ICA’s Programme Commission (PCOM), responsible for directing and co-ordinating the professional programme, is increasingly at the heart of everything that ICA does. The more organizations and individuals become involved in ICA - either seeking support and information or contributing ideas and expertise - the more it becomes apparent that ICA is about professional solidarity, sharing and development. It follows therefore that, in these times of economic austerity, ICA needs to be more strategic in managing the programme and its limited financial resources to meet member needs and to shape its professional toolbox into a broad range of utensils that can be used to measure or assess, share experience, inform, train and educate, investigate and research across the archives and records management field.

At the Spring meeting, PCOM members defined its short to medium term priorities as:

1. Establishing the full range of expert groups necessary to provide advice and develop publications, standards and tools across the whole range of the professional domain.
2. Setting up a project register which will provide details of on-going projects as well as completed projects and link to the outcomes and products of those projects.
3. Taking the lead in renewing the ICA website, to make it the first port of call for members and the wider archives and records management community for professional resources and information.
4. Initiation of the ICA Africa Strategy which will be the result of consultation with African colleagues, led by their needs and informed by their own knowledge and expertise, with the overall aim of making a lasting positive contribution to archives and records management, from physical preservation issues through the range of professional competency to matters of good governance and human rights recordkeeping.

Looking back at this mid-point in the current PCOM term, a great deal has been accomplished but it is in the nature of foundation-laying and may not seem much to look at. It has also involved a change in direction for PCOM which is moving from being a grant-making body to becoming a strategic think tank to develop plans, tools and ways of working to nourish and bind all ICA’s programme activities. However there continue to be some good projects that PCOM has funded, such as the MAST project to create an app to provide records management resources in places where internet access for desktop computers is unreliable or unobtainable. This project feeds neatly into the Africa Strategy, meeting a requirement but also requiring colleagues to test the beta version. The recent call for projects resulted in a dozen applications worth consideration, although it is clear that potential applicants are still processing the requirements to work with other parts of the network and demonstrate wide application of their project deliverables. (Continued on page 2)
As we look forward towards the end of the cycle in Seoul in 2016, PCOM is aiming to set up a New Professionals programme which will help recent incomers to the archives and records management field access events and tools that PCOM develops and promotes. Perhaps more importantly it aims to support them in establishing their own international networks and encourage them to appreciate the challenge and rewards of working internationally. In time these new professionals should become the leaders of ICA bodies themselves.

PCOM has two more Annual Conferences to shepherd through to successful conclusions before 2016 and its main role there is programme development and ensuring that the project work, and the work of the branches, sections and expert groups both feed into and reflect the conference themes.

The professional programme truly has something for everyone, so please engage with it: suggest a project, work with a section or volunteer for an expert group, propose a paper for one of the conferences, apply for a new professional bursary, come to the annual conference. Even if you feel there is nothing there for you, engage with it by letting us know what it lacks - but please read this edition of Flash carefully first!
Programme Commission
Interrelationships

Regional Branches
- Asociación Latinoamericana de Archivos (ALA)
- Arab (ARBICA)
- Caribbean (CARBICA)
- Central Africa (CENARBICA)
- East Asian (EASTICA)
- Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARBICA)
- Eurasia (EURASICA)
- European (EURBICA)
- North American Archival Network (NAANICA)
- Pacific (PARBICA)
- South East Asia (SARBICA)
- South and West Asian (SWARBICA)
- West African (WARBICA)

Programme Commission
- Vice-President Programme
- Regular Members, representatives from:
  - Australia
  - United States
  - UK
  - Brazil
  - Spain
  - China
  - Costa Rica
  - Côte d’Ivoire
  - France
  - Italy
  - the Netherlands
  - Russia
- Corresponding members:
  - UK
  - Uruguay
- Ex-officio with voting rights:
  - VP Finance
  - President of SPA
  - President of FAN
  - Chair of FIDA
  - Branch Chairs representative
  - Section Chairs representative
- Ex-officio without voting rights:
  - Secretary General
  - Deputy Secretary Generals
  - Minuting Secretary

Publications
- Comma
- Flash
- E-newsletter

Sections
- Archival Education and Training
- Notarial Archives
- Architectural Records
- Business and Labour Archives
- International Organisations
- Archives of Faith Traditions
- Archives of Literature and Art
- Local, Municipal and Territorial Archives
- Professional Associations
- Sports Archives
- Parliaments and Political Parties
- University and Research Institution Archives

Expert/Working Groups
- The Expert Group on Archival Description
- The Human Rights Working Group
- Photographic and Audiovisual Archives Working Group
- Working Group for Intellectual Property
- Digital Records Expert Group
- Expert Group on Archive Buildings and Environments
- Expert Group on International Support in Emergencies
- Records management Expert group
- Advocacy Expert Group
- Appraisal Expert Group
- International Theft of Archives
- Expert group on Legal Issues Pertaining to Archives and Records Management

Partnerships
- Unesco
- Blue Shield International
- International Records Management Trust (IRMT)
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOM)
- Co-ordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA)
- Association Internationale des Archives Francophones (AIAF)

FIDA
- President
- Board
News from the Programme Commission

Much has been happening in the Programme Commission and the best way to start describing this is with PCOM’s goals, as discussed and agreed at the Spring meeting in Paris.

These are:
- Delivery of the annual conference and quadrennial congress programme
- Co-ordination of programme-related activities of all parts of the ICA network
- Oversight of the Expert Groups and Working Parties
- Involvement of branches in delivery of the programme
- Liaison with Sections over their programme-related activity
- Publication and dissemination of information about the professional programme and its results

The Annual Conference and (four yearly) Congress is the culmination and highlight of ICA’s year. It is the chance for the governing bodies to hold business meetings and, more importantly, the space ICA has to discuss the most important professional issues. Particularly as ICA moves towards a self-financing model for the annual conferences, the content matter of the conferences becomes more significant - it has to be relevant as well as practical and useful. It should go without saying that ICA, as the international body for archival organizations and individuals is in a unique position to put together conference programmes which deliver expertise and open discussion at the highest professional level. At the same time of course there is the opportunity for members to network and meet in person.

Last year’s conference in Brussels, with a programme focussed on records management issues, attracted over 500 participants. This year’s conference is focusing on the relationship of archives and
archivists with the cultural and creative sectors and registration has already
got off to a good start. The Programme Commission takes an active interest in
the selection of the programme themes, as well as development of the programme.
The records management theme of 2013 reflected one of PCOM’s three programme
strands, Good Governance. 2014’s theme reflects the interests of the conference’s
local and regional archives constituency and was enthusiastically ratified
by PCOM. 2015’s programme theme is as yet undecided but PCOM members
have already been debating which key professional issue should be its focus
via email and the PCOM workspace. The 2016 International Council on Archives
Congress has the title “Archives, Harmony and Friendship” proposed by
the host and PCOM has been identifying the major themes this suggests. In all of
these conferences PCOM plays a major role in programme development. The
VP Programme, Henri Zuber, is Chair or co-Chair and PCOM members make
up a considerable percentage of the Programme Committee membership.
They contribute to the development of the themes and the call for papers and
they review the submissions to evaluate them relative to one-another in order
to select the speakers. The Deputy Secretary General Programme leads on
ensuring that PCOM items such as project outcomes are included in the
final programme to give participants (ICA members) the opportunity to learn
more about PCOM’s work and what ICA’s professional programme has to offer.

PCOM has a co-ordinating role with respect to the programme-related activ-
ities of ICA. This is challenging, given the spread of ICA’s network geographically,
culturally and in terms of competencies or specializations. The key to this coordi-
nation is effective communication and reporting and PCOM is beginning to set
up the mechanisms to do this effectively, including looking at ways of forward
planning the budget for all professional programme activity. It is not just about
money though; PCOM also looks to ensure that initiatives from one branch or section
are linked to similar initiatives and/or expertise from the working and expert
groups. PCOM has identified areas of expertise that ICA needs to develop and
new expert groups are slowly being set up.

The ICA Branches, where they function well, work on professional programme
issues, such as regular conferences or projects to benchmark or develop local
publications or products. The Sections are even more concerned with profes-
sional expertise and networking. PCOM’s goal is to support Section and Branch
programme-related activity with advice, expertise and by making connections
with other parts of the ICA network that are interested in the same issues. In the
future PCOM will be responsible not only for such moral support but also for all of
the budget ICA spends on professional activity. Thus the necessarily limited
funding that ICA has available to develop projects, tools and content which takes
shape as publications, guidance, conferences, seminars, standards or training
material, to give a few examples, can be most effectively directed. It can be used
strategically to build on the volunteer resource which is one of the greatest
strengths of ICA and to focus on the
overall programme priorities of digital
recordkeeping, preservation and good
governance.

The one thing most ICA members will
associate with PCOM in recent years is
the project funding awarded according to
a set of criteria designed to ensure that
the network creates and nurtures profes-
sional content by and for the membership.
PCOM is now aiming to effect a change
in the kind of projects that are awarded
funding. This is partly related to the way
the projects are conceived: they should
come more from the ICA entities, the
Branches, Sections, Working and Expert
Groups, in response to evident needs of
the membership or to gaps identified by
the entity or by PCOM. It also relates to
the nature of the project, so that PCOM
can support projects that are more likely
to have a beneficial impact on archives
and records management around the
globe. The corollary of this is that it
forces entities, as well as members from
different sections or countries to work
together - and this can only improve
the quality of the product. So, for example,
instead of funding translation projects
to render a PCOM-funded outcome into
another language, the initial project
should contain team members from
different cultures and languages and
include a strategy to get the resulting
material translated into at least one other
language.

It goes without saying that PCOM needs
to work closely with the FIDA Board.
FIDA projects often make use of PCOM
products, but more importantly the appli-
cants for FIDA and PCOM money do not
always understand the purpose of each
funding stream. This year the FIDA and
PCOM calls for proposals were purposely
synchronised to enable “swapping “ of
inappropriately directed applications. It
is also a PCOM responsibility to work
with ICA partners as and when the oppor-
tunity arises. An example of this is the
recent project to develop pilot modules
for the digital recordkeeping curriculum.
Another (aspirational) example would be
to identify PCOM priorities that could be
met by working with ICA’s partners on a
specific project.

So, in summary, PCOM has been making
step-changes to the way it works to ensure
that the professional programme remains
focused on identified and agreed goals
and priorities at the same time as being
consistent, sustainable and coherent.
No mean task, but as one of the PCOM
members put it recently, PCOM does
carry the hopes and ambitions of ICA’s
professional content delivery.

Margaret Crockett
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ICA appointed the Expert Group on Archival Description (EGAD) in late 2012, and charged it with developing a conceptual model for archival description that will reconcile and integrate the four existing ICA descriptive standards. This work will have as its core objective developing a conceptual model that reflects an international professional consensus and that positions the archival community to take full advantage of opportunities presented by current and emerging communication technologies, including the opportunities to work co-operatively within and beyond the archival community.

Chaired by Daniel Pitti (Institute for Advanced Technologies, University of Charlottesville, USA), EGAD consists of experts on archival description and descriptive standards. The members have been chosen from the international archival community based on their demonstrated expertise in archival description.

We have also posted on the ICA website a detailed presentation of our project, including resources that may be of interest and relevant (see: www.ica.org/13851/egad-resources/egad-resources.html), but this should be considered as a dynamic and evolving document. We intend to add to the list as helpful resources come to our attention. In addition, Daniel Pitti, Vitor da Fonseca, Gretchen Gueguen, and Claire Sibille co-authored an article in English entitled “Towards an International Conceptual Model for Archival Description” which has been translated into Portuguese, Spanish, French and Arabic. The English version appeared in The American Archivist (Vol. 76, No. 2 Fall/Winter 2013, 566–583), and it is also available on the ICA EGAD Web site.

Meetings and working methods
ICA PCOM is providing modest funding for organizing face-to-face meetings of the Experts Group. The first meeting was held immediately before the first annual conference of ICA in Brussels, November 19-21, 2013. At that meeting, the Experts Group discussed the foundational principles of archival description: provenance, respects des fonds, and respect for original order. It was clear from the discussion that, while archivists generally agree on the principles, cultural and linguistic differences present a challenge to developing a consensus on the definitions. The Experts Group decided instead on reaffirming the foundational principles by agreeing that what distinguishes archival description is describing Records in Context, and that such description is guided necessarily by the foundational principles.

At the Brussels meeting, it was also decided that the Experts Group would produce two products. The first product will be a high-level ontology that will situate archival description within the broader landscape of cultural heritage description and also provide the formal means to inter-related archival description with allied cultural heritage description. The second product will be the archival Conceptual Model, the model that addresses how archival materials should be described. The first product will be expressed formally in the W3C standard Web Ontology Language (OWL), while the second will be a document that incorporates definitions and textual descriptions of the structure and core components of archival description, as well as diagrams to assist in understanding. A key challenge will be to provide an accessible means of relating the four existing ICA standards to the Conceptual Model to enable to the community to make the transition to a reformulation of archival description standards.

At the meeting, four teams were formed: Principles and Terminology; Ontology; Conceptual Model; and Secretariat, and the four teams have continued the work via a listserv and teleconferencing. The next face-to-face meeting will be held in Girona, Spain, in October 2014, immediately following the annual conference. A preliminary report from the Experts Group will be presented at the conference.
The Digital Records Expert Group is just getting started. The first in-person meeting will be held at ICA’s Annual Conference in Girona for members who are able to attend. The membership of the group includes experts who are currently affiliated with organizations that are currently located in Argentina, China, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Korea, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The full list of members will be shared as soon as the information about the members is finalized.

During the Annual Conference in October, members of the Digital Records Expert Group will be participating in a discussion of the development and potential for using the two modules developed by ICA and International Records Management Trust (IRMT) for UNESCO for the Digital Preservation in Lower Resource Environments: A Core Curriculum. The two modules are entitled: “Understanding Digital Records Preservation Initiatives” and “Managing Metadata to Protect the Integrity of Digital Records.” One or more members of the Digital Records Expert Group will also present a two-hour workshop using the digital records preservation initiatives module. James Lowry of IRMT will be a co-presenter for both the panel and the workshop.

Identifying the members was the first priority for the Digital Records Expert Group. The next priority is to develop and share the terms of reference for the group and that process is in progress. Finalizing the terms of reference will be one specific outcome of the first in-person meeting of the group in September. Each of the members will have an opportunity to contribute to the definition of the scope and purpose of the group before the terms are finalized and the results will be shared with the ICA membership. As the expert group develops, the scope will evolve and any changes will be shared.

Several topics are already known to be in scope for the group. These include developing recommendations and continuing to investigate options for training and educational materials for digital records; actively participating in the development and review of relevant standards and practice; and responding to questions and concerns from ICA members. The Digital Records Expert Group (DREG) will be co-ordinating with other expert groups in ICA on areas of common interest, including metadata, requirements, legal issues, and related issues.

DREG is just getting started and looks forward to responding to the thoughtful questions and suggestions that ICA members will have in addressing digital records issues.

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“Let there be more light”: the ICA-PAAG short Guide series

This is not a new revival of the Pink Floyd popular song but a new resource for archivists around the world who have responsibilities in the audiovisual field. The ICA-PAAG short Guide series project aims to create guides for archival use in order to offer a general approach to different subjects concerning photographic and audiovisual materials. This melody sounds nice, but let us start at the beginning to better understand why ICA is publishing these guides.

It is a fact that words and images are not produced in separate contexts. In each period of our history, texts, graphics, photographic and audiovisual records are produced, sometimes by the same authors. As a consequence, it is evident that archives hold this whole variety of record types simultaneously, in multiple formats and at many different levels of organization, preservation and access. Fully aware of this reality, ICA decided to create a Working Group with the mission to establish the general guidelines for undertaking actions on photographic and audiovisual collections, offer work-tools to archivists for carrying out their duties, promote activities and educational resources, and create a virtual space for inter-professional communication and the diffusion of resources.

With nine specialist archivists in the field of photography and audiovisuals, the Photographic and Audiovisual Archives Working Group (PAAG) started its activity in 2010, the same year that a specific site in the ICA website was created: www.ica.org/5074/about-photographic-and-audiovisual-archives-group/about-photographic-and-audiovisual-archives-working-group.html

For four years we have been working on the creation of new resources for the website. We created a download page for some publications and papers that are of interest for archivists managing photograph and film collections. These are materials that can rarely be found elsewhere. We also made a selection of basic bibliography and website links and we created a chronology of photographic and audiovisual media. This is a double product: first, a poster where you can view simultaneously the chronology of the most remarkable events in the evolution of photography, film, television and video, and sound; second, an electronic resource available through the website with the information contained on the poster, expanded with more text and images (it also includes amateur film chronology). There are versions in four languages of both poster and website: English, French, Catalan and Spanish. The chronology was distributed on the occasion of the World Day for Human Rights Working Group

Have you thought what you might do if a colleague’s appraisal of records does not consider the possible use of the records for protecting human rights –and may lead to their destruction? Have you encountered records that maybe do not have “smoking gun” information but do have –metaphorically– spent bullets and wondered whether you should tell anyone? Are you concerned about outside organizations coming into your country, digitizing records and taking away the digital copies to be used without controls over access? Well, so have members of the ICA’s Human Rights Working Group.

The Working Group currently has two new projects. One is the draft document, “Basic Principles on the Role of Archivists in Support of Human Rights,” which is now available for comment on the ICA website. The Working Group thinks of this as a “responsibility statement,” outlining the human rights issues and concerns that an individual archivist might encounter during the course of his or her career. The idea behind the statement came from the “Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers” that the United Nations developed 25 years ago. With the encouragement of the ICA Section of Professional Associations (SPA), the Working Group (Giulia Barrera of Italy, Sigrid McCausland of Australia and Trudy Huskamp Peterson of the United States) produced the draft, which was translated into French by Perrine Canavaggio. After review by SPA, the ICA
Executive Board agreed to its release for public comment. An open session on the draft will be held at the Annual Meeting in Girona. A second document is still under development. This is a template for an international licensing agreement to, in the words of the draft, “promote fairness in international copying projects and balance the right to control cultural heritage with the right to know.” The complicated question of making copies in one country and taking them to another for use, encompassing both archival and legal issues, will be discussed at the Working Group meeting in Girona. Michael Hoyle of New Zealand and Graham Dominy of South Africa are developing this document.

Two continuing activities are the monthly newsletter, Human Rights Working Group News, and monitoring critical events and human rights statements, particularly by United Nations bodies, and alerting ICA leaders to the need to take a stand. These require daily attention to the news of the world, including reading as many news sources as possible.

Producing the News reflects the belief of the Working Group that exposing issues is an important element in promoting and protecting human rights. Members of the Working Group forward suggestions for inclusion in the News to the Chair, who compiles the information. Each issue of the News begins with a brief essay. For the first three years each issue’s essay featured an Article from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; when all those were completed, the essays featured each of the elements of the ICA’s Principles of Access to Archives (adopted at the ICA annual meeting in 2012). Since July 2013 each issue has an essay on a topic in the news that month. The News is translated into French by Cristina Bianchi and into Spanish by Roman Lescano, a substantial labor for them both.

The Working Group will meet at the Girona annual conference, scheduled for 9 am on Sunday, October 12. This is an open meeting, and anyone interested is encouraged to join us. By the time of the 2016 Congress in Seoul, the Working Group hopes to have completed both the “responsibility statement” and the copying agreement template. That will be the time to adopt a new four year work program: plan to add your voice to the discussion and the choice of focus!

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Audiovisual Heritage on 27 October 2011: www.girona.cat/web/sgdap/cat/CRDI_Cronologies/angles

Nevertheless the main activity of the Group is focused on the different projects we have been working on since 2010: the Survival Kit, the Case Studies and the Guide Series www.ica.org/6896/activities-and-projects. The Survival Kit has been the pilot project that, in accordance with the mission and goals set out, has directed the work of the PAAG. It aimed to provide basic resources for all those archivists who face the challenge of dealing with and organizing photographic and audiovisual material. So when faced with the question “What do I need to know to perform an appropriate archival operation on photographic or audiovisual records?” archivists will be able to find a series of resources that will greatly facilitate their work.

The second project was the Case Studies. The aim was to provide real examples from specialized centres in photography and audiovisials that could be useful for the archival community. So, to the question “What are other people’s experiences in describing, conserving or digitizing specific material with particular issues?” archivists might find an answer in those case studies.

Last but not least, what we reported first: the ICA-PAAG short Guide series project, funded under the PCOM programme. Up to now, 3 guides have already been published on our website. They have been translated into four languages: Catalan, Spanish, English and French. The guides are: guide 1, Digital Image Archive, by David Iglésias; Guide 2, Digital Image Archive, by Pau Saavedra; Guide 3, Management of Photographic Repositories, by Josep Pérez.

We need more involvement from our colleagues in order to provide our website with more content, to increase the existing number of proposals and to develop new projects for professional archivists. Our last goal is to create a professional network with people from the photographic and audiovisual field. People are willing to share their knowledge, doubts and experiences with archivists around the world, but, first of all, archivists need to believe in this group and in these projects. As the lyrics say: “Now, now, now is the time, time / Time to be, be, be aware”.

The ICA-PAAG Concise Guide Series
What is the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights?

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is the United Nations body responsible for international treaties and conventions on intellectual property, including copyright. Its Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) advises WIPO’s General Assembly on copyright issues, commissions research and prepares draft new international instruments.

The SCCR is attended by representatives of the 187 member states of WIPO and by representatives of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) interested in the issues being considered by the Committee. NGOs may speak if invited to do so by the chair.

Once the SCCR has agreed a text for a proposed treaty it recommends to the General Assembly that it call a diplomatic conference. At other times it recommends other forms of action, such as the establishment of programmes to assist member states to improve their protection of intellectual property rights.

Copyright exceptions and limitations

Intellectual property rights are created by the legislature of each country in accordance with the minimum requirements set out in international treaties, notably the Berne Convention. The owners of copyright are given the exclusive right to authorise things like copying, publication and translation of the copyright work. These rights endure for the limited term granted to the rights owner by national law.

In return for the grant of exclusive rights, society expects some benefit for its citizens. This benefit is provided by exceptions and limitations to the exclusive rights, permitting citizens to use copyright works for such things as research, education and cultural enrichment. The Berne Convention has little to say about exceptions and limitations, however, and national laws have effect only in the home country; they cannot authorise cross-border transactions.

In 2007 the SCCR commissioned reports on the nature of limitations and exceptions.
in the copyright laws of member states. One on libraries and archives was compiled by Professor Kenneth Crews of Columbia University, USA and presented to the Committee in November 2008. Since 2008, the SCCR has agreed a programme of work on three areas of limitations and exceptions: visual impairment, libraries and archives, and education and research institutions and persons with other disabilities. In 2013, WIPO concluded the Marrakesh Treaty on exceptions and limitations in favour of the visually impaired.

Exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives

Progress towards the Marrakesh Treaty was painfully slow, but there was a clear ethical reason for it. In the face of determined opposition from rights holder NGOs and the developed countries, it is proving harder to make progress towards a treaty in favour of libraries and archives. The ICA has gained greatly from the work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Indeed, without IFLA it is unlikely that any progress towards a treaty would have been made at all. At recent meetings of the SCCR there have been library NGO representatives from Europe, North and South America and Australia and archivists from England (representing the ICA), Scotland and the United States of America. The work of this group is coordinated by IFLA. We have meetings with member states and make interventions during plenary sessions of the Committee, and IFLA has organised informal presentations on the importance of access to cultural heritage materials in libraries and archives and the obstacles created for them by copyright, attended by representatives of member states and NGOs.

IFLA’s own text has been used by some member states to prepare draft articles for a treaty and the USA has tabled a document containing objectives and principles that in its view should be used in the drafting of national legislation. These have been assembled into a ‘working document’ (1). At the 27th meeting of the SCCR, there was lengthy discussion of this document, but the meeting ended in failure, with no conclusions, because the developed member states, led by the EU, are firmly opposed to work towards a legally-binding instrument. They would prefer instead merely to encourage individual member states to develop their own national laws on exceptions and limitations, even though the EU has recognised the need for more cross-border copyright legislation within its own area. Developing countries, on the other hand, have repeatedly said that they regard a treaty as essential. In response to the developed countries’ intransigence on exceptions and limitations, the developing states refuse to accept any conclusion on a broadcasting treaty, which is the priority of the developed countries. In an attempt to avoid further stalemate, SCCR 28 considered only the objectives and principles, which are expressly not intended to form the basis of a treaty. The result, however, was the same: the Committee reached no conclusions on either broadcasting or exceptions and limitations and so agreed no recommendations to the General Assembly.

Conclusions

The library and archive community attending SCCR has always been at pains to make clear that there is no commercial element to the activities that they wish to see provided for in a treaty. Indeed, in accordance with the Berne Convention’s ‘three-step test’ (2), an exception or limitation should not compete with the rights owner or damage his commercial interests. Countries that are not well developed recognise that without an international agreement, cross-border transmission of copies is impossible, and that in a digital age the inability to make material available to users electronically, anywhere in the world, is a major handicap for libraries and archives. The developed states decline to accept this, and insist that nothing more is required than national legislation and inter-governmental cooperation. Because of this polarisation of views, the Committee has failed to make any recommendations to the General Assembly and so has failed to fulfill its mandate. The General Assembly will have to decide in September what to do.

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(1) www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=275423

(2) ‘in certain special cases, provided that such reproduction does not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work and does not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author.’ Berne article 9(3).
What do you see as currently the greatest challenges to archives and the archives profession?
Our biggest challenge is also our greatest opportunity - it all comes down to ‘digital’. Thanks to digital technology we are living in an age of “information abundance”. With the movement of government, business and social activity into the digital arena it means we are now interacting with a proliferation of photos, documents and audio-visual records being held in various email systems, portable devices and databases. And the information is everywhere - in government hands, within institutions and with commercial cloud based service providers.

These are wonderful innovations and present many exciting opportunities, but it also requires the archivist of the digital age to find new ways of working. We must rethink approaches for the appraisal of this information for its value and its enormous potential for reuse. We must deal with technological obsolescence and ensure that we can preserve that information and make it accessible into the long term, keeping the records ready for a future world that we can barely imagine. The real question for me is how do we uphold the values and principles of archives in this very fast changing social and business context powered by the technical revolution?

How do you think that ICA might help to meet them?
ICA has the opportunity to be a highly influential and powerful motivator for change. Through our network of branches, sections and expert groups we can work together to develop strategies and policies that will take us forward and through our solidarity we can provide assistance to those archives that are less resourced and perhaps less capable of accommodating the changes ahead. It is also important for the ICA to reach out and form partnerships with other likeminded organisations and relevant sectors in industry, for example the ICT industry and governments, to ensure
that archival requirements are being incorporated into legislation, government policy and information technology products.

How would you describe your role as President of ICA?
ICA is a rich and diverse organisation comprising approximately 1400 members in 199 countries and territories; a wealth of knowledge, talent and experience. I see my role as President is to harness that extraordinary resource for the achievement of well-defined strategic goals that will benefit all of our members and the community at large.

In my role as President I also take seriously reaching outside the archival community to form partnerships and build bridges that will enhance our influence and enable us to contribute more for improved administrative governance and a richer cultural heritage for all peoples and all nations.

What is your vision for ICA over the next four years?
My predecessor, Martin Berendse has, with the support of his executive board, contributed a great deal and is leaving the ICA in a strong and healthy state. I see my tenure as president as building upon these strong foundations.

Over the next four years I would like to strengthen the branches, because it is through our network of branches that our members gain professional intelligence, build professional networks and contribute to the continued development and growth of the ICA community. I also want to energise FAN to develop strategic responses to the most pressing issues confronting archives and to exploit the combined strengths of National Archivists in the areas of global advocacy and productive partnerships.

I would like to continue the good work that has been done in building the ICA “brand” as an emblem of excellence, and leverage that brand to generate revenue through ethical and properly governed commercial partnerships.

Ultimately, I want to see ICA continue to uphold the highest standards of good governance that reflects the values and ethics of our profession; ensures the resources of the ICA are effectively applied for the benefit of our members; and over time enhances the value of the ICA brand.

What do you think are the particular strengths of ICA?
That is easy, the people ICA has a unique and impressive community of members. The combined strength of its membership gives the ICA an intellectual capital that I think is unmatched by any other entity. If we can exercise our network of membership and if we can engage the participation of each of our members then there is no problem that cannot be solved and no solution that could not be implemented. This is why it is so important for us to ensure that every branch is fully active and engaged and that across the community we are reaching out to one another to make sure that we are sharing our intellectual resources to build our capacity and to elevate the profile of archives and record keeping across the world.

What improvements would you like to see?
We need to exploit technology more effectively and we can continue to improve our use of internet enabled technology to connect and to share ideas and resources. Of course, I fully appreciate that the availability of internet technology is not equal in all parts of the world. We must be creative, innovative and flexible at finding solutions to ensure that the so-called ‘digital divide’ does not alienate any of our members.

As I mentioned earlier, I believe partnerships are going to be very important to the successful achievement of our goals. Effective partnerships have a multiplying effect; through the sharing of knowledge and resources they can increase the capacity and capabilities of the ICA and, looking outwards, they also extend the influence and credibility of the ICA and the values that we stand for.

What does Australia in particular and the Pacific Region in general have to bring to the international archives and records agenda?
Australians are early adopters in the fields of technology and information policy. At state and federal level we have always engaged early with important information policy issues, such as freedom of information, privacy and access to archival records.

Australia is a trading nation and we know that success only comes with international collaboration. We are proud of the cultural heritage of our indigenous peoples and we also celebrate the multicultural society that has developed through our history of immigration. This history gives us access to a wide range of languages, cultural sensitivities and an international outlook. The diversity of influences in Australia creates a cultural environment that is innovative, energised and outward looking, and I feel this is a real asset that we bring to the international archival community.

In speaking about the Pacific Region more generally, PARBICA is a very active branch of the ICA and a great example for how the branches can support and empower all members within the region. Their development of the Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit has been instrumental in assisting archivists and records managers in low-resource environments to improve the state of recordkeeping within their administrations.

What do you think your previous experience with the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation will bring to your role as President of ICA?
Working in the intelligence community taught me a lot about the relationship between information and power. Whether it’s national security, public health or running a business – any endeavour is going to maximise its chances of success if it can access the information it needs, when it needs it and in the format required.

Information empowers individuals, businesses and nations, just as surely as misinformation will disempower them. I would like to see ICA become an essential part of international discussion and debate around records and information policy – we have a great deal to contribute in important and contemporary issues such as privacy, data protection, big data, open government and information ethics. With our depth of knowledge and our breadth of experience we have a great deal to offer, and indeed we have an obligation to speak up.

My career path has been diverse, working in senior management positions within the government sector, corporate sector and running my own company. As varied as it may seem, the thread that connects each chapter of my curriculum vitae is my commitment to records and information management and its potential to improve every aspect of our society. This commitment has led me to recognise the importance of the ICA - and it is this enduring commitment that I will bring to the position of President.
Vice-Presidents for Finance and the Programme re-elected

Andreas Kellerhals, whose mandate as Vice-President Finance has just been renewed for a further four years, has been the Director of the Swiss Federal Archives in Bern since 2004. He has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the worlds of archives and academia and was elected to his first term of office as ICA Vice-President Finance in Oslo in September 2010.

Andreas Kellerhals studied modern history, history of architecture and constitutional law at the University of Bern and graduated with a licentiate in 1985. Upon graduation he continued to work at the University of Bern Historical Institute for six years as a scientific assistant. Between 1991 and 1995 he was Assistant to the Directorate of the Swiss Federal Archives, before becoming Deputy Director in 1995, a role he held jointly for five years.

Andreas has held a number of important international portfolios. For ICA, besides the role of ICA Vice-President Finance, he was a member of the Programme Commission 2004-10 and leader of the priority area ‘Advocacy and Promotion’, 2004-2008, and a member of the European Regional Branch Bureau (EURBICA). In addition, Andreas was chairman of the organizing committee of the 8th European Conference on Digital Archiving (ECA 2010), a member of the Association for the promotion of Archives Studies (VFA) and a member of the Directors’ Committee of PIAF (Portail international archivistique francophone) 2004-2009.

In the academic field he has project managed two National Research Projects, ‘Analytical Database on Swiss Foreign Policy’ as part of nRP 42 (Swiss Foreign Policy) and ‘South Africa Mirrored in the Political Reporting of the Swiss Embassy in South Africa 1952-1990’ as part of nRP 42+ (Swiss-South African Relations).

Henri Zuber has been elected as Vice-President Programme for a second four-year term. A graduate of the Ecole des Chartes, Henri’s association with ICA dates back to his early career and he took an active role in organizing the 1988 Congress held in Paris while serving as a conservateur in the Direction des Archives de France. He has been active in the Association of French Archives (AAF) for over 30 years, and it was through this involvement that he became more fully associated with ICA, when he came to represent AAF on the steering committee of the Section for Professional Associations (SPA) in 2001.

Henri Zuber became a conservateur in the Direction des Archives de France in 1984 before taking up a post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987. He then established the archives service at the Paris Transport Authority (RATP), which he headed from 1990 to 1997 and from 2000 to 2004. Between 1997 and 2000 he was responsible for the reading rooms at the National Archives in Paris (CARAN). More recently, Henri has worked as head of the archives at the Ministry of Justice (2004-2006), and for the past eight years he has been head of the Archives and Documentation Service at SNCF, the French state-owned railway company. In 2014 he left SNCF to take up a role in the Ministry of Defence where he will be part of the leadership team as assistant head of the archives service.

His most recent work with ICA has included becoming chair of SPA and Vice-President Associations, 2009-2012, and Vice-President Programme since 2012.
The Section of Local, Municipal and Territorial Archives (SLMT) decided at its board meeting in 2011, Shanghai, that it would be a good initiative to promote International Archives Day among its members by organising a joint activity. It took some time to find a formula, but in January 2014 it was decided that a special website should be developed and all members asked to contribute a picture to show the importance of their archive, accompanied by a short description.

The initial idea was to make it a competition and choose the most interesting picture, but this was soon abandoned, because every picture is in itself a unique image of the archive it represents. SLMT started by sending an invitation to all its own members and then extended this invitation by asking the Section of Professional Associations (SPA) to distribute the invitation to their individual members. Initially we had little reaction, but as International Archives Day grew nearer, contributions started to arrive from all over the world: from Patagonia to Mongolia, from Angola to Japan and from all countries in-between. And contributions continued to arrive some weeks after the event including 45 pictures from all over China, showing how International Archives Day was celebrated there.

The result of the SLMT initiative is a very nice overview of treasures that are housed in archives all over the world and an impression of the way International Archives Day is celebrated in very different ways around the world. In total we received 427 contributions. You can find the site at www.internationalarchivesday.org

The initial idea was that archives should send their contribution in their own language, to emphasize the international character of the site. This did not work out exactly: most archives that contributed sent their messages in French, English or Spanish. However, we did get e-mails in Hebrew, Japanese, Chinese and Portuguese. In some instances, this posed a problem, because the e-mail was not recognized by the firewall and was blocked, but a phone call to the IT department solved that. Another problem was the size of some images: our mailbox can receive up to 15 Mb, but some images were as big as 40 Mb, so we had to look for a work-around by asking for the image to be sent as a zip or by We Transfer. That is why next year we will ask for JPEG images only with a maximum height of 800 pixels. That way the image collection will stay manageable. For we are certainly keeping the site alive and when archives want to join they can still send their pictures to m.langelaar@rotterdam.nl

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Publications review

How do we understand the ordinary—the records of everyday life? Two books have recently been published by Duke University Press that address archives of this kind in interesting ways. These are not in any way guides or technical manuals; rather they are journeys into the nature of archival documentation. They raise challenging questions about our cherished material legacy—and are very much worth reading.


Kathryn Burns calls our attention to the work of the notary in Colonial Latin America. Colonial archives are full of documents. How were they formed? Who made them?—questions particularly important in multi-lingual societies of limited literacy. Enter the notary, the preparer of legal documents who listened and then transferred what he heard into an enduring textual record. Burns argues “that these men gave the colonial Latin American archive its shape, its characteristic form”. She emphasizes that “writing and power were inextricably joined in their hands: they had the power to put other people's words into official form”. They also then had the power to “shape our histories of the Latin American past”. She then goes on to explain the role of the notary and his image in colonial communities with emphasis in particular on the archives of Cuzco. She also examines several fascinating transactions between clients and notaries. Not surprising she finds corruption in the record. A gulf between “the way documents were supposed to be made and the ways that they were made in practice”. Her work is important as a way of understanding bureaucratic practice, but more importantly it underscores the complex nature of the archive as source. She argues that we need to understand the “rules and gambits that contoured the ways people made documents”. The archive itself then becomes an object of study.

Elizabeth Edwards provides a fascinating perspective on the accumulation of photographic images taken during the period 1885-1918 by amateurs under the auspices of specific documentation projects. As she notes, these visual surveys of architecture and of communities were a “way in which photography could be harnessed as a form of bureaucratic practice, but more importantly it underscores the complex nature of the archive as source. She argues that we need to understand the "rules and gambits that contoured the ways people made documents". The archive itself then becomes an object of study.

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ICA publications: launch of a new special series

Thanks to our partnership with Liverpool University Press, which has published our professional journal Comma since 2011, ICA has now been able to launch a new special publications series. The volumes in this series are intended to capture the considered reflections of members of ICA bodies at their conferences and seminars devoted to major topics of contemporary relevance. It has long been recognized that archival discourse cannot be reduced to the apparent simplicity of the Powerpoint presentations which have become almost obligatory at many professional conferences. Social media can play an enormous role in stimulating debates but the conclusions of these debates are often hard to discern. The basis for this series in traditional format is the belief that there is a continuing demand for critical analysis of the main challenges facing archivists today and for a far greater understanding of the changing role of the profession in its wider social and political context. The intention is to reach out beyond ICA’s core membership and the archival world, which are already well served by Comma, and to attract new audiences, which may not have previously considered in depth the archival dimension to their work and which may be completely unaware of the existence of our organization.

The first volume in this series, entitled Crisis, Credibility and Corporate History, is based on the proceedings of a conference organized by the Section on Business and Labour Archives (SBL) in Basel in April 2013. The contributions have been painstakingly edited for publication by Alex Bieri of the Roche Archives, which also hosted the conference. The volumes in this series will be available in hard copy to ICA members at a considerable discount – it will cost them only about one-third of the price on the open market. Comma and the newsletter Flash will of course continue to be available free of charge to all members. For further information about the SBL publication please follow the link – www.liverpooluniversity-press.co.uk.

Proposals for inclusion in this potentially valuable new series should in the first instance be addressed to me direct in my capacity as Director of Publications.

David A. Leitch
ICA Secretary General

Annual conference 2015 in Iceland

In April 2014 the ICA Executive Board, meeting in Paris, empowered the Elected Officers to determine the venue of the 2015 Annual Conference before the forthcoming Girona Conference. On 11 July the Elected Officers agreed, with considerable enthusiasm, to accept the bid from the national Archives of Iceland to host the Annual Conference in Reykjavik between 18 and 22 September 2015. Please put these dates in your diary now! The Elected Officers took into account the distinguished track record of the National Archives of Iceland in successfully hosting ICA events, most notably the CITRA in September 2001 and the Executive Board in March 2007. They were also impressed by the energy and initiative shown by Eiríkur Gudmundsson, the National Archivist, who has built up the local organization, enlisted the help of a highly experienced Professional Conference Organizer, and obtained high-level political support, all with amazing speed. There is clearly a strong infrastructure to support conferences in Reykjavik as well as good air transport links from Europe and North America. The country has a rich historical and archival tradition, and there will be an opportunity for participants to appreciate the country’s great scenic beauty.

More work has still to be done on the conference theme, and this will be the subject of a detailed discussion between the host country and the Programme Commission, which has also been developing its ideas on the matter, at Girona in October. Look out for a further announcement about this in the next issue of Flash!
Unesco partnership: latest developments

The Unesco Secretariat has been asked by Member States to prepare a Recommendation (which has the status of a 'soft' law) on the documentary heritage. In order to start this process, the Communication and Information (CI) Sector in Unesco convened a meeting comprising over thirty experts between 24 and 27 June in Warsaw, which was generously hosted by the Polish Government.

I represented ICA at this meeting, and I was very pleased to see that several prominent members of ICA had been invited as well, along with experts from libraries and museums. The Recommendation is intended to remind governments and citizens alike why adequately resourced preservation of, and widespread public access to, the documentary heritage is not an optional extra but a fundamental requirement for all countries and societies. Unesco officials have taken on board the many comments on an initial document which was presented at the experts meeting, and the next step is to circulate a vastly improved draft to governments and Unesco national committees for consultation. It is hoped that the Recommendation will be ready for final approval by Member States at the Unesco General Conference in November 2015.

While the preparation of this Recommendation may understandably appear to be a somewhat bureaucratic exercise, it is potentially a huge opportunity for ICA members throughout the world to raise the profile of archives, both with governments and the general public, within the framework of the very broad and sometimes elastic concept of the documentary heritage. In particular, many of the points that are well made in the Universal Declaration on Archives (2011) could be restated in the higher level Recommendation, and ICA’s Principles of Access to Archives (2012) are also very relevant. Given that archivists do not have a monopoly of the concept of documentary heritage and share it with other professions, we have to ensure that the Recommendation pays sufficient attention to the importance of records management, without which the identification of archives of enduring historical value is simply not possible. The central role of archives in providing access online and onsite to much of the documentary heritage also needs to be emphasized. More generally, governments should be strongly encouraged to adopt policies that promote public access in proactive and imaginative ways.

Unsurprisingly, the draft Recommendation makes many references to the Memory of the World, which remains Unesco’s major programme in this field. The Register Sub-Committee (RSC) is currently assessing about seventy applications for inscription in the International Register of the Memory of the World. Danièle Neirinck, who served with considerable distinction as ICA’s representative on the RSC for four years, has now been succeeded by Frédérique Bazzoni, at present head of archives and cultural heritage in the département of the Essonne but soon to take up a senior post in the archives of the French Ministry of Defence. Frédérique knows ICA very well, as she previously served in the international relations office of the Archives of France and helped to organize the CITRA in Marseille in 2002. She has already embarked on the mammoth task of providing objective professional assessments on the applications.

Finally, I should make it clear that ICA’s official contact at Unesco is now Iskra Panevska, Senior Programme Specialist for the Memory of the World. If ICA members wish to raise any issue with Unesco, please do let me know and I shall be pleased to take it up with Iskra direct on your behalf.