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ICA in 2016: On an Upward Path

After three successful Annual Congresses in a row, ICA now approaches the forthcoming International Congress on Archives in Seoul this September with eager anticipation. Ever since Korea was selected as the host country for Congress 2016 in the autumn of 2011, ICA and the National Archives of Korea have been working productively together in order to prepare a prestigious event which lives up to the theme of ‘Archives, Harmony and Friendship’. It is intended that the Seoul Congress will permanently enrich the professional lives of every participant, and at the same time offer a fascinating insight into Korean culture and history, which is justly celebrated in UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme.

As always in a Congress year, we should reflect on the progress that we have made together in the last four years and should identify the challenges and opportunities for the next four years. Since the last Congress in Brisbane (August 2012) we have managed to attract archive professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds to attend our Annual Conferences and we are also reaching out to new audiences on the social media. The steady increase in the number of individual (category D) members in ICA is especially pleasing. The success of this year’s International Archives Day provides an indication of what we can do when we are really determined to make our mark. And in Seoul we will be launching a new website worthy of our organization. Our website is the principal weapon in our communications armory. In the coming four years ICA should use it to the full in order to increase its visibility and to offer better services to a growing number of members. On the basis of our solid achievements in the last four years, ICA should now develop its capacity to write influential position papers on the major public policy issues of the day (for example, on Copyright and Intellectual Property, Open Government, Access to Information, and Data Protection).

While continuing to work in partnership with like-minded organizations on these issues in various international forums, we have to be clear where ICA as an organization stands and not be so dependent on the intellectual efforts of our partners. ICA also has to give additional impetus to our professional programme, so that archivists throughout the world have the best practices and tools which they require in order to meet the challenges of the digital age. There are still many gaps in the professional products we provide, and these gaps need to be filled as quickly as possible.

Sometimes ICA spreads its scarce resources too thinly and does not in practice display a clear enough sense of priorities. In my personal view ICA needs to achieve more coordination in the efforts of its various bodies without in any way compromising the cultural diversity of the organization and stifling innovation among our members. Although the global environment is subject to significant uncertainty, and the pace of technological change constantly increasing, I believe that ICA is on the right path of reform but probably needs to travel along it more quickly. However, there is every reason to be confident that the necessary acceleration will take place and that ICA will be a larger and stronger organization by the time the next Congress comes around in 2020.

David Leitch
ICA Secretary General
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This is the last edition of Flash prepared by Stephen O’Connor, our Senior Publications Officer, who is stepping down from his role at the end of August. His colleagues have greatly appreciated his unobtrusive efficiency, unflappable calm and constant good humour in the Secretariat over the last five years, and we wish him all the very best for the future.
A WORLD TOUR OF ICA

Atlanta, United States Conference of the Section on Business Archives (SBA), April 2016

Geneva, Switzerland Copyright Exceptions for Archives and Libraries: The Road to International Agreement

Seoul, South Korea “Archives, Harmony and Friendship” The Professional Programme of the ICA International Congress

Caribbean Find out about CARBICA’s activities in its newsletter

Africa Update on the Africa Programme of the International Council on Archives

New Caledonia For the International Archives Day, an exhibition about the 120 years of Indonesian presence
FIDA 2010-2016: Some reflections on the International fund for archival development

FIDA has shown in its first six years of operation that it has made a difference to the development of particularly low-resourced groups of archivists, records managers and archives across the world. It is about real life projects that have an immediately positive impact on the ground. It is intensely practical. As the Secretary-General has remarked, it is, together with the work of the regional branches, the most effective expression of the professional solidarity we all seek to promote world-wide.

In particular FIDA helps to build capacity in countries where archive and records provision is weak, and, through mentoring, training and other methods, enables archives and their archivists to acquire up to date professional and management competencies needed in their regions and countries. It is a self-help approach.

The Trustees have therefore determined that ‘development’ means, in practical terms, that any applicant organization or individual must consider where they are now and what they need to do to advance. To aid this process the Trustees expect applicants to have referred to and, where appropriate, to have assessed themselves using the PARBICA self-assessment checklist as a guide. They need to explain in their application what they want to develop and how they intend to do it. Where we cannot offer financial support we have given professional advice to applicants and directed them to other more appropriate funders often with success.

We have not only supported national archivists and government records managers but also associations of archivists, university archivists and trainers, documentalists and audio-visual archivists like the Citizens Archive of Pakistan or the Arab Image Foundation in Lebanon. Each application is judged on its merits in relation to the situation the applicants find themselves. Thus the programme enables archivists to propose developments which they themselves require and, we hope, can sustain over time.

The FIDA funding programme has reached many archivists in real need. The projects have to be realistic in the timescales given and it helps, in terms of impact and sustainability, if they are done together with other important influential groups in the country or region.

In training programmes, we have worked with ESARBICA in supporting training for the preservation of Southern African audio-visual heritage and in digital records management and we have supported Training the Trainers workshops in digital record-keeping in Ghana and in general record-keeping in Mozambique, the West Indies and Guyana. In the Pacific region we have funded internships (Palau), when particularly necessary in collaboration with the National Archives of New Zealand and Australia, and also funded training in record-keeping for administrators and archivists for Pacific Islanders (with PARBICA), providing training and preservation in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Tonga. Elsewhere we have supported audio-visual preservation training in the Lebanon and the training of archivists in using digital programmes in Senegal, in digital audio-visual preservation in Pakistan and in digital record-keeping in Cambodia. In helping to establish record-keeping and archives systems, we have supported the archives of the African Union Commission, and also the establishment of local records systems at the commune level in the Cameroons and Chad and the Anti-war campaign Croatia Archive (ARK).

In supporting archival law, we have funded the preparation of proposals for a new archival law in Burundi and in 2016 supported the promotion of archival legislation in Togo through advocacy meetings for government administrators, ministers and archivists across the country.

In recognition of the continuing need, as evidenced by applications from archivists in low-resourced or challenging environments for funding from FIDA, to develop their skills and capacities, in 2014 the Executive Board agreed to fund FIDA in the future, subject to the continuing satisfaction of the Board each year.

Since 2010 we have supported 23 groups of archivists from across the world to develop their own skills and archives and all for about 5-7000 euros per development. With a little money archivists can do a lot. If you would like to help us do more, please donate at www.ica.org/en/donate-fida-0

Sarah Tyacke
Chair of FIDA Trustees
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Togo archival law advocacy meetings with ministers and administrators 2016.
The Contribution of Sarah Tyacke to FIDA: An Appreciation

Seven years ago ICA decided to revive its long defunct Fund for the International Development of Archives (FIDA) and to look for a new Chair of the FIDA Trustees possessing the necessary dynamism for a successful relaunch. It was with some diffidence that I sounded out Sarah Tyacke, the recently retired National Archivist of the United Kingdom, because I knew that she already had many claims on her time. However, Sarah did not really need to be persuaded to serve ICA as FIDA Chair, as she was keen to have the opportunity to offer carefully targeted help to those archivists who stand in greatest need of financial support from ICA. After her appointment as FIDA Chair was formally approved by the Executive Board in November 2009, Sarah quickly got to work and established a representative group of Trustees, including Trudy Peterson of the United States, who has been an invaluable source of advice and support. One of the most rewarding meetings I have attended during my career in ICA was the first meeting of the revived FIDA Board in Washington (March 2010), which included a profound discussion of precisely what FIDA should be trying to do. Sarah has been very much a ‘hands on’ Chair, often recording decisions and following up action points herself, especially in the early days. She has also instituted the practice of virtual meetings, whereby Trustees have several days to comment on a batch of applications online in the FIDA working space. As awareness of FIDA grew, so did the calls on its limited funds and the reserve, with which it had started in 2010, steadily diminished over the next few years. Apart from the reserve, FIDA was entirely dependent on donations in order to continue its work, but these would not have been sufficient to keep it operational after 2015. However, the impact of its many projects persuaded the Executive Board to allocate FIDA some finance from the ICA budget for the first time. Initially, the sum allocated was 20,000 euros a year, increased this year to 30,000. These far-sighted decisions by the Executive Board, at a time when there are many other competing claims on ICA’s resources, provide eloquent testimony of Sarah’s inspired leadership of FIDA. And many ICA members, who have been intercepted at Annual Conferences by Sarah with her large bucket for donations, know at first hand that she has been willing to go the extra mile to obtain more money for the cause.

As a result of Sarah’s unstinting efforts, ably supported by the other Trustees, Fred van Kan of the Netherlands will inherit a going concern this September, when he succeeds her as Chair of the FIDA Board. For her judgment, energy and enthusiasm in this key role ICA owes Sarah Tyacke a great debt of gratitude.

David Leitch
ICA Secretary General
leitch@ica.org

« For her judgment, energy and enthusiasm in this key role ICA owes Sarah Tyacke a great debt of gratitude. »
Normand Charbonneau becomes Vice-president for the Programme

The Executive Board, at its meeting of 21 and 22 April, accepted the recommendation of the elected officers to appoint Normand Charbonneau to the position of Vice-President Programme until General Assembly in Seoul on 6 September 2016. At the General Assembly the Executive Board will recommend that Mr Charbonneau be elected to the position of Vice-President Programme for two years, that is, until the General Assembly of 2018. Mr Charbonneau takes over the role of Vice President Programme from Henri Zuber, who has held the post for the last four years, latterly combining it with that of Vice-President Finance following the resignation of Andreas Kellerhals in October 2015.

Normand Charbonneau is Chief Operating Officer at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). As such, he oversees acquisition, processing, preservation and access to all of LAC’s collections, published and archival. Prior to joining LAC in 2015, he held positions at Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec for 25 years, beginning as a photographic material specialist and concluding his tenure as the Keeper of Quebec’s National Archives. M’ Charbonneau has taught archival studies at the Université du Québec à Montréal and at the Université Laval in Quebec City. He has been a member of the Executive board of the Association internationale des archivistes francophones, the Canadian Council of Archives and the Association des archivistes du Québec. He has published papers and delivered presentations on various topics including photographic archives and, more recently, information governance in public administration.
Update on the Africa Programme

Following the launch of the ICA’s Africa Programme at the 2015 conference in Reykjavik, the Africa Programme Steering Committee has been planning the delivery of the Africa Strategy and Workplan, available online.

On 22 April 2016, the Committee met with the chair of the Audit Commission (ACOM), Atakility Assefa Asgedom, and the chairs of the ICA’s African regional branches, Alphonse Labitan (WARBICA) and Ivan Murambiwa (ESARBICA). Unfortunately, illness prevented CENARBICA’s representative from attending the meeting. The Committee’s co-chairs, Prof. Jamaa Baida (National Archives of Morocco) and Prof. Justus Wamukoya (Moi University, Kenya) presented an update on work since the launch of the Strategy. The ACOM and regional branch chairs congratulated the Committee on its progress and offered advice on next steps.

Following this consultation, the Committee held a meeting to define its working arrangements and next priorities. For efficiency and flexibility, the work will be delivered by teams constituted to deliver particular projects. The Steering Committee will serve as a small coordinating body, advised by an Advisory Board. The Committee’s co-chairs invited experts to join the Advisory Board.

The Committee then discussed the items of the Workplan, beginning with the development of strategic partnerships for strengthening national archives. The President, David Fricker, and the Secretary-General, David Leitch, represented the ICA and its Africa Programme in a teleconference organized by the World Bank. The teleconference brought together the national archivists of the nine African countries that have joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the OGP representatives from those countries to discuss how national archives can contribute to openness reforms. The Africa Programme will continue to liaise with ICA’s partners to support the development of records commitments in OGP action plans, so as to position the national archives as key players in this area.

The Workplan calls for a revitalization of regional professional networks and associations. As a result of discussions with WARBICA and CENARBICA members about the limited activity of those branches, we are working with members to arrange regional strategic planning meetings. Each meeting is expected to result in an action plan with assigned responsibilities and timeframes for the development of the branches. ESARBICA has expressed a desire to offer more frequent training opportunities to its members, so we are exploring how we can support ESARBICA in that aim.

During early consultations on the Strategy, a number of African archival educators proposed a review of curricula and available resources. Following liaison with the Section on Archival Education (SAE) and members of the Africa Team of InterPARES Trust, which is doing work in this area, we invited Prof. Mpho Ngoepe of the University of South Africa to co-ordinate this work. As a member of both SAE and the InterPARES Africa Team, he is well-positioned to identify synergies and ensure there is no duplication of efforts. With a view to building partnerships in support of conservation and preservation training, we prepared a letter to the President of The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), starting a conversation about how African archives and archivists might benefit from the educational network ICCROM has established on the continent. The Secretary-General has sent the letter, and the ICA’s Expert Group of Archives Buildings and Environment (EGABE) will take the conversation forward with counterparts in ICCROM.

The Workplan also calls for practical digital records management and preservation training for early- and mid-career archival educators in Africa. The idea is that practical training, in concert with the curriculum review work, will help to embed new knowledge in archival education programmes. We are in the early planning stages of this work and we are discussing the issues with potential partners. The co-chairs of the Steering Committee welcome comments and input from ICA members, particularly colleagues in Africa, and the officers of the Sections and Expert Groups, whose engagement with the Africa Programme would be greatly appreciated.

To contact the committee, please write to the address below.

The Africa Programme Steering Committee: jlowry@liverpool.ac.uk

Justus Wamukoya, James Lowry, Jamaa Baida.

James Lowry (Liverpool University Centre for Archive Studies) to serve as secretary to the Committee. The Committee also identified and invited experts to join the Advisory Board. The Committee then discussed the items of the Workplan, beginning with the development of strategic partnerships for strengthening national archives. The President, David Fricker, and the Secretary-General, David Leitch, represented the ICA and its Africa Programme in a teleconference organized by the World Bank. The teleconference brought together the national archivists of the nine African countries that have joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the OGP representatives from those countries to discuss how national archives can contribute to openness reforms. The Africa Programme will continue to liaise with ICA’s partners to support the development of records commitments in OGP action plans, so as to position the national archives as key players in this area.
The New Professionals Programme

The six participants funded by the New Professionals Programme at the 2015 Annual Conference in Reykjavik presented, during the course of a plenary session, their vision of a new professionals’ network, what its objectives would be and how they might be achieved. They also discussed the possibility of creating a platform for sharing experiences and knowledge. This second objective requires a little time to define more closely and to take concrete shape, allowing a better appreciation of the candidates’ motivation.

The criteria necessary to become a member of the programme, however, are still not properly understood: ten applications did not fulfil the criteria, either coming from non-members of ICA or from individuals with more than five years’ professional experience. The fifty-three eligible applications were examined by a selection committee consisting of PCOM members, who on the one hand assessed the potential benefits to the applicants of joining the Programme and attending the Seoul Congress, and on the other looked at their motivation and their ideas for becoming involved in the Programme.

Indeed, besides their attendance at the Congress and its related activities, such as convening a plenary session there and participating in communications throughout the event, it is now expected that the successful applicants will take part in coordinating the New Professionals network for one complete year.

The grant-holders have also shaped their respective roles and the internal organization of their group and are now working on the process of handing over these roles to their successors.

Thanks to the growing number of members and former members of the Programme, the network should expand progressively, as should the activities and projects in which the new professionals themselves engage. For 2016-17 these are the eight colleagues who will put their ideas and energies into practice to support ICA: Nicola Laurent, originally from the United Kingdom, now living in Australia; Ryan Courchene from Canada; Yuiee Wang from China; Tibaut Houzanme, originally from Benin and living in the United States; Gabriela Andaur from Chile; Nicola Wood from the United Kingdom; Annelie Villers, originally from South Africa and living in Australia; and finally Dolorez Grant from Ireland. Several of them had already applied in previous years and by refining their applications were this time able to secure membership from the selection committee. Visit the Facebook page to see their photos and come to Seoul to meet them!

Cécile Fabris
Coordinator of the New Professionals Programme
newprofessionals@ica.org

The new funded participants, who will be attending the Seoul Congress next September, were chosen in April following an application process which took place between January and March. Sixty-three applications were received from thirty-eight countries. This was a much lower number than the 139 applications in 2015, but it is worth noting that as a whole these applications were more tightly focused, allowing a better appreciation of the candidates’ motivation.

The network is principally based on the New Professionals’ Facebook page. By 15 June this page had received 539 ‘likes’, compared with 285 in September. Its growing success is linked to the involvement of the 2015 grant-holders, who have taken turns to edit the page since October and have implemented a media strategy devised by Marta Lomza.

To reach those new professionals who are not registered on Facebook, they have decided to extend their scope of action beyond the social network and have introduced a newsletter: two issues have been published in English under the direction of Kate Watson, and one in Spanish thanks to Valentina Rojas. The newsletter reprints information already posted online but also publishes new content, written by the grant-holders themselves or taken from contributions by new professional members of the network.

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Cécile Fabris
Coordinator of the New Professionals Programme
newprofessionals@ica.org

The 2015 New Professionals at their plenary session, Reykjavik.

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Indeed, besides their attendance at the Congress and its related activities, such as convening a plenary session there and participating in communications throughout the event, it is now expected that the successful applicants will take part in coordinating the New Professionals network for one complete year.

The grant-holders have also shaped their respective roles and the internal organization of their group and are now working on the process of handing over these roles to their successors.
Copyright Exceptions for Archives and Libraries: The Road to International Agreement

In December 2015, I represented the ICA at the 31st meeting of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR31), replacing Tim Padfield who retired after representing ICA since SCCR21. A committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the SCCR meets twice yearly in Geneva to discuss issues related to the development of balanced international legal frameworks for copyright. It is currently engaged in discussing the possibility of an international treaty that will provide, at a minimum, basic exceptions and limitations that recognize the legitimacy of non-infringing acts performed by libraries and archives around the world. Groups representing developed countries argue that national limitations and exceptions in favour of libraries and archives are sufficient. However, that is far from the truth. A borderless world needs solutions that apply in a borderless manner.

Limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives has been on SCCR’s agenda for several years, and the matter has at times become bogged down in fruitless discussions about process led by those opposed to a treaty. However, since SCCR29 (December 2014), the Committee has been moving systematically through a list of 11 key topics identified at earlier discussions. Thus far, we have discussed how preservation, reproduction, legal deposit, and lending support the missions of libraries and archives. The remaining topics (parallel importation, cross-border uses, orphan works, limited liability for libraries and archives, technological protection measures, contract override of copyright exceptions, and translation) will be discussed at future SCCRs.

ICA cannot effectively act on its own in this undertaking. Since 2014, ICA has been part of a partnership with other library and archival associations led by the International Federation and Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Obviously not all of the 11 topics are relevant to archives, while other topics (e.g., orphan works) are lesser priority for libraries. Our IFLA partners understand this, and through good communication (e.g., pre-SCCR conference calls to determine strategy, daily meetings to adjust strategy as required, and hasty consultations on the floor when something arises unexpectedly) differing priorities are acknowledged and respected. The benefits of a collaborative effort far outweigh any differences in priorities. Since SCCR31, ICA and IFLA have been working with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) to identify the topics of common interest so that museums can benefit from whatever results from the SCCR discussions. The Chair expects that discussion of all 11 topics will be done by SCCR33 (Nov. 2016). He believes that a differentiation will arise among the issues, with some clearly appropriate for a mandatory treaty provision, others left to national legislation, and others best served by some sort of model law, etc. While the ICA and its IFLA partners want a treaty, the Chair has been careful to emphasize that his process does not assume any particular outcome. In this way, he has been able to keep the library and archives matter on the agenda and keep the discussion moving forward.

Our efforts at SCCR are complemented by support for national copyright reform through the work of the Forum of National Archivists Advisory Committee on Copyright. While a treaty will require each Member State (MS) to recognize the exceptions contained in the laws of other countries, it is also important to get individual states to amend their copyright laws to allow archivists the freedom they need in order to provide their public services in an electronic world.

With our partners, ICA will continue to explain the need for copyright exceptions and limitations at WIPO to support the critical role of libraries and archives in access to information and in the creation of new works. While progress may seem painfully slow, such is the nature of international negotiations. In the meantime, the SCCR provides an important international forum for educating others about the contribution of archives to society.

Jean Dryden
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International Archives Day changes format and looks towards the wider public!

The image that the public has of archives is blurred: often confused with libraries, archives continue to be looked on solely as documents for internal use, difficult to access and really only being of interest to historians. This slanted view has an impact on the profession of archivist and on the human and financial resources that managers devote to archiving in their businesses. It is in this context that the International Council on Archives (ICA) created International Archives Day in 2008 – corresponding to ICA’s 60th anniversary – so that the public might be given access behind the scenes of this exciting profession through a genuinely global event.

This year’s theme holds a lot of meaning for the long term and to facilitate access to them. In 2016 the new objectives of IAD offer archivists from around the world the chance to share their experience and make the general public aware of the importance of their work.

The enthusiasm which this new format has sparked demonstrates the strong desire of archivists to speak about their profession to as many people as possible. We must show that this job is fun, accessible and varied and that the expertise of archivists is of benefit to everyone! The celebration on 9 June is a way of connecting archivists, records managers, donors, users, volunteers and partners from around the world with each other... and with the public at large. ‘We are proud to offer this profession a forum for expression’, adds Christine Trembleau, ICA Marketing and Communication Manager, reporting on IAD 2016.

Linked with the congress/conference organized towards the end of each year, IAD establishes strong connections that will maximize its impact and outreach to the public and opinion leaders. Following an internal and external communications campaign, this celebration day is fast turning into an unmissable date.

A super-connected format accessible to all segments of the public

To get more in line with the world of social networking, and to show that the profession is firmly focussed on Web 3.0 technology, the ICA launched a communication campaign on social media and encouraged archives and archivists from around the world as well as the general public to share this day under the hashtag #IAD2016.
On the ICA website, communications aids (posters, flyers, bookmarks) were downloadable in several languages to encourage everyone to share this day via social networks, their business, their institution, even their own family circle; an initiative that achieved great success as many archivists made use of these materials by translating them into their own languages (in particular Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, German, Danish, Dutch and Polish).

On Twitter in particular (the main network used for IAD), ICA collaborated with Follow An Archive and Ask Archivists – Anneke van Waarden-Koets (Netherlands) and Charlotte Jensen (Denmark) who for several years have been organizing an event on the twittosphere for International Archives Day. Their offering for 2016 was #archivesrock, or music in archives, an idea inspired by the archivist Thomas Wolf (Germany), a perfectly successful collaboration, illustrating the theme of ‘Archives, Harmony and Friendship’.

Spanish and Latin-American archivists also organized a campaign on Twitter, supported by ICA, to make the hashtag #UnArchivoEs a trending topic.

On IAD itself, archivists from all over the world enthusiastically posted thousands of tweets throughout the day – with or without illustrations – promoting their holdings and their profession, and the importance of archives, as well as the events organized for the day... not forgetting the theme #archivesrock which allowed the twittosphere to discover a wide range of written or pictorial documents, videos and sounds, mixing archives with music.

It was a day of celebration for the archive community: the hashtag #archivescake is a good illustration of this - as well as being an example of gastronomy helping archivists to celebrate their international day!

All five continents took part, both on social media and in organizing activities (exhibitions, films, sports events, conferences...) linked to the theme of International Archives Day 2016, ‘Archives, Harmony and Friendship’.

Those who took part later sent photographs of their events to be published on the official site (see the ICA Website). IAD reverberated round the four corners of the world with the key words of the day: Organize, Benefit, and Share!

This year the ICA has shown more than ever that it is broadening its base and pursuing initiatives for sharing and access to ensure a better interaction between different segments of the public.

Following the success of this year’s IAD, ICA is getting ready for next year (9 June 2017). Its theme will be unveiled at the Seoul Congress... Stay connected!

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ICA’s Quadrennial Congress is always the major international event for the archives and records management community around the world. We received 520 proposals for presentations, panels and workshops of which 250 have been accepted into the programme. The professional programme will contain 8 themes and will be accommodated in 10 rooms throughout the Congress. It begins on the afternoon of Tuesday 6th September, finishing on the afternoon of Friday 9th and offers the choice of around 100 sessions containing stimulating papers and dedicated panel sessions with colleagues from around the world who will be sharing their experiences, research, tools, methods and ideas. Thanks are due to the 34 members of the Professional Programme Committee, some of whom took on the review of many extra papers at short notice due to a last minute flurry of submissions just before the deadline. The PPC members are from 15 different countries and represent all five continents — naturally our Korean hosts made up nearly half of the committee. Proposals came from 69 countries and in seven languages (French, English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic and Russian). Eight languages will be offered for interpretation at the Congress.

The overall subject of the Congress is harmony and friendship and the eight main programme themes explore the concept of harmony and cooperation within the archives and recordkeeping field as well as outside. The detailed subject matter as manifested in the presentations and panels will explore how we reconcile some of the intrinsic conflicts in managing archives, for example preservation and access or privacy and openness. Speakers will also look at how we relate to external stakeholders including users, record creators, politicians and citizens. The ICA network’s
ongoing interest in the role of recordkeeping in justice, advocacy and reconciliation is demonstrated by the number of interesting sessions on the programme in this category. Many papers will discuss the implications of diversity, the need to respect other archival cultures and how this might be achieved. The continuing challenge of managing records and archives in the digital era attracted the most proposals and we can look forward to some very thought-provoking and inspiring papers in this theme. Of course the ICA Congress must also address the benefits and challenges inherent in an ever more globalised world and there will be some good sessions examining examples of cross-border cooperation. Apart from these core themes, proposals were also invited about the Korean professional methods, projects and achievements. South Korea itself offers a study in harmony with its rich history including the invention of the world’s first metal moveable type printing in 1234 contrasting with its contemporary role as a country which leads in areas such as voice recognition, automation and medical technology. We will have presentations from the National Archives of Korea, academics, government departments and the private sector. We will also take the opportunity to showcase ICA’s achievements since 2012. This will include the work of the Expert Groups, results of PCOM projects and reports by FIDA grant recipients. There will be eight new professionals in receipt of bursaries and they will be using social media to publicise the Congress as they experience it and they will also present their impressions in the main auditorium in the final plenary.

We look forward to seeing you in Korea in September!

Margaret Crockett
Deputy Secretary General

Description of the Congress Logo

The emblem consists of ‘0s’ and ‘1s’, which represent the digital records. Connecting these numbers through the middle and surrounding them with the knots, creates the traditional shape of Korean knots. Creating the four different colours at the centre of the emblem by connecting the numbers depicts the spirit of the 2016 ICA Congress Seoul Korea: Archives, Harmony, and Friendship.

Symbolism

The four different colours symbolize harmony.

Brown: The shining past – Seoul, as a hosting city, has a shining history of 600 years.

Blue: The bright future – with everyone’s effort and anticipation, we hope for a bright future.

Green: The advancing technology – gathering knowledge from all over the world, we develop and advance new technology.

Red: Joyful culture – We share and enjoy our cultures together, while respecting the differences.
A New Website for ICA
Communication platform and collaborative tool

On the occasion of the Korean International Congress, the ICA will be launching its new Website. The fruit of almost one year's work, the new Website is the showcase of the organization and ensures its visibility in the digital world for people outside the organization, while being a work tool and professional resource for those archivists around the world who are members of ICA.

The old Website, which dated from 2009, was intended to provide the means and autonomy required by the Branches and Sections of ICA as well as a workspace for our volunteer members. Seven years on, the technology on which it was based had become obsolete, overtaken by the lightning advance of new more powerful open-source tools. The new Website aims to provide a truly collaborative tool for all members of ICA by using new open-source technologies. The choice was made to use Drupal (1) and to split the work into two lengthy phases. The first stage was to migrate the data from the old site to the new without loss of content. The second, which is just coming to a close, sets out to revise the information architecture and graphics of the Website to allow easier access to all users.

The graphic interface has been simplified and the main menu refined, and the iconography now features more prominently on the Website in order to enhance the richness of its content. The administrative interface has also been revised to give Website editors, volunteers in our organization, a simple and effective tool which will allow them to publish their work rapidly through a page layout specifically designed for the web.

But this project is more than a graphic redesign, since it allows for a restructuring of the information architecture of the ICA Website. The new architecture reflects the priorities of ICA: the space given to programmes, communication with other professions of the cultural heritage sector and with the public more generally, with the emphasis placed on projects of the regional Branches and the Sections, supported by PCOM.

It has also allowed us to take account of new web standards, developed over the last decade, and to put in place reliable follow-up tools which will eventually allow informed decisions to be taken on future developments of ICA's digital presence.

Considering the distinct needs of each member category and to offer advantages more in line with their requests, we have developed a new database open to the web managers of the Branches and Sections. And taking into account the needs of all ICA members, we are making the Website available to them to use as a communication platform and a space where they can promote their events.

Finally, to simplify the process of membership, an e-payment system has been put in place, both for new members and for those renewing their membership, but also to facilitate donations made to FIDA.

This Website is therefore a common tool, devised for the members and all who are involved on a voluntary basis in the activities of ICA, which we have designed for the long term and which we will gradually continue to improve. To achieve this a number of training sessions in Drupal has been planned, and all Branches, Sections and expert groups are invited to sign up their members.

The first participative project of continuous enhancement of the Website will be the creation of the Spanish version, for which the secretariat is looking for volunteers to come forward from among the hispanophone members.

This site is for all of you; make your own contribution to enhancing it from today.

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(1) Widely-used content management system, the first version dating from 2000, now supported by a broad community of developers who finalized the eighth version of the tool in early 2016.
For more than fifteen years the International Council on Archives has been collaborating on a project that was started by the International Association of Francophone Archives (AIAF): the International Francophone Archives Portal or ‘PIAF’ (www.piaf-archives.org). Launched in Tunis in 2005 at the World Summit on the Information Society organized by the United Nations, it had more than 170,000 users in 2015. PIAF is a virtual space for training, information and exchange, specifically designed for archival science, archives and archivists, and even though it is a French language site, it is also visited by archivists from a large number of countries outside the French-speaking world.

PIAF consists of three separate sections: The ‘Train yourself’ section allows access to free online training. It is primarily aimed at professionals working on their own, who don’t have access to basic or more advanced training courses or to the professional literature. PIAF is also a useful resource for those who don’t belong to the profession but want to learn about archives and records management. It is also used as part of archives courses in many universities and schools specifically dedicated to archival science around the world.

The second section, called ‘Resources’, consists of a set of materials for the use of professionals. It includes a directory of professional associations and archival institutions, a bibliography of francophone archival science, texts and terminology tools, an iconographic database, a blog and a space reserved for current issues. In time this section will become even more important. Two further modules, one on professional competencies and the other on francophone archival legislation, are in the course of preparation.

Finally PIAF has set up a collaborative work tool and peer exchange called E-pro, short for “Espace professionnel” (Professional workspace). E-pro is a secure platform whose use is restricted solely to those who have registered for it. Currently over 1000 archivists have signed up to the workspace and more than 80 workgroups have been established around different subject areas.

In April of this year, after a substantial amount of work, a new version of the site was launched. It has been designed to be usable on tablets and smartphones and is both ergonomically more dynamic and easier to navigate. The content, especially for the ‘Resources’ section, has been considerably enhanced and some new features, such as a news blog, have been added.

This new version marks only one stage in the development of the site. Notable among current and future work is the probable creation of a fourth general section, focussing on archival science, the introduction of a system of certification, and the development of a MOOC (massive open online course).

Thus the discreet but effective long-term partnership between ICA and AIAF is now bearing fruit. PIAF deserves to be better known and more widely used among our international professional community.

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At Seoul, I will step down as Editor in Chief of Comma after eight years (and with more than 20 years on the editorial boards of Comma and its predecessor Janus). On taking up the role in 2008, I was building on the improvements made under the inspiring leadership of the two previous editors, Nancy Bartlett and then of Rosana de Andres Diaz, for example, the commissioning of special issues, and the introduction of better processes for quality assurance. Both Nancy and Rosana had steered the Editorial Board through times of financial difficulties; on a number of occasions the future of the journal within the ICA publications portfolio, was, if not in doubt, at least discussed at length. Fortunately, it was clear from our surveys that members valued Comma, both in hard copy and online (though perhaps not in the CD-format of the early 2000s!)

So what of the past eight years? The most significant development was the transfer of printing and distribution responsibilities to a specialist academic journal publisher. Liverpool University Press is a century-old, award-winning university publisher, but small enough to offer a personalised service to the editorial team and the ICA. The move allowed for vastly-improved online access for members, with enhanced search functionality and retrospective access to volumes going back to 2004. As well as improved editorial processes, ICA benefited from lower production costs, and a higher quality of product, than had previously been the case.

For any organisation, journal publishing is complicated: the technical production is, in some respects, the easy part. Increasingly difficult is the sourcing of high-quality content, relevant to members and written by experts. The tiny world of archival journals has become increasingly dominated by those written by and for the academic community who, as part of their job roles, must engage in, and publish research. Unfortunately, much of this research, is not presented in a way which makes it relevant to practitioners, indeed much of it is intended only for a small academic audience. As there is an expectation by university managers, at least in the Anglophone world, that researchers publish only in so-called ‘high-ranking journals’, rather than in professional journals such as Comma, many researchers who would nevertheless like to write for us are prevented from doing so by their own professional constraints. At the same time, publication is considered less and less as a routine part of the professional archival role; and increasing demands on professionals mean less time to engage in writing, too often seen as a luxury.

Technology has also played its part here. In the past, conference speakers were likely to have a written presentation which could be adapted to publication; the ubiquity of powerpoint means that much good content delivered at ICA events is lost as speakers are unable to find time to provide a full-text version.

All that said, the Editorial Board has, over the past eight years, succeeded in disseminating important and relevant information to our global community. I was particularly pleased with the Kuala Lumpur and Brisbane congress volumes, as well as the PARBICA issue, produced to coincide with the latter congress in 2012. A special Ibero-American issue, in Spanish, and a francophone Africa issue in French, have contributed to ensuring that ICA continues to operate as a multi-lingual organisation; both ICA-SAE and ICA-SMLT have produced special issues.

It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without the dedicated and hard-working members of editorial board, and, until last year, to Nathalie Florent in Paris. This review of the past eight years must finish by thanking them for their hard work, and more especially, for their friendship. It has been a privilege and a joy to work with you all.

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