

Flash

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APRIL
2006What's
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Logo ICA KL 2008

KUALA LUMPUR 2008 - EARLY CALL

Preparations for the 2008 Congress have begun.

In Kuala Lumpur our hosts have selected an excellent conference centre <http://www.klccconventioncentre.com/> and magnificent hotels at affordable prices and in a perfect climate zone.

The dates are 21-31 July 2008 and the Congress website will be opened in a few weeks time.

A call for presentations will be circulated shortly. The Congress will offer a splendid occasion for discussing current topics. The formula of presentations will be similar to that of Vienna.

The provision of child care facilities may be one of the innovations! Why not combine a professional visit with a family holiday?

Malaysia offers warm hospitality in a modern and relaxed setting. Together with its neighbouring countries, it offers multiple options for a relaxing holiday after the Congress, at amazing prices. What ever you like - bird watching, canoeing and diving, reading, hiking, culture, sight-seeing, you name it - Malaysia is the place to be, especially in 2008 : <http://www.tourism.gov.my/>

Make a note in your diaries now and look out for further announcements.



Petronas Towers-Kuala Lumpur

Contacts
and calendar
INSIDE

IN BRIEF

Are you an Archive ?

Leaflet « Are you an archive » published by ICCROM, ICA and IFLA following the meeting "What future for archives twenty years from now", Roma, Italy 23-25 June 2003. The shaping of the leaflet benefited greatly from the discussions in the meeting. The leaflet will be available on the ICCROM website <http://www.iccrom.org>



ICA / SAE Training the Trainer Resource Pack

The ICA Section for Archival Education and Training has put on line (<http://www.ica-sae.org/>) its Training the Trainer resource pack. It can also be downloaded from the site.

The Training the Trainer resource pack is intended for anyone who wants some guidance or direction in planning, organising and delivering effective training for both professionals and support staff whatever their working or learning environment. The bulk of the pack addresses the various techniques for delivering training but it also covers the practical administrative tasks that are essential for successful training courses and which underpin the training content. The Training the Trainer project was part of the ICA Section for Archival Education and Training's Medium Term Plan for 2000-2004, when the peer review draft came out. Peer comment was incorporated and the pack was completed in December 2005.

The authors, Margaret Crockett and Janet Foster, are Co-Directors of the Archive-Skills Consultancy and based the pack on their experience of delivering both training the trainer courses and archives and records management training.

Contact :

J. Scheurkogel,
Chair ICA/SAE
j.scheurkogel@uva.nl
j.scheurkogel@archiefschool.nl

People

New national Archivists have been appointed in :

BULGARIA –
Boryana Buzhashka
CHINA, MACAO –
Marie Imelda MacLeod,
Directeur par intérim
KOREA (REP. OF) –
Chanwoo Park
RUSSIA, TATARSTAN –
Danil Ibragimov
ST VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES –
Trisha-Ann Job

In Memoriam

M. Ivan Borsa
1917-2006
Hungary
Former Deputy Director
General of the Hungarian
Archives, Founder member
and Secretary of
the Microfilm Committee
1967-1980, Honorary
Member of ICA

The International Council on Archives (ICA)

is dedicated to the advancement of archives through international collaboration. Archives, by providing evidence of human activities and transactions, underlie the rights of individuals and states, and are fundamental to democracy and good governance. In pursuing the advancement of archives, ICA works for the protection and enhancement of the memory of the world.

Flash

communicates news on ICA activities and highlights current issues in archives. It is the complement to the in-depth professional reflection, reports and debate in *Comma*.

Flash is published three times a year as a membership benefit by ICA. Contents may be reproduced and translated in part or in whole, provided that credit is given. Information in this issue of *Flash* was current at the closing date for production, 10 April 2006.

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National Archives of Malaysia
National Archives of Netherlands
Antilles
National Archives of Indonesia
PARBICA
SPA

Translation of *Flash*

Many thanks to Ken Hall and David Leitch who kindly gave their time and skills to translate and revise articles in this issue of *Flash*. Translation is assured by volunteers alone : please think of offering your help for just one hour every four months !

ICA
60 RUE DES FRANCS-
BOURGEOIS,
75003 PARIS, FRANCE.

T: + 33 14027 6306
F: + 33 14272 2065
E: ica@ica.org
w: www.ica.org

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Sharing Memory Through Globalization

Round Tables to Better Share at the CITRA in Curaçao



View of Curaçao

A multicultural and multiethnic society, the Netherlands Antilles, which will host the forthcoming CITRA, are especially well positioned to tackle the theme proposed in 2006 Sharing Memory Through Globalization. Indeed the diversity of the Caribbean cultural and archival traditions, and their natural openness to the outside world facilitates the exchange and sharing of experiences.

At the moment the debate about the questions of memory and history in our societies is tough, and, in many cases, it has been impossible, so far, to have a dispassionate look at the painful periods of the past. This context is an opportunity for the archivists who can help their contemporaries to overcome the divisions of their memories and to consider their past in a more serene way. It is indeed their responsibility to make known and available for citizens and historians the archival material that will allow them to build a shared history.

To document such phenomena as slavery, decolonization, or political and economic migrations, multiple sources, national and international, public and private, have to be combined. Their preservation and access are often problematic. How can archival institutions collaborate together? Which kind of tools and common finding aids can they build to facilitate the sharing of their complementary resources? Which solutions are nowadays possible through information technologies?

As the conference is focussed on sharing, the members of the CITRA Bureau propose to change its format this

year, by organizing various round tables to reflect on these problems. After a first plenary introductory session, the participants will have the opportunity to gather freely in round tables to discuss together subjects linked with the conference identified earlier. These discussions, led by a chairperson, will alternate with plenary sessions where rapporteurs designated by each round table will present the outcome of the common reflections. The final session will be dedicated to a general debate and to the discussion of resolutions.

This division of work should facilitate exchange between the participants and allow them to go into the various aspects of the theme in detail.

The evaluations completed after each conference show that meeting and networking with new colleagues is the main motivation of the participants when coming to a CITRA. We hope this new format will meet their expectations.

Contact :
Perrine Canavaggio
CITRA Secretary
canavaggio@ica.org



Logo CITRA 2006

CITRA 2006 will meet in Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles) from 20 to 26 November 2006.

More information on the next Flash issue.



THE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION (MCOM) MET IN KUALA LUMPUR, MID FEBRUARY 2006

The Management Commission (MCOM) met in Kuala Lumpur, mid February 2006. MCOM used the occasion for meeting with the Hosts of the 2008 Congress, in addition to the usual routine issues around the management of ICA. The main decisions were :

- **MCOM decided to invite Mr Tomas Lidman**, National Archivist of Sweden, to attend the EB meeting in Tokyo as candidate Treasurer, and Mr Karel Velle, National Archivist of Belgium, as candidate Auditor, and to propose both candidates for appointment by the EB.
- It was also decided to propose to the EB **the establishment of a small group that would analyze the causes of recent withdrawals of membership** and to discuss with the chairs of Sections in particular, possibilities for expanding ICA's membership at the non-national institutional level and at the personal level.
- MCOM noted with concern observations by some members about their wish **to liberalize the relations between ICA and some Regional Branches**, as well as regarding the necessity of rendering services to members in languages other than English and French. It was noted that in some regions the structure of Regional Branch may be insufficient for meaningful involvement in ICA's governance and ICA programme activities. MCOM would wish to encourage the EB and the AGM to discuss the subject, as the global relevance of ICA would be hampered if the membership of ICA do not demonstrate truly global participation.
- MCOM was happy to note that **many members would be able to budget for higher membership fees** in forthcoming annual budgets. However, further ICA budget reforms seem necessary to guarantee a relevant ICA Secretariat, providing membership support in general and support for programme activities in particular.

- MCOM decided, in view of observations from members expressed in the 2005 AGM or received by mail, to **review and update the current Strategic Plan** and to develop a simple 4 year business plan, providing an overview of :

1. Strategic decisions ;
2. Core Activities (ICA secretariat) ;
3. Programme Activities (members) ;
4. Budgets involved (ICA) ; as well as
5. Results.

The plan would be submitted for finalisation to the Executive Board of Tokyo (May 2006) and for discussion and vote to the Annual General Meeting of Curaçao (November 2006).

- MCOM noted with satisfaction that **the Host had set up the infrastructure for the Congress**, including a decision making process for organizational matters, reservation of the Congress Centre, identification of hotels offering quality accommodation at affordable prices, and so on.

Contact :

Joan van Albada
Secretary General
vanalbada@ica.org

Call for Candidates for 3 seats on Audit Commission

3 seats are still vacant at the Audit Commission : the positions of Vice-chair and two members. Shows of interest are welcome and should be sent to the Election Officer, c/o ICA Secretariat (email : elections@ica.org or fax : +33 1 42 72 20 65).

Closing date for nominations will be 31 May 2006.

Projects

PCOM meets to review existing projects and endorse new proposals

Members of the Programme Commission (PCOM) met in Paris, 23-24 March 2006 to review progress being made by existing ICA endorsed Projects and to endorse new projects which had been submitted to it since the Abu Dhabi meeting of the Commission. In addition, members reviewed their activities to date including working with Archives in French Africa. PCOM discussed the need to facilitate the Project Proposal process and will finalize the Project Manual and the Proposal Form as well as develop a Project Report Template. These tools will be up-loaded onto the ICA website shortly.

PCOM members endorsed five new projects- 2 were identified within the purview of the Automation and Electronic Records Priority Team ; 2 were identified as falling within the Education and Training Priority Team; and one fell within the responsibility of the Advocacy and Promotion Team and the Preservation and Disaster Preparedness Priority Team. While no Project funding is currently available from ICA, members of PCOM have been investigating some alternative funding sources for specific activities.

PCOM discussed the financial situation of ICA and the need for a Strategic Plan for PCOM within a larger ICA Strategic Plan. It also discussed the role of PCOM in assisting with the 2008 Congress in identifying sessions, workshops, etc based on ICA endorsed Projects.

Before the next CITRA meeting in November 2006, PCOM will invite new project proposals. Building on the success of the meeting with the Branch Presidents and Secretaries held in Abu Dhabi, it will organize a meeting with the Branches and Sections at the 2006 CITRA.

Olafur Asgeirsson,
Chair ICA/PCOM
pcom@archives.is
www.ica.org/pcom

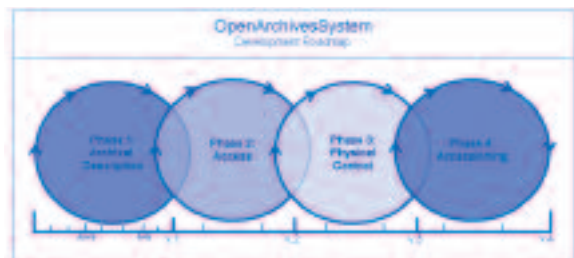
OpenArchivesSystem' : free software that conforms to the standards of archival description and available to all

Reflections on the project Archives and Violations of the Rights of Man : an International Guide to Sources, supported by UNESCO in the framework of the Information for All Programme, and by the Programme Commission of ICA, has highlighted the existing convergences with another ICA study. The result has been the idea for a larger and more ambitious project. The functionalities which the Guide requires are, in fact, the same as those which had been identified in 2003, in the context of the OSARIS project (Open Source Software for Establishing Electronic Finding Aids) by the Committees for Information Technologies (ICA/CIT) and for Descriptive Standards (ICA/CDS) : free software, for a system of archival information for description and

research, which conforms to the standards of archival description ISAD (G), ISAAR (CPF), EAD and EAC.

The new OpenArchivesSystem will consist of the development of a complete management system for archival documents, traditional and electronic, which responds to the coinciding requirements of the Guide and OSARIS, namely that it will be accessible on the Internet, multi-lingual and will use free software. The designers of the architecture of the system will be Peter Horsman, of the Archives School in Amsterdam and a former member of ICA/CIT, and Peter Van Garderen, of Artefactual Systems. The former will be in charge of the project, and the latter will be its developer.

The first stage of the system will be the archival description module. It will enable different types of finding aid to be put into EAD, including the Guide. The succeeding phases will see the development of modules for the other functionalities of managing archival documents, such as access, physical control and growth of collections, as well as the administration of the system. At the end of the first stage of the project, it will be possible to put the International Guide to Sources on line. Its completion entails close working between the members of the working group on Archives and the Rights of Man (ICA/HRG) and those of the former committees CIT and CDS.



The final objective is to put this system at the disposal of all members of ICA and the community of archivists in general. The partnership between ICA and the Archives School in Amsterdam, and the pooling of financial, human and technological resources should enable its capabilities to be enhanced for the benefit of the whole community of archive professionals. The final success of the system will, of course, depend on the ways in which it is then applied, developed and used by them.

Contacts :

Peter Horsman
Archiefschool Amsterdam
p.j.horsman@archiefschool.nl

Perrine Canavaggio
ICA Deputy Secretary General
canavaggio@ica.org

! Provisional name; alternative suggestions will be welcomed

Standards

The Section on Professional Standards becomes the Committee on Best Practices and Standards (CBPS)

At the recent CITRA meeting, the Executive Board passed a motion to establish a Committee on Best Practices and Standards (CBPS) and to authorise the Programme Commission to further develop terms of reference within that context. This step, in effect, approved the transformation of the Section on Professional Standards into a Committee. This action was taken because the Section status was not appropriate in respect of the work with which the standards group is charged. Standards cross the boundaries of types of archival institutions, formats of archival records, and aspects of archival work, which are the basis around which Sections are organized.

The Committee on Best Practices and Standards will be composed of a chair and two secretaries, English and French, and of a number of knowledgeable people who may serve as vice-chairs coordinating specific committee projects or activities.

The Programme Commission has set the terms of reference for the CBPS as follows: The scope of the Committee's responsibilities are the entire field of standards relating to archival administration and practice, including, but not limited to, descriptive standards, appraisal, preservation, building standards, terminology, legislation and various formats of records. The Committee will monitor archival standards activity in ICA bodies (Sections, Branches, Regions), archival associations and institutions, schools of archival study, and in related professions, and publicize these activities to archivists internationally; and will promote, provide coordination for, and assist in standards development, maintenance and application or use.

The Committee will supervise the use of ICA funds in projects and organise thematic meetings between representatives of projects and those from other standards bodies (both sister organisations, such as IASA and IFLA, as well as international and national standards bodies). The Committee will encourage projects from members and others in all areas of best practice and standards in any language and will, where appropriate, develop proposals for the development of new best practices and standards with members, institutions, ICA Sections and Branches, or international organizations, such as, ISO, IFLA, IASA, ARMA etc.

The Committee will establish and maintain liaison with IASA, IFLA, ARMA, as well as international and national standards bodies as appropriate.

Where appropriate the Committee will participate in international, and ICA regional and section meetings and their respective professional programmes.

The Committee will report on its activities through ICA journals, studies and website and in journals and websites of ICA members and allied professional and standards-setting organisations.

Several working groups following through on plans and activities of former ICA committees work under the aegis of CBPS. These working groups submitted proposals to develop standards in the areas of: describing archival institutions providing general information about the archival institution and including an international code; functions and activities of corporate bodies associated with the creation and maintenance of archives; and appraisal of case files – guidelines for systematic evaluation and selection.

Contact :
Marion Beyea
Chair ICA/CBPS
marion.beyea@gnb.ca

Seminar "Internet based archival information systems : problems and experiments", State Archives of Milan, 18th January, 2006 and a project for a new standard about archival institutions

A public seminar entitled "Internet-based archival information systems : problems and experiments" was held at the State Archives of Milan on the 18th of January. This conference was organized by the Lombardy Region and the National Association of Italian Archivists (ANAI, Lombardia), in collaboration with the State Archives of Milan and Pavia University. Specific attention was given to the description of archival institutions ISAAR(CPF) provides guidance for preparing descriptions of entities (including corporate bodies) associated with the creation and maintenance of archives. Generally, the elements contained within ISAAR(CPF) also apply to institutions with archival holdings. However, other descriptive elements may be necessary to inform users of archives about how to identify the archival institutions, how to make contact, what access

conditions and restriction apply, and what services are available to them.

Thus, the description of institutions with archival holdings is one of the main features of the Electronic Guide to the **Spanish and Ibero American Archive** (Censo Guía de Archivos de España e Iberoamérica), developed by the Sub-department of State Archives of Spain (http://aer.mcu.es/sgae/index_censo_guia.jsp). More than 40,000 institutions participate in the project. The descriptions of archival materials, creators and archival institutions are structured in accordance with the DTDs EAD, EAC and EAG (Encoded archivist Guide). The DTD EAG was specifically developed and implemented for this project.

The Archives Online Application, or ARCHON (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/>) contains information on more than 3000 institutions, archives, libraries, museums and other **British cultural institutions with archival holdings** : names, addresses, URL and contacts, opening hours, access conditions. An identifier is provided for each institution. It is a simple numerical sequence, more easily manageable than an alphabetic code, and it is used by archival institutions to connect their information systems to the ARCHON portal.

In France, the work about the description of archival institutions is less advanced. However, directories of other cultural institutions are available online. Thus, the Direction of the French Museums has developed an application, Museofile (<http://museofile.culture.fr/>), which contains information on about 1300 museums. Each institution is represented by its name, its acronym, its localisation, its collection and services proposed, as well as by links to web site (if existing). Museofile constitutes the central access point to the Web of French museums and will be included in a national reference system for French cultural institutions (project EVE in development).

Beyond the differences about conceptual architecture, display and output, Italian Archives intend to implement a national system, which should incorporate existing applications, through standardized data, exchange protocols and collaborative strategies. Specific focus will be given to the description of cultural institutions within such a unified information access system.

The Information System of State Archives, or SIAS (<http://www.archivi-sias.it>), is the electronic transposition of the general Guide of Italian State Archives ; the descriptions have been made compliant with ISAD (G)

and ISAAR (CPF). The Information System of State Archives was developed because there was need for an informative, regularly updated tool about documentary heritage held by the 134 State Archives.

Developed in parallel to SIAS, the Information System for Archival Superintendences, or SIUSA (<http://siusa.signum.sns.it>), aims to create unified access to the cultural heritage of territorial public and private archives. The application includes a descriptive part for external users, and a part for archival maintenance and custody whose access is reserved for the archival superintendences. At a regional level, finally, an interesting experiment is being undertaken by the Lombardy Region, the State Archives of Milan and the archival Superintendence of Lombardy under the Lombardy historical portal or PLAIN project (<http://plain.unipv.it/>). The aim is to provide users with unified access to the data concerning institutions with archival holdings, museums, archives or libraries, with links towards specific information systems.

All these examples should be used as a basis for the development of an international standard for the description of archival institutions. The ICA working group in charge of the project held a meeting before the seminar, in order to write a first draft identifying the relevant descriptive elements. The working group kept only information useful for users (other elements such as statistics or information useful for professionals were not taken into account). The future standard should contain guidance on how to link information about archival institutions to archival descriptions and authority records. It could be applied to cultural institutions other than archives. A draft will be submitted for comments and feedback from the international community. A final version will be presented to the international congress of archives in 2008.

Contact :
Claire Sibille
Secretary ICA/CBPS
claire.sibille@culture.gouv.fr

Responses to the Tsunami : an International Cooperation Programme

the Archives
after the Tsunami



With the help of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a mission on “Indian Ocean Tsunami ; Restoration of Land Register Archives” in Banda Aceh was set up, undertaking the first steps of restoration and on the spot training from February to March 2005.

Taking further steps to preserve those land registration documents, the National Archives of Indonesia, together with the National Land Register Agency (Badan Pertanahan Nasional/BPN), launched a similar project on a wider-scale. The Japanese Government is giving assistance in expertise, materials and equipment for restoration work being undertaken in the premises of the National Archives of Indonesia in Jakarta.

Having learnt from the experiences of recent disasters, like war casualties in Iraq, hurricane Katrina in New Orleans (United States of America) and many others in the past, the Archives Community is fully aware that the prevention of disasters is less costly than reconstruction.

In line with the ideas of sharing the experiences and learning techniques to overcome damage in archival work, the National Archives of the Republic Indonesia plans to hold a two-day international archives gathering on the theme of “Tsunami and Archives ; the Unexpected Possibilities”.

The two-day international archives gathering will be inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono. It will be held in Jakarta on 17 and 18 July 2006.

On 26 December 2004 the morning strike of a tsunami destroyed almost the whole area of the Aceh Province of Indonesia. The damage was not only endured by the land and the people ; the archives housed at various agencies, public and private, were also seriously affected.

Taking steps to cope with such an unexpected situation, the National Archives of Indonesia took the initiatives to launch an international cooperation to restore the tsunami-damaged archives in the areas.

The topics of discussion will be

- **Management of Disaster Prevention and Archives Preparedness (ICA)**
- **Tsunami and International Cooperation ; the Case of Aceh (National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia)**
- **Helping Indonesia to Restore the Tsunami-damaged Archives (JICA-JICS)**
- **Tsunami in December 2004 ; Thailand and Post-Disaster Condition (National Archives of Thailand)**
- **Archives and Unexpected Disaster ; Tsunami and our Archives Establishment (National Archives of Sri Lanka)**
- **Archives and War Casualties ; the Experience of the Iraq National Library and Archives (Iraq)**
- **Flood and Archives Recovery ; the Florence Experience (Italy)**
- **The Danger of Hurricane Katrina to our Archives (USA)**
- **Learn from the Fire at the Weimar’s Duchess Anna Alima Library in September 2004 (Germany)**
- **Restoration of the Tsunami-damaged archives ; the Case of the Land Properties Archives in Aceh (BPN)**
- **Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Aceh ; the Promising Expectations (Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto)**
- **International Committee of the Blue Shield (President of ICBS).**

Speakers

International Council on Archives
Director-Generals of National Archives
(Indonesia, Iraq, Germany, Srilanka,
Thailand)

Joan van Albada, President of the
International Committee of the Blue
Shield
National Land Register Agency
Japan International Cooperation
Agency, Japan International Coopera-
tion System,
Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Head,
Reconstruction and Rehabilitation
Agency, Aceh.

Organizing Committee

National Archives of the Republic
of Indonesia
(Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia)
Jl. Ampera Raya no. 7
Jakarta 12560
Telp. 780-5851 ext. Bagian Humas
ANRI / Public Relations
Fax. 780-5812

Contact :

Mona Lohanda

monalohanda@msn.com



Restoration of Archives

NEWS FROM REGIONAL BRANCHES

CARBICA

On the 17th of October 2005, the workshop “Dissemination of best practice in implementing legislation bearing on records and archives in the Commonwealth” was organized in St Kitts, with the assistance of ACARM. It was attended by the Eastern Caribbean archivists, most from countries with no archival legislation as yet. Archivists discussed given situations that would have an impact on decisions on records management. The discussion demonstrated the interest in and expressed the concerns of the participants. The outcome was the need for urgent assistance to put legislation in places where it is now missing, as this is the only way to guarantee the development of archives in the less developed countries. But the question still is how to get the authorities involved. One possibility raised was the introduction of a model archive law for the English speaking Caribbean, especially in view of the launching of the Caribbean Single market and Economy in 2006. It was also considered to address this issue, with the authorities responsible for the archives, in a Caribbean Archives Ministers meeting, scheduled to take place in Curaçao at the CITRA 2006. The CARBICA VIII conference will be celebrated in conjunction with the CITRA. CARBICA members will have the opportunity to attend a workshop on electronic records management. At the end, the general assembly of CARBICA will be convened for the election of a new executive board for 2006-2010.

Contact :

Nolda Römer Kenepa
CARBICA President
nrom@cura.net
nolda.romer@gov.an

EASTICA

Records Management Training Program - Macao, January 2006

At the request of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, EASTICA organized a training program in January 2006 specially designed for the Macao civil servants who are involved in records management duties and responsibilities in their respective agencies. This was a new attempt of EASTICA in its professional development venture. The idea was to cut down costs for the trainees and increase efficiency, by bringing the class to the door-step of our “clients”. The program comprised 10 days of lecturing and works-

hop. The program introduced to the 70 participants the fundamental theories and practices in records and archival management. Special workshops on records disposal and classification had also been organized to meet the operational needs of the Macao Governments. Trudy Peterson, Francois Guindon and Andy Lipchak were invited to Macao as guest lecturers. The response had been positive and encouraging. EASTICA is in the middle of planning for its 3rd Certificate Program in Archival Studies, tentatively scheduled for January 2007 in Hong Kong.

Contact :

Simon Fook-keung Chu
Secretary General, EASTICA
simonchu@grs.gov.hk

EURBICA

Training and legal matters at the top of EURBICA's agenda

A new Executive Board was elected for EURBICA (the European Regional Branch of ICA) during the International Congress on Archives in Vienna in August 2004. The President, Martine de Boisdeffre, Director of the French Archives, was re-elected, as was the Vice-President Daria Na ećz, Director General of the Polish State Archives. There were also some other re-elections. More than half of the Board members are, however, new. Besides France and Poland, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom are represented in the Board.

EURBICA's core project is the so-called '**legal database project**'. The idea is to collect European archives and other relevant legislation, as well as EU-regulations (with contextual and comparative analysis), to a database which would be available on the Internet. The concept of the database is already well developed and there is also a prototype which has been successfully demonstrated in various international conferences. In order to test the concept, some members have produced contextual descriptions of their administrative and legal systems for the database. The lack of funds has, however, prevented the completion of the project so far. The training project is about developing a methodology and training package that could be used in **training teachers of records management**. The project was launched in a seminar that was held in Helsinki, Finland,

in co-operation of three ICA bodies (CPT, SAE, EURBICA) and the National Archives of Finland, in November 2004. There has been a halt in the project, but it will be re-vitalised in the spring of 2006. The results of the project will be presented in Kuala Lumpur in 2008. EURBICA had a General Assembly in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, in November 2005 in connection with the CITRA-conference. A new item was added to EURBICA's programme there, namely electronic records. This means, at first, no more than the exchange of information, but at some later stage concrete co-operation may come into the picture. EURBICA's next General Assembly will be held during the 7th European Conference on Archives in Warsaw in May 2006.

Contact :

Jari Lybeck

Secretary General EURBICA

Website : www.eurbica.org

Further information : contacts@eurbica.org



PARBICA
Conference 2005

PARBICA

Recordkeeping for Good Governance in the Pacific

The Pacific Regional Branch of ICA (PARBICA) has been focusing its efforts on strategies and actions to improve recordkeeping for good governance over the past year.

This was the focus of PARBICA's 11th biennial conference, which brought together 66 participants from 17 countries in Nadi, Fiji, on 19-23 September 2005. Invited guest speakers included Anne Thurston (IRMT), Mahfuzah Yusuf and Azemi Abid (National Archives, Malaysia), Fiji's Minister for Information, Communications and Media Relations, the Deputy Auditor General of Fiji and representatives of Fiji's Human Rights Commission, Transparency International and UNESCO. The five day conference included formal sessions and

strategic discussions, as well as training seminars on capacity assessment, advocacy, records management training and emergency planning. It received strong coverage in Fiji's newspapers and television, and also featured in newspaper articles in Papua New Guinea.

The theme "recordkeeping for good governance" was selected because many Pacific archives authorities were concerned to improve recordkeeping practices, in order to facilitate the effective management, disposal and safekeeping of records designated as archives of national significance. This built on a theme developed by the International Records Management Trust (IRMT) in their Evidence Based Governance programmes, in which Pacific archivists have participated since 2002. It was hoped that a change in the theme from the traditional archives management oriented theme of past PARBICA conferences would lay the foundation for addressing electronic and paper records management issues. The aim was also to position records management on the Pacific development agenda adopted by governments and funding agencies, known as the "Pacific Plan". With this in mind, delegates developed a **PARBICA Declaration on Recordkeeping for Good Governance** that calls on the region's intergovernmental bodies and governments to recognise that well managed recordkeeping is a fundamental pillar for good governance, and to incorporate it in wider strategic plans, policies and standards for the region.

The PARBICA Bureau is now working to promote the messages in the declaration with intergovernmental organisations and heads of government in our region. Education and training continues to be a high priority for our region, and we are working to develop further university courses, as well as to tell members about existing opportunities. We are also considering establishment of a project to create a 'recordkeeping toolkit' of templates, guidelines, tools and brochures that can be used to communicate and advise on records management in multiple Pacific Island countries.

Contact :

Evelyn Wareham

Secretary General PARBICA

evelyn.wareham@archives.govt.nz

For more information:

www.ica.org/parbica



First Archival Workshop
of the Federal District,
Mexico

NEWS FROM SECTIONS

Section of Records Management and Archival Professional Association (ICA/SPA)

Two actions of international archival solidarity for the development of the archives in Mexico

The First Archival Workshop of the Federal District took place in Mexico City in February 2005, thanks to the joint efforts of local authorities of the Federal District, the Mexican Associations of Archivists, the ICA (SPA) and Archivists without Borders (Mexico's Branch).

In all, 360 people took part in this event, which allowed archivists, students and representatives of the local and federal authorities to consider various sets of themes. The discussions concentrated more particularly around the need for setting up archival policies in public institutions and for developing finding aids, with the objective of facilitating access to the documents. The question of the practical application of the Transparency and Freedom of Information Act (2003) also gave rise to many debates. In the same year, from July to November, the "First International Training course in Institutional Archives" was held in Mexico City, thanks to the collaboration of the Government of the Federal District, members of the ICA (National Archives of Cuba, the Autonomous National University of Mexico, Archivists without Borders, Society for the Development of Archival Science) and archivists such as Berarda Salabarría, Director of the National Archives of Cuba, Didier Grange, Vice-President of the ICA

and Ramon Alberch i Fugueras, Under-Director of the Catalonia Archives. These joint efforts allowed the 42 archivists who work in public institutions to improve their knowledge. A new version of this training course is being prepared. It will be held in Mexico or in another Latin American country, this year still or in 2007.

Contact :
Gabriela Salazar
President, Society for the Development of Archival Science
sedca@prodigy.net.mx

Section of archives and archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties (ICA/SPP)

The SPP was constituted on 11 September 1992 during the 12th International Congress on Archives in Montreal. Final recognition of the Section took place in 1996 at the 13th International Congress on Archives in Beijing. Worldwide, the SPP now has approximately 90 members, both institutions and individuals

To sum up the aims of the SPP in short, the section finds it important to :

- stress and emphasize in the international field the essential significance and importance of the archives of parliaments, parliamentary groups and political parties

- achieve uniform high standards of qualified archival methods, by facilitating the transfer of specialised archival knowledge to all states; this being a politico-cultural aim of international interest
- overcome frontiers and find cross-border solutions to problems, by

transferring information and experience via meetings

- strive for an exchange of archives personnel, in order to improve the connections and relations between parliaments, and between political parties and their respective archives
- reconcile the historical-political traditions of parliaments and political parties with the demands on archivists made by research and developments of archival science
- make known the holdings of parliamentary and party archives of different states and countries, in order to improve the understanding of the historical-political identity and history of those states and countries
- achieve more recognition and stronger support in state and society through PR (public relations activities).

Since 1992 the SPP has organised eight conferences. The last one took place in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, in October 2005 ; the subject was "From Archives to Information Management". The subject of the 2006 conference will be : "Archives and Internet". So far it has not been decided where and when this conference will take place.

Contact :
Reinder H. Van der Heide
Secretary ICA/SPP
r.vdheide@tweedekamer.nl

NEW PUBLICATIONS



COMMA 2004 3/4 Archives of Central Europe/Archive in Mitteleuropa

This issue contains articles covering the rich archival landscape of Central Europe past and present, archival science, archival outreach (including archival pedagogy and training), information technology (XML and long-term digital preservation projects), human rights (displaced archives) and special archives (the Goethe and Schiller Archives in Germany, archives of Austrian monasteries, etc.) Abstracts of the articles in English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic

290 p. SBN : 3-598-01365-5
COMMA is distributed only to members of the International Council on Archives

Contact :
ICA Secretariat
ica@ica.org

ORIENTAÇÕES PARA A DESCRIÇÃO ARQUIVÍSTICA : DOCUMENTAÇÃO.

1ª versão (Janeiro 2006).
Instituto dos Arquivos
Nacionais / Torre do
Tombo. 2006.

124 p. ISBN 972-8107-88-9
Guidelines to Archival
Description : Documenta-
tion (portuguese publica-
tion). This is an adaptation
of ISAD(G) to correspond
more closely to the reali-
ties of the archival practice
in Portugal.

Available from the IAN/TT
website :
[http://www.iannt.pt/
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POLITICAL PRESSURE AND THE ARCHIVAL RECORD.

Edited by Margaret Procter,
Michael Cook, Caroline
Williams

345 pp. 2005. ISBN 1-
931666-15-6

This book contains a selec-
tion of papers presented at
an international Confer-
ence "Political Pressure
and the Archival Records",
Liverpool,
United Kingdom, July 2003

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www.archivists.org/catalog

WORD GUIDE TO LIBRARY,
ARCHIVE AND INFORMATION
SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS,
Second, completely revised
and expanded edition.
Edited by Marko Schweitzer.
Munich : SAUR, 2005
IFLA Publications Series n8
112-114. ISBN 3-598-21840-0
<http://www.ifla.org/V/pr/saur112.htm>



Flash is looking for contributions!

Flash is your newsletter!

If you have a newsflash for the archives world, send it to ICA.
The closing date for the next issue is 15 June 2006.