



**International Federation of Library Associations
and Institutions**

**Preservation and Conservation
Section**

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NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Chair



By Per Cullhed
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Preservation and Sustainability was the theme for the Preservation and Conservation Section programme for the World Library and Information Congress 2010 in Gothenburg,

Sweden, planned jointly with the IFLA PAC Core. Just as so many other sectors in society are facing the challenges of a possible climate change, consequences of future scenarios have to be taken into account for the preservation of library collections. It is difficult to know what measures need to be taken, but, obviously, plans need to be made. In the programme, we heard for example the story of how Croatian libraries suffered from war

damage inflicted during the Balkan war in the paper "Disaster and After" by Damir Hasenay and Maja Krtalic. This story is not a story about consequences of a changing climate, but more about attitudes towards planning for a disastrous situation and the consequences of not being prepared. They observed, for example, that efficiency in withstanding the fatal situation they were subjected to was more the "result of luck or coincidental circumstances, or personal ability of staff to react in a given situation, than the result of advanced, organised planning and thoughtful reaction." This thinking applies to all situations when we need to take other circumstances into account, such as the consequences of a changing climate which may well result in more frequent floods and fires.

One thing that we all know lies ahead is the shortage of fossil energy since the supply is not renewable. Kjell Aleklett, the programme's keynote speaker, gave the audience some insights into this future world and its effect on the world economy and hence, library economy. Kjell Aleklett is the president of ASPO, The Association for Peak Oil & Gas and his mission is to inform politicians and society in general about the consequences for a society without a cheap supply of fossil energy. Most libraries need to prepare for a situation when cheap energy simply will not be available. How do we, for example, manage heating/cooling costs and the intricate systems designed to streamline the preservation climate and minimize the risk for fires or floods in a society where energy is very expensive? In addition to fuel, fossil resources are a part of a vast amount of products we use daily. These are all considerations we need to ask ourselves when designing new library buildings and considering renovations. The structures we build today will certainly be expected to serve their purpose for at least 50-100 years and if we accept the assumption that we have approximately ten years left before peak oil, i.e. the moment when oil

production peaks globally, then we have to consider how to cope with a situation when energy will be more costly. Some scenarios for a warmer climate are grimmer than others, predicting more flooding of low-land areas, more rain and, on the other hand, fires and excessive heat in other countries; all are possible threats to libraries.

An IFLA conference is a meeting-place for advocacy and sharing ideas and the Gothenburg programme served that purpose, planning ahead was and remains the word of the day. Our programme was nicely complemented by the programme of the IFLA Environmental Sustainability and Libraries SIG where we learned more about the possibility of a library being literally green that is, covered with grass and plants, a fact that raised some curious questions about possible drawbacks on the preservation side of being surrounded by plants.

The section business meetings discussed many things and important decisions included next year's programme which will be co-sponsored with the IFLA Audiovisual and Multimedia Section and, that there will be a pre-conference in Mikkeli Finland in 2012.

One topic, which was discussed, was the possibilities of using modern technology for e-learning. As a follow up, two small films have now been prepared and published as YouTube films by my own library, Uppsala University Library, on the topic of how to make simple acid free phase boxes for books and archival material. We hope these films may be of use for those who wish to produce high quality boxes using just a few hand-tools and using acid-free corrugated board. Please take a look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7G6hWFp8bs> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtZPaEfbYXE> and, if the address for some reason has changed, just Google "folding phase boxes".



News from IFLA- PAC Core Activity

By Christiane Baryla,
Director

IFLA PAC Core activity and P&C Section had a very interesting shared session in Goteborg, last August. I hope to have the paper from Professor Kjell Aleklett on *Fossil depletion and library economy* and the one from Deborah Novotny presenting *the British Library new storage*, published

in the IFLA journal as they were powerful papers, full of strategic directions for preservation in the future. Following the topic of the IFLA Annual General Conference, I take this opportunity to announce that PAC Core activity will hold a satellite meeting next year in Puerto Rico together with the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section. The issue will be "How to manage and preserve a heritage collection in the context of an island". The call for papers will be announced soon. For the main conference, PAC Core activity will organize its own session about an important issue: how to plan for preservation in a context of crisis, under a tropical climate and mainly in a country in development. Again, we shall launch the call for papers very soon.

For economic reasons we have delayed our next conference on the theme of the 4 elements. Fire and Earth will be treated together in 2011.

Training is still one of our main goals. I hope that 2011 will see the participation of PAC in a Central Asian seminar on book restoration in Almaty (the cultural capital of Kazakhstan, the PAC for Central Asia). In April 2011, a group of Russian conservators will visit Paris and major library conservation workshops under the direction of our PAC Regional Director in Moscow Rosa Salnikova.

International Preservation News n°52 is on tract to be published at the end of the year: the theme will be tourism and preservation and I hope that this topic will be of interest. We are already scheduling 2011 with an issue dedicated to good housekeeping of collections in storage and repositories (not only the eternal theme of dust, and mould but of maintaining paper and digital in good condition now in the beginning of the 21st century). I remind our colleagues that IPN is sent free of charge to every person interested in receiving it.

We are also trying to improve our webpage by uploading more information and links. So I encourage every colleague interested in Preservation to consult the site

(<http://www.ifla.org/en/pac>) and register for our mailing list which will soon be the source for a cyber letter. (<http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/pac-list>)

Sustainability SIG

The section sponsors the Environmental Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group (SIG)

This SIG is concerned with the role of humanity in climate change and the concerns of society and libraries for sustainable development. To learn more see: <http://www.ifla.org/en/environmental-sustainability-and-libraries>



The world of Environmental Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group

By Veerle Minner and
Vincent Bonnet, convenors of
the Environmental
Sustainability and Libraries
Special Interest Group (SIG)

2010 was our second conference session and we counted it a success with more than one hundred and thirty five people in attendance. Last year about one hundred people attended our session. This increase suggests that more and more librarians have an interest in the issues of climate change and sustainable development.

What came out of this conference session is that “greening” the library is not only about buildings, but it is an issue that touches every aspect of our job. And more than that, it touches the roots of reading and literacy development which are directly linked to knowledge and also environmental respect. A better environment is a better way to live. A better knowledge of the environment is a better way to help sustain the environment. That is where libraries have a role to play.

For the first time this year, we organized a paper selection committee using critical criteria to choose the most relevant speakers. For the 2011 conference we will refine this criteria and try to involve more members of the P&C section as part of the selection committee.

We also had our first business meeting at the end of the IFLA conference. Despite an early morning time (8 O'clock on Sunday 15th August), seven people met to talk about the next session. We were pleased to welcome for the first time an African colleague. Her ‘African-oriented’ point of view will help plan the session on a broader scale than previously. For our SIG, environment is a global concern, but for two years we have not had representation from Asia, Latin America and Africa. Unfortunately, since the environment issues are not a rich country's concern or western concern only! This business meeting showed us that it was a global concern, and that we

need to add other points of view to get people of the South and East involved.

The mailing list is a good indicator of the people we're reaching. It grows from day to day. And we are proud to announce 151 subscribers on September 27th 2010. We were ‘only’ 80 before the Gothenburg conference. If most of the members have come from Europe and North America, now more and more are coming from Asia, Latin America and Africa. We're hoping to be on a good path.

We would like to address a special thank to Per Cullhed for his help during the IFLA conference, and to Jeanne Drewes for providing this newsletter column and to the P&C section for its support.

Disaster Recovery Updates

Art Conservators Volunteer for Haiti Cultural Recovery Work

Repairing Haitian paintings, murals, documents, and archaeological objects damaged in the January 12 earthquake might not seem to be a high priority, given the devastation the quake caused and the continuing needs for shelter, food, sanitation, and jobs. However, as Haitian sculptor Patrick Vilaire stated in January, “The dead are dead, we know that. But if you don't have the memory of the past, the rest of us can't continue living.”



AIC-CERT Member Hitoshi Kimura

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FAIC) has supported conservators to work at the Haiti Cultural Recovery Center in Port-au-Prince since April. Volunteers have performed assessments, helped to set up conservation labs, and performed

treatments ranging from basic cleaning to full restoration of damaged paintings and sculptures.

American Institute for Conservation members have volunteered their time and talents in Haiti for twenty-one trips of about two weeks each. Volunteers are expected to continue to assist with the conservation work into 2011.



AIC-CERT Member Vicki Lee

The work has been frustrating at times, given the huge need and the limited resources available in a country still struggling to provide basic services to its population. Conservator Rosa Lowinger described her experience working on the wall murals at the Cathedral of Sainte Trinité in Port-Au-Prince:

“As we crawled around the site, measuring and testing, I could not help but wonder if it is right to be spending money and energy on murals in light of other pressing demands. Every drive I took through Port-Au-Prince was a study in human need and the urgency of action: collapsed houses, tent cities, open trench latrines, roads blocked by piles of debris, hospitals and schools that list precariously, shored by makeshift scaffolding. This, along with infinite unseen calamities (like the exorbitant price of everything, from rice to fuel) made our job of rescuing artwork seem like a luxury. It was an issue that nagged at me during my entire stay in the country.

“So, one afternoon, in the rubble-strewn courtyard of Ste. Trinité, I asked architect Magdalena Carmelita Douby, the project's registrar, about local attitudes towards our somewhat unusual rescue effort. Her answer came without hesitation: “We have lost everything except our culture,” she said calmly. “We have to protect what is left.””

Karen Pavelka, a conservator on the faculty of The School of Information at the University of Texas, noted that “the overarching goal here is to build a strong and lasting center for Haitian culture. We are ambassadors as much as conservators in this role.”

Conservator David Goist reported after his recent return from Haiti, “I commend those who have volunteered to work at the Cultural Recovery Center. The Haitian people are beautiful, strong, resilient, and very creative. They need help in every way imaginable including saving their cultural and artistic heritage.”

The Haiti Cultural Recovery Center is operated by the Smithsonian Institution and its partners in Haiti. FAIC helps to supply volunteers to work in cooperation with the Smithsonian and the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield. FAIC's funding comes from grants from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

More information about FAIC's activities in Haiti, including how to support the cultural recovery efforts, can be found at www.conservation-us.org/cert.



In Case You Missed It

Association of information professionals – librarians, archivists and museologists

BAM 2010

**4th international conference
European guidelines for cooperation between
libraries, archives and museums**

INFORMATION INSTITUTIONS FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Sarajevo, National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina
12 and 13 November 2010

Conference papers will be published in a separate conference proceedings volume by Association of Information Professionals – Librarians, Archivists and Museologists.

For any additional information and clarifications, please direct your questions, queries and requests to the e-mail address

bam@bam.ba.

<http://www.bam.ba>

The issue no. 16 of *e-conservation magazine* is online and available for free download from the website at <http://www.e-conservationline.com/>.

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e-conservation magazine

www.e-conservationline.com

"The digital information of today is our heritage of tomorrow."

---Governor Bev Perdue

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources' State Library and State Archives (Cultural Resources) are proud to announce a new website to guide local and state government employees responsible for the preservation of our state's public record. The site, <http://digitalpreservation.ncdcr.gov>, has resources that can help North Carolina government employees - and those responsible for digital information in general - learn how to ensure that today's digital information is saved so that it can become tomorrow's heritage.

For those new to the concept, tutorials explain what digital preservation is and why it is important, and a checklist of key digital preservation practices helps integrate digital preservation activities into day-to-day workflows. For those already incorporating digital preservation into their daily work, more advanced guidance is provided, including "quick tips," tutorials, institutions and research projects to watch, and much more.

While the site is directed toward North Carolina public servants, it is general enough to be useful to those considering, implementing, or teaching on the topic.



Regional Updates

National French Conservation

By François LENELL,
Conservateur en chef

Service du livre et de la lecture
Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication,
France

The *Programme national de recherche sur la connaissance et la conservation des matériaux du patrimoine culturel* (national Program for knowledge and preservation of the materials of the cultural heritage) was created in 2003 by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, to support the research policy in these fields.

Within this Ministry, the Program is coordinated by the Mission de la Recherche et de la Technologie (MRT) of the Délégation au développement et aux affaires internationales (DDAI).

Since 2003 a Call for projects is organized every year, in order to select and financially support French innovative research projects built on an interdisciplinary approach in exact sciences, applied to the preservation of the cultural heritage.

A Steering Committee associates different services (Service des musées de France, Service du livre et de la lecture, Service interministériel des archives de France, Service du patrimoine) of the French Ministry of Culture in the follow-up of the program and of the call for projects. A Scientific Council, made up of experts, is in charge of the appraisal of the projects.

The second cycle (2008-2011) of the call for projects is based on 5 main directions of research:

1. Transfer of technology for the finalization of new technical examination and analysis, and of analytical protocols applied to the cultural heritage materials
2. Knowledge of the cultural heritage materials
3. Understanding of the process of change (alteration) of the materials
4. Impact of the environment on the degradation and the preservation of the cultural heritage materials
5. Improvement of protocols for preservation and restoration

In 2009, the research projects in keeping with the theme "From the exhaustible to the obsolete", and in relation with the policy of sustainable development. This theme includes both the questions of materials stemming from exhaustible resources, dangerous materials for health and environment (e.g: use of lead in restoration and in preservation), and obsolete materials or systems.

Of the 23 presented projects in 2009, 7 were selected by the Steering Committee, after review by the Scientific Council.

Among the 7 selected projects, 3 concern the written and graphic heritage held by libraries and archives, and deal with recurring problems:

- Deacidification and strengthening of damaged documents

Scientific person in charge: Hervé Cheradame, Laboratoire des matériaux polymères aux interfaces, Université d'Evry.

Research concerning a mass deacidification process using aminoalkylalcoxysilanes (AAAS), which neutralize the acidity of the paper and deposit an alkaline reserve, while strengthening the cellulosic fibers and improving the mechanical properties of the paper.

- Preservation of manuscripts altered by iron gall inks: study of the possibilities of replacing the aqueous methods

Scientific person in charge : Véronique Rouchon, Centre de recherche sur la conservation des collections (previously: Centre de recherches sur la conservation des documents graphiques) research concerning corrosive ink, containing iron sulfate. The project studies the possibilities of replacing obsolete and invasive aqueous treatments, by placing the documents in contact with an intercalary paper filled with antioxidants

- Early detection of biological and chemical contaminants, applied to the graphic heritage

Scientific person in charge: Thi-Phuong Nguyen, Centre technique de la Bibliothèque nationale de France (Bussy-Saint-Georges)

Research built on the early detection and identification, as a precautionary measure, of the sulfur or acidic pollutants and biological contaminants (analyses of the VOC, "volatile organic compounds) in libraries and archives. This research also refers to the air quality and climate conditions in closed spaces of conservation.

Canterbury Earthquake

A paper has just been released giving a chronology of the actions taken by the Government and Parliament in response to the earthquake in the Canterbury region on Saturday 4 September 2010

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/ParlSupport/ResearchPapers/a/8/7/00PLSocRP10051-Canterbury-earthquake-timeline-Government-s-and-Parliament.htm>

For your interest, there have (as at 3.00 pm on 10 November 2010) been 2780 shakes - you can see these at <http://www.christchurchquakemap.co.nz/>

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<http://www.esr.cri.nz>



Training Paradigms Around the Globe

Look for upcoming article in the next issue.



Preservation and Conservation Section

P&C Section Website

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



Frederic Blin,
Webmaster

During the IFLA congress in Gothenburg, the Section decided to create its own blog on the IFLA blog-platform. We are now happy to announce to our members

that our blog is now open at

<http://blogs.ifla.org/preservation-and-conservation/>.

The blog will inform you about the section and preservation and conservation activities around the world. The blog can be the most active link between IFLA and those concerned with the preservation of our cultural heritage, and a tool for exchange of views and experiences in this field. Our blog is open to all cultural institutions or individuals for announcements of events, publications or studies, presentation of restoration of particular works or documents, or even of their internal preservation and conservation activities.

Our webmaster Frédéric will be very happy to help and contributions, through texts or images, to enrich the P&C blog. And since IFLA will take the section's blogs into account for next year's « Newsletter award », you can be a very important part in helping us obtaining the award in 2011! So be sure to add our RSS-feed to your aggregator and send Frédéric everything you want to share with our community!

Contact: frederic.blin@bnu.fra

New Members Profiles



François LENELL

François Lenell's background is in the studies of Art History and Archaeology, ending up with a Doctorate of Art History (Université Paris-Sorbonne). Having obtained his national diploma of librarian, he has

been first in charge of patrimonial collections in an important territorial library, then in charge of such collections in a university library in Paris. He presently is Conservateur en chef at the Service du livre et de la lecture (Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, France, where he is responsible for questions of preservation, conservation and restoration of the written and graphic heritage held by French territorial libraries. Among other tasks, he organizes the meetings of the «Comité technique de restauration du patrimoine des bibliothèques publiques» (Technical Committee for restoration of the heritage of public libraries) which, after examination, delivers its opinions on the projects of restoration concerning patrimonial documents held by French territorial libraries.

P&C News from the Editor

I will be ending my term on the committee in August, 2011, so will also end my editorship for the Newsletter. I have very much enjoyed working with all of you both on the committee and in publishing the Newsletter. I have also enjoyed developing the brochure for the Section and the members who provided such good comments and also volunteered to do translation. Soon you should see the brochure available for download on the website.

Translations

Would you be willing to provide a translation of our Newsletter? In the past, newsletters have been available in Russian as well as Spanish and French. To volunteer your expertise, please contact the newsletter editors.



Transitions

This is to let you know that I'm leaving my position at Biblioteca Nacional de España to start a new position at Ministerio de Cultura, Subdirección General del Libro.

It has been a great pleasure to meet you all and work for the P&C Section. Fuensanta Salvador, Director of the Preservation and Conservation Department of the BNE will be glad to assist the Section from now on. She will be in charge of the IFLA P&C Section Newsletter's translations to Spanish.

Fuensanta's e-mail address is:

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Best regards,

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