



Provisional Forum of Professional Associations  
Annual Report for the period November 2020 – August 2021

This past year has been one of transition for the provisional Forum of Professional Associations (FPA). The change began 2 years ago when the Section of Professional Associations (SPA) requested a different organizational placement for the governance entity which represents category B members, from a section to a forum. This required changes to the ICA Constitution and new Terms of Reference. After one year as a “provisional” Forum, the final step of this transformation from SPA to FPA occurs in October when the ICA General Assembly approves the necessary constitutional changes.

In November 2020 a provisional FPA steering committee was formed, based on nominations from Category B member associations. Five of the 12 members previously served on the SPA steering committee; the other seven members are new.

- Becky Haglund Tousey – Society of American Archivists (President, 2020-2022 term)
- Cassie Findlay – Australian Society of Archivists
- Cédric Champagne – Association des archivistes du Québec
- Marta Munuera Bermejo – Association of Archivists and Records Managers of Catalonia  
*[Note: Marta resigned for personal reasons and was replaced by Ana Pazos in July 2021]*
- Wang Hongmin – Society of Chinese Archivists
- Pierre-Frédéric Brau – Association des archivistes français
- Lavi Shay – Israel Archives and Information Association
- Boniface Odhiambo – Kenya Association of Records Managers and Archivists
- Bert de Vries – Royal Association of Archivists in the Netherlands
- Wieslaw Nowosad – Society of Poland Archivists
- Adama Aly Pam – Association sénégalaise des bibliothécaires, archivistes et documentalistes
- Stella Infante Rosso – Uruguayan Association of Archivists

### Steering Committee meetings

Due to the pandemic our steering committee meetings have only been virtual. We held three 1-hour meetings over the first few months so everyone could meet and introduce themselves, and to provide some orientation for the new members as to the workings of ICA and FPA.

- 7 December 2020
- 14 January 2021
- 31 March 2021

With the wide geographic diversity of our steering committee members it is not possible to hold a virtual meeting when everyone can attend. It is always the middle of the night somewhere.

The following officer roles were appointed in December 2020:

- Vice-President – Bert de Vries
- Secretary – Cédric Champagne
- Secretary – Lavi Shay
- Web/social media manager – Marta Munuera Bermejo
- Communications Liaison (newsletter editor) – Boniface Odhiambo

### SPA to FPA transition “housekeeping” requirements

Two key housekeeping tasks need to be completed as part of our transition from SPA to FPA:

- Update SPA Handbook: I, the vice-president and secretaries have been working on revising the handbook over the past few months. A draft has been distributed to the full FPA steering committee for their review/comment. A final draft should be completed and ready for translations by the end of 2021.
- Update SPA website: This task needs to wait until after the ICA General Assembly gives its final approval for FPA. A new ICA/FPA logo needs to be created so the website can be rebranded. Unfortunately, our long-time web manager Marta Munuera Bermejo had to resign from FPA in June 2021 due to personal reasons. The loss of her website expertise, as well as the loss of her important social media activity on behalf of SPA/FPA, has been a difficult setback. Finding someone on the steering committee to take over the role of web manager is a key priority in the near term.

### Discussions on the future role of FPA

During these first few steering committee meetings we held preliminary discussions about how FPA can take on a new and more visible leadership role in ICA.

- In what ways should FPA steering committee members be involved in the governance of ICA?
- Two-way communication: How do we improve and increase communication with our association members?
- Networking: How do we build more bridges between associations within specific regions (possibly using ICA’s existing Branch structure) and/or language groups? A good example of this is ALA – it serves as a regional network of country associations.

- ICA's Code of Ethics: ICA established its Code of Ethics in 1996 and there is consensus that it needs to be updated. I attended a SUV virtual program in July 2021 on the topic of ethics, which included a presentation about the Portugal association's efforts to create a code of ethics. I got permission from the presenter to share her presentation deck with the rest of the FPA steering committee.
- ICA Strategic Plan: As we continue our discussions, our goals are to ensure our efforts support and enhance the overall Strategic Plan of ICA and also meet the expectations of our association members.

#### Future Steering Committee meetings

We are hopeful we will be able to hold a 2-3 day in-person working meeting (or a hybrid in-person/virtual working meeting) in 2022 with all steering committee members in attendance.

#### Current FPA representation on ICA entities (2020-2021)

- President Becky Haglund Tousey
  - Executive Board
  - ex officio member of PCOM and FAN and Section Chairs
- Vice-President Bert de Vries
  - EB Working Group
- Steering Committee member Stella Infanta
  - Communications subcommittee for the ICA/ALA Cooperative Agreement

#### Cross-association cooperation events during 2020-2021

Several FPA steering committee members participated in online conferences hosted by country associations other than their own:

- Roundtable discussion (virtual), hosted by Quebec association in May 2021
- Conference (virtual), hosted by Catalonian association in May 2021

#### Review of Category B Dues Structure

As part of ICA's ongoing financial analysis of membership dues, ICA's head office staff and VP Finance are working on a proposal for a new tiered dues structure for Category B members.

Respectfully submitted

Becky Haglund Tousey, President, Provisional Forum of Professional Associations

ICA

September 18, 2021