

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

31st January 2020 10:00-12:30 and 14:00-16:30

At the Archives Nationales, Paris

Present: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana (in the chair); Blanca Bazaco Palacios; Jens Boel; Perrine Canavaggio; Gustavo Castaner Marquardt; Trudy Peterson; Deborah Jenkins; David Sutton. In addition, Odile Welfélé attended from 16:00.

In attendance from 11 am to 12:30: Anthea Seles

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mariana Nazar and Roman Lescano

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved

PART 1: PROGRAMME WORK

10:00-12:30

3. Composition of SAHR programme work subcommittee(s)

The SAHR constitution allows for the creation of programme sub committees and working groups, which would enable the section to involve other SAHR members. It was AGREED that once decisions were made about which programmes to prioritise, a call for volunteers would be made to open the work of the section to more members.

There followed a discussion about the use of social media to involve other members of the section. It was AGREED that Gustavo would take the lead on twitter activities, not just for big activities such as the book launch but also in publicising stories mentioned in the monthly newsletter. Gustavo would contact Fina (ICA/SPO) to find out how SPO organised their social media activities.

The role of the sectional webmaster was discussed. Antonio would write to Christine Trembleau about whether ICA had issued any guideline/guidance about this. It was AGREED that there was a distinction between news and material issued by the Section and news and material issued in the name of the whole of ICA, when the Elected Officers needed to be involved.

The circulation of SAHR members was discussed. The list of members published on the ICA website did not match the list of members compiled by the section itself. It was AGREED that Deb would enlist the help of members of the executive committee with a long association with the Working Group to bring this list up to date. Later in the meeting, Anthea Seles offered to ask Marianne, in the ICA Secretariat, to send to Deb, on a quarterly basis, a list of all new members who had expressed an interest in joining SAHR. This was gratefully accepted.

4. Programme matters

The programme of the section was reviewed, as follows:

	Activity	Discussion/ Decision
a	Book on Archives and Human Rights	<p>Jens reported on progress with the Book on Archives and Human Rights. The major remaining problem for the English version was the translation of 10 of the articles, originally written in French, Spanish or Portuguese. Antonio and Perrine had identified possible translators for these chapters. David had revised some of the articles written in English by non-native speakers.</p> <p>The matter of translation was raised with Anthea when she joined the meeting, and she indicated that she might be able to identify specific sources of funding to resolve the problem. Antonio needed to send Anthea a summary of costs by Monday morning. She would report back to Jens, Perrine and Antonio by Wednesday.</p> <p>Despite these difficulties, it was worth noting that the quality of the essays already submitted was very high. It was AGREED that Perrine would circulate the list of authors and essays to the executive committee.</p> <p>The launch at the Abu Dhabi Congress was discussed. It was AGREED that Jens would take the lead on the launch, and that Antonio would submit a proposal to the Abu Dhabi organising committee for a programme session which would cover the book and, if possible, the COMMA special edition on Archives and Human Rights</p>
b	COMMA special edition on Human Rights	<p>Blanca reported that the section was now in contact with Margaret Proctor and the COMMA editorial board, and that the publication of the special edition on Archives and Human Rights had been AGREED in principle. The main part of the text needed to be ready by the end of June, although the text could be submitted in phases. Each edition was limited to 80,000 words.</p> <p>Already ready were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perrine's history of the Working Group. (This was the text of the lecture given at the Yaoundé conference, with an additional paragraph explaining the formation of the Section) – 5,000 words approx. 2. Trudy's commentary on the human rights' declaration – 30,000 words approx. 3. Antonio's article on the objectives for the Section in the short to medium term, together with priorities in work with Archives and Human Rights – 5,000 words approx. <p>There then followed a discussion on what other aspects of archives and human rights might be covered in the book. Ideas included: climate change; children's rights; business archives; Aborigine and indigenous people's rights; human</p>

		<p>rights and electronic records, artificial intelligence and face recognition; safe havens.</p> <p>It was AGREED that no idea would be pursued unless an author was readily identified for each theme. Possible authors included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Shepherd for children's rights • Lesley Richmond for business archives and human rights • Raymond Frogmore or Remi Orsier for Indigenous Rights • Michael Evans for US/Latin America • David Sutton for Safe Havens <p>Blanca would make a plan and circulate it to the committee for help and support.</p>
c	Developing teaching materials on archives and human rights	<p>The Programme Commission was, in principle, interested in developing a training course for archivists on archives and human rights. While the Training Officer was still very busy setting up the first courses, she had indicated that it would be a good idea to start the planning now, to launch the courses in 2021/2022. The ICA now had worked out the format for each course, so what was needed was for an SAHR leader and a subcommittee to be set up to work with Margaret Crocket on this. A typical course would have up to 8 modules of 30 hours each. It was AGREED that the following people should be sounded out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valentina Rojas (Antonio would contact her within the next four weeks), possibly as chair of sub committee • Colleagues at the University of Dundee • Colleagues at the University of Barcelona • Colleagues in ICA section for Archival Education <p>Trudy had offered to support the activity as a 'resources' person.</p>
d	Preparations for Abu Dhabi congress	<p>The possibility of offering a workshop at the Abu Dhabi conference on archives and human rights was discussed. It was AGREED that Antonio would complete a formal proposal on the congress 'open conf.' page of the congress website.</p> <p>David reported that the submission on Safe Havens had already been submitted to the congress organisers.</p>
e	Safe Havens	<p>Trudy reported that the Swisspeace standing committee would be continuing. Swisspeace had received funding for two further years (and renewable) from the Swiss Foreign Office.</p>
f	Memory of the World – Registration of archives of protest within MoW	<p>The registration of archives under the Memory of World had re-started at the national level, but was still frozen at an international level.</p> <p>There followed a discussion about the ICA's position on the issue, which remained unclear. It was AGREED that Anthea would take the matter to the upcoming ICA elected officers'</p>

		meeting and would report back.
g	Businesses and Human Rights initiatives	Antonio reported that Blanca had been invited to contribute to the international convention on business and human rights.
h	Publication of the <i>Guidelines for the reproduction of archives – ‘Sample memorandum of understanding: Agreement to Reproduce Archives and Other Historical Material’</i> – joint activity with Expert Group on Shared Heritage	Trudy had not heard from the Expert Group on Shared Heritage, which was still focussing on their survey on shared heritage issues.
i	Compilation of directory of Human Rights Archives and of archives holding human rights collections	<p>The issue of compiling a directory of Human Rights archives and of archives holding Human Rights collections was discussed. The Working Group’s first attempt at creating such a directory had raised a number of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you define a human rights archive? • Should the directory information be collected at fonds level? • There was the possibility of a geo-location presentation • We should get in touch with colleagues at Galway University, who have started a Human Rights archives project • There were problems with maintaining a database and keeping it current. <p>Antonio reported that on 21st February, ALA would be meeting in Seville. He would discuss the issue with ALA colleagues to see whether anyone there had the capacity to take on this project. It was possible to divide it into different phases, and, for instance, work on specific types of archives (eg Truth Commissions/ transitional justice archives/ international courts) and not attempt a complete directory all at one go.</p>
j	Mapping of projects relating to the human rights of children	Following a presentation by Elizabeth Shepherd at the Adelaide conference on the MIRRA project (Memory, Identity, Rights in Records, Access) a question was raised about mapping, at an international level, projects relating to Archives and Children’s Rights. Colleagues in Ireland and in Australia had been working on these issues quite extensively. Blanca would be meeting with Elizabeth soon and would discuss the matter with her.
k	Seminars with other sections and other ICA entities, including SPO and SUV	<p>SAHR has been asked to contribute to the annual conference of ICA’s Section for University and Research Institution Archives (ICA-SUV). The conference will be held in Bogota, Colombia from 28 September to 2 October 2020 on the theme of Memory, Human Rights and Good Practice in University and Research Archives. Antonio is hoping to attend the meeting.</p> <p>David and Deb will be attending the next meeting of the Section on Sporting archives (ICA-SPO) in Girona on 27th March 2020 to discuss the framework of a conference on</p>

		Sport Archives and Human Rights. It was agreed that this subject offered many ways of looking at archives and human rights, ranging from Human Rights demonstrations at international events such as Olympic Games to the rights of building workers employed to build sports arenas. Anthea indicated that it was possible that in future in years when there was no ICA conference, ICA EB and PCOM meetings might be held at the same time as sectional meetings.
I	Other programme issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonio and Blanca will be providing a written commentary by 20th February on elements of the following book: <i>“Transparencia y participación para un Gobierno Abierto” en el que participas ya se ha publicado.</i> Enlace: https://tienda.wolterskluwer.es/p/transparencia-y-participacion-para-un-gobierno-abierto-2 • Trudy raised the matter of climate change and implications for human rights. She felt that there was a need for a pilot project on this issue and suggested that SAHR should apply to PCOM for the pilot project. It would be possible to look at what the implications for island nations would be by comparing sea level projections for 2030 and 2050. Using that methodology, it would then be possible to assess what the impact would be for archive repositories in low lying areas elsewhere in the world. At the moment, PCOM was not offering grants, but it was AGREED that this could be proposed to PCOM once funding became available. Trudy would write a ‘proof of concept paper’ and circulate it. • More generally, it was AGREED that members of the Executive Committee would start compiling a list of potential projects and that volunteers would be sought from the SAHR membership to lead on them in due course.

PART 2: SECTIONAL MATTERS
14:00-16:30

5. Report back on SAHR meetings in Adelaide on 20th October 2019 and confirmation of minutes

The minutes of both Adelaide meetings (Executive Committee and Whole Section) were approved.

6. Campaign matters/ Solidarity with colleagues under pressure

A number of issues were discussed:

- WAPIS (West Africa Police Information System) Interpol project (project led by Interpol to digitise West African police archives from 16 countries); the project, mostly funded by the EU had 210,000,000 Euros allocated to it and covered the following data: Criminal cases and events; Suspects, victims and witnesses; Legal proceedings; Weapons and objects; Vehicles; Identity documents. A regional platform had already been created. It was AGREED that Deb would write to Clarissa (ICA/FAN) to ensure that National Archivists knew about the project and its implications

- Guatemala Police Archives. Antonio reported that the buildings in which the archives were stored were continuing in the stewardship of the new Ministry of Culture in Guatemala.
- Lebanon UMAN project under threat. In recent riots, people had protested against the archive.
- Sri Lanka. The Office of Missing Persons was established in 2018 to investigate the disappeared, which are estimated at nearly 25,000. Recently, the president announced that death certificates would be issued for all the missing. With the arbitrary issuance of death certificates, what will happen to the Office and its records is not clear.
- Chile. The Archivist at Santiago University is being prosecuted as an "accomplice of disruption and burglary" for her attempt to mediate at a sit-in at a public school.

There followed a discussion about the possibility of tweeting about these cases. It was AGREED that this should only be done if the SAHR Newsletter reported the case; as a general principle, individuals' names should not be mentioned.

7. Budget 2020 and Financial arrangements for the Section

- Governance budget. Antonio reported on the submission he had made for Governance costs for the section
- PCOM grant budget. This was not open to bids at the moment (but see decision 4(l) in respect of climate change in work programme above)
- Need for a sectional bank account. This was discussed in detail. It was AGREED that all members of the Executive Committee would research the implications of opening a bank account in their own countries / institutions.

8. Website and social media

The slow progress on updating the SAHR web pages on the ICA website was discussed. It was AGREED that the update would be done Heading by Heading over the coming months. The headings identified for priority action were:

- WORK PROGRAMME: Deb to update the work programme document from the minutes of this meeting and get it uploaded
- NEWSLETTER: current system to continue until new logo and arrangements could be obtained
- GOVERNANCE: the heading did not exist on the SAHR web page at the moment. Deb to ask Roman to introduce this and then arrange for the constitution, minutes and annual reports to be uploaded
- LOGO: Antonio to ask ICA Secretariat to arrange for the sectional logo to be made up

9. ICA Constitution -- possible amendments

The amendments to the ICA constitution discussed at the Adelaide EB were discussed. These proposals included the exclusion of some sections from the ICA EB. It was difficult to know how to proceed, as the ICA Secretariat had not yet circulated an updated version of the proposals, which had been promised in Adelaide.

10. Any other business

There was no other business

11. Date of next meeting

It was AGREED that those members of the SAHR EC attending the London ICA EB would attempt to meet informally in London if possible. The next planned meeting of the whole section and of the executive would be held in Abu Dhabi – the secretary would be making arrangements for those meetings with the ICA secretariat.