

# SPA ica

section of professional associations  
international council on archives

section des associations professionnelles  
conseil international des archives

## NEWSLETTER December 2012

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Welcome to the December 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 Annual General Meeting, Brisbane, Australia**

The Annual General Meeting of SPA was held in Brisbane on Wednesday 22 August. There were presentations on SPA activities including the proposed 2012-2016 Business Plan as well as elections for the 2012-2016 SPA Steering Committee. An outgoing and incoming joint Steering Committee meeting was held on 20 August. We thank all the Australian colleagues and the Australian Society of Archivists members who welcomed us so well in Brisbane.

## **2012-2016 SPA Business plan**

SPA Strategic Objectives for 2012-2016 are the following:

- Assist associations promote and advocate the profession.
- Facilitate an interchange of information between professional associations and support collaboration.
- Contribute to the improvement of association products and services to members.
- Encourage and assist with the establishment of new professional associations.
- Improve the SPA governance, administrative arrangements.

The SPA main activities and projects for 2012-2016 include:

- Develop and implement two world wide promotion and advocacy campaigns with the themes: Why do archives and records management matter? What does an archivist/records manager do for you?
- Together with the Human Rights Working Group, develop a set of *Principles of the Role of Archivists* and devise and implement a promotion campaign for promulgation of the *Principles*
- Maintain the directory of (member and non member) associations
- Publish a biannual *Newsletter* in English, French and Spanish
- Maintain the SPA web pages on the ICA website
- Support seminars and conferences of member associations
- Prepare a project to establish arrangements between associations with the aim of facilitating mutual support
- Review the SPA Manual for associations and expand it by preparing new guidelines and respond to association requests for new guidelines
- Develop a proposal to link associations from countries listed on the World Bank high income group to support associations from poor regions for four years; continue to support the services and lieu of fees scheme

## **2012-2016 SPA Steering Committee elections**

The following members were elected on 22 August in Brisbane to serve on the 2012-2016 SPA Steering Committee:

[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 Arkivrad

*[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 Archiwistów 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



A few past and present SPA Steering Committee members, Brisbane 2012.  
Photo credit: Cristina Bianchi

**A warm thank you** goes to the following colleagues who served on the previous SPA Steering Committee: Henri Zuber (President – France); Andrew Nicoll (Joint Secretary – UK & Ireland), Colleen McEwen (Joint Secretary - Australia), Joan Boadas i Raset (Catalunya), Trudy Huskamp Peterson (USA), Michal Henkin (Israel); Berndt Fredriksson (Sweden); Kazuko Sasaki (Japan).



Colleen McEwen (Australia) who received the ICA Fellow Award during the ICA 2012 AGM and Andrew Nicoll (UK & Ireland), 2008-20012 SPA Steering Committee Joint Secretaries, Brisbane 2012.

Photo credit: Cristina Bianchi

### **2012-2016 SPA Officers**

The following members were elected on 22 August in Brisbane to serve on the 2012-2016 SPA Steering Committee Executive:

President – Fred van Kan

Vice-President – Bernhard Post

Joint Secretaries – Cristina Bianchi and Claude Roberto

### **Register your support for the *Universal Declaration on Archives (UDA)***

The *Universal Declaration on Archives*, adopted at the General Assembly of the ICA at Oslo in September 2010, was endorsed at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2011. The UDA is a statement about the relevance and importance of archives to the general public; it is an articulation of the specific connections between records and archives and good governance, basic human rights and entitlements, cultural and community identity, history and heritage. It details the unique characteristics of archives and their management requirements to ensure ongoing access for as long as they are needed.

The ICA created an online register where those supporting the UDA can add their names. The Register is available from the ICA website. For accessing the register, click on the following link:

<http://icarchives.wufoo.com/forms/register-your-support-for-the-uda/>

A template including the UNESCO logo has been developed and is now available from ICA for those wishing to print a UDA poster in their own language. Archivists from tribal and minority groups are encouraged to translate the UDA into their own languages.

### ***Principles on the Role of Archivists***

A joint SPA/ Human Rights Working Group chaired by Trudy Huskamp Peterson projects to develop a set of *Principles on the Role of Archivists*. These *Principles* will be similar to the *Principles on the Role of Lawyers* adopted by the UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in 1990. To date eight high level roles have been identified and work will now focus on developing explanatory text. The *Principles* are a “sub text” to the *Code of Ethics* and will be particularly important for archivists working in the area of human rights. This is a joint project between SPA and the ICA Working Group on Human Rights led by Giulia Barrera.

### ***Principles of Access to Archives***

The ICA members adopted the *Principles of Access to Archives* as an ICA standard of best practice at the Brisbane AGM in August 2012. A Technical Report, providing suggestions for using the *Principles* in an archival institution, will be made available in 2013. The ICA Working Group that developed the *Principles*, chaired by Trudy Huskamp Peterson, encourages SPA members to discuss them with their association members. At present the *Principles* are available in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, and soon in Arabic. If you have a translation in any other languages, please forward it to Margaret Turner at [turnermargaret@hotmail.com](mailto:turnermargaret@hotmail.com), who will arrange to have it placed on the ICA website. For additional information on the *Principles*, please contact Trudy Huskamp Peterson at [trudy@trudypeterson.com](mailto:trudy@trudypeterson.com)

### **Photographic and Audiovisual Working Group**

The Photographic and Audiovisual Working Group, chaired by Joan Boadas, has focused on developing case studies to provide real experiences from specialised centres that can be used by the archival community. Each study will highlight a specific photographic and audiovisual collection and concentrate on a specific area of work e.g. conservation or description, and the activities undertaken. Details in each study will include the name of the collection, information on the fonds, details about the original condition of the collection, the work plan and methodology used. Eight studies will be produced and uploaded on the website by 27 October, the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.

### **Directory of Associations around the world**

An excel spreadsheet comprising of current Category B members from the ICA membership database and other associations listed was completed on a database compiled in recent years. As agreed at the Weimar SPA Steering Committee meeting, a Word/pdf copy of the list has been placed on the SPA pages on the ICA website and will be updated annually. Thank you to Gilles Lesage, Bernhard Post and Colleen McEwen for their work on this Directory. The task to update the list has been included on the 2012-2016 SPA business plan.

### **Report from the ICA Translation and Publications Advisor**

The ICA is aiming to translate all key ICA document and fundamental reference documents into the six UNESCO languages – English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese. The key documents are those which describe the ICA and document its management; and fundamental reference documents are those which deliver clear statements of ICA values, and those which cover professional matters of

importance and relevance to the international archival community. Margaret Turner, the ICA Translation and Publications Advisor, is establishing a pool of translators from ICA Branches, Sections and individual members. All professional associations are encouraged to assist with the translations. There is an application form on the ICA website for those who are interested in this volunteer work. Margaret Turner can be also contacted informally to discuss this further at [turnermargaret@hotmail.com](mailto:turnermargaret@hotmail.com) All volunteer translators will be given free individual membership of ICA which brings with it the newsletter (*Flash*) and the journal (*Comma*) as well as reduced rates to attend conferences. Translation work provides a way of looking at professional knowledge, of learning about international best practice, of making contacts internationally, of helping the international archival community and of developing as a professional.

### **Next SPA Steering Committee meeting**

The next Steering Committee meeting will take place in the Netherlands from 19-25 April 2013.

### **Next ICA Annual Conference**

The Conference will take place in Brussels, in partnership with the National Archives of Belgium, from 20-24 November 2013. The three days from 20-22 November will be devoted to ICA governance, strategy and other business meetings like the meeting of the SPA Steering Committee. The professional conference will take place on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November. The conference will focus on the themes of transparency and access to information.

### **News from member associations**

#### ***Archives without borders***

The 2010 proceedings of the *Archives without Borders* international congress in The Hague (Netherlands) have been published. The volume contains 32 contributions from archivists from all over the world, including essays from keynote speakers Antonio González Quintana, Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Gabriela Salazar, Nathan Mnjama and Eric Ketelaar. The book is partly in English, partly in Spanish (abstracts in both languages are included). You can order this book via:

[http://www.vvbad.be/awb\\_en](http://www.vvbad.be/awb_en) For additional information on the conference held in November 2012 in Barcelona (Spain): <http://www.arxiv.org/fr/index.php>

#### ***Association of archivists in the State of Rio Grande do Sul (AARS)***

AARS is responsible for the organization of the VI National Congress of Archival Science to be held in October 2014 in the city of Santa Maria, RS Brazil. The event has been held every two years since 2004, and the objective is to promote discussions and reflections on challenges faced by archivists.

#### ***Association of Brazilian Archivists***

Overseas colleagues are invited to participate in the Call for Papers for the 5th Conference on Databases and Archival Information in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2013. The conference will cover access to information and preservation in a digital world. Information:

[http://www.aab.org.br/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=414:database&catid=40:destaques](http://www.aab.org.br/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=414:database&catid=40:destaques)

### ***Association of Catalan Archivists and Records Managers (AAC)***

The Association is planning the 14th Congress of Catalan Archivists, which will take place in Barcelona from May 23-25, 2013, in collaboration with the Barcelona City Council and the Municipal Archives. The theme will be “Archives, Identity and State”. More information is available on the AAC website: <http://www.arxiviers.com> The 4th Conference on Education and Archives will take place on June 27 and 28, 2013 in Barcelona. Teachers working in Elementary and High schools as well as archivists with an interest in education are invited to attend this conference. For information: <http://www.arxiviers.com/serveis/formacio/formacio-cursos.html>

### ***Association of French Archivists***

For the first time, the Association will organize in March 2013 in Angers a national event to gather archivists throughout the country. This 3 day forum called “Archives: today and tomorrow” will allow areas for reflection, including changes in bodies (found in the state, local communities and businesses), new practices, new relationships with users, and the image of archivists such as perceived by others. For information : <http://forum2013.archivistes.org/>

### ***Association of Québec Archivists (AAQ)***

On 19 October 2012 the new legislation on Cultural Heritage came into effect in Quebec; this legislation supports Quebec cultural identity as well as protection and transmission of heritage. The new law will allow interventions to protect collective heritage. Abolishment of the National Archival Development Program (NADP) supporting archival activities locally continues to have consequences on Quebec and Canadian institutions. This program ensured documentary heritage was preserved and made available. It has been replaced by the Pan-Canadian Documentary Heritage Forum developed by Library and Archives Canada. Quebec archivists’ involvement in this Forum will eventually be reviewed according to the evolution of the Forum achievements. The AAQ is working on launching a new mentorship program to facilitate exchanges of knowledge and experiences between new and older members, and to develop a professional network within the Association. The annual Francophone national AAQ congress will take place in June 2013 on the theme Diversity and Archives. In addition, on an international level, the Association is reflecting on the situation faced by colleague archivists in Mali and is considering which kind of help could be provided to support preservation of manuscripts at risk of destruction in this country. Details coming from these discussions will be shared in the next SPA *Newsletter*.

### ***National Association of Italian Archivists (ANAI)***

In 2012 the ANAI worked on protecting the archival profession among political authorities. This allowed the Central Institute of the Archives to survive ; this Institute is responsible for descriptive standards and coordination of archival online projects. Italian archivists also organized protests against reductions in archival resources and made suggestions for the reorganization of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. The Association held a conference in association with the French and Swiss archivists in Chambéry in July 2012 on climate and environmental archival resources.

A two day discussion on collaboration between archives, museums and libraries took place in Milan in November 2012. For information: [www.mab-italia.org](http://www.mab-italia.org)

### ***Norwegian Society of Records Managers and Archivists (NA)***

The Society translated the UDA into Norwegian and is now promoting it among groups of interest. The Society is also working on visibility and education through lobbying among stakeholders and exchange of opinions with the press. Furthermore, NA is developing new training courses to address current challenges facing the profession. A prize for the best Records Management Team was awarded in November 2012. The Society members who attended the last ICA conference in Australia also had an innovative idea to allow members and colleagues to participate virtually in conferences which only a few people can attend for financial reasons. The idea is to write a blog during these events and make the text available on the Society website on a daily basis. Writing a blog that is interesting, entertaining and relevant, can be quite challenging, but it allows all website readers to participate in conferences. This idea was launched in Brisbane and is now the rule for anyone travelling on behalf of the NA.

### ***Society of American Archivists***

The Society of American Archivists will partner with the Council of State Archivists in holding its Annual Meeting in New Orleans from August 11-17, 2013. Any vendors interested in exhibiting at the conference should be in touch with the SAA office at [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org). The program sessions have been decided upon, and they include one on the UDA with Kim Eberhard and Colleen McEwen presenting and Gregor Trinkaus-Randall chairing and commentating.

### ***South American Associations***

In September 2012 in Buenos Aires, Eugenio Bustos Ruz, President of the Association of Archivists of Chile, gave a presentation on the nature of archives which is still not well understood by the public. Members of the Group of Social Studies in Library and Information Science (GESBI) will organize in October 2013 a 5<sup>th</sup> annual congress in Sao Luis, Brazil. The Group, based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, includes librarians, archivists, information specialists and curators, and it incorporates multidisciplinary approaches in order to contribute to changes in information management. For information : [gesbi@gesbi.com.ar](mailto:gesbi@gesbi.com.ar)

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