



International Federation of Library
Associations and Institutions

Preservation and Conservation
Section

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NEWSLETTER

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ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTION IN BOSTON, AUGUST 2001

Thank you to Jean Whiffin, a member of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section from 1993-2001, for preparing the following report.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Standing Committee met twice, on August 18 and 24, 2001. The sessions were very well attended, with 18 observers as well as 20 Committee members present.

Election of Officers, 2001-2003

John McIlwaine, School of Library, Archive and Information Studies (UK), was re-elected Chairman, and **Nancy E. Gwinn**, Smithsonian Institution Libraries (USA), was elected Secretary. **Johanna Wellheiser**, Toronto Public Library (Canada), offered to serve as Information Coordinator.

Report of the Chair

The Chairman reported on various projects. The proceedings of the Symposium on Managing the Preservation of Periodicals and Newspapers, Paris, August 21-24, 2000, should appear in 2002. The Committee continues to support, and work in close collaboration with, the IFLA Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation (IFLA PAC), and it is hoped that a register of preservation standards, guidelines and similar publications can be prepared jointly. This would include not only authorized standards but also other material in existence - in printed, translated, and Web versions. *Collecting and Safeguarding the Oral Traditions: An International Conference*, edited by John McIlwaine and Jean Whiffin, has been withdrawn from the *IFLA Professional Reports* series, and is now available for wider distribution in a hardbound K.G. Saur edition as no. 95 of *IFLA Publications*.

Action Plan, 2002-2003

[Now called Strategic Plan – see Newsletter, p. 10]

There was extensive discussion of the possibilities for future conferences, to which several items in the draft Strategic Plan relate. For the Glasgow 2002 sessions, broader issues of national policy, presented by senior people, and including funding needs and strategies, combined with a Workshop on recent research projects and results, were favoured. Looking ahead to the Berlin 2003 conference, enthusiasm was expressed for a programme on disaster planning, risk management and the Blue Shield initiative. The proposed plan listed other items devoted to information dissemination in print and electronic form, including (still to be developed) guidelines for establishing digital programmes, materials to promote disaster preparedness plans, and supporting initiatives to raise awareness of preservation needs in developing countries.

IFLA Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation

Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff, IFLA PAC Director, reported that *International Preservation News* may be provided in future only in a digital version (though both digital and print are needed) or published less frequently, in view of financial problems. The establishment of a PAC Advisory Board offers some hope for more funding. PAC's strategy for the next 3 years has been presented and it is in line with that of the Section on Preservation and Conservation. The proposed Strategic Plan includes establishing fields of excellence to be shared by the PAC Regional Centres. [For further information, see *International Preservation*

News, no. 26 (Dec. 2001), pp. 28-29.] A survey is being launched to assess the preservation conditions in Latin-American national libraries, and there has been a good response to the survey of newspaper collections in African libraries and archives. One thousand additional copies of the CD ROM *Safeguarding our Documentary Heritage* have been produced, and a Spanish version is in preparation. The *IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material* is being translated into several additional languages. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff would like to see more emphasis on the Blue Shield activities, and perhaps a survey of disaster plans for national libraries.

Digital Activities

Several IFLA groups are working on digitization standards and guidelines. UNESCO has signed a contract for Guidelines for Digitization Projects, and our Section, as well as the International Council on Archives (ICA), and IFLA PAC, will be involved. Copies were distributed of the draft *UNESCO Resolution on Digital Preservation*. This document was proposed by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) in June 2001. The Committee supported the resolution, to be formally presented at the UNESCO Conference later in the year.

OPEN SESSION

The Section's Open Session (a Joint Meeting with the Information Technology Section) was devoted to the subject of **Managing Digital Collections as Research**

Collections, and attracted a capacity audience.

Daniel Greenstein (Director, Digital Library Federation, Council on Library and Information Resources, Inc.) presented “Shared Challenges and in a Networked Cultural Space”. This paper supplemented a previous report “Digital Libraries and their Challenges” which appeared in v.49, no.2 (Fall 2000) of *Library Trends*, with observations about challenges confronting cultural heritage organizations more generally. The new set of priorities emerged as 1) strategic planning, 2) provision of key infrastructure, 3) provision of professional development opportunities, and 4) re-assessment and review of the cultural heritage organization’s mission and values. The long, detailed list of challenges produces a concrete agenda for heritage organizations, their associations and funding bodies. The speaker sees applied research as a particularly fruitful area, one that could take off in vital new directions with joint input from libraries, museums, and archives. The issues will be tackled more easily by cultural heritage organizations that take this more pro-active role in determining the dimensions and shape of their networked future.

Stephen G. Nichols (Chair, Task Force on the Artifact in Library Collections, Johns Hopkins University) presented “Artifacts in Digital Collections” and shared with participants the basis for the thinking of the Task Force. He focused on preservation - what it takes to ensure the present and future usability of collections. The chief challenges were identified as “quantity”, “stability of

media”, “economics”, and “contingent value of artifacts”. This speaker emphasized that artifacts are things that have intrinsic value, independent of the informational content. “Given the task of identifying achievable, fundable preservation strategies and goals for libraries, we must identify intrinsic artifactual value and do so in a way that, following the spirit of preservation principles, would accept some loss as inevitable and sought rather to manage the risks of *unacceptable* loss”. He presented selection criteria for preservation of original formats, and mechanisms for determining value. It is necessary to define what constitutes an artifact worth retaining, and spell out the “how, who, and when”. “If the scholarly and library communities could reach consensus about matching preservation of specific kinds of artifacts to particular categories or kinds of repositories, it will be possible to rationalize on a national scale the task of artifact preservation.” As Chair of the Task Force, he deemed that, before we could hope to propose collaborative mechanisms for balancing use and preservation, we have to propose a use-based definition of the artifact that would be, from the outset, correlated with the requirements and realities of preservation.

Catherine Lupovici (Head, Digital Library Department, Bibliothèque nationale de France) presented “Technical Data and Preservation Needs”. This paper was devoted to the components of digital content preservation, and a history of attempts to define preservation metadata from 1998 to date. The speaker concluded that, although a lot of progress has been made, the fundamental question of the nature of the

work to be done in order to create the preservation metadata is not solved. Experimentation in the implementation of such metadata and assessing their efficiency in the preservation process will take several years, and we have a long way before us to guarantee long-term access to digital resources.

Titia van der Werf-Davelaar (Coordinator of Electronic and Digital Archives, National Electronic Depository, National Library of the Netherlands) presented “Preserving Digital Collections”. This speaker discussed progress made in the newly emerging discipline of digital preservation. Taking a deposit library perspective, she demonstrated how specific application domains and specific material types have specific preservation management requirements, and showed that, by contrast, IT-based technologies are not domain specific. Digital preservation technologies are not mature enough yet to be implemented as standard solutions.

WORKSHOP

A joint workshop with the Section on Information Technology was devoted to the topic **Preservation and Digitization: Natural Partners?** Organized by **Nancy Gwinn** (USA), it featured a structured conversation on basic and practical aspects of digitization among practitioners from a variety of institutions that have developed such programmes, with a view to determining commonalities among components. 21 institutions from 13 countries had previously

completed a survey to elicit responses about the philosophy, management, selection, organization, and funding of library-based digital programmes and how they relate to the library’s preservation activities. The workshop explored these issues further through an interchange of information and ideas among the respondents and other workshop attendees, who received a Summary of *Survey Results* prepared by **Tom Garnett** and **Nancy E. Gwinn** from the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (summary available on the Section website). In this way practitioners shared information and answered questions from the floor.

GUEST LECTURE

Under the chairmanship of **Ann Russell**, Executive Director of the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), the final Guest Lecture of the Conference was devoted to “Preservation in the U.S.A.: A Case Study in Cooperation”. **Deanna Marcum**, President of the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), and **George Farr**, Director, Division of Preservation and Access, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), held a dialogue focused on how cooperation is key to the success of preservation efforts in the United States. They reviewed the history of cooperation from the early 1980s when preservation and conservation was viewed as local concern, embrittled books were the primary topic, and there were no funding sources, through numerous surveys, task forces and congressional hearings, to national cooperative efforts, with the National Endowment for the Humanities providing

funding for a more coherent national programme, for a full range of materials and formats, linking preservation and access, with permanent infrastructure. Looking to the future, trends in technology have to be evaluated, digital preservation has yet to prove itself, and microfilm is still the best long-term preservation medium.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Poster Sessions

These included presentations by the Library of Congress on its Web Preservation Project: "MINERVA: Mapping the Internet Electronic Resources Virtual Archive"; by R.B. Arnold Associates, Inc. on the "ASTM Paper Aging Research Program"; and by Virgilia Rawnsley of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts on "Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP): a Model Cooperative Network".

Visits

The Boston area offered a wealth of opportunities to visit conservation, preservation and restoration facilities, in libraries, laboratories and commercial enterprises. **Sonja Jordan** (USA) arranged a series of information sessions for members of the Section.

Ann Russell (Executive Director) and **Steve Dalton** (Director of Field Service) in the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) hosted a special visit to their Andover installation, the largest non-profit, regional conservation facility in the United

States, which has become a national and international resource for conservation treatment and preservation education.



Walter Newman (3rd from right), paper conservator, NEDCC

This enabled participants to appreciate its services in the conservation of paper, books and photographic materials, preservation microfilming and photoduplication services, and education and outreach programmes (surveys, publications, workshops, conferences, personnel exchanges, use of the Web for publishing/teaching, and disaster assistance).



Monique Fischer, photograph conservator, NEDCC

In the Harvard system, participants had the opportunity to tour Widener Library's state-of-the-art conservation laboratory for circulating collections, and the special

collections' conservation laboratory in the Weissman Preservation Center. This tour was organized by **Nancy Carlson Schrock**, Chief Collections Conservator, Preservation and Imaging Services, at Harvard College Library.



Alan Puglia (R), conservator, Harvard University Library WEISSMAN PRESERVATION CENTER
(Note: Section chair J. McIlwaine, 2nd from right)

An interesting and informative experience for members of the Section who do not have commercial binderies in their country was provided by **Pete Merrill-Oldham**, Director of Marketing and Sales for **ACME Bookbinding Co., Inc.** in Charleston, MA, the largest and most diversified bindery in New England, and a certified member of the Library Binding Institute. This firm, whose history goes back to 1821, offers a very wide range of services, including all types of binding, protective enclosures and preservation facsimile services, in a 100,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility. The extensive tour included demonstrations and explanations of bindery procedures. The firm has a great regard for preservation standards, and has been very active in the development of binding standards. Its goal is to provide



Paul Parisi (L), president, ACME BOOKBINDING CO.

affordable preservation services that meet or exceed the specifications of the ANSI/NISO/LBI Standard for Library Binding (Z39.78-2000). It has also been an industry leader in analog and digital technologies, and in the development and implementation of automated systems. Acme Bookbinding has collaborated with other major binderies in the USA to create ABLE (Advanced Bindery/Library Exchange) - a PC-driven software package which assists libraries in preparing shipments and automates the management of their binding programmes. The company President - **Paul Parisi** - is well-known to binding librarians as a tireless proponent of an interface of the library's automated system with binding software, in the interest of greater efficiency, error control and immediate access to all relevant information. Technology which Acme Binding helped to develop includes Ultrabind (a computer-controlled adhesive binding machine with 8 integrated on-line stations: loading, milling, spine-notching, sanding, double-fanning, notch-filling, cloth lining and unloading), and the Mek-A-Case machine, both of which do not require

programming or operator-setting of manual adjustments to process dissimilar books.

Thank you to SC members S. Toulouse for the NEDCC pictures and to S. Jordan for the Harvard and ACME Bookbinding pictures. Permission for their reproduction kindly provided by NEDCC, Harvard College Library and ACME Bookbinding.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The following publications were available at the Conference:

Henk J. Porck and René Teygeler. *Preservation Science Survey: An Overview of Recent Developments in Research on the Conservation of Selected Analog Library and Archival Materials*. Amsterdam: European Commission on Preservation and Access, 2001. ISBN 90-6984-316-1

Patrimoine des Bibliothèques. Contamination des Collections et des Locaux des Bibliothèques par des Moisissures. Méthodes de Détection et d'Evaluation. Paris: Direction du Livre et de la Lecture [2001].

Collecting and Safeguarding the Oral Traditions: An International Conference. Edited by John McIlwaine and Jean Whiffin. München: Saur, 2001. (IFLA Publications, 95) ISBN 3-598-21825 7.

[Note: This title was previously published as *IFLA Professional Reports*, 68, ISBN 90-70916-80-0, but has since been withdrawn from this series.]

R. Bruce Arnold. *ASTM's Paper Aging Research Program*. West Chester, PA: R.B. Arnold Associates, Inc. [2001].

IFLA 2001 Conference Proceedings Related to Preservation and Conservation

Sandra Burrows. "Mesplet to Metadata: Canadian newspaper preservation and access".
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/papers/040-175e.pdf>

George Farr, Jr. and Deanna Marcum. "Preservation in the USA: A Case Study in Cooperation".
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/papers/159-249e.pdf>

Catherine Lupovici. "Technical Data and Preservation Needs".
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/papers/163-168e.pdf>

Titia van der Werf-Davelaar. "Preserving Digital Collections".
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/papers/185-168e.pdf>

NEWS NOTES

On November 19-20, 2002, the National Science Foundation, The Andrew J. Mellon Foundation and the Harvard University Art Museums jointly sponsored an invitational workshop on "Digital Imagery for Works of Art". A final workshop report is available at <http://www.dli2.nsf.gov/mellon/report.html>.

The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, Library Assembly of Eurasia, Russian Library Association, Russian State Library, National Library of Russia, and Library for Foreign Literature organized a conference "Preservation of Library Stock: Partnership and Cooperation" held in Moscow on November 20-23, 2001. There

were over 189 participants including international visitors from 15 countries.

A seminar, "Preservation of Paper and Photographs", held at the Albany Museum (Grahamstown, South Africa), was presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Centre in partnership with the South African Museums Association and the South African Paper Conservation Group on April 18-12, 2002. It was funded in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Council on Library and Information Resources, UNESCO Memory of the World Programme and IFLA. 35 participants representing 17 institutions in southern Africa attended the 5-day intensive.

In May 2000, an entirely revamped and now freely accessible Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) website was launched. This includes an international collaboration, the Conservation Information Network (CIN), that provides information on the conservation and restoration of cultural property. The Bibliographic Database of the Conservation Information Network (BCIN) provides access to the Web's most complete bibliographic resource for the conservation, preservation and restoration of cultural property, over 190,000 bibliographic citations for conservation literature.

The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) and the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) have announced a joint professional development initiative: "Preventive Conservation: From Current Issues to Common Strategies" (June 2-20, 2003). This three-week pilot course will focus on the decision-making processes involved in the development and implementation of preventive conservation. See http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/main_e.shtml.

IFLA 2002



AND GENERAL CONFERENCE
18-24 AUGUST 2002

The theme of this year's conference is:
**Libraries for Life: Democracy,
Diversity, Delivery**

Coordinated by Majlis Bremer-Laamenen (Finland) and Hans Jansen (Netherlands), the Section's Standing Committee has organized an exciting programme for Glasgow 2002.

An open session on **National Preservation Initiatives** is planned for Tuesday, August 20 (11.00-13.30). Four speakers will make presentations on a variety of national/regional initiatives, followed by a discussion period. This session will be complemented by a workshop on **Conservation Research and its Implementation in Libraries Worldwide** on Thursday, August 22, 11.00-14.30). This workshop, to be held offsite at Napier University, will focus on current research related to environmental management in libraries. Bus transportation to Napier University will be provided. To register, see <http://www.kb.nl/ifla2002workshop/>.

Workshop participants should gather at 9.30 on the morning of the workshop. The bus will leave promptly at 9.45. All the buses will be leaving from the same location all week - probably the door to the main concourse.

Following the workshop, the bus will take participants into central Edinburgh, so conferees can go to the reception at the National Museum of Scotland and the Military Tattoo. The bus will not return to Glasgow after the workshop, but will return to the conference center after the Tattoo, leaving at 22.30.

We look forward to seeing you at both the open session and the workshop!

Note also:

Preservation and Conservation (PAC) is sponsoring a session **A Blue Shield for the Protection of our Endangered Cultural Heritage. How to protect our cultural heritage from armed conflicts and natural disasters** on Monday, August 19 (14.45-17.15).

IFLA 2002 PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION SECTION: Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of the Section will hold two business meetings during the Glasgow Conference. Observers are always welcome.

- **Meeting I**
Saturday, August 17th, 11.30 –14.20
- **Meeting II**
Friday, August 23rd, 8.00-10.00

Standing Committee 2002-2003

- John McIlwaine (U.K.)
Chair/Treasurer
- Majlis Bremer-Laamanen (FINLAND)
- Maria Luisa Cabral (PORTUGAL)
- Laure Cedelle (FRANCE)
- Svetlana Dobrusina (RUSSIAN FEDERATION)
- Nancy E. Gwinn (U.S.A.)
Secretary
- Hans Jansen (NETHERLANDS)
- Sophia K. Jordan (U.S.A.)
- Toru Koizumi (JAPAN)
- Sylvie Le Ray (FRANCE)
- Kjersti Lokken (NORWAY)
- Johan Mannerheim (SWEDEN)
- Elvira Permanyer (SPAIN)
- Olga Perminova (RUSSIAN FEDERATION)
- Mark Roosa (U.S.A.)
- Sarah Toulouse (FRANCE)
- Marie-Lise Tsagouria (FRANCE)
- Johanna Wellheiser (CANADA)
Information Coordinator

Corresponding Members

- Johann Maree (SOUTH AFRICA)
- Helen Shenton (U.K.)
- Jean I. Whiffin (CANADA)

See the insert or the Section website for contact information:

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s19/sconsv.htm>

**IFLA STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION
Strategic Plan, 2002-2003**

Approved by the IFLA Professional Committee, March 2002.

Mission

To facilitate the global exchange of information about preservation and conservation activities, programmes and projects.

In collaboration with the IFLA PAC Core Activity, to promote the importance of preserving the cultural and intellectual heritage within national and international contexts.

To develop publications and other tools that enable libraries to promote preservation policies and concerns locally, regionally and nationally.

Goals

1. To advise, collaborate with, and support the IFLA PAC Core Activity

(Professional priorities: (g) Preserving our intellectual heritage; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice; (k) Representing libraries in the technological marketplace)

Actions

See below under 5 & 7

2. To promote the awareness of the issues of preservation management by cooperating with other relevant professional organizations both international (e.g., UNESCO, ICOM-CC, International Council on Archives), regional (e.g., ECPA, LIBER) and national (e.g., CLIR in the USA) in developing joint programmes, seminars, and publications.

(Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (g) Preserving our intellectual heritage; (h) Developing library professionals; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice)

Actions

See below under 5, 6 & 7

3. To promote among library staff, administrators, and users an awareness of the importance of preservation and conservation of the world's cultural and intellectual heritage.

(Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (g) Preserving our intellectual heritage; (h) Developing library professionals)

Actions

See below under 5

4. To promote education, training, and continuing professional development in the field of preservation and conservation.

(Professional priorities: (h) Developing library professionals; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice)

Actions

- 4.1 With the collaboration of the IFLA PAC Core Activity, prepare and maintain in electronic form a directory of preservation standards, guidelines and similar publications, indicating the availability of such publications in print and electronic form and in language translations
- 4.2 Promote awareness among libraries of the need to prepare individual institutional disaster preparedness plans by organizing a Preconference on this topic to be held prior to the Berlin 2003 IFLA Conference and by continuing to promote, prepare additional translations of, and update the Section's brochure on disaster planning.
- 4.3 Promote the development of programmes to meet the training needs of both conservators and preservation managers, especially those in developing countries, including the organization of a session to discuss this at the Berlin 2003 IFLA Conference.

See also below under 5 & 6

5. To promote "best practices" and standardization in library preservation and conservation activities

(Professional priorities: (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice)

Actions

- 5.1 Produce a text on the web-site of the IFLA Section on Preservation and Conservation to publicize its role and activities in a format so that paper copies can be printed down and distributed as required, and have this text translated into all of the IFLA languages.
- 1-5.1 Continue to publish the Section's *Newsletter* in print and electronic form and develop the range of information available on the Section's web site, collaborating whenever possible with *International preservation news*, produced by the IFLA PAC Core Activity
- 2&5.2 Collaborate with IFLA's Division 8 on Regional Activities in supporting initiatives to raise awareness of preservation needs in developing countries, and collaborate with the IFLA

- PAC Core Activity in holding a Seminar on Blue Shield and disaster preparedness for the Latin American and Caribbean Region in Guadeloupe during Spring 2003.
- 2&5.3 Highlight the need for continuing research on preservation issues by organizing an Open Session on this topic at the Glasgow 2002 IFLA Conference.

6. To encourage and facilitate the establishment of national preservation strategies and programmes.

(Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; (g) Preserving our intellectual heritage)

Actions

- 2,4&6.1 Promote the preservation of digital information by planning an Open Session on this topic at the Berlin 2003 IFLA Conference.
- 2&6.1 Promote the development of national policies for the preservation of the national heritage by organizing a Workshop on this theme at the Glasgow 2002 IFLA conference.

7. To press for development of solutions and methods for long-term preservation of library materials that are in digital form.

(Professional priorities: (d) Providing unrestricted access to information; (g) Preserving our intellectual heritage; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice; (k) Representing libraries in the technological marketplace)

Actions

- 1,2&7.1 Collaborate with the International Council on Archives and the IFLA PAC Core Activity to produce and promote UNESCO *Guidelines for Establishing Digital Programmes in Libraries and Archives*.



Please send your comments, news, queries or suggestions for the Newsletter to
jwellheiser@tpl.toronto.on.ca
We want to hear from you!