

Farewell 2012, here's the new year's news

As 2012 ends, we are getting ready for the 14th Congress of Catalan Archivists, which will take place in Barcelona on 23, 24 and 25 May 2013, with the collaboration of Barcelona City Council, and specifically the Municipal Archive.

Since the first edition held in Ribes de Freser in 1987, the AAC's congresses and symposia have dealt with a number of issues directly related to archival science and records management, and other disciplines and sciences, always from a professional, innovative and quality standpoint, with an eye on current events.

This year's edition, entitled 'Archives, Identity and State', aims to create a professional space for active reflection and debate on content related to the current situation in Catalonia from not only a cultural, but also a social and political point of view.

Members of the profession also have something to say in this process, so perhaps we should ask, what is the role of archives in the context of creating collective identities, and in shaping their national identity? Or what do we understand by national heritage? In the event of institutional conflict, can holdings become a bargaining chip? What would happen to the Catalan Archives System? And to jointly managed archival structures?

In a newly created framework, what services should we offer the public? Could we provide greater transparency in administrative processes and in universal access to documentation?

On the other hand, it is good to see what neighbouring countries did in similar situations, and, therefore, it will be interesting to hear first-hand what strategies they developed, and what their thoughts are on the various processes underway.

These questions are just some of the reflections on which the content of the Congress is based and will be developed with the participation of national and foreign speakers over the three days it lasts.

In the coming weeks, we will provide information on our website and by email, on the Congress programme, how to register and other details of interest.

On a different matter, the AAC Board of Management wishes to remind you that this year, as part of the 14th Congress, the AAC Extraordinary General Meeting will be held, during which the new Board of Management will be elected for the 2013-2017 period.

Now that the term of office of the present Board is coming to an end, we encourage you to take part in the electoral process. Since its creation, the AAC has performed in an exemplary manner and with this comes great responsibility. As the outgoing Board of Management, we have never avoided this responsibility and we have always tried to face up to it with maximum enterprising spirit and professionalism, but also with enthusiasm and associative involvement. Following this active participation model, we call on members to take part with their drive and ideas and help to advance this process. We must point out that it is the AAC's 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 records manager/archivist.

During the first quarter of the year, members will be informed of the electoral calendar for the presentation of candidacies. Happy 2013!