

NEWSLETTER
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Universal Declaration on Archives

At the Annual General Meeting in Malta, the ICA delegates approved the Universal Declaration on Archives in principle. **At their Annual General Meeting in Oslo, on 17 September 2010, the ICA delegates decided unanimously to approve the text of the Universal Declaration on Archives** developed by ICA/SPA ([Section of Professional Associations](#)) on the model of the "[Déclaration québécoise des Archives](#)". The UDA has now officially become one of the core pillars in ICA's advocacy policy.



The text is currently available on ICA web in [Arabic](#), [Catalan](#), [Chinese](#), [Croatian](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Maltese](#), [Spanish](#) (official translations). However, EURBICA invites all its members to offer new translations into other European languages. These will be very welcomed and published on the ICA website. If you wish to translate it, please contact first the ICA Secretariat (ica@ica.org).

ICA has got a new web page <http://new.ica.org/>. On CITRA Malta 2009 it was presented for the first time and officially launched on December 9, 2010 – the old ICA web site have been retired from active use. The site is available in several languages: besides English and French also in German, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Arabic. As the secretary general David Leitch pointed out the major change is in the structure of the new ICA website so that most of the new content and functionality will be available to members only in a separate part of the website. The new achievement is a major landmark in the improvement of ICA communications with fresh design and plenty of visual content, as well as with great deal of entirely new text (many key standards, ICA programs, calls and policy statements). Regional branches will have their own web pages as part of the central ICA web page with the similar structure division of public and member's part of the page. Also EURBICA will put its endeavours to create an informative, modern and clear structured web page which could well serve to its members.

Presentation of the EU project – APENet: Archives Portal Europe

APENet

The APENet project started in January 2009 with 12 National Archives and Europeana, with the support of the European Commission and the eContentplus Programme. The final results will be achieved in January 2012.

The overall goal of the APENet project is to gather the existing digital archival content of Europe and make it available on-line. The aim is to build a network of European archives that can offer online access to finding aids covering millions of digitised and not yet digitized documents, to the individual documents and digital objects through these finding aids, as well as information about individual collections, the institutions that house them, and their creators. Moreover, archival materials are not exclusively in the custody of public archival institutions. In Europe, other institutions, like libraries and museums, house archival material as is the case in the National Libraries of Spain and Malta or the British Library. Thus, the European Archives Gateway aims to facilitate the access to documents and records also in a variety of cultural heritage institutions, whether they are public or private.

The main objectives of the APENet project are to develop an Internet gateway that can provide descriptions of archival materials in European archives, libraries and museums based on information on the archives creators – corporate bodies, persons and families – with basic data on their records and collections. Also among the main objectives is to develop a set of converting engines and plug-ins to be integrated in national and institutional archives portals and systems to facilitate their contribution to APENet and in the end to the EUROPEANA. Finally, the aim is also to support and encourage archival repositories to contribute descriptions of their respective holdings toward the development of EUROPEANA.

More information about APENet is available at the project web page: <http://www.apenet.eu/>

APENet



Presentation of APENet at the CITRA conference in Malta, Peder Andrén (the National Archives of Sweden) presenting project to the Hon. Dolores Kristina, Minister for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of Malta and to Charles Farrugia, host of CITRA 2009.

The current spread of participants in the EU – the APENet Project has 18 participants.

18 European institutions take part in APENet, 17 European Union National Archives and the EDL Foundation, responsible for Europeana. The states represented in APENet are Spain, Finland, France, Germany, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Latvia, Greece, Slovenia, Ireland, Belgium, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria. All the above institutions from 17 states are going to provide content to APENet.

APENet works in a very decentralized way. The Project Coordinator is held by the Spanish State Archives (Subdirección General de los Archivos Estatales), but the Technical Coordination is led by the Nationaal Archief of the Netherlands and the Scientific Coordination by the German Bundesarchiv. For the daily work, APENet is divided into 6 work packages, again in different European State Archives (Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, France and Spain, all are work package leaders).



The future of APENet

APENet will launch a first version of the portal early in 2011, while the final version of the portal, with all its functionalities available, will be launched in the beginning of 2012. Until January 2012, the APENet Project will be open to European Union National Archives, but in the long run it will be at the disposal of all the European archives.

The ECA conference in Geneva, April 2010



8th European Conference on Digital Archiving
8ème Conférence européenne sur l'archivage digital
8. Europäische Konferenz über digitale Archivierung

28-30 | 04 | 2010

The 8th European Conference on Digital Archiving was held in Geneva from 28-30 April 2010. By emphasizing digital elements and archiving as a function instead of the archive as an institution, it has taken a new approach. Almost 700 people not only from Europe but also from other parts of the world have partaken in the conference.



The conference premises in the Geneva congress center (photo: Flying reporters)

The conference was organized by the European Regional Branch (EURBICA), the Section on Professional Associations (SPA) of the ICA and by the Swiss Federal Archives – as a host. The program comprised 150 renowned experts and practitioners, discussing the latest achievements, projects and prospects in the field of digital archiving in over 100 presentations. In addition to classic lectures, the program included also workshops and poster sessions. The conference themes were: 1. Archival profile: professional competence in the digital age, 2. What to keep: how to mirror the information society, 3. E-Archiving: reorganization of processes and business models, 4. Online access: solutions and implications.

In addition, an attractive social program was offered, besides welcome cocktail and gala dinner, also exhibition and excursions were organized, as well as an interesting insight into the archiving practices of eight international institutions in and around Geneva (like CERN, WHO, ICRC, IOC etc.).



Mr. Eric Ketelaar (prof. Emeritus, University of Amsterdam) and Mr. Andreas Kellerhals at the conference.



Mr. Andreas Kellerhals (director of Swiss Federal Archives, host of the ACE conference) and Mr. Henri Zuber (president ICA/ SPA)

The presentations and photos as well as the final report of ECA 2010 are available on the conference website: www.eca2010.ch

EURBICA activities

EURBICA Executive Board's two meetings in 2009 (in Malta) and 2010 (in Oslo) have resulted in several important decisions. A new statutes of EURBICA was prepared and it was disseminated to all members for discussion and for the possible proposals for its modification. Currently it is also available on ICA web page. In the frame of budget information it is important that EURBICA supported the 8th European Conference on Digital Archiving in Geneva 2010 (ACE) with the whole regular funds for 2009 and 2010 – since EURBICA was also co-organizer with ICA/SPA.



EURBICA Board during its meeting in Malta (November 16, 2009)

EURBICA – General Assembly in Oslo

The General Assembly of EURBICA in 2010 took place during the CITRA meeting in Oslo on September 14th 2010. Almost 40 representatives of members of category A and B were present and so the quorum for elections was reached. Subjects that were discussed included the two projects that EURBICA has successfully finished, Train the Trainers in Records Management and the legal database EURONOMOS. A new project is about to start to support non EU-member countries, who are members of EURBICA with their contributions to the Archives Portal Europe. EURBICA has received the agreement of the program management commission (PCOM) of ICA to support two workshops and compilation of a manual. The next General Assembly will take place during the Danish presidency of the EU in spring 2012 in Denmark.

The General Assembly (GA) has elected a new composition of the Executive Board. Until the next GA in 2012, the Executive Board includes the following members: Angelika MENNE-HARITZ (Bundesarchiv) as president of the Executive Board of EURBICA, Ivar FONNES - vice president (Riksarkivet;), Karel VELLE - secretary (Archives Générales), Joan BOADAS I RASET (Associacio d'Arxivers de Catalunya), Luis R. ENSENAT CALDERON (Subdirección General de los Archivos Estatales), Natalija GLAZAR - communicator (Arhiv Republike Slovenije), George P. MACKENZIE (National Archives of Scotland) and Maria SPANKOVA (Odbor archivnictva a spisovej sluzby).

The EURBICA website will be renewed soon also with the help of the new webmaster of EURBICA, Jean-Marc Comment (Federal Archives of Switzerland). It will be a completely new web page based on the new ICA web page – the previous EURBICA web page is unfortunately not available any longer. After a launch of the new site, members of EURBICA will be invited to contribute to its contents and also to the newsletter.

In Malta the EURBICA program was reviewed, a survey of existed projects was done (the business plan for 2008-2010) and proposals for the new projects were discussed.

The EURONOMOS project - France continues to host the legal database

EURONOMOS was built up by EURBICA in the recent years. It was a very successful project led by France who managed to receive financial support by the EU-Commission in addition to a grant awarded by ICA for workshops to help countries integrate their archival laws and other legislation concerning archives in their countries. During the last GA in Oslo the question was still open of who will continue to host the database. Meanwhile, EURBICA has received from the director of the National Archives, Mr. Hervé Lemoine the good news that France will continue to host it and to maintain the technical support. Two colleagues in France will be responsible for the database. A big 'Thank You!' to them.



The legal database EURONOMOS currently includes 16 participating countries (mostly EU member states). It is currently available on: <http://euronomos.ica.org/>.

The database and a web page were created in 2008 with the EU financial support by the IDABC program. In the future regionally organized workshops for new participants will be organized – therefore EURBICA invites all its members to join the project with their legislative data.

Training the records management (TTRM)

The project was conducted by the Dutch School for Archivists and participating experts were from Iceland, the Netherlands and Finland. It was presented during the International Congress held in Kuala Lumpur in July 2008. A presentation of the results was held at the CITRA Malta in 2009 – since the project is to be completed in 2010.

Competencies European model

The project is conducted in co-operation with ICA/SPA (Section of Professional Associations). It aims to furnish to each country member a methodology to build his own competencies model. It started in 2006 in Warsaw, at the end of this year a handbook will be completed and there was also a workshop in October. The project should be finished in 2010.

The APENet – liaison group activities in 2011

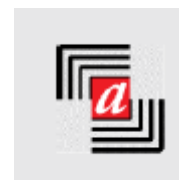
For the closer cooperation between EURBICA and the APENet project, the APENet Liaison Group will be established. It will especially address EURBICA members who are not EU-members with information about the APENet project and possibilities to have their own descriptions integrated into the portal.

As mentioned during the GA in OSLO, EURBICA is happy of having been awarded a grant of 5000 € by ICA/PCOM to organize two workshops and to prepare a manual for non EU members explaining the functioning of the gateway and the ways of contributing their data to the Archives Portal Europe. The first pilot installation of APENet is planned for the beginning of 2011, the first workshop is to be organized in the spring of 2011 in Switzerland and the second one will take place during the CITRA conference in Toledo in Autumn 2011. The workshops will present a first impression of the display of the union finding aid and explain the tools provided by the project for preparing the local data. Project members of APENet are prepared to help content providers find out the best ways to fit to their special needs.

The APENet project – EAD profile ready for download

Although EURBICA is not directly involved in the APENet project, several of its members are, and with the newly founded APENet liaison group they are trying to keep trace of the work of the project. The project's website is <http://www.apenet.eu/> where the data model used for hosting the descriptive information can be found. It is a subset of the international standard EAD (Encoded Archival Description) reduced to a profile with those elements and attributes used for the union finding aids which will be in the centre of the portal. The EAD profile is available in the form of a spread sheet table accompanied by a guide explaining the use of each element and attribute. Both can be downloaded from the website <http://www.apenet.eu/> under technical documents. If you need the profile in the format of an XML-schema, please contact the EURBICA steering board.

Brussels declaration of EBNA (Belgian Presidency of the EU)



Under the Belgian Presidency of the EU three events were organized this autumn: EBNA meeting (18. - 19.11.2010), EAG meeting (19.11.2010) and the DLM Forum meeting (16.-17.11.2010). EBNA (European Board of National Archivists in the EU) was established in 2001 and since then it meets twice per year, each time organized by the EU Presiding country. The Belgian program of EBNA meeting included the following themes: a) Acquiring business archives and making them accessible for the public: good practices, b) Access to cartographic sources: digitization programs and international collaboration, c) World War I archives and historical research: hype or cornerstone? d) Archives and remembrance education, e) Appraisal and transfer of (de-)classified information. The presentations and photos are available on: <http://extranet.arch.be/arch/ebna/> .



EBNA meeting session

The most important decision accepted by the Board of directors was the new “Brussels declaration on digital access to archives” – the three language versions (English, French and German) are published:

EBNA

Brussels Declaration on digital access to archives

Considering

... the changes brought by the development of IT to all areas of daily life including workplaces together with an increasing relevance of archives in an online environment and the growing quantities of archives accessible in digital form,

... the new possibilities opened by the emerging Internet technologies for sustainable digital access to and the use of archives for academic research as for a greater public,

... that the European national archives are united by the common goal of making available the richness to be found in their holdings using the most appropriate methods on the basis of the communality of shared professional approaches,

... and the enhanced possibilities for European citizens, supported by a better cross border understanding of their identities and differences, histories and expectations, to engage themselves in deeper collaboration in social, economic, political and institutional areas,

the **National Archivists of Europe gathered in the European Board of National Archivists (EBNA)**

declare their sincere intentions to enhance a closer co-operation with the aim to support open access to their holdings by expanding the means for digital availability.

They consider the following priorities as being crucial for success of their joint initiatives:

- (1) to lay open the great richness of the cultural diversity in Europe as represented in the holdings in Europe’s archives and make it exploitable and usable via own websites as well as via joint access points, including the retro-conversion of legacy finding aids;
- (2) to continue to elaborate innovative and cost effective ways to use modern Internet technologies for providing online access to descriptive information on archives in the contexts of their creation, to enrich it by access to digital copies where appropriate, and integrate it for cross border research and investigation into the joint union finding aid, built up by the Archival Portal Europe (APENet) project;
- (3) to apply sustainable, economic and professionally acceptable methods for combined preservation strategies, f.i. by integrating digitisation for access with microfilming for preservation and the professional preservation of the authentic original material;
- (4) to share their knowledge about the development and use of professional methods and techniques applied to similar aims in different environments, use and develop open source tools and support the building of communities and networks of expertise around them;
- (5) to consider the possibilities to rebalance home country efforts and international engagements on a basis of synergy and benefit for both the common aims and their achievements in their own country;
- (6) to be open to co-operate with commercial partners who are willing and capable to understand and support these approaches as today’s expression of the archival mission in the field of digital access of archives.

Brussels, November 18th, 2010

EBNA

Déclaration de Bruxelles sur l'accès numérique aux archives

Considérant que

... le développement des technologies de l'information a fondamentalement changé tous les aspects de la vie quotidienne, y compris dans les milieux professionnels, et que l'importance et la quantité des archives accessibles en ligne ou sous une autre forme numérique, vont toujours croissantes,

... les technologies émergentes de l'Internet offriront, tant aux chercheurs académiques qu'à un large public, de nouvelles possibilités durables en matière d'accès et de consultation numériques des archives,

... les Archives nationales européennes ont toutes comme objectif commun de valoriser leurs collections très riches, par le biais des méthodes les plus appropriées, basées sur les principes professionnels qu'elles partagent en tant que communauté archivistique,

... les citoyens européens ont, grâce à une meilleure compréhension transfrontalière de leurs ressemblances et différences, de leurs histoires et de leurs attentes mutuelles, davantage de possibilités de s'engager dans des coopérations approfondies dans les domaines social, économique, politique et institutionnel,

les **Archivistes nationaux européens, rassemblés dans le « European Board of National Archivists » (EBNA)** déclarent qu'ils ont sincèrement l'intention d'intensifier leur étroite collaboration, pour développer l'utilisation des moyens numériques, en vue de promouvoir l'accès libre à leurs collections.

Ils estiment que les priorités suivantes sont cruciales pour le succès de leurs initiatives communes :

- (7) révéler l'immense richesse des diversités culturelles en Europe, telles qu'elles apparaissent dans les collections archivistiques européennes, et promouvoir l'exploitation et l'utilisation de ces archives à travers des sites Internet individuels et des points d'accès communs, avec rétroconversion des instruments de recherche existants ;
- (8) poursuivre l'élaboration de moyens innovants et rentables pour l'utilisation des technologies modernes de l'Internet, en vue d'offrir, en ligne, un accès à des descriptions d'archives dans leur contexte de création, pouvant être accompagnées, le cas échéant, de copies numériques, et étant intégrées, pour les recherches transfrontalières, dans le portail archivistique européen « APENet », le projet de développement d'un instrument de recherche commun.
- (9) appliquer des méthodes durables, économiques et professionnellement justifiables, pour élaborer des stratégies combinées de conservation, par exemple en incorporant à la fois la numérisation en matière d'accès, le microfilmage pour la conservation, et la préservation professionnelle du matériel original et authentique ;
- (10) partager leurs connaissances en matière de développement et d'utilisation de méthodes et techniques professionnelles, appliquées dans d'autres environnements mais à des fins similaires ; développer et utiliser des outils « open source » et soutenir la création de communautés et de réseaux d'expertise à cet effet ;
- (11) envisager les possibilités de rééquilibrage entre les efforts nationaux et les engagements internationaux, sur base de synergies, servant à la fois les objectifs communs et les résultats nationaux ;
- (12) s'ouvrir à la coopération avec des partenaires commerciaux, qui soient disposés et aptes à comprendre et soutenir les approches susmentionnées, qui représentent l'expression actuelle des missions archivistiques en matière d'accès numérique aux archives.

Bruxelles, le 18 novembre 2010

EBNA

Brüsseler Erklärung zum digitalen Zugang zu Archivgut

In Erwägung

... dass die Entwicklung der IT einen fundamentalen Wandel im täglichen Leben einschließlich der Arbeitsplätze mit sich bringt und gleichzeitig die Bedeutung der Archive mit den wachsenden Mengen digital und online verfügbarer Bestände im Internet ständig zunimmt,

... dass durch die Internettechnologien neue Möglichkeiten für die Erweiterung von digitalem Zugang und Benutzung von Archivgut sowohl für die wissenschaftliche Forschung wie für die breitere Öffentlichkeit geschaffen werden,

... dass die europäischen Archive in dem Ziel vereint sind, auf einer seit langem gepflegten Grundlage gemeinsamer fachlicher Prinzipien den enormen Reichtum ihrer Bestände nach den bestmöglichen Verfahren für die Auswertung bereitzustellen,

... dass es den Bürgern Europas dadurch erleichtert wird, auf der Basis eines Grenzen überschreitenden Verständnis ihrer Unterschiede wie Gemeinsamkeiten, ihrer Geschichte wie ihrer Zukunftsperspektiven eine größere Zusammenarbeit in allen sozialen, wirtschaftlichen, politischen und institutionellen Bereichen zu entfalten,

erklären **die Leiter der nationalen Archive, die sich in EBNA (Europäisches Gremium der Nationalarchivare) zusammengefunden haben**, ihre gemeinsame Absicht, ihre Zusammenarbeit zur Nutzung der neuen digitalen Möglichkeiten weiter zu intensivieren, um den offenen Zugang zu ihren Beständen weiter auszubauen.

Sie sehen die folgenden Schwerpunkte als unverzichtbar für einen Erfolg ihrer Initiativen an:

- (13) den großen Reichtum der kulturellen Vielfalt in Europa, wie er sich in ihren Beständen niederschlägt, offen zu legen und ihn sowohl über eigene Internetseiten wie auch über gemeinsame Zugriffspunkte, sowie durch die Retrokonversion vorhandener Findmittel noch weiter nutzbar und auswertbar zu machen;
- (14) fortzufahren mit der Entwicklung von innovativen und wirtschaftlichen Methoden für die Nutzung moderner Internettechnologie zur Verbesserung des Zugang zu Erschließungsangaben über Archivgut im Kontext seiner Entstehung, die, soweit angebracht, mit digitalen Reproduktionen angereichert werden können, einschließlich ihrer Integration in das Verbundfindmittel, das von APENet für Grenzen überschreitende Recherche aufgebaut wird,
- (15) kombinierte Strategien für eine fachlich begründete, wirtschaftliche und nachhaltige Bestandserhaltung zu entwickeln und zu nutzen, die etwa die Digitalisierung für den Zugang mit der Verfilmung für die Erhaltung und mit der Bewahrung des Archivguts in der Form seiner Entstehung als authentische Version miteinander verbinden,
- (16) das Wissen über Entwicklung und Nutzung fachlicher Methoden und Techniken, die für gleiche Ziele in unterschiedlichen Umgebungen benötigt werden, auszutauschen, nachnutzbare elektronische Werkzeuge auf Open Source Basis zu entwickeln und deren gemeinsame Weiterentwicklung zu fördern,
- (17) Möglichkeiten zum Ausgleich zwischen nationalen Aufgaben und internationaler Kooperation auf der Basis von Synergien zum Wohle beider Bereiche, der Erreichung der gemeinsamen Ziele wie der Erfolge im eigenen Land, zu finden,

(18)offen zu sein für Kooperationen mit Partnern aus der Wirtschaft, die bereit und fähig sind, diese Ansätze als Ausdruck des heutigen archivischen Auftrags in der modernen Gesellschaft auf dem Gebiet des digitalen Zugangs zum Archivgut zu verstehen und zu unterstützen.

Brüssel, den 18. November 2010



EBNA Brussels, the final photo of all participants.

The EAG (European Archives Group, established in 2005) discussed the following themes:

a) Preservation and disaster prevention, b) Reinforcement of European interdisciplinary cooperation on electronic documents and archives: the DLM Forum and the development of MoReq2010, c) Establishment of an internet portal for documents and archives in Europe: APEnet, d) EURONOMOS: European archival legislation online, e) Future challenges – first results of the EAG survey and next steps: The re-use of public sector information; The relationship between onsite and online access to archives; Digital record keeping and the changing role of archives.



EAG meeting, 19.11.2010

The principle theme of the **DLM Forum meeting** was “Users - Adoption, Needs & Benefits of Records Management”. Several speakers talked from the point of view of their own discipline on the importance of Records Management and the need for international norms and standards. One of the most important speeches was undoubtedly the presentation of Moreq2010 and the official announcement of the final stage of public consultation.

In addition to speeches, informal contacts between the various groups involved in records management (archivists, records managers, IT consultants, IT companies) are also very important. The multidisciplinary approach provides an extra dimension for the projects.



The impressions from the Brussels's DLM Forum meeting.

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