Professional Association of Professional Organizers (NBPO):** [www.nbpo.nl](http://www.nbpo.nl)

**Professional Organiser Association Africa (POAA):** [www.poaa.co.za](http://www.poaa.co.za)

**Association of Professional Declutterers & Organisers (UK) (APDO-UK):** [www.apdo-uk.co.uk](http://www.apdo-uk.co.uk)

**Japan Association of Life Organizers (JALO):** [www.jalo.jp](http://www.jalo.jp)

**Office Order Organization Network Germany (BOOND):** [www.boond.de](http://www.boond.de)

**Hawaii Association of Professional Organizers (HAPO):** [www.hapoonline.org](http://www.hapoonline.org)

**Faithful Organizers – Christian Professional Organizers:** [www.faithfulorganizers.com](http://www.faithfulorganizers.com)

**Association of Personal Photo Organizers (APPO):** [www.appo.org](http://www.appo.org)

**Institute for Challenging Disorganization (ICD):** [www.challengingdisorganization.org](http://www.challengingdisorganization.org)

**National Association of Senior Move Managers (NASMM):** [www.nasmm.org](http://www.nasmm.org)

**Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD):** [www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)

# AROUND THE WORLD, KEEPING PAPERWORK ORGANIZED IS A COMMON CHALLENGE.

Check out three videos on simple paper organization at [www.gettingorganizedmagazine.com/videos/](http://www.gettingorganizedmagazine.com/videos/)



Australia  
Angela Esnouf



Canada  
Sylvia Daoust



Ireland  
Sara Reynolds



Netherlands  
Angelique Bouman



Puerto Rico  
Indira Molina



South Africa  
Tracey Foulkes



United Kingdom  
Rachel Papworth



United States  
Denise Allan