

Es un verdadero placer estar aquí en la ciudad de México, en esta conferencia del Consejo Internacional de Archivos y de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Archivos. En primer lugar, quiero decir que es un gran honor haber sido nombrada por el Comité de Nombramientos como Secretaria General y que espero que mi nombramiento cuente con su aprobación. A los quince años ya sabía que de mayor quería ser archivera, así que me sentí muy feliz cuando complete mis estudios universitarios y mi Masters en Archivística. Ahora estoy muy orgullosa de poder representar a nuestra profesión en el ámbito internacional. Para mí, los archivos van más allá de la memoria colectiva, de la historias; los archivos hablan de justicia, responsabilidad y ciudadanía. Asimismo, he visto el impacto de la ausencia de los archivos: mayor pobreza, injusticia y desigualdad social. Hoy en día, archiveros, archiveras y archivos desempeñan un papel vital en el mundo empoderando a los ciudadanos, protegiendo sus libertades y dándole voz a la verdad.

Les archives et les archivistes ont un rôle important à jouer au 21e siècle. Nous n'avons qu'à regarder les évènements qui font maintenant la Une a travers le monde: le « fake news ». Au cœur de plusieurs conversations maintenant c'est la fiabilité de l'information qui est en jeu, et qui peut mieux discuter comment assurer la vérité et l'authenticité des informations qu'un(e) archiviste(e) ? Il suffit de regarder les grands projets de recherche InterPARES, e-Ark, PERICLES, PERSIST qui ont contribué et épanouissent nos connaissances dans le domaine de la fiabilité et la conservation des documents numériques. Mais le problème reste que nous ne faisons pas partie des discussions centrales qui touchent au thème de la fiabilité et de la vérité des informations. Il faut nous y insérer. Nous pouvons apporter notre contribution sur des points valides et critiques. Nous ne pouvons plus nous offrir le luxe maintenant de discuter entre nous. C'est maintenant le moment de regarder hors de nos de frontières habituelles et de foncer dans de nouveaux territoires parfois intimidants et apeurant, mais nous devons foncer, peu importe. Il faut nous impliquer au sein de la responsabilisation des algorithmes, de l'éthique et du big data, la science des données pour la création des politiques gouvernementales, pour n'en nommer que quelques-unes.

I think Laura Millar said it best in her keynote speech in the UBC iSchool Gala and Awards Ceremony, when discussing the role of archivists in debunking fake news and working together with other professions in order to achieve a world where credible and defensible evidence exists and underpins news:

'Of course we need to do more. And in this to reach across professional and disciplinary boundaries and [...]thinking we and only we can find the best solutions to 'our' problems, which are not really 'our' problem at all, but the world's. We need to cultivate partnerships in order to broaden our horizons and expand our reach'

Essentially, as a profession we do not have to be the Death Star, we do not have to be all things in regards to the creation, management and preservation of records. We need to strengthen our existing relationships with allied organisations and build new ones. In light of this my vision for the ICA is ambitious, but is built on three key concepts: reinforce, extend and consult.

'Reinforce'- This has many facets to it, first it is about reinforcing our relationships with allied organisations such as United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) International Federation of Library Association (IFLA), International Council on Museums (ICOM), International Centre for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural

Property (ICCROM), The Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA), Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC), national archival associations, and many other allied professional organisations. We share common concerns with these organisations and we need to reinforce existing relationships as well as partnerships with them to advocate for the importance of information and records, regardless of form, as vital forms of evidence for accountability, transparency as well as culture. We are not in competition, the only way we can achieve our common goals is by working together and deploying our resources to best effect, drawing on our respective areas of expertise as well as fostering continuing respect and collaboration. However, 'Reinforce' is not simply an external looking facet, it is also about reinforcing our profession and our digital capacity. Digital has wide reaching effects on our practice, agency, ethics and how we conceive of our role as archivist. There are hard truths we need to come to terms with such as certainty is an illusion, we can only work with levels of probability, but in order to come to this point we need to understand in more practical terms how digital works and how we become conversant with its uncertainty. We also need to be realistic and practical about what our work looks like with little or no resource: How do I do digital preservation with no money? A concern for many archives in the developing world, along with many small to medium sized archives in the developed world.

This does not mean we ignore the fact that a large portion of our membership still works and deals with analogue records, but we must acknowledge that we need better support for digital professional development which is difficult to find and access. There projects underway at ICA that might help move us forward in this area, but we will need to carefully assess where best to apply our resource and efforts to achieve maximum effect.

'Extend'. Not only do we need to strengthen existing professional relationships and the professional, more generally, but we also need to extend; extend our strategic relationships with non-traditional professions that have similar concerns as us, but may express them in different terms. We need to connect with the World Bank and the United Nations, who are promoting the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is a golden opportunity for us to help colleagues in the developing world, put records and archives at the core of an international initiative, seeking to improve the lives of millions of the world's poorest. Ostensibly SDGs are predicated upon the existence of trustworthy records (and data) and without this information, what exactly are they measuring? And is it indicative of eradication of poverty, improvement of health care and other developmental goals?

We need to built relationships with software providers, to help us ensure that the memory of the world in digital form is not compromised by proprietary software licences. We need to reach out to the information ethics community that are increasingly concerned about the ethical implications of machine learning and artificial intelligence on people, along with their freedoms. We need to work more closely with the research data management and data science communities as more and more data (structured and unstructured) becomes foundational to organisational work and government policies; we all need to understand the long standing value of this information and what should be captured and by whom. The list goes on. The goal is a symbiotic one: learn from these communities and contribute to their thinking as well.

Finally, but definitely not least for me, is 'Innovate'. Digital brings with it many opportunities and challenges. I want to use the ICA as a hub to share international practice and innovative pieces of work happening in our field and others. There is much to learn and much to do. Equally I want to push for more research in digital, in particular to examine on a practical level what digital archival practice begins to look like in the trenches. We have a saying at TNA coined by a respected former colleague of mine, there is no better teacher than 'learning by doing' and that is what I would like to do. I want to organise hackathons, I want

us to offer hand-ons digital opportunities allowing people to experiment; whether highly technical or not, allowing them build their technical expertise by playing with tools. I think there are already interesting initiatives happening now that we can use as platforms to begin enabling this type of work.

Finally, but by no means least, something that will be woven throughout this process is 'consult'. Nothing like this can happen without consultation. Throughout the process I will be consulting with members of the ICA, across the piece, to refine and built vision that as representative of the will of the membership, while still pushing the council forward. In order to achieve these goals we need to be willing to move at pace, be flexible, try new things and accept that we may not always get it right, but learn from our mistakes.

Thank you very much for your time and attention and I look forward to speaking to you during the course of the conference. Merci, muchas gracias.

Anthea Seles
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