



**section of professional associations
international council on archives**

section des associations professionnelles
conseil international des archives

NEWSLETTER

June 2012

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Welcome to the June 2012 edition of the SPA Newsletter. The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep SPA members up-to-date with news on Section activities and projects and to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration between professional records management and archival associations.

SPA Steering Committee meeting, Weimar, Germany

The SPA Steering Committee held its annual planning meeting in Weimar between 26 and 28 March. The meeting was hosted by Dr Bernhard Post, the Director of the Thuringia Central Archives, and the German archives association, Verband deutscher Archivarinnen und Archivare. Association representatives from France, Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Israel, The Netherland, Mexico, Catalonia, the United States, Canada and Australia attended.

The agenda for the meeting included detailed deliberations on the 2012-2016 SPA business plan and on a number of ongoing SPA projects such as developing a ‘twinning program’; how the Section can support associations in developing countries, and the development of additional association guidelines.

The Committee met with Dr Michael Hollmann, the President of the German Federal Archives and Dr Clemens Rehm the Vice President of the Verband deutscher Archivarinnen und Archivare to talk about matters of common concern.



Henri Zuber, President of SPA Steering Committee. with Dr Michael Hollmann, President of the German Federal Archives, and Dr Clemens Rehm of the Verband deutscher Archivarinnen und Archivare, Weimar 2012 (photo credit: Dr. Bernhard Post)

A number of visits to local archives were arranged for the Committee and included the Thuringia Central State Archives, the Bauhaus University Archives, the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, the Goethe and Schiller Archives, the old Synagogue at Erfurt, Wartburg Castle, the Buchenwald Memorial (Buchenwald Concentration Camp) and the exhibition ‘The Engineers of the ‘Final Solution’ Topf & Sons – Builders of the Auschwitz Ovens’. The exhibition was developed by the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorials foundation in conjunction with the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the Auschwitz State Museum. As a consequence of the visit to the exhibition the Steering Committee has made a commitment to arrange a world business archives conference in Erfurt on the topic of Archival Ethics in Business.



SPA Steering Committee members in Weimar, 28 March 2012

2012-2016 SPA Steering Committee elections

The following nominations have been received for the 2012-2016 SPA Steering Committee. The election of the Committee will be confirmed at the SPA Annual General Meeting to be held on 22 August in Brisbane:

[*Switzerland*] Cristina Bianchi, Association des Archivistes Suisses

[*The Netherlands*] Fred van Kan, Koninklijke Vereniging van Archivarissen in Nederland

[*Quebec*] Claude Roberto, Association des Archivistes du Québec

[*Germany*] Bernhard Post, VdA - Verband Deutscher Archivarinnen und Archivare

[*Catalunya*] Joan Antoni Jimenez, Associació d'Arxivers-Gestors de Documents de Catalunya

[*Norway*] Vilde Ronge, Norsk ArkivrÅ%

[*United States*] Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Society of American Archivists & Academy of Certified Archivists

[*Mexico*] Dario Martinez, Sociedad Para el Desarrollo Científico de la Archivística

[*South Korea*] Sangmin Lee, Korean Association of Records Managers and Archivists

[*Poland*] Piotr Zawilski, Stowarzyszenie Archiwistow Polskich

[*Brazil*] Maria Celina Soares de Mello e Silva, Associcao dos Arqivistas Brasileiros

[*Israel*] Galia Duvidzon, Israeli Archives and Information Association

[*France*] Ousmane M'Baye, Association des Archivistes Français

[*Hong Kong*] Simon Fook Keung Chu, Hong Kong Archives Society

[*Austria*] Josef Riegler, Verband Österreichischer Archivarinnen und Archivare.

Universal Declaration on Archives Promotion

The Universal Declaration on Archives, adopted at the General Assembly of the ICA at Oslo in September 2010, was endorsed at the 36th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2011.

With the text now approved by both the ICA and UNESCO the next step is to promote the document to all citizens across the world. Work is being undertaken to update the template created by SPA with the UNESCO logo and to include a space for associations to add their own logo. Another initiative being explored is the development of an online register where those supporting the UDA can add their names.

SPA AGM, Brisbane, Australia

The Annual General Meeting of SPA will be held in Brisbane on Wednesday 22 August between 3.30 and 5.00. There will be presentations on SPA activities including the proposed 2012-2016 Business Plan. The SPA 2011-2012 Annual Report and Agenda for the meeting will be sent out to members before the event. An outgoing and incoming joint Steering Committee meeting will be held on 20 August.

New SPA Guidelines

The SPA Steering Committee is working on two new guidelines to assist associations improve their management and services to members. One covers the establishment and management of association award programs and the other about producing association publications.

A draft of the guideline for award programs was presented to the Steering Committee in Weimar for approval and will be available shortly on the SPA website and included in the SPA Manual in English, French and Spanish. An association award program can be used as a way of recognizing those who have made an outstanding contribution to the profession or given meritorious service to the association. The guideline provides a checklist of issues for associations to consider when designing, planning and implementing an award program.

The guidelines on producing association publications are being developed for SPA by the editors of the Archives and Records Association, UK and Ireland, and will be available after the Brisbane Congress.

Photographic and Audiovisual Archives Working Group (PAAG)

The ICA Working Group in Photographic and Audiovisual Records was created to support the safekeeping of photographic and audiovisual archives. The Working Group is composed of archival specialists who are focused on developing general guidelines and educational resources for archivists working with photographic and audiovisual collections.

Work to date has included the development of a Survival Kit covering advice on how to manage a photographic and audio visual collection, and information on software and tools available to assist preservation activities. In 2012 the Group plans to publish

cases studies from specialized centres around the world creating a shared methodology from real experiences. Each study will outline the goals of the project, analyse the work undertaken and results achieved.

For more information about the Photographic and Audio Visual Working Group, including the Survival Kit see <http://www.ica.org/5074/about-photographic-and-audiovisual-archives-group/about-photographic-and-audiovisual-archives-working-group.html>

Call to action from Canada

On April 30, 2012, the National Archival Development Program (NADP) was abolished because of federal financial cuts. This program ensured that Canada's history was preserved in local communities. Several archival councils assisting archival institutions and societies were forced to suspend operations immediately and a large number of archival jobs were lost. The Library and Archives Canada had its archival staff slashed by 20% and was forced to reduce, and in some instances cut, its services to the public. Consequently, the archival mandate to make government transparent, to make information available to citizens and to preserve records of Canadian culture and society will be greatly diminished.

Protest marches were organized by Canadian archivists in Ottawa, the federal capital of Canada, on May 28, and in Edmonton, Calgary and Victoria.

To get updated news and give your support to archivists in Canada, go to the following blog: <http://archiviststrek2012.tumblr.com/>

News from member associations

Association of Archivists of Catalonia

The international *12th Image and Research Conference*, organized by the Center for Image Research and Diffusion (CRDI) of the Girona City Council (Catalonia, Spain) and the Association of Archivists of Catalonia will be held in the city of Girona from November 20 to 23, 2012. For additional information go to:

http://www.girona.cat/sgdap/esp/jornades_presentacio.php

An online postgraduate certificate in managing photographic archives is now available from the School of Archives and Records Management (linked to the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) working in cooperation with the Centre for Image Research and Promotion, the Association of Archivists of Catalonia and the Institute of Photographic Studies of Catalonia. For more information go to
http://www.esaged.com/articles-mostra-1614-esp-postgrau_on_line_de_gestio,_preservacio_i_difusio_d'arxius_fotografics.htm

Association of Chilean Archivists

The Association of Chilean Archivists organized an International Congress (IV COINDEAR) from April 10 to 13, 2012 in San Bernardo, Provincia de Maipo, Chile.

Eugenio Bustos Ruz, President of the Asociación de Archiveros de Chile, headed the Committee responsible for organizing the Congress. Trudy Huskamp Peterson,

Certified Archivist from the United States, gave a presentation on Archives and Democracy as well as a lecture on Human Rights in the Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Santiago. The Congress included a visit to this museum. Julia María Rodríguez Barredo, past President of the Spanish Federation ANABAD, presented a workshop on the history of the association from 1949 to 2012, and Liliana Patiño from Argentina gave a presentation on the creation of the National Association of Archivists in Argentina (ANAA). Other themes covered in Congress presentations included records management, technology, certification and professional development.

The following countries participated in the IV COINDEAR: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, United States, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Association of Italian archivists

The Association of Italian Archivists (ANAI) is reorganizing its activities because of serious financial cuts including ending its involvement in the SPA Steering Committee. During the fall of 2011 fifty demonstrations took place across the country to protest against budgetary cuts made to archival institutions. The campaign was called “*And Then There Were None*”, using the title of the detective novel by Agatha Christie, and the demonstrations were aimed at increasing public awareness about the decreasing number of archivists in the public and private sectors.

During the economic crisis the idea that archivists do not provide an essential service has been publically promulgated. In response the archival community is now working closely with librarians and museum curators to inform the public about the challenges facing cultural institutions. A meeting of the three professions with the Minister of Culture has taken place and two conferences are planned for October and November 2012 to highlight current difficulties. For additional information on the Italian awareness campaign go to http://www.anai.org/anai-cms/cms.view?numDoc=217&munu_str=0_11_0_62

Australian Society of Archivists (ASA)

The Society is undergoing a major review of its mission statement, objectives and activities following a serious financial crisis experienced last year. A strategic planning day was held in April providing members with an opportunity to consider a wide range of issues including the purpose of the ASA and what it represented as a small association in a diverse records, information and wider cultural sector. Discussions will continue lead by a working group of ASA ‘elders’.

Keeping Archives 3rd Edition, released by the ASA in 2008, is no longer available as a paper publication instead it can be purchased as an e-version on CD from the association’s online store. To obtain a copy go to - <https://www.archivists.org.au/shop/f/Product/67/1/> This publication is richly illustrated and packed with practical examples and tools for those establishing, managing and developing an archives.

Professional Association of Archivists of Castilla and Leon (ACAL)

The Professional Association of Archivists of Castilla and Leon have an active publication program aimed at facilitating research and the study of archival science

for both professionals and students. As well as publishing monographs on many subjects, ACAL publishes *Archivamos* and *Tabula*.

Archivamos (a pun: *we archive – come on*) is published every 3 months and covers news from the archival profession as well as presenting information on the latest developments in the field. National and international archival news is included in this publication.

Tabula is published annually and is dedicated to both theoretical and practical research in archival science. It has been in production for 20 years and seeks to contribute to the development of a new archival science by taking a life-cycle approach examining documents in both the contexts of modern recordkeeping and history and research.

While *Archivamos* aims at increasing current awareness, *Tabula* is a key tool for professional research with each issue examining a subject of archival interest taking a multidisciplinary perspective and reaching out to other professionals. *Archivamos*, *Tabula* and other publications from ACAL can be ordered online on the Association's webpage at <http://www.acal.es>.

Society of American Archivists (SAA)

Operating in a digital environment is now the rule rather than the exception, and the Society of American Archivists is committed to helping archivists navigate this complex world. To assist the following initiatives are offered:

- SAA's Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Curriculum and Certificate Program provides archivists with education and training for appraising, preserving, and providing access to electronic records. Participants can opt for individual courses, or earn a Digital Archives Specialist Certificate from SAA by completing the appropriate coursework and passing examinations. Many courses—from “Beginner’s Guide to Metadata” to “Archival Content Management Systems”—are available on the web. For additional information:
<http://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/das>.
- Two books published by SAA in 2011 offer sound advice: In *I, Digital: Personal Collections in the Digital Era*, edited by Christopher A. Lee, ten authors share their expertise on the management of digital information, including essays by Adrian Cunningham (National Archives of Australia), Sue McKemmish (Monash University), and Susan Thomas (University of Oxford). In *A Different Kind of Web: New Connections Between Archives and Our Users*, edited by Kate Theimer, readers explore how archives are using the web to reach and interact with users, old and new, as well as serve their own management needs. For additional information:
www.archivists.org/bookstore.
- SAA's 2012 Annual Meeting, August 6–11 in San Diego, California, will give attendees insights into digital topics. Educational sessions include “Web Archiving: Selection, Capture, Preservation, and

Marketing,” “Hybrids and Legacies: Challenges of Finding Aids in the Digital Age,” and “The Challenges and Rewards of Open-Source Digital Video Preservation.” For additional information:
<http://www2.archivists.org/conference/2012/san-diego>.

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