

# SPA ica

section of professional associations  
international council on archives

section des associations professionnelles  
conseil international des archives

## NEWSLETTER Summer 2013

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Welcome to the summer 2013 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 International Council on Archives: a vital network!**

Thanks to the International Council on Archives archivists and records managers can take part in a worldwide network and exchange experiences, ideas and views. That is important, particularly in the age of globalization. Developments elsewhere in the world can be of interest to the work of an archivist in his or her own personal setting. We are part of a worldwide profession consisting of thousands archivists and records managers, from Mexico to Japan, from South Africa to Canada, new ideas developed by a colleague in one country can influence today or tomorrow archivists in another part of the world. The Section of Professional Associations (SPA) wants to support this exchange, but not only that: we want to give a voice to our worldwide community of archivists and records managers. We did so last April, during our SPA Steering Committee meeting in Arnhem and Amsterdam, The Netherlands. We discussed the draft European Data Protection Regulation that, if adopted by the European Parliament, will result in a partly forbidding of data preservation, disastrous for future generations. We therefore gave full support to the petition initiated by the Association des Archivistes français to adjourn the adoption and asked you, our members, to promote the signing of this petition (to date: nearly 46,000 supporters). SPA is also the forum where you, our members, can ask for support. Some international pressure always helps! But, we need your information, otherwise there is no action, no adhesion possible. Our network is not only virtual, but every year there is also a possibility to meet. This year the First Annual ICA conference will be held in Brussels, 23-24 November. The conference theme is "Accountability, Transparency and Access to Information". Because the 2014 conference will be held in Girona, so in Europe as well, it would be good if the ICA could succeed in holding the Third Annual Conference in Africa. That would give us the opportunity to meet a lot of African archivists! In the meantime, keep in touch with us, as your representatives within ICA!

Fred van Kan  
ICA/ SPA President

### **2012-2016 SPA Business plan, progress report**

The SPA Steering Committee reviewed during its last meeting in Arnhem (The Netherlands) the following activities conducted by members as part of the 2012-2016 SPA Business plan.

**Promotion and advocacy:** It was decided to build a promotion campaign around the Universal Declaration on Archives (UDA) with practical objectives and to use the UDA in the advocacy activities. We will build advocacy from the creation of the records to their preservation, and we will include records management and archives in the advocacy activities.

**Upcoming Erfurt Conference on Business and Ethics to be held in Germany:** SPA is looking for support from sponsors and collaboration with partners and experts such

as economic historians. The theme of the conference could include themes such as open data and good governance, or management of secret documents.

**Twinning partnership between SPA members:** This project suggested by the Israel association would be a mutual sharing program rather than a mentorship. The possibility of a Korean Dutch sharing program will be discussed. Standards between Korea and the Netherlands could be compared and lead to the success of the 2016 Seoul ICA Congress.

**Support to Malian archivists:** The Québec association passed a resolution regarding the Malian armed conflict having destroyed a large quantity of archives. In addition to offer its expertise and willingness to participate in a collective and vital effort to safeguard Malian heritage, the Québec association asked to get involved in the preservation of Malian heritage by assisting Malian archivists. The representatives from the French and Québec associations agreed to discuss how to work together with the ICA, the UNESCO and the Blue Shield on the preservation of Malian heritage.

**ICA Working Groups:** The Ethical and Legal Matters Working Group was abolished some time ago and the Hong Kong association will review with the ICA the possibility of maintaining this Working Group. The creation of a new Personal Data Working Group would be a good way for the ICA to raise awareness on the importance of personal data and to set basic principles on management of personal data. Such a Working Group would be able to influence governments and suggest guidelines to the European Commission. The Hong Kong association will review with the ICA the possibility of creating a Personal Data Working Group.



The SPA Steering Committee members, in front of the new state-of-the art Gelders Archief building in Arnhem, The Netherlands, 23 April 2013

## **ICA Universal Declaration on Archives (UDA) Working Group**

Now that the UDA has been approved by ICA and adopted by UNESCO, we have to publicize it throughout the world. A Working Group including members from Australia, Canada, the United States, and a few others has been approved by the ICA Executive Board and will be developing ideas on how to proceed. Two ideas that were brought forward were to make presentations at national associations' annual meetings (note: a session was scheduled for SAA 2013 but because of medical issues with one of the key presenters it had to be cancelled) and to give it to instructors in archival education programs. The principles elucidated in the UDA are excellent for promoting archives.

The UDA is a powerful education and advocacy tool that can be used by archivists, professional associations and archival institutions to reach the public, decision makers and researchers with important messages about what archives are and the vital role they play in supporting basic human rights, good governance, cultural and community identity and history and heritage. For more information about the UDA see the ICA website at <http://icarchives.webbler.co.uk/13343/universal-declaration-on-archives/universal-declaration-on-archives.html>. We urge all associations to actively use the Declaration to advocate for archives. One way this can be done is by encouraging association members to sign the UDA Register available at <http://icarchives.wufoo.com/forms/register-your-support-for-the-uda/> For further information contact Kim Eberhard at [keberhard66@gmail.com](mailto:keberhard66@gmail.com), or Colleen McEwen at [tcmcewen@gmail.com](mailto:tcmcewen@gmail.com).

## **Personal data in Europe and in Quebec**

### **Association des Archivistes français (AAF)**

So far 57 countries supported the petition initiated by the AAF to preserve personal data in Europe and to prevent the European Parliament from destroying personal information. This petition has received almost 50,000 signatures, which will be presented to the European Parliament. The Association believes Europe must not forbid data preservation, but on the contrary ensure their protection and controlled access. For more information and to sign the petition: [www.change.org/EUdataP](http://www.change.org/EUdataP) The French archivists understand concerns over the use of personal information by large companies, but they believe there are solutions other than the deletion of data. For more information, see a June 13 article by *The New York Times* entitled *Archivists in France Fight a Privacy Initiative*: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/17/technology/archivists-in-france-push-against-privacy-movement.html?pagewanted=all>

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

The AAQ, which is the national association of Francophone archivists in Canada, has been involved for several years with the work conducted by the Quebec government Commission responsible for access to information. In early 2013 the Association, supporting democracy, transparency and good management, made recommendations concerning the Five-Year Report on technology and private life

presented by the Commission. This document covered challenges coming from access to records and protection of personal information in a digital world. The AAQ recommended foreign digital companies should follow Quebec legislation on access and protection of personal data; it also recommended user friendly information should be given to young users to help them understand disclosure of personal information. In April 2013 the AAQ met decision makers in the Quebec parliament and proposed to create working groups studying the consequences of open data from an archival and legacy perspective. The AAQ expressed to the members of Parliament its desire to find solutions to manage digital data from its creation. For more information on the AAQ position: [Claude.roberto@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Claude.roberto@gov.ab.ca)  
See also the AAQ website:

[http://www.archivistes.qc.ca/spip.php?page=article&id\\_article=1201](http://www.archivistes.qc.ca/spip.php?page=article&id_article=1201)

It is hoped that both Associations, the AAF and the AAQ, will exchange ideas on the means to find solutions to current international major challenges in protecting, preserving and making available personal data in a digital world.

## **Advocacy**

### **Association of Hungarian Archivists**

The Association of Hungarian Archivists has launched the series of archival programs called Open Archives, 2013. This series based on local and central events is designed to contribute to the familiarization of the citizens with the cultural heritage stored by the different types of Hungarian archives and the access possibilities to the archival material preserved by them. The program series is also aimed to contribute to the promotion of responsible citizenship and to preserve individual and community memory in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Archives of the ICA. The Open Archives program series was instituted last year with participation of 34 archival institutions. In that series about 70 different programs - conferences, exhibitions, workshops, ceremonies etc. - of 34 archival institutions were held attracting about 10 thousands of visitors, while different websites presenting the cultural role of the Hungarian archives registered more than 70 thousands of visits. Main events of the series included the celebration of International Archival Day, on June 7, 2013, in the Budapest City Archives, with an exhibition and a conference on the role of archives in strengthening individual and community identity, as well as the Night of Archives held on June 22, 2013. Additional events are planned for this coming fall with the Autumn Festival of the Archives, the Night of Researchers, a Day of Science on November 3 with the award ceremony of "Archives of the Year", and the Gabriel Bethlen Memorial Conference and Exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary of his accession to the throne as Prince of Transylvania. This last event will take place at the National Archives of Hungary. Other events are planned for 2014.

### **Australian Society of Archivists**

The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) strongly supports archival advocacy as one of its central objectives. The Rules of the ASA identifies three key activities for doing this –“to promote by all available means the preservation and care of archive”; “to promote amongst the general public and special groups an understanding of the

nature of archives and their value” and “to provide an authoritative voice on matters of archival concern”.

In the last 12 months the ASA has made submissions to a number of government inquiries on a range of topics including copyright and the digital economy; reforms to National Security Legislation and the establishment of a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; and has written letters protesting about a reduction in funding to the State Records Office of Western Australia, and about cuts to the Canadian National Archival Development Program. For copies of these submission and letters see the ASA website at <http://www.archivists.org.au/page/About/Advocacy/> The ASA also established a social networking site called Archives Live which is open to the profession and members of the public where archival activities and issues can be promoted and discussed. This site has 1,440 members is available at <http://archiveslive.ning.com/>

### **Norwegian Society of Records Managers and Archivists**

Norway has an extensive use of consultations connected to political and administrative processes. The Society has responded to many consultation papers, including many papers the Society did not receive for consultation. The Society tries to respond to any issues, of interest to its members, discussed in a paper. Many times there are clear records management aspects concerning these different issues, but nobody has thought of them. That’s where the Society comes in!

In the past year the Society has commented on:

- New standards for ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in public administration
- Revised regulations for MDs (Medical Doctors or Physicians)
- Compulsory registry for apothecary advise
- New regulations for electronic communication with public offices
- Proposal for new legislation for Arts Council Norway
- New regulations for appraisal in state authorities and for local authorities
- New policy for research-based decisions (Ministry of Culture)

In addition, the Society has been active in getting its members’ points across where it found it needed and necessary. The Society has actively tried to be visible in the public sphere and was successfully involved in a debate on national radio. The Society has been interviewed several times in the weekly magazine of The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) and had an article about archives and ICT accepted in the Norwegian Computerworld. The Society also presented papers during several RM/Archives events and has taken initiative in meetings with relevant associations/authorities.

In 2012 the Ministry of Culture sent a White Paper to Parliament on Archives and Records Management in Norway. The Society took initiative in meeting with other organizations within the Archives and Records Management field to coordinate activities and initiatives. The Society also sent written comments to the relevant

committee in Parliament, and participated with a paper in their consultation seminar.

### **International Conference of the Hungarian Association of Archivists**

ICA SPA President Fred van Kan attended the International Conference of the Hungarian association of archivists in Esztergom from 16 to 19 June 2013. About 300 people participated in the conference. The annual Hungarian International Conference is more than a professional conference. It is the pre-eminent meeting place for Hungarian archivists where ever they work: inside Hungary or in the surrounding countries with Hungarian minorities. The conference strengthens the network of the Hungarian archivists in and outside the country and supports the Hungarian culture abroad. In addition to colleagues from Hungary, archivists from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine attended the conference. The 2013 conference focused on “Hungarian documents of common history in national and international archives”.

On June 17, Fred van Kan delivered a welcome speech that was translated in Hungarian by András Zipos. In this speech he talked about the importance of international cooperation among archivists and records managers and about the role of ICA (SPA). At a later time, during a meeting on international issues, Fred van Kan spoke again on the importance of ICA, promoted the individual membership and outlined the benefits attached to this membership; he asked colleagues to sign the French petition against the EU Data Protection Regulation.

The conference was a good opportunity to discuss with Hungarian archivists current archival matters, especially the merger of the archives of the *comitats* (counties) with the National Archives into a new organization. For most archives this meant budget cuts. Hungarian archivists also experienced limitations in their freedom of policy because, outside the new organization, there are only four independent city archives and a few church archives which are still in existence. The Hungarian Association of Archivists by now is a more or less internal association of archivists working at the National Archives.

Colleagues from Romania informed our President about a project, funded by the European Union, to develop a bilingual guide to archives and collections from Transylvania, that are present in the Romanian and Hungarian National Archives. On his way back to the Netherlands Fred van Kan had the opportunity to visit the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security with the Deputy director Gergő Bendeguz Cseh who told him he was glad that the planned destruction of files was averted at last.

### **Next SPA meetings**

The next SPA meetings will take place during the ICA Annual Conference in Brussels, Belgium on the following dates:

November 22, 2013 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, SPA Steering Committee Meeting

November 22, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 4 pm, SPA Plenary Assembly. We could have a speaker on advocacy or a speaker on the history of archival associations during this Assembly. SPA Steering Committee members can organize meetings of sub-groups, if they wished to work, as an example, on their Strategic Plan responsibilities.

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