

IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections Section Minutes from the Midterm Meeting in London / 11-13 March 2015.

Participants: Jan Bos, Mark Dimunation, Claudia Fabian, Daryl Green, David Farneth, Isabel García-Monge, Raphaële Mouren, Angela Nuovo, Laila Österlund, Krister Östlund, Edwin C. Schroeder, Winston Tabb, Helen Vincent.

Wednesday, 11 March: Warburg Institute, London

10:00 – 17:00: All-day conference on the theme “A coordinated approach to recording and searching provenance records and images: moving forward”. The workshop was a joint venture with CERL, co-organized by Raphaële Mouren (IFLA RBSC) and Cristina Dondi (CERL) and held at the Warburg Institute. Thanks in part to an effective marketing effort, there was much more interest in the meeting than anticipated. The first day featured reports and updates about current projects taking place in the Europe and North America. During the second day (which was devoted to break-out groups), the leaders crafted a clear path for creating international guidelines devoted to creating and sharing provenance information and images about rare books. The funding provided by IFLA was critical to the success of this meeting, because it provided the flexibility we needed to accommodate the larger-than-anticipated group and helped the organizers to advertise the meeting more broadly.

Thursday, 12 March: Warburg Institute, London

10:15-12:00: Business meeting of the IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections section.

1) *Program planning for IFLA 2016 (Columbus and preconference meeting in Chicago).*

Pre-conference meeting in Chicago: 1½ days (Thursday and Friday morning before the main conference) or 2 days (Wednesday and Thursday before the main conference) of tours, visiting three libraries (for instance The Newberry, The University of Chicago, Loyola University, and The Art Institute of Chicago) and at the same time having an exchange of ideas, talking at each institution about their specialties, challenges, and programs undertaken to manage ever-expanding collections, process backlogs, and expose “hidden” collections. Other topics could include digital scholarship, storage solutions, or acquiring at-risk collections, Discussion was given to inviting Brewster Kale from the Internet Archive and non-U.S. counterparts to speak. Most people were in favour of a 2-day meeting. A program committee will finalize the program chaired by E.C. Schroeder.

Several ideas were proposed for the main conference in Columbus, including:

- a) cartoon collections (together with Ohio State University and Art Libraries section)
- b) opening up special collections to the public – including crowd sourcing, user tagging etc., sharing metadata, letting others curate your

collection, open access, fair use of copyright material, etc. – Everything is Open?

c) Why have a rare book collection? A recap of the Brown University conference, with a conversation between library directors and rare book/special collections librarians.

d) Documenting visual materials in Special Collections/Metadata for digitized images: a survey of the range of work being done internationally as a step towards developing standards. In partnership with the Visual Materials section.

2) Cape Town program, with invited guests Laura Gibson and Rebecca Kahn.

Two sessions are planned for Cape Town 2015, one pre-conference and the other a conference session. The “combined” call for papers sent out earlier this year resulted in 21 proposals (see Appendix 1).

The theme for the conference session (2 hours, 5 papers) will be “collaboration between institutions”, and will include the papers on the Timbuktu manuscripts.

The pre-conference session will consist of papers and panel discussions, loosely concentrating on accessibility of special collections, motives behind building special collections, managing special collections, and ownership, all within an African context.

13:00 – 15:00: Joint meeting with CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) RBSCG members Fiona Courage (Chair), Hugh Cahill, and Karen Attar. Helen Vincent is the liaison member of both groups.

Karen Attar started by giving a presentation about the process of preparing of the new edition of The Directory of Rare Books and Special Collections in the UK and Republic of Ireland and some of the decisions and compromises that had to be made. This was followed by a general discussion on topics like “What can we do together?”, “Where do our topics overlap?”, “How can we share information better?” Some future goals and topics for future discussion include:

- 1) put conference and meeting presentations on-line
- 2) organize have formal/informal joint activities, including conferences
- 3) discuss the future education requirements for rare book librarians
- 4) organize a meeting of national leaders in rare books to define the current “state of the art.”
- 5) Staffing challenges: lack of turnover and the importance of diversity in collections (in some areas there is perceived a need for further diversity in collections and staff).

15:00 – 16:00: Other issues

- 1) Discussions on starting a blog. The RBSPS has decided to start a blog as a replacement for the current Newsletter. A short discussion “pro et contra” followed Daryl Green’s introduction: few people read blogs today, a blog doesn’t differ that much from a Facebook-page, a blog is, on the other hand, more stable and easier to search. “If you have a blog you are also forced to have a twitter account, which points to the blog”. We still do not have a name for the blog.
- 2) There has been a request for IFLA RBSPS to sign a petition in support of the library in Parma, which, due to budget cuts, today lacks a director. Angela Nuovo provided useful information on the current state

of financial support for museums and libraries in Italy. We decided that IFLA RBSPS should not single out single libraries. It would be more effective if IFLA leadership could present a more positive-oriented statement about the importance of maintaining library funding on a national and global level.

- 3) As of 11 March the results of the nomination process for the RBSPS 2015-2019 has not been revealed.

16:00 – 17:00: Tour of the Senate House Library, University of London.

Friday, 13 March, Day trip to the University of Oxford for meetings with Special Collection librarians

11:00-12:00: Lincoln College Libraries (Fiona Piddock)

13:30-14:30: Merton College Library (Julia Walworth)

15:00-16:00: Bodleian and Weston (Wilma Minty)

Appendix 1

**CALL FOR PAPERS: IFLA WORLD CONGRESS CAPE TOWN
RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS SECTION**

February 23, 2015

1. Esmeralda Kale (USA, Northwestern University). Sharing Collections with the world: The Humphrey Winterton Collection of East African Photographs (at Northwestern University)
2. Mrs. Nafissatou Bakhom Ndour (Senegal, IFAN). Highlighting the training outcome of an African intellectual elite in AOF: the case of the “Cahiers William Ponty” Collection. Senegal (Afrique Occidentale française)
3. Naima Keddane (National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco). The state of manuscripts collections conservation in North Africa through two experiences of the National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco.
4. Julius Juma Ogega (Kenya, Col. Hugh Stoneham Collection Library at Kitale Museum). Challenges in Managing Heritage Collections in Africa: The Case of Rare (issues related to theft)
5. Maria Luisa Russo and Dmitry Bondarev (Germany, University of Hamburg). The project “Safeguarding the manuscripts of Timbuktu”: a synergic approach to the preservation of written cultural heritage. (Collaborative preservation)
6. Jürg Schneider and Rosario (Switzerland, University of Basel). Working in and with African photo archives. (Institutional collaboration)
7. Mary Minicka (South Africa, Western Cape Archives and Records Service). Lessons in understanding and preserving Africa’s manuscript heritage from the Timbuktu Manuscripts Project. (Illustrated presentation; South African conservators)
8. Beth Kilmarx (USA, Binghamton University). The William J. Haggerty Collection of French Colonial History.
9. Dr. Gustav Hendrich (South Africa, Western Cape Archives and Records Service). The Arthur Elliott Collection (photographs).
10. Santie de Jongh (South Africa, DOMUS, Stellenbosch University). This paper will provide an overview of the Documentation Centre for Music (history, collections, and activities) and investigates its position in a local collaborative library environment and within national and international contexts.
11. Dr. Francis Garaba. (South Africa, University of Fort Hare and University of KwaZulu-Natal). The Timbuktu manuscripts: A model for preservation in Africa.
12. Abiola Abioye (Nigeria, University of Ibadan). Preserving African cultural heritage: issues and challenges for libraries and archives in Nigeria.
13. Ifeoma Stella Njoku (Nigeria, Federal University of Technology P.M.B.) This paper discusses development of knowledge management and the relationship between museums and libraries.
14. Musa Wakhungu Olaka (USA, University of Kansas). Collaborating to preserve and disseminate testimonies of child survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.
15. Araba Dawson-Andoh (USA, Ohio University) and Esmeralda Kale (USA, Northwestern University). This paper explores the activities of the Cooperative Africana Materials Project) and the value of institutional and international

- cooperation in preserving and enabling access to important primary source materials of historical, political, linguistic, economic, and geographical value.
16. Laura Gibson (UK, University of London). A proposal to moderate a panel discussion around the cultural/political issues around providing access to African cultural heritage.
 17. Rebecca Kahn (UK, University of London). Has written on the Rwanda Genocide Archive project and a survey of digitization projects in African libraries.
 18. Jan Bos (The Netherlands, National Library of The Netherlands). A presentation on the Memory of the World nomination procedure (or any other MoW related topic) at either of the sessions. This contribution could also take the shape of a small workshop, based on African Memory of the World proposals that are presently in preparation.
 19. Alida Jay Boye (formerly of the University of Oslo). Cannot attend the conference, but could prepare slides about the Norwegian work on the Timbuktu manuscripts.
 20. Richard Knight (USA, Michigan State University). He cannot attend the conference but could possibly contribute a paper about the African Activism Archive Project, which collects evidence of African activism from an American perspective.
 21. Ian Christie-Miller A proposal to offer some sort of poster, possibly electronic, on the subject of the first book printed in Ge'ez, the religious language of Ethiopia.