0 Name of Section
Section of Professional Associations

1. Administration

1.1 Membership changes
The Section has 72 current financial members. Five new members have joined the Section since the Edinburgh Annual General Meeting:

- Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists
- ALDEE – Artxibategi, Liburutegi Eta Dokumentazio Zentroetako
- Archivistes Sans Frontiere – Section France (France)
- Korean Association of Records Managers and Archivists
- Hong Kong Archives Society

1.2 Steering Committee meetings
The SPA Steering Committee has met twice during the reporting period: first in Edinburgh during the 2nd SPA World Conference in September 2011, then in Weimar for its annual planning meeting held from 26 to 28 March. The Weimar meeting was hosted by Dr Bernhard Post, the Director of the Thuringia Central Archives and the German archives association, Verband deutscher Archivarinnen und Archivare.

1.4 Elections for 2012-2016 SPA Steering Committee
The following nominations were received for the 2012-2016 SPA Steering Committee and their election will be formally ratified at the SPA Annual General Meeting in Brisbane on 22 August 2012.

[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
2. Programme

2.1 Seminars and conferences

Conference on Archival Ethics in Business
Following a visit to the exhibition “The Engineers of the ‘Final Solution’ Topf & sons – Builders of the Auschwitz Ovens” by the SPA Steering Committee during the Weimar Planning meeting held in March 2012, a commitment was made to arrange a world business archives conference in Erfurt on the topic Archival Ethics in Business, working with the Section of Business and Labour.
► Meets ICA Strategic Objectives 1, 3 and 4.

2.2 Publications and Communications

SPA Newsletter
During 2011/2012 SPA produced two regular Newsletters (in December 2011 and June 2012) edited by Claude Roberto, the Committee representative from the Association des Archivistes du Québec. The Newsletter is published in three languages – English, French and Spanish and is an important means of communication with members. Content includes updates on new SPA guidelines, details about forthcoming events and a section dedicated to publicising information on the activities of member associations.
► Meets ICA Strategic Objective 4

SPA Section on the ICA website
SPA regularly updates information on the Section pages on the ICA website providing members with ready access to guidelines and information about SPA projects as well as governance documents.
► Meets ICA Strategic Objective 4 and 5.

2.3 Projects/completed /underway

Universal Declaration on Archives
SPA was very pleased when the UDA was endorsed by the 36th Session of UNESCO in November 2011. The Committee plans to reprint the UDA poster, produced for the Malta AGM, to include the UNESCO logo for distribution at the Brisbane Congress.
The Steering Committee is committed to supporting the ICA Paris office in establishing an online register for supporters of the Declaration to sign. A workshop will be conducted at the Brisbane Congress on “Promoting the UDA”.

 ► Meets ICA Strategic Objectives 1, 4 and 6.

Principles on the Role of Archivists
A join project between SPA and the Working Group on Human Rights was commenced this year to produce a document on the Principles on the Role of Archivists.

 ► Meets ICA Strategic Objectives 1 and 4.

New guidelines
A new guideline was produced on establishing an association’s awards program. Work has progressed this year on developing a guideline to assist associations develop a newsletter.

 ► Meets ICA Strategic Objectives 1 and 4.

List of Professional Associations throughout the world
A list of professional associations throughout the world, comprising of both Category B members and non members, has been developed. This list will be updated annually and used to invite associations to join the Section.

 ► Meets ICA Strategic Objectives 1 and 4

3. Use of budget allocation
The section budget was mainly used for printing an updated version of the UDA poster displaying the UNESCO logo.

4. PCOM funding
No PCOM funding was applied for this year.

5. Planned initiatives which did not take place
All planned activities were either completed or continued to be worked on.

6. Overall assessment of activities during 2011
2011 has been a productive year for SPA in supporting the activities of member associations. A new guideline was completed and another should be finished by the Brisbane Congress. A joint project was started with the Working Group on Human Rights to produce a document setting out the Principles on the Role of Archivists. Work continues to support the promotion of the Universal Declaration on Archives among associations and the general public. In an effort to increase the membership and influence of the Section a comprehensive list of professional associations across the world has been developed.

7. Future plans
The 2012-2016 SPA business plan was the subject of a detailed discussion at the 2012 Steering Committee meeting. It was suggested that promotion and advocacy be the key theme for the next four years with campaigns built around the questions
Why do archives matter? and What does an archivist do for you? In addition further guidelines were identified including one on business and strategic planning for associations and guidelines on establishing long and lasting relationship between a national archives and an association. Another proposal to be considered in future planning is a proposal to develop a program to link associations from countries listed on the World Bank high income group with associations from poor regions to provide support, including paying dues, with the idea of encouraging them at the end of that period to maintain their ICA membership.