

THE ICA-SUV NEWSLETTER

No. 1 / October 2009



IN THE LIMELIGHT –
selected archival literature
and online sites

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SUV board members, Uppsala 2008



SUV Conference Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 2009



**2010 ICA SUV
ELECTIONS –**

coming up soon

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THE ICA-SUV NEWSLETTER ... the first issue

Welcome to the first issue of the new ICA-SUV Newsletter! As you know ICA-SUV is the section on university and research archives of the International Congress on Archives.

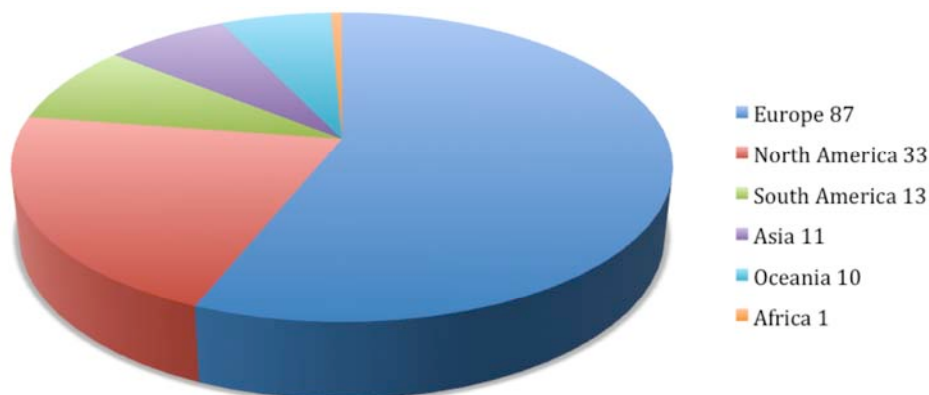
We are hereby reviving an old tradition of this section: the first SUV newsletter, called *Communiqué*, was issued in print in 1995/1996 and is still available on the SUV website, <http://www.library.illinois.edu/ica-suv/>, as will be the new newsletter.

Our intent in publishing a newsletter has remained the same over the years: to

keep SUV members up-to-date with news on section activities, projects, interesting developments and resources, and to encourage members to get involved. The format, however, has changed: the newsletter will be available digitally twice a year. It will be sent out through our listserv and be available on our website. We welcome suggestions of how the newsletter can be improved and welcome contributions by SUV members.

To decide about the name of the newsletter, SUV members will be asked to enter suggestions via our listserv - the e-mail will be sent out shortly

ICA-SUV membership by continent, T=155



(as of May 2009)

+ SUV MEMBERS - getting involved

Who are SUV members?

SUV is a diverse organization: members come from 35 countries and 6 continents (continents in the graph as defined by ICA). Institutionally, over 80% of all SUV members work for university archives while only 11% work for research archives. The remaining members are either retired, work for conglomerates such as *ARMA International Education Foundation*, or chose SUV as their secondary ICA membership affiliation.

The geographic diversity in membership is reflected in SUV's

Section Board: its 12 members work in seven different countries (Austria, Brazil, Israel, Latvia, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, and the USA) and four different continents.

How do I get involved?

Many of you might have wondered how you could get more involved in SUV. Currently, SUV Section Bureau members and a small number of members spearhead and organize all committees, projects, and conferences. However, such a small group of

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THE ICA-SUV NEWSLETTER

Acting Editor: Susanne Belovari

ICA-SUV is ICA's section on University and Research Institution Archives. It promotes professional and scholarly co-operation and communication between university and research archives and archivists; gathers, disseminates and exchanges information regarding such archives; and assists in developing and strengthening these through conferences, publications, and communication.

The ICA-SUV Newsletter informs its members about SUV efforts and programs, offers a forum to exchange information and to share projects and resources, and thereby hopes to stay in closer contact with its members and to encourage others to join.

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All images are from SUV board members, SUV conferences, and Michael Bolik.



ICA-SUV Annual Conference in Dundee, Scotland, 2007



SUV board members and Reykjavik university archivist meeting in Iceland, June 2009

+ IN THE LIMELIGHT

... highlighting interesting archival literature and online sites.

In this issue, we introduce a thought-provoking article from 2000 analyzing electronic records projects in Canada and the US; its lead author, Mark Greene, presented at the 2009 ICA-SUV conference in Rio de Janeiro. And we showcase the best website pooling information about archives across the globe.

Title: *The Archivist's New Clothes; or, the Naked Truth about Evidence, Transactions, and Recordness.*

Authors: Mark A. Greene, Bruce Bruemmer, Frank Boles, Todd J. Daniels Howell, and Richard L. Pifer

<https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/handle/1805/42>

The electronic records projects at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) have been promoted as competing visions of the archival future. This article, the work of several authors with experience as both manuscript curators and institutional archivists, challenges the perception that the UBC and Pitt models are fundamentally different from one

another, and argues that they share a similar and deeply flawed conception of the meaning of archives and the mission of the archival profession. Rather than accept the premises upon which both UBC and Pitt build their models, archivists should re-assert the broader and more practical theory of archives that has dominated much of U.S. archival history. (Source: cataloging abstract).

ARCHIVES ACROSS THE GLOBE

Unesco Archives Portal

<http://www.unesco-ci.org/cgi-bin/portals/archives/page.cgi?d=1>

Unesco Archives Portal: University and Research Institutions

<http://www.unesco-ci.org/cgi-bin/portals/archives/page.cgi?d=1&g=27>

('Members' cont. from p. 2)

people cannot do it all. In order to grow as a section, to undertake more projects, and to share more information and expertise, we need more members who are involved and participating in projects and activities.

However, as a member, it is not always easy to know how one could get involved in any organization and, in particular, in an international organization which does not exist in any one geographic location and relies largely on long distant contacts and collaborations. Here are just a few ideas of how you personally might get involved.

- suggest SUV projects
- volunteer for existing projects
- offer to translate texts, announcements, and at events
- help organize and participate in conferences
- join SUV committees
- run for Section Board elections
- send news and announcements to the SUV listserv and the editor of RE-UNION
- etc.

+ SUV PROJECTS

... existing SUV projects or projects under development.

SUV Annual Conference

Our most labor-intensive project is our yearly conference. It is THE occasion to meet, listen, talk, learn about other archival traditions and practices, and - not the least of which - to socialize. It is also the most fascinating part of being a member. In the last 12 years, SUV organized 12 annual conferences or sessions. Our most recent conference was the SUV- conference in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, in September 2009 (see article below). Currently, we are in the process of finalizing the location and program for the 2010 conference, which is slated for Prague.

SUV Membership Survey Given new developments and SUV's diverse membership, this online survey (to be launched fall 09/spring 10) will tell us what members need and want from the section, for example with regards to assistance SUV can offer to archivists in resource poor countries.

Projects re (1) Student Files and Records and (2) Documenting Distant Education Programs

These two projects are currently being developed by SUV. Gatis Karlsons (gatis.karlsons@lanet.lv) is

coordinating the project proposal for PCOM on guidelines for appraising student records. The distant education project proposal is being coordinated by William Maher (w-maher@illinois.edu).

Preservation of Science Data

In this project, SUV's *Committee on Preservation and Access to Scientific and Research Data* is assessing preservation strategies for science/research data from several countries.

+ ASSISTANCE

... a place to find resources, grant opportunities, assistance programs, etc.

Endangered Archives Programme

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/abouteap.html>

The Programme's aim is to contribute to the preservation of archival material that is in danger of destruction, neglect or physical deterioration world-wide. The main means by which the Programme achieves this is through the creation of digital or microfilm copies of endangered materials and the relocation of the originals to a safe local archival home. Grants are awarded to applicants for these purposes on an annual recurring basis.

See project site about list of countries and projects to give you an idea of what is an acceptable project. <http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/researchprojects.html>

+ PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

... archival history across time

HISTORY of ICA-SUV

In 1992, the Australian archivist, Alan Ives, brought together 41 university archivists from 13 countries to organize an ICA section for university archives. Upon ICA's request, the provisional section eventually incorporated archives of science and research – given their shared interest in documenting science and technology – which explains the dual nature of ICA-SUV, the section on university and research institution archives. Today, SUV is ICA's largest section. As of May 2009, it has 155 members from 35 countries.

ITALIAN HISTORICAL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES: A NEW NETWORK, OCTOBER 2009

A working group will have its first meeting in Padua, Italy, in October 2009 to establish the network and work on general management guidelines for Italian university archives.

Tamanrasset/Algeria, May 2009; she also participated in the meetings of section chairs held in connection with these EB meetings.

What follows are some important topics discussed in the last EB meeting in Tamanrasset in May 2009.

A New Fee Structure for ICA

For some time, ICA has been discussing revising the fee system for corporate ICA members (Categories A, B, and C). This is partly to make it more equitable but also to generate more income for ICA. No solution has yet been developed for a new fee structure. A *working group* was set up in October 2008 to develop recommendations in this regard. The group proposed a system of “bands of dues,” the precise amount of membership fees presumably tied to an institution's budget. To study the feasibility of this idea, the group proposed an empirical study, with particular emphasis on types of institution and geographic region.

+ SECTION BUREAU NEWS

by Juliane Mikoletzky, SUV chair

Board Meetings

Since the International ICA Congress in Kuala Lumpur in 2008, the Section Bureau (formerly known as “Steering Committee” of the SUV Section) has had two working meetings: in Vienna/Austria in December 2008, and in Reykjavik/Iceland in June 2009. In these meetings, we prepared the organization of the 2009 SUV Annual Conference in Rio de Janeiro and discussed projects and future activities of the section.

Budget

After negotiations with the ICA Secretariat in Paris as late as July 2009, SUV's budget for 2009 (EUR 7.000) was approved and transferred to SUV's account. As requested by the ICA Secretariat in Paris, SUV's section bureau had prepared a budget. Budget items included a membership survey (see article on *SUV Projects*), printing

more SUV leaflets, bursaries for students and young professionals to attend the annual SUV Conference, and travel costs for Section Bureau members who attend SUV or other ICA meetings.

SUV and ICA's Executive Board

As SUV members may know, ICA section chairs are also represented with a vote in the Executive Board (EB) - one of ICA's governing bodies - since 2004. Since 2007, ICA section chairs have therefore met before EB meetings in order to coordinate the sections' views on matters of ICA government. In the last two years, this meeting of the section chairs has developed into a sort of informal “body” of ICA, with Juliane Mikoletzky as secretary. As SUV chair, Juliane Mikoletzky represented SUV at the EB meetings in Vienna, October 2008, and in

Discussing the fee structure raises fundamental questions about the essence of ICA and how the organization will be managed. Among these questions are voting rights of members in different categories and special membership benefits; ICA President, Ian Wilson, is also considering additional membership categories (e.g. Silver/Gold/Platinum); and finding additional income generating resources.

The Project of an ICA Foundation

Some of you may remember discussions regarding this idea on the ICA listserv this spring. Since then, the original concept proposed by the Vice-President for Marketing and Promotion, Mr. Abdullah El Reyes from the UAE, has been modified. A sub-committee has met and discussed the matter. The actual state of affairs is as follows. The term ‘foundation’ will be dropped as it caused misunderstandings.

(continued p. 6)

('Section ...' cont. from p. 5)

The new organization does not have to be set up under UAE law; it can be created as a body of ICA under French law. Nevertheless, to do this, some changes to the ICA constitution may be necessary. These changes shall be proposed to ICA members by September 2009 for comment and be voted on by the AGM in Malta in November 2009.

During the discussion at the EB, serious reservations have been expressed regarding the proposed option.

- It was pointed out that it was yet not clear which products should be marketed under which conditions to what types of customers.
- The character of ICA as a non-profit organization should be preserved by all means. It was pointed out that ICA has to keep its status as a non-profit organization under French law. The legal aspects are to be explored by legal experts.

- Other options to generate income should be explored. Options include an ICA owned commercial subsidiary to ICA, or a sort of 'regional branch' of ICA.

According to ICA's president, all ICA bodies are expected to be 'closely involved in these operations' and to generate marketable 'products.'

The EB decided that association and section vice-presidents will make up the membership of the *sub-committee* charged with working out a plan until the Malta EB meeting in November 2009

- for the proposed revenue-raising entity in the UAE
- exploring possibilities for income generation in France and other sources of funding for ICA; as well as
- exploring changes to the ICA constitution necessary to establish a framework for income-generating activity.

ICA Language Policy

English and French are the official working languages of ICA and all ICA governing documents should be available in both languages. If a group wants to publish governing documents in additional languages, it needs to submit a proposal to ICA including a budget for covering translation costs. For professional documents, interested groups need to provide their own translations into additional languages. The EB reiterated that volunteers need to be fluent in both languages as well as knowledgeable in archival terminology and (ideally) processes in order to produce good translations. (*This is also relevant for SUV*). A *translation committee* was established to monitor the quality of translated professional documents; the committee will establish a pool of 'translators.' Contact person is Christine Martinez at the ICA Secretariat in Paris.

In addition, the EB discussed republishing an adjusted version of the older multi-language manual on archival terminology.

+ HOW TO LOCATE / CONTACT SUV MEMBERS

- *SUV LISTSERV*: if you want to post a message to all members who have e-mail, please use suv-members@jiscmail.ac.uk
- *MEMBER ADDRESSES*: if you want to contact an individual member or research several members, look at the list of members available at the ICA website, linked from SUV's website <http://www.library.illinois.edu/ica-suv/officers.php>

+ JOINING SUV + MEMBERSHIP FEES

SUV's website, <http://www.library.illinois.edu/ica-suv/>, explains how to 'join' ICA-SUV and ICA.

We have received many questions of how much it will cost to join ICA and then specify ICA-SUV as one's section. While membership fees for institutional members (category C) are assessed by a key, individual members (category D) have two options when joining ICA/ICA-SUV.

A **full individual membership** for Euro 100.- / year gives a member all rights and ICA's publications (*Comma* and *Flash*); a **reduced individual membership** for Euro 20.- / year includes no publications.



+ SUV'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

The Annual Conference of SUV and the Brazilian Fourth Meeting on Scientific Archives, 2009

The Annual Conference of SUV and the Brazilian Fourth Meeting on Scientific Archives had as its theme: *The Nature of University and Research Institution Archives: An International Perspective*. It took place in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from the 8th and 11th of September, 2009, and was attended by over 120 delegates from around the world. Although the majority of delegates were Brazilians there was representation from the USA, Australia, Austria, Argentina, Poland and Scotland thus providing a unique opportunity to learn from the archival practices and experiences of colleagues from different countries.

The conference papers addressed a variety of issues. These included an exploration of new and growing influences upon the archival world and strategies for dealing with them; a practical exploration of the records continuum; ethical pressures in the archival workplace; and the challenges posed by the rapid growth of records in digital format. There were also presentations that provided insights into how archivists are dealing practically with specific situations relating to their own repositories. It was particularly interesting to hear about various approaches and methodologies relating to archival procedures, especially given the variety of collections described. By the end of the conference it was clear that all across the world archivists are facing similar

challenges and this underlined the important role of the SUV in providing a forum for professionals from university and research institutions to exchange ideas and information and a means of offering mutual support. The proceedings of the conference will be launched in October 2009.

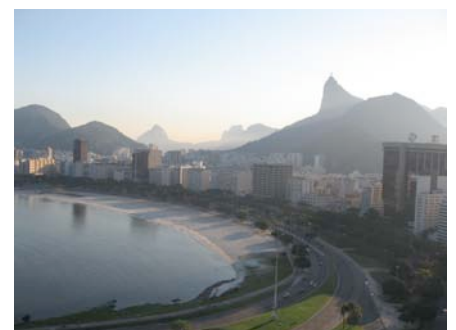
With regard to the organisation it is often true that in any event in any country the thousands of unseen and unheralded activities behind the scenes that are intended to make things run smoothly are generally unnoticed unless something goes wrong. This time, in Rio, the conference went so smoothly that the organisers - from Rui Barbosa's House Foundation and the Astronomy Museum - remained unsung heroes throughout the event. As far as the conference delegates were concerned there was ample opportunity to participate in and



learn from the conference sessions while also enjoying a range of social events designed to help them make the most of their visit to one of the worlds most iconic cities, including a visit to the amazing Botanical Gardens in Rio, an outdoor reception at the Astronomy Museum, and the sumptuous conference dinner at the Porcão restaurant on Guanabara Bay.

In all it was a highly successful and well-organised conference.

by Michael Bolik



+ SUV NEWS

SUV RESOURCES / MEMBER BENEFITS

In addition to projects, the annual conferences, and the listserv mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, SUV members also benefit from recent section developments that include

- a new website (hosted by the University of Illinois) also includes publications, e.g. *Readings on College and University Archives*, (selected from publications in English, French, and Spanish)
- a new brochure (print and downloadable versions in Chinese, English, Spanish and soon French)
- revised governing documents (waiting for approval)
- new conference guidelines
- frequent board meetings (in the last years, the board has met twice a year - an organizational challenge given that board members work on four continents)
- and of course ... the first issue of the new SUV newsletter, RE-UNION

Brochures, governing documents, newsletter, and SUV publications which include conference proceedings/conference photographs and bibliographies) can be downloaded from our SUV website at <http://www.library.illinois.edu/ica-suv/>

HOW CAN SUV ASSIST YOU?

Our upcoming membership survey (coordinator: Megan Sniffin-Marinoff) will ask you how the section can assist you. In addition to the survey, we would like to hear from you via the listserv or via private e-mails what you imagine an international section

can do for you and your institutions. Be creative, be imaginative, be impractical... practicalities will soon bring us back down to earth but bold ideas might have spin offs to practical projects.

SUV at SAA 2009, AUSTIN

SUV board member, Susanne Belovari, gave a presentation about SUV to the *Section on University and Colleges Archivists* at the Annual Conference of the *Society of American Archivists*, in Austin this summer. Covering the overall history of efforts to internationally organize archivists and then discussing SUV's history and projects, the talk was intended to encourage more US archivists to join the organization.

TRANSLATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are fluent in another language and feel comfortable translating archives related texts from English into other languages, please contact SUV. The section always needs volunteers to translate texts, be they messages to members, web pages, SUV pamphlets, etc.

ICA's official languages are English and French and we strive to eventually have all essential documents translated in both languages. But, of course, we want to have material, e.g. pamphlets, also available in other languages (currently the pamphlet is available in English, Chinese, and Spanish).

This is an easy way to get more involved in your section and will not take much of your time each year.

+ ICA-SUV BOARD ELECTIONS 2010

2010 is ICA-SUV Election Year.

Elections are held in even numbered years with one-half (six members) of the Section Bureau being elected in each election for four-year terms. Section Bureau members can be re-elected once and then have to be out office for two years before running again. This ensures that new board members, new ideas, and new energies regularly infuse the SUV board.

Our next election will be in the spring of 2010. Please be on the lookout for information regarding candidates, details and dates on our listserv.