



AVMS Standing Committee Meetings in Quebec 2008

As usual, the Standing Committee met twice during the IFLA Conference:

Saturday 9 August 14.30-17.20 SC I Room 205c

Friday 15 August 08.30-10:50 SC II Room 202

SC Members Present:

Trond Valberg (Chair, Norway), Bruce Royan (Secretary/Treasurer, Scotland), Marwa el Sahn (Information Officer, Egypt), Maria Inês Cordeiro (Portugal), James Turner (Canada), Pascal Cordereix (France), Howard Besser (USA)

Observers:

Mireille Laforce (SCI, Canada), Ghislain Roussel (SCI, Canada), Richard Green (SCI, Canada), Kurt Deggeller (SCI & SCII, Switzerland), Kathryn Husband (SCI & SCII, Canada), Maureen Webster-Prince (SCI & SCII, Jamaica), Georges Mihaies (SCII, Norway)

Apologies:

Carmen Velázquez (SC Member, Spain), Ralph Stockmann (SC Member, Germany)

1 Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed the Standing Committee members and observers. There was a "tour de table" at which all those present introduced themselves. It was agreed to preface the business meeting of SCI with a Guest Lecture followed by two Interventions from cognate NGOs, and after this to run through the whole agenda at each of the two SC meetings, which would be documented by a single consolidated set of minutes for them both.

2 Guest Lecture

The legal deposit of films in Quebec, GHISLAIN ROUSSEL, Secretary General and Director of legal affairs, with MIRIELLE LAFORCE, Coordinator, Legal Deposit Section, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. Ghislain is a member of the National Organising Committee, and welcomed us all to the Congress and to Quebec. He then gave us a fascinating and well-illustrated lecture, which is summarised in our newsletter at:

www.ifla.org/VII/s35/news/avm-newsletterJune2008.pdf

3 Interventions from related NGOs

3.1 International Association of Sound & Audiovisual Archives

RICHARD GREEN, IASA President, introduced his Association, which is very active for its size. Next year's conference will be in Athens. IASA concentrates on providing Training and Education, as well as publishing guidelines. IASA-TC04 Guidelines on the production and preservation of digital audio objects will shortly be available in a new edition, which will be published online. Richard was particularly interested in where AV belongs in a converging world. There was a major problem in succession planning, as people are retiring and taking their expertise with them.

3.2 Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations

KURT DEGGELER, CCAAA Convenor, introduced the Coordinating Council, which had developed in the '90s from an annual round table on AV archives organised

by UNESCO. It consists of 8 NGOs, 6 of which are specialised, while the International Council on Archives (ICA), and IFLA itself, deal with all kinds of media, not just AV. He felt the contribution of these two organisations was crucial, because mixed collections world wide contained the largest numbers of AV materials, and arguably the most endangered.

3.2.1 UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.

CCAAA is tasked by UNESCO to celebrate 27th October annually. This year, the theme is "Audiovisual Heritage as a witness of Cultural Identity", and some events may be able to take advantage of links with contemporary live culture. Broadcasters in particular are in some countries not very aware of the importance of archiving, and this day is an opportunity to attempt to influence them. Anyone inspired to organise an event, or indeed aware of appropriate activities already organised around the end of October, are exhorted to send CCAAA the details.

3.2.2 Training and Education

There is a need for coordination of training activities, which CCAAA is attempting to fulfil. For example, a recent training course in Brazil, which was sponsored by ICROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property), could have benefitted from formal CCAAA input.

3.2.3 Joint Technical Symposium (JTS)

CCAAA promotes a joint technical symposium on the preservation of AV documents every 2 – 3 years, the technical standard of which is very high. The next JTS will be organised by FIAF, in Oslo, in 2010.

3.2.4 Joint Management Symposium

The main need for training and development in audiovisual and multimedia libraries and archives however, has been at middle management, rather than technician, level. This perception has been reinforced by a number of recent developments, including

- Worldwide extension of legal deposit legislation to cover AVM
- Widespread digitisation
- Increasing emphasis on access
- "Projectisation" of available funding
- Aggregation of AV archives into broader, less specialised organisations

Planning is therefore under way for a symposium which would cover

- Rights and responsibilities under legal deposit legislation
- Intellectual property (and especially electronic use)
- Project management
- Sustainability planning
- Fundraising
- Negotiating skills
- Advocacy
- And indeed the entire philosophy and rationale of AVM archiving

4 Pre-conference, August 2009

A working group, co-ordinated by Marwa, with later contributions from Howard and Kurt, reported at SCII as follows:

4.1 Working title

"AV Collections for non-specialist Librarians". Or something snappier, if possible!

4.2 Objectives

This workshop will provide a basic introduction to all aspects of audiovisual collections management and preservation, in response to a felt need to equip the "forgotten people" of audiovisual archiving who are charged with caring for collections about which they have limited professional expertise. The session is intended to open the gateway to networks of contacts and sources of knowledge which the individual can pursue after the conference at their own pace.

4.3 Timing

The workshop will be held for a full day, after the IFLA Congress opening day and before the closing day, ie 24-26 August 2008. Pre- or Post-conference activities

are less likely to attract delegates who also intend to attend IFLA. Delegates just coming to the Workshop might prefer Monday 25th, so they can see Milan on the Sunday and stay overnight.

4.4 Audience

The workshop is for professional Librarians in organisations where preservation of, and provision of access to, audiovisual materials is not the main preoccupation, but who need to understand and apply basic principles in limited circumstances. It is not therefore aimed primarily at members of AVMS, but at international IFLA delegates whose parent institution have not thought fit to join AVMS, plus professional librarians who would not normally attend IFLA, but who might be attracted to attend this one day event. That may imply mainly European delegates, but we will explore with UNESCO the possibility of funding delegates from developing countries. Furthermore, although we would not turn away students who wish to attend, we should emphasise in our brochure that this is a workshop for practicing professional librarians. We do not want to discourage our main target audience.

4.5 Capacity

While it would probably not be worth while organising for less than 20 delegates, the dynamics of the Workshop will change if the numbers rise much above 30. A lot will depend on the eventual location.

4.6 Location

This workshop will be advertised in the IFLA Congress programme as an off-site event. However, as IFLA delegates may be reluctant to travel elsewhere, we strongly prefer a location within Milano itself. The Italian broadcasting service RAI is based in Milan, and an initial approach is being made to them since they may provide free premises, refreshments etc. A second target is the Mediateca Santa Teresa, which is a branch of the National Library of Milan. We are also contacting a Milan University colleague who specialises in interactive media, to ask for leads. Our main requirement is actually not for an AV Archive, but for an attractive room with good sound and data projection facilities, preferably free of charge. An opportunity to look at a range of carriers and equipment and processes would be desirable, but this might be achieved by a visit elsewhere, during the day.

4.7 Training topics

- Philosophy of audio-visual archiving, including collection theory and ethical concerns
- Recognition of types of material
- Risks of deterioration and obsolescence
- Good practice in handling and storage
- Issues of conservation and preservation
- Management of access
- Legal issues and copyright
- Approaches to cataloguing
- Practical implications of new technologies
- Where to find help (documentary and human)

4.8 Contributions from other Organisations

We have the backing of CCAAA, and can use their logo. We have asked to use the UNESCO logo, and are also seeking funding from them. IASA are considering what practical help they can give, and members of SC who are also AMIA members are willing be trainers.

4.9 Publicity

Announce on World Day, Tuesday 27th October, if possible. Use AVMS mailing list, CCAAA and its member NGOs, and general library lists as widely as possible. Try to have a website, including online registration if possible. Develop a brochure.

5 Minutes of Durban Meetings

The minutes of the Durban meetings were approved.

6 Annual Report 2007-2008

The Annual Report was approved, with minor corrections.

7 Financial Report 2007-2008

The Financial Report was approved. The Chair and Secretary plan to use 2008 admin funds towards the organisation of one mid-term meeting, in Scotland or Norway.

8 Reports from Professional Board and Division Meetings

A series of reminders from PB and CB were reported by the Chair.

9 Quebec Conference – Facts and Plans

Section members exchanged information about events and sessions during the conference.

9.1 The AVMS Social Evening was arranged for Sunday 10 August, at 20:00 in the "Café Au Bonnet d'Âne"

9.2 Double Session: "The legal deposit of audiovisual and multimedia materials: practice around the world". Monday 11 August, 13:45-18:00

9.3 The Hollywood Librarian (Movie)

Followed by panel with ANN SEIDL, and HOWARD BESSER. Monday 11 August, 18:30-20:30

9.4 Study tour to Montreal: Grande Bibliothèque, Cinémathèque québécoise, Phonothèque québécoise, National Film Board, CinéRobothèque. Wednesday 13 August, 07:30-till late

9.5 Other Sessions of interest to AVMS

10 Projects**10.1 ISBD Review**

The Consolidated International Standard Bibliographic description had now been published. It was expected that doing away with separate descriptions for different types of media would lead to some discrepancies, and an ISBD Review Group is working on improving the ISBD, in particular by clarifying the use of General Material Designators (gmd) (contact: Lynne Howarth <howarth@fis.utoronto.ca>) and by assembling a range of examples of the use of ISBD in different situations (contact Ms Jaesun Lee <ljs86@nl.go.kr>). The full text of this publication is at

www.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/ISBD_consolidated_2007.pdf

Marwa agreed to contact all Section members to solicit accurate examples of the treatment of non book material, and hopefully find someone to coordinate with these groups.

10.2 Moving Image Collections (MIC) Localisation

James reported on this project on behalf of Marwa and Samira Sambaino of Uruguay. The project has successfully completed all its work: developing a toolkit for localising some 21 pages of the MIC website into any language other than English, and then testing the toolkit by localising those pages into French, Spanish and Arabic. All this material has been fully tested and handed over to Jane Johnson, MIC Project Manager at the Library of Congress, to be mounted on the MIC server, although staff changes and a move of servers has delayed this.

10.3 UNESCO World Day

The project funding had been spent planning and then bringing speakers to an expert meeting on AV heritage in Zagreb on 26 October 2007. A small surplus would be brought forward as a contribution towards World Day activities in 2008.

10.4 Survey on Legal Deposit of AVM materials

The draft questionnaire had been discussed in depth at the 11th August workshop, and a range of comments had been received, including:

- Rationale: universal access to information is a fundamental human right

- Disclosure of best practice will help countries get, or improve, legislation
- There is an urgent need to preserve the AV heritage
- It's symbolically important that it is IFLA which is leading on this. AV is no longer considered as just "non-books"
- Need for a clear-cut report for reading at UNESCO as well as at country level
- More work on design needed, eg ambiguous how to measure "number of documents"
- Ask about the Metadata
- Keep focussed: eg drop stuff about state of preservation
- Don't ask about other institutions: ask what is done by whom
- What type of organisation is doing the depositing?
- What arrangements are there to enforce the legislation? Are they invoked?
- Is access to the material allowed?
- What proportion of current output is actively collected?
- Do you have the right to convert content to other media for preservation purposes?
- What triggers the duty to deposit? Act of publication, or receipt of claim?
- Is deposit managed by voluntary arrangements in the absence of legislation?
- What is the collection/retention policy of the agency: selective or exhaustive?
- Can you provide a copy of/give a link to the legislation itself?

Howard offered the services of a postgraduate resource until the end of October, who would revamp the questionnaire according to the above feedback, circulate to SC for agreement, and create a website to collect the responses. James' students would be able to distribute the final questionnaire to a list of contacts built by consolidating FIAT, FIAF etc information with the IFLA national library contact list: www.ifla.org/VI/2/p2/national-libraries.htm

Marwa offered to chase things up.

Kurt offered CAAA endorsement, and would publicise the project at the IASA and FIAT conferences (his colleague Catherine Lacken would publicise with FIAF). Howard and James would publicise at AMIA in November. A regional approach to gaining acceptance could also be helpful. Pascal could cover the Francophonie, Marwa Arab countries, Samira Latin America, and Maureen the Caribbean. Belina Capul could be approached to cover South East Asia and the Pacific Rim..

10.5 Proposals for funded projects

11 Recruiting New Members

The Section now has 49 members (the prescribed lower limit is 40), but only 9 Standing Committee members (10). 4 of these will be standing down in 2009, so there will be 15 vacancies to fill (the maximum entitlement of SC members is 20). There was a general need to strengthen the section, especially from under-represented parts of the world, Chair hoped to bring in members from Australia, Denmark, Finland and South Africa. It was important to finger members who do not come to meetings. Bruce will produce an updated list of each type of member, and Trond will finger people to make direct contacts.

12 Milan Conference – suggestions

A paper was tabled from Kirsten Rydland suggesting new moves in bibliographic control of AVM. This was generally liked. A proposed paper on Music Ontology might fit in here, as would a brief progress report on the legal deposit project. Support could be expected from Cataloguing Section, but it was not felt necessary to bid for a 4 hour slot. Two hours would be ample, especially if the pre-conference is to go ahead.

13 Evaluation of Quebec Conference

13.1 Attendance at Double Session was 150 on average, and all papers were well received

13.2 Candidate paper for publication in "IFLA Journal". "Egypt's audiovisual heritage: current status and future prospects", by Hesham Azmi was compelling, especially as it painted a "warts and all" picture of the situation.

13.3 Impressions of other Sessions. The sessions by Preservation Section and by Copyright Section were excellent, and it was good that AVM people made their presence felt.

13.4 Overall organisation of the conference. The conference centre was huge and well appointed, and the volunteers friendly, welcoming and eager to please. The free iced water was particularly welcome. The only problems were the Visa difficulties that probably lost the congress several hundred footsoldiers, as well as the speakers, officers and translators who we know about for sure.

14 Strategic Plan 2007-2009

Strategic plans cover a two-year period, and run from election year to election year. The next new plan should be produced in 2009, in Milan. As 2008 is an intervening year, the plan will be updated in the light of decisions taken during the Quebec meeting. The resulting draft will be circulated by the end of the year.

15 Any Other Business

Georges Mihais briefly described his KNOWWW Foundation, which seeks to provide local documentation for world heritage.

The Chair congratulated James Turner for receiving the award for "Best Newsletter". A great achievement considering we had been unable to put together any sort of newsletter the previous year!