

SPA ICA

Section of Professional Associations

Section des Associations Professionnelles

SPA News in May/June 2019:

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Editorial

Dear colleagues,

it is time for news from the Steering Committee of SPA, from archival associations and from ICA!

You find in this newsletter a report about the spring meeting of the Steering Committee of SPA in Santiago de Chile (May 2019).¹

This newsletter includes a report from the Polish and another from the German archival association.

Furthermore, I take the chance to inform you about the new ICA Blog (<https://blog-ica.org/>).

If you subscribe, you will get countless information about archives and records

¹ Like always, I added the new contact information to the newsletter directory. Please, let me know, if you don't want to receive the newsletter anymore.

management-activities from all over the world. I am convinced that the SPA newsletter will soon be delivered via the blog.

One of the most important treasures we have as archivists and records managers is – besides the records, documents and data – our professional knowledge. To gain or to broaden this knowledge, you can now take part at the new online training programme by ICA: <https://www.ica.org/en/training-programme>.

Learning means also learning from each other – for example at the next annual conference of ICA in Adelaide this year: It is time to register:

<https://www.ica.org/en/conference-ica-adelaide-2019>.

So far – have fun reading this newsletter and don't forget: Contributions from your professional associations are always welcome!

Bettina Joergens (bettina.joergens@lav.nrw.de), Germany

2 Spring-Meeting of Steering Committee / Bureau der Section of Professional Associations (SPA) / International Council on Archives (ICA) in Santiago de Chile (13-17 May)

The members of the Steering Committee of SPA met this spring, or fall in the Southern Hemisphere, as we do every year. This year, most of the SPA-team had to travel a long distance: The meeting took place in Chile. The SPA Bureau was invited by the Chilean member of the Steering Committee and the president of the Chilean archival association, Eugenio Bustos Ruz. Who came to Santiago de Chile? It was Vilde Ronge (Norway, president of SPA), Becky Haglund Tousey (U.S.A., vice-president of SPA), Pierre-Frédéric Brau (France, secretary), Cédric Champagne (Canada, secretary), Mei Du (China), Michal Henkin (Israel), Marta Munera (Spain, webmaster), Bert de Vries (Netherlands), Piotr Zawilski (Poland) and Dr. Bettina Joergens (Germany, Newsletter-Editor). We missed Alassane Ndiath (Senegal), who could not come to this spring meeting.

The sessions were at The National Historical Archive and The National Archive of Administration in Santiago. Our intensive and vivid discussion focused on three main issues: **1)** What can / must be done by the Steering Committee to support the professional associations for archives and records management in a better way? **2)** What must be done to strengthen the network and improve the collaboration within the ICA? Which tools or methods may help to make the communication between the associations and other ICA

groups more effective and more efficient? **3)** Which of the over 50 submitted movies about archives and records management should be nominated for the 2nd Film Festival in Adelaide (-><https://www.ica.org/en/designing-the-archives-2019-registration-system-is-open>)?

1) SPA is the section within ICA which represents the more than 60 associations for archival and records management worldwide. Therefore, one main goal of the Steering Committee of SPA is to strengthen the network and the communication among the representatives of those associations and with SPA. Another goal is – of course – to increase the number of member associations. This sounds rather simple, but it is not easy in a global organization. The base of an uncomplicated and efficient “information flow” is a valid and up to date directory, (e.g. to spread the SPA-newsletter) and a clear website (where information can be easily and intuitively be found) with social media functions. Both are in process by ICA. Until this work is done, SPA uses its own, more or less self-made directory for the newsletter (see also here: <https://www.ica.org/en/public-resources/spa-newsletters>).

Meanwhile, the Steering Committee will edit online a spread sheet with information about – hopefully – all associations within SPA. This overview will help to find professional associations all over the world and to get into contact with colleagues. The goal is quite simple and basic: We have to know how to reach each other in order to exchange knowledge and experiences, for example about ongoing change processes of archival associations: Many associations are convinced that they must change structures and processes in order to become more attractive, more transparent, maybe more diver and democratic – just to modernize the organization. Further, conference formats are “under construction”: they should be more interactive for example. This is also the case in the ICA itself. Let’s learn from each other!

One project of the Steering Committee of SPA was the Toolkit to Hold an Elevator Pitch Workshop. Those workshops – and the elevator pitches – empower archivists and records managers to promote professional issues. In Chile, the Steering Committee discussed new projects, e.g. the organization of a panel at the ICA Congress in Abu Dhabi in 2020 about the role of archival associations in legal processes: How, can professional associations influence the invention / change of archival and other laws which are relevant for archives and records management? We need to learn from each other, also because the legal framework becomes more and more complex. For example, the National Archives in Chile will get an archival law after long and difficult processes – as the director of the National Archives, Emma de Ramón Acevedo, told us.

2) The work of the SPA Steering Committee is very dependent on structures and processes of the whole ICA organization. And those structures and processes are going to change. Anthea Seles, the new secretary general has initiated a change process. And therefore her first question to us in our regular Skype call: “How should the ICA look like in the year 2025?” Our answers clearly aimed in one direction: simplified structures of the organization and the website, more transparency for election and decision processes, more diversity and more

efficiency. These issues were mainly discussed in the Executive Board, the Forum of National Archives (FAN) and other government meetings in Abu Dhabi earlier this spring. The goal is to strengthen ICA and make it “ready for the future”.

This change process means also to give archival and records management organizations an adequate weight and place within ICA: SPA represents all members of all member associations and must therefore be valued like FAN. Therefore, SPA should become an “Forum.” This is to be decided in Abu Dhabi in 2020. This would be a great success for the Steering Committee of SPA.

3) Film Festival: It is the second time that the Steering Committee invited institutions and associations and individuals to produce short films about the importance of archives and records management (<https://www.ica.org/en/film-festival>). About 50 films were sent to the Steering Committee. They show a broad spectrum of topics, perspectives and styles. Some are funny, some even romantic and emotional and others very creative. Many films came from China, and about eight movies were produced by students. The nominations were categorized by “content”, “humor”, “style” and “by students”. Further, the public can choose the “best film” among the finalists from their point of view. We will launch the voting late Summer! Don’t miss the closing ceremony in Adelaide, where the film festival winners will be announced! Anyway, this film festival showed again that films are a wonderful medium to communicate archival and records management issues – and it is never boring.

A propos communication and professional exchange:

The Steering Committee of SPA had the special opportunity in Santiago de Chile to get to know that country’s National Archives (two buildings at two places of the city) and the Memory Museum (in memorium of the terror of the dictatorship in Chile by Augusto Pinochet, 1973-1990). Above that, we had the chance to get to know Chilean and Uruguayan colleagues and discuss issues with them in meetings, at breakfast and dinners. A conference of archivists of Latin American countries took place in Santiago meanwhile of our spring meeting. The Uruguayan association is quite “young”, founded in 1993 (<https://www.aua.org.uy/>). The next Latin American archival conference will take place in Montevideo in October 2019 (21.-25.10.2019): About 600 participants are expected to attend! Further, we got to know representatives of the “archivists without borders” organization, another SPA member association (Archiveros Sin Fronteras Chile: www.archiverossinfronteras.cl).

The long trip was worthwhile: The Steering Committee strengthened our team work and pushed projects by discussing intensively. In addition to that, we made new professional contacts in South America, which is also good for the SPA network. And again, we were reminded that we are much poorer without cross border inspirations, collaboration and professional exchange:

3 News from Poland's Archival Association

14th National Archival Seminary in Plock

On 28-29 May the Section of— Records Centres of the Association of Polish Archivists organized the 14th National Archival Seminary in Plock. This year's theme was: "Separate Archives in the Polish archival network" and 116 people participated in deliberations. Over a dozen extremely interesting papers were presented to us including two additional ones from abroad, i.e. Germany and Hungary. We got to know the history, way of operation and the records of most of separate archives. Implementing the recommendation outlined by the General Director of State Archives dr. Paweł Pietrzyk at the beginning of the meeting, the seminar became a place of exchange of knowledge and views on the specificities and positions of separate archives in the Polish archival network.

http://sap.waw.pl/dzialalnosc_statutowa/sekcja-archiwow-zakladowych?fbclid=IwAR2Z7qzgBNhMbNLQhh-S62silYElf0SIBt5K7xdrKL0RoplqggHS6ivhHeo

A gift for archivists

The Łódź Philharmonic prepared a gift for archivists for the International Archives Day - tickets for the concert on June 7 could be purchased with a 50% discount. It was enough to say that you are working/ or used to work in an archives.

<https://www.facebook.com/FilharmoniaLodzka/photos/a.276909442334557/3258722050819933/?type=3&theater>

The Scientific Prize of the Association of Polish Archivists for a doctoral dissertation

On June 13, the Scientific Prize of the Association of Polish Archivists named after Zbigniew Pustuła for a doctoral dissertation in the field of Polish economic history based on archival materials will be hand in for the first time.

In terms of quantity and scientific significance, archival collections concerning the civilization development of Polish lands connected with economic life are very significant. However, it is difficult to talk about their common or wide use in conducted historical research. Drawing attention to this fact to scientific communities and institutions of economic life in possession of which documents are produced during their activity, the Association of Polish Archivists has a number of initiatives aimed at raising the awareness of the importance of economic life documents for the history of the state and the Polish nation. One of these activities is now the establishment of a special award for historians undertaking the problems of economic history as part of doctoral dissertations.

http://sap.waw.pl/dzialalnosc_statutowa/nagroda-im-z-pustuly

Piotr Zawilski

4 News from the German Archival Association

One of the main activities of the German Archival Association is the annual conference in September. This year, the annual conference will take place in Suhl / Thuringia. About 800 participants are expected. The conference will focus on legal issues: “RechtSicher – Archive und ihr rechtlicher Rahmen” (“Reliable legal regulations – Archives and the legal framework”). As in other countries, the legal framework is not only based on the archives law (in Germany exist 17 archives laws: one federal law and 16 state archives laws), but also on legal regulations of information access, data protection or copy right laws. Consequently, the legal situation became much more complex and – somehow – intransparent in the last years. But archives, dealing with data protection as well as with access to information, must be capable to act reliably in this legal framework. Therefore, the executive board of the German Archival Association decided to focus on those and other legal issues.



The annual archival conference is like always a chance to invite colleagues from abroad. Mainly colleagues from neighboring countries visit the German conference, e.g. from Czech Republic, Switzerland, Austria, Russia, Hungary or in this year also France. We are glad to welcome archivists from abroad. And for a few years, foreign and German archivists exchange information about archival issues from other countries and from ICA in the workshop “Internationaler Austausch zu archivfachlichen und -politischen Themen”, organized by the international representative within the executive board of the German archival association (Bettina Joergens).

For some years, we try to modernize the annual conference in order to promote more interactive formats, also to encourage (not only) young professionals to contribute their knowledge and thoughts to the discussions. Fisbowl-discussions and poster sessions are two of those 'new' formats. This change process will last over years, also because new formats need sometimes new kind of rooms. And archival conferences must be planned years ahead.

If you feel encouraged to get to know how a German archival conference are alike, look here: <https://www.archivtag.de/>. (Early Bird Deadline: 19th of June 2019).

As far as I know, many archival associations are changing or have changed conference and meeting formats. Maybe you want to write about this change process in this newsletter. Just let me know.

Bettina Joergens, Germany