

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

22 OCTOBER 2020, 16:30 Madrid time

By video conference

Present: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana (in the chair); Jens Boel; Perrine Canavaggio; Gustavo Castaner Marquardt; Vitor Fonseca; Adam Hidestøl; Deborah Jenkins; Silvia Moure; Mariana Nazar; Trudy Peterson; David Sutton.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Blanca Bazaco Palacios

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda, which had been circulated ahead of the meeting, was approved. It was AGREED that the pilot project on archives and climate change would be taken as the first item.

3. Projects and programme matters

The current programme of the section was reviewed, as follows:

	Activity	Discussion/ Decision
a	Climate Change and Archives at Risk Pilot Project	<p>The idea of the project is to pinpoint where archives repositories are located and to overlay a climate risk map on these areas, to show how risks due to climate change might impact on these archives (eg where are the archives with a high risk of flooding?). Vitor and Silvia reported on their pilot, which was based on 81 archives in Rio de Janeiro. The data used was publicly available, and based on a directory developed by the National Archives of Brazil. It was laid out on an Excel spreadsheet. Vitor reported that there was need for some fine tuning, including controlled descriptive vocabulary.</p> <p>It was suggested that this pilot should be shared more widely for discussion. Trudy commented that SAHR should wait until the climate change overlay had been more fully developed. Gustavo offered to approach the World Meteorological Archives and the Climate Change Convention in Bonn to find out whether they had developed relevant tools. SAHR might also consider contacting the UN disaster reduction unit [ISDR], as well as some universities which had been researching the issue. This approach was AGREED.</p> <p>Vitor and Silvia were thanked for their useful work</p>
b	Book on Archives and Human Rights to be	Jens reported that a publication date for the book had been agreed: 9 th March 2021. The book was in its final production

	published by Routledge	<p>phase, and an index was being compiled. Routledge were preparing a flyer for the book. It might be circulated with the Spring edition of COMMA.</p> <p>Three events were being programmed to link with the publication of the book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theme will be explored at a meeting in Geneva after March 2021 • There will be an event in Brisbane, which David Fricker will attend • The congress in Abu Dhabi <p>There followed a discussion about the price of the book, which was currently set at £120. Routledge's policy is to sell to research institutes rather than individuals. A discount for ICA members is being considered. Contributors will get their own copies.</p> <p>As far as reviews are concerned, Routledge have agreed to send the book to 5 key journals. An electronic version of the book will be issued 18 months after the paper publication, and will probably be available at 30 Euros</p> <p>It was AGREED at Antonio's suggestion that the royalties from the Routledge version of the book should be paid into the ICA account. It was requested that the revenue should be accounted for separately. No copyright transfer to ICA was implied by this transaction.</p>
c	COMMA special edition on Human Rights	The COMMA special edition on archives and human rights was on track. Most of the articles had now been written. Antonio's article referred to the Routledge book.
d	Directory of human rights archives and of archives holding human rights collections	<p>It had been previously agreed that the directory would be parcelled into a number of smaller projects, to make it more manageable.</p> <p>The first project which relates to the extractive industries (including mining) is now under way and is reported on under Business archives -- see (i) below.</p>
e	Developing teaching materials on archives and human rights – including bibliography on archives and human rights	No progress had been made on developing this project. Trudy commented that Swisspeace had done a lot of work in the past on a bibliography on archives and human rights, and that it might be a good way to start. Antonio, who had a meeting arranged with representatives of Swisspeace would ask them whether they would be interested in assisting/co-operating with this project, particularly the bibliography.
f	Preparations for Abu Dhabi congress	A number of SAHR members had had their presentations for the Congress approved by the Congress planning committee, including Antonio and Blanca and David Sutton (see below)
g	Safe Havens	David Sutton's presentation on Safe Havens had been accepted by the Abu Dhabi congress planning committee
h	Memory of the World – Registration of archives of protest within MoW	<p>There followed a discussion about the ICA's position on the Memory of the World register, which remained unclear.</p> <p>At the moment, to all intents and purposes, the international</p>

		<p>register was closed. This was a great pity, as it had been successfully used in the past to promote archives and human rights.</p> <p>Jens would try and get more information about MoW from his contacts within UNESCO</p>
i	Businesses and Human Rights initiatives	<p>Antonio reported on the UN annual forum on Business and Human Rights. A second draft of a legally binding text was in preparation. This version of the draft now included references to archives and records, especially in articles 5, 6 and 12. Ways of supporting these amendments were discussed.</p> <p>Rachel Mihalko has started work on identifying the archives of the extractive industries and will have a preliminary report ready in the New Year</p>
j	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	<p>Trudy had contacted but had not heard from the Expert Group on Shared Heritage.</p>
k	Mapping of projects relating to the human rights of children	<p>Blanca had met with Elizabeth Shepherd (University College London) and the forthcoming issue of COMMA included an article on the MIRRA project, on children’s rights.</p> <p>René Provost and Myriam Denov’s report <i>‘From Violence to Life: Children Born of War and Constructions of Victimhood’</i> published last year, was cited as an example of current developments in the field of Children’s rights.</p>
l	Seminars with other sections and other ICA entities, including SPO and SUV	<p>The pandemic had disrupted the planning for various seminars scheduled for 2021 and 2022. The Bogota conference would be developed digitally next year.</p>

4. Composition of Executive Committee: addition of Treasurer and other positions on the EC

It was AGREED that Adam, David and Gustavo should become officers of the section, with the following portfolios: Adam – Finance; David – Publication Preparation and Indexing Standards; Gustavo – Public Relations, Communications and Marketing

All three accepted the positions and were formally welcomed by the Chair.

5. SAHR Officer elections, 2021

It was AGREED that the sectional elections, which had been delayed because of the pandemic, should be held in Abu Dhabi in 2021. The meeting would probably be held virtually, but would occur during the Abu Dhabi congress

6. Preparations for sectional meeting, 2021

It was AGREED that a virtual sectional meeting would be held in the second half of January 2021, to bring members up to date with the programme of work of SAHR. There would be presentations on up to 5 of the most advanced current projects. The section would be able to access the ZOOM Professional software licensed to the ICA Secretariat

7. Budget 2020 and Financial arrangements for the Section

Antonio reported that there was still some money left in the sectional budget for 2020, which needed to be spent or committed before the end of the financial year. The following were reviewed as possibilities for end of year spend:

- Translations of the Basic Principles into other common languages, including Arabic
- Translations of articles of the Routledge book into French or Spanish, in preparation for the publication of the book in those languages
- Translation of the Commentary on the Universal Declaration into Spanish, French, and Arabic
- Work on the ICA SAHR logo. Antonio would contact the ICA secretariat on this matter

It was AGREED that Adam would seek quotes for the translation of the basic principle into Arabic, and that the decision to go ahead would be taken once we knew what the cost was.

[NB: Following the meeting, the following was established:

(1) Languages most spoken in the world: English, Mandarin, Hindi, Spanish, French, Arabic, Bengali, Russian, Portuguese, Indonesian

(2) Existing translations of the Principles: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Serbian, Chinese, Korean

Looking at that list, if we are going to have the Principles widely available to most speakers, we need translations in Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Indonesian and Russian.]

8. 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: no further information had been received about this project
- Guatemala Police Archives. Antonio reported that the situation had improved in respect of these archives. In the short term, they appeared to be safe and the subject of legal protection.

9. Any other business

There was no other business

10. Date of next meeting(s)

It was AGREED that the SAHR executive committee should meet virtually a few days before the sectional meeting planned for the second half of January.