

# SPA ica

section of professional associations  
international council on archives

section des associations professionnelles  
conseil international des archives

## NEWSLETTER 2015 No.1

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Welcome to this edition of the *SPA Newsletter*. The purpose of the *Newsletter* is to keep SPA members up-to-date with news on Section activities and projects and to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration between professional records management and archival associations.

## **Word of the SPA President**

### **The PERSIST Project**

I would like to draw your attention to a very special project that started last year in cooperation with IFLA and UNESCO: PERSIST (= Platform to Enhance the Sustainability of the Information Society Transglobally). This project was initiated by our former president, Martin Berendse. The aim of PERSIST is to foster a high-level policy dialogue between heritage institutions (in the broadest sense of the term), government and ICT-industry on digital preservation under the aegis of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.

Archives and libraries want their voice to be taken into account when the industry creates the digital formats for the future.

Three task forces have been established, one to work on content (how to select and appraise digital materials), another to work on technology (with plans for a global register of legacy software) and a third one with a focus on policy that build on the work done by the other task forces.

Our president David Fricker is a member of the steering committee of PERSIST, I myself function as a liaison officer between ICA and the project leadership.

The involvement of UNESCO is welcomed, it has an outreach to 195 governments in the world.

The outcomes of this project are very important for our work I think.

During the annual ICA conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, we will present an update on this project. Of course I hope to meet many of you there!

Fred van Kan  
President of ICA SPA

### **SPA Bureau meeting**

During the meeting held in Girona, Catalonia, on October 12, 2014 the SPA articles were updated because of recent updates to the ICA Constitution. The updates include the following changes:

- The SPA Steering Committee is replaced by a SPA Bureau.
- SPA reports to PCOM.

In addition, during the meeting, activities connected to the 2012-2016 SPA Strategic Objectives and Business Plan were discussed. These projects include the development of an advocacy brochure, *Advocacy works!* distributed to each ICA member attending the Girona Annual Conference, and the compilation of a list of movies on archives to be used for advocacy.



Bureau of the Section of Professional Associations, Girona meeting, October 12, 2014

Do you know any movies on archives? Please let us know by emailing [Claude.roberto@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Claude.roberto@gov.ab.ca)  
We need your help to hold a festival of movies on archives during the 2015 Reykjavik 3rd ICA Annual Conference.

### **ICA Strategic Implementation Plan 2014-2018**

ICA has set three key objectives approved in October 2014 in Girona, as well as a detailed Plan to implement them. Progress in relation to objectives will be monitored every year and presented to the General Assembly. For the period 2014-2018, the ICA will work on the following three key objectives:

- Repositioning Archives as essential in good governance, administrative transparency and democratic accountability
- Monitoring and influencing the development and use of new technologies.
- Building capacity (in particular new competencies and skills) in the records and archives profession, so that it can handle the twin challenge of managing digital records and archives on traditional media.

This Plan, developed by a working group, includes a new outward-looking vision where ICA spends more time on understanding and responding to the wider environment in which it operates. The focus will be both inward (network and profession(alism)) and outward (advocacy/lobbying), both on process (network and advocacy/lobbying) and content (profession(alism)). The Plan was circulated at the General Assembly in Girona, where members had the opportunity to ask questions.

### **News from SPA members**

#### **Association des archivistes du Québec (AAQ)**

The AAQ Communication committee has been working since December 2013 on an electronic guide offering to members of AAQ information on the important role played by archivists and ideas on how to increase their visibility. This book holds more than 100 pages on the archival profession and archival trends. It is now available on line at no cost to the AAQ members. Non-members can purchase it for \$12,99 (plus taxes). To access the book, you go to the Member Space at [www.archivistes.qc.ca](http://www.archivistes.qc.ca)

### **Association des Archivistes Français and National Association of Italian Archives**

The national French (AAF) and Italian (ANAI) associations wish the European Union Council, Parliament and Commission will consider concerns submitted by professionals working on personal data, found in active, semi-active and historical archives in private and public institutions, to be covered by upcoming legislation. The two archival associations agree there should be a legal way to stop abusive use of personal information by organizations collecting and preserving this data to develop individual profiles for commercial use by these organizations. However it is not acceptable for archivists to systematically destroy this personal data or make it anonymous in a short length of time.

### **Association pour le Développement des Activités Documentaires au Bénin**

Benin has just celebrated the 100th anniversary of the foundation of its national archives. This commemoration, entitled “Archives: Development, democracy and good governance tools”, gave professionals in Benin and from outside the country to get involved in a symposium in order to reflect on the role and importance of archives and archivists in this developing country. During the symposium the ADADB President, Mr Abdel Kader Kpadonou, gave a presentation on appraisal challenges in record management.

### **Australian Society of Archivists**

The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) will hold its annual conference in Hobart between 18 and 21 August. It is 40 years since the ASA was established and the association is taking this opportunity to explore some of the most pressing issues facing the profession today. ‘Archives on the Edge’ is the theme of the conference and will look at questions such as —what is our value and core business, who are our partners, how can we build better connections and partnerships, what tools, techniques and research and other innovative ways can we explore to keep, protect, share and interpret records and archives in a rapidly evolving technology landscape? Further information about the conference can be found at <http://www.archivists.org.au/learning-publications/2015-conference/2015-conference>

### **Japan Society for Archival Science**

The Japan Society for Archival Science (JSAS) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2014. During the first 10 years of its existence, the JSAS gradually enhanced its presence among the archival community in Japan by publishing its journal biannually, holding academic conferences and collaborating with related organizations. In 2012, the Society established a registration system for professional archivists after years of deliberations. Since then, the total of 50 archivists with academic credentials and practical experience has become Registered Archivists of the Japan Society for Archival Science, and the new applications are now under review. In 2014, the harshly criticized Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets, the law on classifying national security information, has become effective. The review of the Public Records and Archives Management Act may also start in 2015. The JSAS is committed to take up these challenges and use them as a leverage to promote understanding on the values of records and archives.

### **Next SPA meetings**

The SPA Bureau will meet on May 19-20 in Warsaw, Poland, to plan activities in 2015-2016.

The title of the 2015 Reykjavik 3<sup>rd</sup> ICA Annual Conference is *Archives: Evidence, Security and Civil Rights*. This Conference will take place on September 28-29 and the SPA General Assembly will meet during the Conference. For more information: <http://www.ica2015.is/>

The SPA Bureau will hold a movie festival on archives during the Conference.

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