

EDITORIAL

Taking Advantage of Synergy and Complicity

During the organisation of the X Jornades d'Arxivística de Terrassa (10th Archive Conference in Terrassa) in May, the members of the AAC elected a new Board of Directors. This new Board has started to look at ways to make progress with respect to the commitments presented in the programme that you have already received.

The challenges that the new Board has established basically fall into two categories: to obtain the status of recognised university qualification for Archival and Record Management; and to open up our profession to society.

The *Declaration of Bologna* must be the point of reference with regard to the first objective. We are now closer than ever to obtaining professional recognition in the training and education sector and we must take advantage of the complicity and synergy with the Sub-Directorate General for Archives, reflected in common objectives and intentions. This organisation's understanding and collaboration with the AAC is a key element in promoting the opinions of our profession and in achieving approval for our qualification proposal.

We must also take advantage of the change in management of the Sub-Directorate General for State Archives, which is headed by one of the greatest defenders of official qualification status for archive studies. Until this is achieved, we will continue, in conjunction with the Graduate School of Archival and Records Management, to provide support and encouragement for the current Master in Archival and Records Management, which, is taught in the second cycle of studies at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Continuing on from the editorial in the previous bulletin, "From Audacity to Normality", one of the other main points is the normalisation of our profession in society. And in order to achieve this, we need to open up in a more effective manner and find the best way to adapt our skills and knowledge to the demands of the work market. Because we cannot hide indefinitely behind the public authorities, waiting for more positions to be created in the Administrative and/or Historical Archives in the future. We have to be aware of the fact that in the future many members of our professional group will be forced to enter the private sector. Given the scarcity of archivists in private companies, we must strengthen our image and disseminate the message that record management is profitable in terms of efficacy and efficiency, and obviously, in terms of costs, with the aim of attracting interest from the private sector.

Concepts like *record management*, *interdisciplinarity*, *ISO 15489* and *23081* have become a part of our daily language, but also a part of our professional daily work. This is because we have already managed to make ourselves known to some extent to society, especially by means of the management of electronic documents. This is the other synergy that we must take advantage of: the combined action of the different elements with which we work must facilitate more than ever this approach to the private sector. We must be ready for the time when the information society has become generalised and we must be ready to offer our services to

businessmen that are in need of record management, but do not know that it is us, the archivists, who are best prepared to carry this out.

Logically, the new Board cannot forget about all the other areas of concern to the AAC, and that, over the past twenty years, have strengthened the prestige of our association and have contributed to making it a point of reference as a professional association, both on a national and international scale.

In this sense, we will try to foster the projects started by the previous boards of directors: continuous training and its decentralisation, the organisation of AAC Conferences and other symposiums of study and debate, municipal archive laboratories, the Emili Varès Conferences, support for the creation of the Professional College of Archivists, the defence of the qualification and recognition of the work place of the archivist, presence in selection tribunals, job vacancies information services, legal and labour law consultancy, coordination with other professional associations in the country and presence in international organisations, the continuity of the magazine *Lligall*, of the *Butlletí* and the *Textos* collection, etc.

In accordance with this, there are three projects that must signify a quantum leap for the AAC and its members. Firstly, the translation into Spanish and English of the magazine *Lligall*, with the aim of making this publication into an international point of reference. Secondly, the publication of the *Manual d'Arxivística de Catalunya* (Catalonia Archival Management Manual), which represents another basic tool for the members of the profession and the synthesis of the efforts undertaken by the AAC during its twenty years of existence. The aim of the manual is to normalise and strengthen the figure of the archive and of the professional archivist. Finally, the promotion of the website as the preferred channel through which to communicate with members and publicise AAC services and activities.

Since its creation, the AAC has, for the most part, performed in an exemplary manner and with this comes great responsibility. As the new Board of Directors we do not want to escape this responsibility, and for this reason we will try to face it with great enthusiasm and hard work.

Finally, we are asking members to collaborate and participate with their efforts and ideas in these projects and in others that might arise or be proposed. In all fairness, we must state that it is the members that allow things to advance. We must not forget that this association is an undertaking in which we all selflessly collaborate in order to achieve the maximum recognition for our work and, by extension, the figure of the record manager/archivist.