

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

21 October 2019 10:00-12:00

University of Adelaide

Present: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana (in the chair); Blanca Bazaco Palacios; Deborah Jenkins; David Sutton

1. Discussion with Njörður Sigurðsson, Chair of ICA Expert Group on Shared Heritage

Antonio welcomed Njörður and explained the current work of SAHR. It was agreed that the section and the expert group had a number of common interests, especially around displaced archives (eg countries of the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Cambodia). Njörður reported that the Expert Group had not yet started detailed work, but was about to publish the result of its survey on displaced archives. It had received 33 responses, many with detailed examples of displaced material. The survey (60-70 pages) would be published before Christmas. The Shared Heritage Expert Group's Terms of Reference includes the drafting of guidelines and best practice documents, so some of the SAHR projects were of interest to the EG. It was agreed that:

- a) Antonio would draft a short note on the work of SAHR for Njörður
- b) Njörður would alert Antonio/Deb when the survey was published
- c) Njörður would be added to the SAHR circulation list, to ensure that he was up to date with the work of SAHR
- d) After the meeting, it was agreed that Trudy and Njörður would get in touch to discuss the *Guidelines for the reproduction of archives – 'Sample memorandum of understanding: Agreement to Reproduce Archives and Other Historical Material'*

2. Apologies

Received from: Jens Boel, Perrine Canavaggio, Gustavo Castaner Marquardt, Roman Lescano, Marianna Nazar, Trudy Peterson

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Report back on ICA EB meeting in Adelaide 20th October 2019

David Sutton reported on the ICA EB meeting of the preceding day, confirming the establishment of the **Section on Archives and Human Rights**. There had been some discussion about the name of the section, but not about the fundamental need for or the appropriateness of the section. The only remaining step required to fully set up the section was the approval of the General Assembly (due to take place on 22nd October). [NB: the approval of the General Assembly was obtained on the 22nd October 2019].

5. Approval of the minutes of the Madrid meeting, 27th May 2019 and matters arising from these minutes

The proceedings of the meeting in Madrid in May were confirmed.

6. Programme matters

The following projects were reviewed:

	PROJECT	DISCUSSION/ DECISION
1	<p>Book on Archives and Human Rights</p> <p><i>Leads: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana, Perrine Canavaggio, Jens Boel</i></p>	<p>The book should be ready in time for a launch at the Abu Dhabi congress, 2020. David Sutton would speak to Ian Wilson, to find out whether a space might be found for the launch in the conference centre</p>
2	<p>Safe Havens</p> <p><i>Leads: David Sutton, Jessica Squires</i></p>	<p>The Safe Havens guidelines were now complete and adopted by ICA. The next objective would be to obtain UNESCO approval for the document. David Sutton and Didier Grange were addressing the FAN meeting on this topic, and hoping to seek their approval. The more ICA entities approved the document, the greater the momentum towards external approval</p>
3	<p>Publication of the Commentaries on the Universal Declaration – possibility of these being published as a special edition of Comma</p> <p><i>Lead: Trudy Peterson</i></p>	<p>It was agreed that Deb would contact Margaret Procter to find out whether this was possible. [NB it was later established that the ICA Training Office and the ICA Advocacy officer were keen for this to happen, as it would help them in their work]</p>
4	<p>Memory of the World – Registration of archives of protest within MoW</p> <p><i>Lead: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana</i></p>	<p>Antonio summarised the situation. After a moratorium of two years, MoW registrations were being accepted again. However, the new process was subject to certain forms of control and required all countries involved to agree to the registration, even in the case of archives specific to one country only. (eg Japan/South Korea). The registration of archives which document human rights violations could therefore be frozen. The ICA was implicated in the process as the President of ICA sat on the relevant UNESCO committee</p>
5	<p>Businesses and Human Rights initiatives</p> <p><i>Leads: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana, Blanca Bazaco Palacios</i></p>	<p>A meeting set to discuss this matter in Madrid had to be cancelled at the last minute. No further progress to report</p>
6	<p>Publication of the <i>Guidelines for the reproduction of archives – ‘Sample memorandum of understanding: Agreement to Reproduce Archives and Other Historical Material’</i></p> <p><i>Lead: Trudy Peterson</i></p>	<p>It was agreed that this project would be best developed together with the ICA Expert Group on Shared Heritage. [NB: after the meeting, Deb discussed the matter with Njörður Sigurðsson, chair of the Expert Group, and he agreed to discuss this item with his group.]</p>
7	<p>WAPIS project (project led by Interpol to digitise West African police archives from 16 countries and funded by the EU)</p> <p><i>Research: Trudy Peterson, SAHR colleagues with EU connections</i></p>	<p>Little was known about this project, apart from the information on its website. Questions arise from this work: for example, what will happen to the originals after digitisation? Should SAHR take action?</p> <p>It was agreed that more information would be</p>

		sought, starting with colleagues with EU connections.
8	<p>Compilation of directory of Human Rights Archives and of archives holding human rights collections</p> <p><i>Lead: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana</i></p>	<p>As part of the relaunch of the SAHR web page on the ICA site, it was proposed that the section should build a Directory of Human Rights Archives and of Archives holding Human Rights collections. It was agreed that the archives would be asked whether they wished to have their detailed place on the SAHR page prior to publication.</p> <p>35 such archives were listed in the Routledge book on Archives and Human Right, so these could provide a good start.</p> <p>David reported that the Section on Archives of Literature and the Arts had developed a listing template for their directory. It was agreed that SAHR should use this template</p>

7. Campaign matters/ Solidarity with colleagues under pressure

- a) The case of the Guatemala Police Archives was discussed. SAHR had found it difficult to react quickly to the situation and get approval from ICA for the letter it wished to send to the relevant minister in Guatemala. It was agreed that a protocol for the publication of Sectional Press Releases and for the circulation of sectional letters should be drafted to clarify the process. Deb would draft the document initially, then, after approval from Antonio, send the proposal to the ICA elected officers for approval
- b) The case of the Anglophone Cameroon archivist, apparently imprisoned while crossing the border into Nigeria was discussed.

8. Meetings, Events and Seminars

The SAHR diary was being slowly built up. The possibility of joint activities with SUV and the Expert Group on Shared Heritage were discussed. As SUV had already worked up its seminar on universities and human rights, with agreed speakers, it was agreed that perhaps SAHR might be represented by Antonio, but that a full joint seminar might be planned later.

At the moment, the diary stood as follows:

2020	SAHR executive meeting	Either London (April) or Madrid (May). Antonio to find out Jens and Perrine's availability, as well as that of other members of the executive
	SAHR meeting of whole section	Abu Dhabi 16-20 Nov 2020
	Launch of the book on Archives and Human Rights	Abu Dhabi 16-20 Nov 2020
2022	Joint SPO/SAHR seminar-- <i>Archives on Human Rights and Sport</i>	Antonio to find out dates from Fina Girona
	SAHR meeting of whole section	Rome

9. Renaming of the HRWG newsletter

It was agreed that, following the approval of the SAHR section, the newsletter should have a title and a subtitle, as follows:

ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS
News from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

Roman would be providing the new logo. The issue numbers should continue in sequence from the Working Group newsletter.

10. Financial arrangements for the Section

The need for a SAHR bank account was discussed. It was agreed to ask SUV for their experience of running a bank account from a dollar country.

11. Website and social media

In Roman's absence, the following headings were confirmed as subheadings within the SAHR pages:

- LATEST NEWS
- WORK PROGRAMME (Projects and events)
- PUBLICATIONS (Professional Resources)
- NEWSLETTER (from 2010)
- GOVERNANCE (Constitution, minutes of meetings, annual reports)
- STEERING COMMITTEE (List of members)
- DIRECTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS ARCHIVES
- SAHR PARTNERS
- SAHR ARCHIVES (To include the work of the Human Rights Working Group)
- LOGO

12. ICA Constitution -- possible amendment

The proposal for 'one member one vote' at General Assembly, supported by the SAHR, appeared on the ICA EB document on constitutional amendments to be reviewed at the London EB in 2020

13. Any other business

There was no other business