Minutes
ICA/SIO 44th Annual Meeting and Workshop
United Nations, New York, USA
23-25 May 2018

Wednesday, 23 May 2018

Workshop on: ICTs for Archives and Records Management Services in the 21st Century: Impact and Opportunity

Ms Theresa Pardo (University of Albany) moderated and facilitated a workshop on 23 May 2018.

In her keynote speech entitled “Creating public value in a dynamic and complex world”, she elaborated on the following concepts, that in the 90s 90% of IT systems implementations failed since ITC only looked only at the technological innovation, that we live in a dynamic and complex world, where our thinking will require new ways of addressing issues. Furthermore, the citizen of the future is a virtual citizen, which again will require different ways of addressing issues. Archivists will have to face a series of disruptors e.g. big data, cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

During the second part of the workshop, participants were asked to indicate hopes and fears for the archival profession against the changing environment.

The outcome of this part was that there was an opportunity to create power and be able to influence and the opportunity to use and adapt to new technologies. Participants feared that they became among other things irrelevant and redundant and that they were not being able to capture valuable information and cope with technology.
The last part of the workshop focussed on three discussion on how to manage data (both structured and unstructured), on emerging technologies and a more detailed discussion on blockchain.

Thursday, 24 May 2018 – Annual meeting

1. Report from the Chair / Secretary / Set-up Recommendation Committee

The Chair discussed the following points: the ICA publication Comma would like to dedicate an entire issue to International Organisations. In January 2018 he participated in a meeting with Margaret Procter, the editor of Comma. SIO was invited to edit a future edition of Comma. The Chair proposed to appoint Shadrack Katuu (UN) as the editor of this edition, as he is an experienced editor for a number of publications.

In April 2018 a higher budget was allocated to the section (2,200 euros instead of 1,600 euros). The Section report and other documentation will be published on the ICA Website. A new website administrator has been appointed and the documentation of this meeting will be made available to all SIO members in due course.

No agreement with ARA in having the next Annual Conference in Edinburgh. The next executive board meeting will be in Yaoundé in November 2018 and in Abu Dhabi in April 2019.

A draft survey has been recently circulated to the ISO members for comments with the purpose of starting a benchmarking exercise among international organisations to track progress. In the meeting it was agreed that it will be sent in the course of June to the ICA members via the Survey Monkey Tool with one month to be filled. It will have a biannual frequency.

2. United Nations ARMS – host presentations

ARMS United Nations (Bridget Sisk and Stephen Haufek) presented the completed and ongoing projects. One major development in the organisation was the internal reform of the Secretary General which has had an impact on ARMS.
The Host suggested an impromptu talk by William Kilbride, Executive Director of the Digital Preservation Coalition. He explained the purpose of DPC, being it a membership organisation in a field where maturity modelling and benchmarking are extremely useful.

3. Tour de table on “A year at our International Organisations”

Each organisation present updated the meeting participants on what happened in their organisations since the 43rd meeting:

In the annex to these minutes you will find the contributions by those organisations which had sent their text to the Secretary before the meeting. If you don’t find a contribution of an organisation, it means that this particular organisation has not given their permission to publish their round table text or did not supply a contribution to the Secretary.

4.1 “Machine learning for archival holdings - opportunities and threats”

Seth Van Hooland (Université Libre de Bruxelles) presented a talk on machine learning for archival holdings. He discussed the possible use of artificial intelligence techniques and machine learning for archives was presented, together with their limitations and

4.2 “UNHCR: Arkivum in the cloud”

Montserrat Canela Garayoa (UNHCR) discussed the implementation of Arkivum in the cloud at UNHCR. From 2014 onwards a digital preservation team is working on implementing Arkivum for their audiovisual material and the content of the ECM system.

4.3 “Implementing an EDRMS in the cloud based on Microsoft SharePoint”

Edouard Ratheau (IADB) presented the implementation and EDRMS in the cloud based on Microsoft SharePoint. During his presentation he shared his experience on implementation of a Sharepoint based system called ezShare with an integrated RM platform in the background called RecordPoint.

5.1 “Old roots for new routes” - The role of the CEDEFOP archives in preserving and valorising institutional memory

Marc Willem from CEDEFOP explained the mandate of the archives and the role it plays in writing and preserving the history of CEDEFOP. He mentioned the related policies and a
deposit agreement with EUI in Florence. The first transfer to the EUI took place in 2004. The Archive has been used for a number of initiatives, e.g. the exhibition on the 40 years anniversary of CEDEFOP.

5.2 “The new Access policy at UNHCR”

Monserrat Canela Garayoa (UNHCR) explained that the Records and Archives Policy was was reviewed in 2017, including the access policy. Access to the public is based on the 20 years rule, with some exceptions. The Archives has the right to declassify confidential and strictly confidential documents after 20 years. In practice access happens via e-SAFE (document repository) based on permissions or by consulting an online catalogue online. A still open issue is how to carry out sensitivity reviews on digital documents.

5.3 “Total Digital Access to the League of Nations Archives Project”

Blandine Blukacz-Louisfert (UNOG) presented a large scale project to digitise the whole League of Nations Archives. The project presented and still presents some challenges, like e.g. the scale of project and competing priorities. At the same time the project has offered a series of opportunities to engage with both researchers and other organisations like the French National Archives.

6.1 “Ensuring the right of personal data protection in a context of informational openness. The experience of the guarantor bodies in Mexico”

José Guadalupe – Commissioner ITAIPEM described the New General Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information was approved in 2014 in Mexico. It has brought an increase of requests of access from the public. Nevertheless, this also creates conflicting situation with data protection regulations He stressed that consensus is vital in these cases.

6.2 “The GDPR and its impact on international organisations”

Ineke Deserno (NATO) explained the principles of the GDPR on the day of its entry into force (25 May 2018) She mentioned that the GDPR applied to data controllers, data processors and data subjects. International organisations and activities related to foreign policy and (international) security are exempt from the GDPR. EU institutions and bodies are subject to the rules of Regulation 45/2001, which is in the process of being aligned with GDPR.
6.3 “GDPR: the World Bank approach”

Paloma Beneito Arias & Daniele Balduzzi (World Bank Group) explained that the World Bank has already an informal privacy programme, which was enshrined in its code of conduct and in its staff rules. Although the GDPR does not apply directly to the World Bank Group bank it has brought to the table new issues which the use of emergent technologies intensify and it hence represents a great opportunity to align with it. The aim is not to be fully compliant, but to have a sound framework for the protection of personal data.

7.1 “Information Management - Compliance across the Industries and the Commonalities”

Diane Carter (STL) gave an introduction on IM and Governance which set the tone for a lively discussion on information governance in international organisations which was moderated by Salem Avan (UN) between E Liberatori-Prati (WBG), Diane Carter (STL) and William Kilbride (DPC) and the meeting participants.

8 Recommendations

The Recommendations Committee produced a number of recommendations, 4 of which were which were discussed during the meeting. The recommendations were commented upon and adjusted accordingly. The recommendations were approved during the meeting. They would be made available via the SIO website.

9. Any other business / next meeting announcement

No other business. Ineke Deserno from NATO invited and the SIO accepted her invitation to host the 45th Annual meeting at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.