

The International Council on Archives

Serving Shared Memory

The logo of the International Council on Archives (ICA) is a stylized, circular emblem. It features a blue outer ring with a white, pixelated or mosaic-like pattern. Inside the ring is a light blue background with a darker blue, abstract shape that resembles a stylized 'C' or a face. The letters 'ICA' are printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font below the emblem.

ICA

Perrine Canavaggio

ICA/SPP Corfu 2 November 2007

Presentation of ICA

- NGO created under the auspices of UNESCO in 1948
- Mission : To promote Preservation of and access to records/archives through international cooperation
- 1700 members : institutions & associations in 180 countries
- Regional Branches & Professional Sections
- Present in Public & Private Sectors
- Limited Means: a Network & Meeting Possibilities (CITRA, Congress, Sections/branches)

ICA 1948-1989

- Context Post War & Cold War
- Archives serving mainly Historical Research
- Decolonization in the 1960s
- Priority: Development of Archives in the new independent countries

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A Major Concern: Archival Claims

- Sources interesting two or more parties (Predecessor State and successor, Colonizer/Colonized, Allies/Enemies)
- Newly independent countries but no Convention about archives. A gap in the Law.
- Aftermath of 2nd World War

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Two ICA approaches:

- Development of Juridical Principles (see Reference dossier on archival claims published by the Council of Europe in 1997)
- Technical Solutions : Encouraging Microfilm to reconstitute the archival heritage of the countries

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A Policy of Finding Aids and Identification of Sources: the Programme ICA-UNESCO

Guides to the Sources of the History of Nations published from 1960 to 1992

3 Series

- Latin America 12 volumes
- Sub Sahara Africa 17 volumes
- North Africa, Asia & Oceania 25 volumes

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The concept of Joint Heritage

Archives, that are created by a common history, must be treated as a joint heritage

- First mention in *RAMP Study* 1977 on archival claims
- Used by DG UNESCO at the General Conference 1978

The ICA logo is a stylized, circular emblem. It features a central figure that resembles a person or a stylized 'C' with a dot, surrounded by a circular border containing various symbols and patterns. The logo is rendered in shades of blue and green.

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A New International Context: the Political Upheavals of years 1990

- End of Cold War
- Fall of authoritarian regimes in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia
- Continuation of European Integration

The logo of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICA) is a stylized blue 'C' with a globe-like pattern inside, set against a light blue background.

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A Technological Revolution

- Emergence & Generalisation of ICT
- Appearance of Internet & Websites
- Generalisation of Digital Media
- Open source Softwares
- New Collaborative Philosophy
- Globalization

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Professional Consequences

- Standardization: ICA/ISAD(G), ISAAR CPF, ISIAH , ISAF
- Exchanges Formats & interoperability: EAD/XML
- Convergence of Carriers
- End of Isolation & Links with other Professions

The logo of the International Council of Archivists (ICA) is a stylized blue circular emblem. It features a central figure that resembles a person or a stylized 'G' with a small circle above it. The emblem is surrounded by a ring of small squares, some of which are filled with a pattern of dots.

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The notion of Shared Memory

- Comes from informatics world
- Applicable to Cultural Institutions with Complementary Collections/Holdings
- Idea of Combining Respective Resources

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Council of Europe

- Recommendation R (2000) 13 on a European Policy on Access to Archives & Guidelines published in 2005
- INCOMKA Project <http://www.comintern-online.com/>
- Reconstitution of the Memory of Poland <http://rmp.icm.edu.pl/>

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CITRA 2006-2007

- The International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (CITRA) is the annual meeting of the heads of National Archives and National Associations & of the chairs of ICA Sections
- It meets every year except on the year of International Congress.
- A Strategic Meeting of the Leaders of the Profession

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CITRA Curaçao 2006

Sharing Memory through Globalization

Three sessions on subjects which have particularly affected most countries :

- *Slavery*
- *Migrations*
- *(De)colonization)*

three phenomena that have left traces in the archives and of which history cannot be written objectively without consulting multiple sources both national and international, public and private

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Sessions CITRA 2006

Each session featured examples of successful collaborations: finding aids, such as the *French Guide to Sources for the History of Slavery*, and programmes for the sharing of sources and resources, such as the Dutch project *The Atlantic World and the Dutch (AWAD)*, or those developed in the Portuguese-speaking world (*Resgate*, *Reencontro* and *Aluka*).

The success of these initiatives indicates that the interest of a country's archives extends far beyond national boundaries and that the enlightened use of new technologies can help to overcome divisions and to fill gaps.

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CITRA Outcomes & Resolutions

- Two resolutions ask UNESCO to extend *the Slave Trade* project to all countries concerned and to encourage the pooling of the archival heritage relating to several countries, as is the case for the formerly colonising and colonised countries.
- A plan for multi-lateral co-operation is proposed to facilitate access to archives and the organisations and states concerned are invited to support it.

CITRA Follow up

- Let us wish that these resolutions are put into effect quickly. It's up to the ICA members to implement them.
- While, there are still tense debates about these often painful periods of our common past, the participants proved that it was possible to treat this question in a dispassionate and professional manner.
- By deciding to combine their efforts to put archives at the service of their contemporaries, they have demonstrated their will to advance historical knowledge and to promote a culture of sharing.

CITRA Québec 2007

Theme: *Cooperate to Preserve Diversity*

- 1st session: On the basis of the Canadian experience of merging National Library & Archives, the conditions for success of cooperation between Archives, Libraries & Museums will be discussed.
- NB: Canadian experience is an example and not a model.

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2nd & 3rd Sessions

- 2nd: The specificity of Archives will be outlined with the examples of necessary cooperation between archivists & records creating agencies for preserving electronic records.
- 3rd: Prospects of international cooperation between Archives, Libraries & Museums will be presented with the global projects developing in the world:
 - The World Digital Library led by the Library of Congress. See: www.worlddigitallibrary.org and
 - The European Digital Library a Project funded by the European Commission under the [eContentplus Programme](http://www.edlproject.eu/) and coordinated by the [German National Library](http://www.edlproject.eu/). See: www.edlproject.eu/

An Opportunity for Sharing Experiences

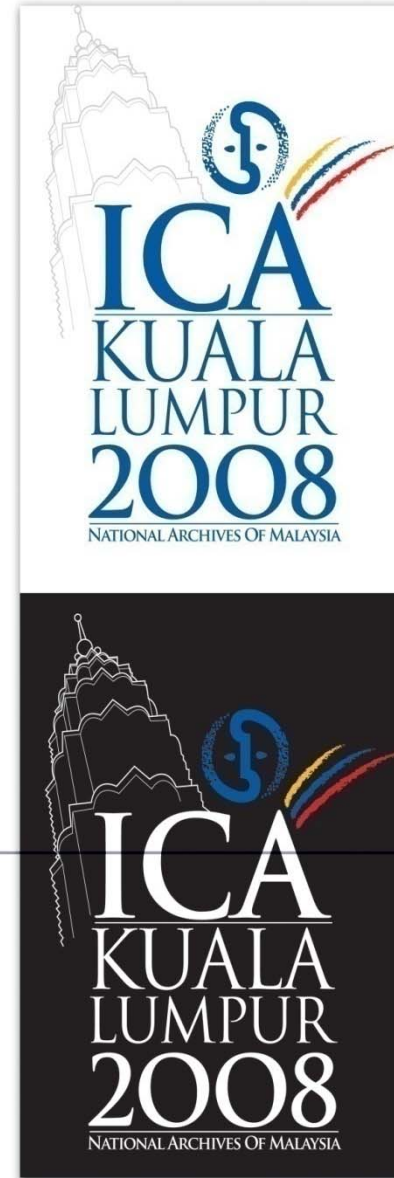
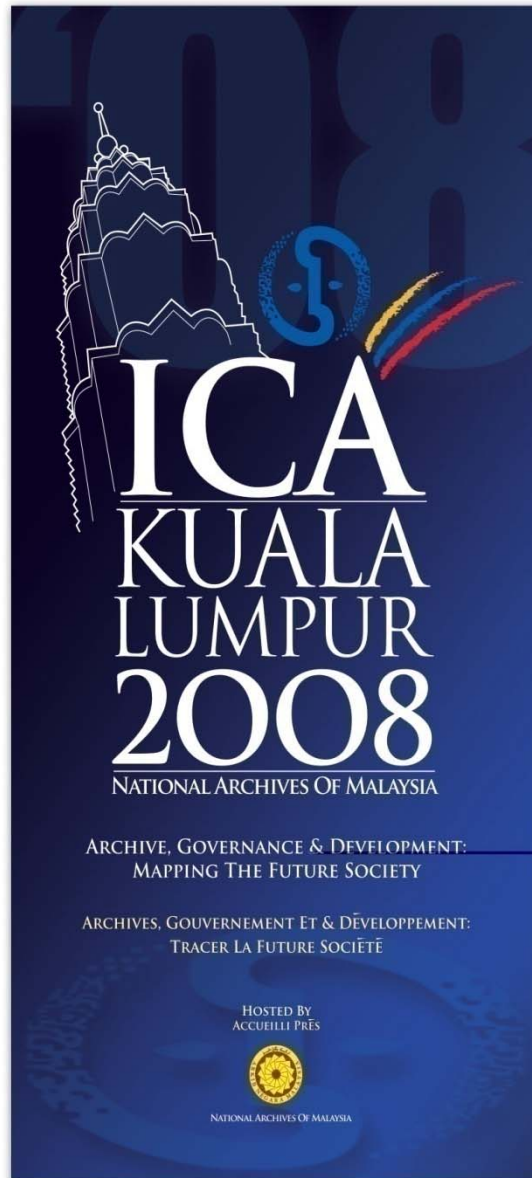
The International Congress on Archives Kuala Lumpur 21-27 July 2008:

*Archives, Governance & Development:
Mapping Future Society*

- Same format as Vienna 2006: 3 days of parallel sessions proposed by the ICA members
- Proposal Form for session available on the ICA website at www.ica.org

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ICA/SPP Corfu 2 November 2007



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