

AMIA Conference 2008

Minutes of the International Outreach Task Force Meeting Friday 14th November 2008, 08:00 to 09:00 Marriott Riverfront Hotel, Savannah, GA

1 Opening statement:

The meeting was opened by Reto Kromer (RK), Co-Chair, and Brigitte Paulowitz (BP). Following this the meeting approved the agenda. Adrian Wood (AW) agreed to act as recorder.

2 Minutes of the 2007 meeting at Rochester:

It was proposed by Ray Edmondson (RE), seconded by Kara van Malssen (KVM), that these be agreed and accepted. All attendees were in favour.

3 Matters arising from the previous meeting

Volunteering & Training:

BP spoke to the meeting about the creation of a sub-group comprising of herself, Nancy Marrelli (NM) and KVM undertook to further develop this area.

The best form of 'branding' for training remains unresolved.

Report to the Board

RK reported that he and BP have updated the Board on the roster of the working membership. By sending the minutes of this meeting we will do the same again. RK stressed it is important to have a roster that includes the actual working membership as opposed to those who are supportive of the IOTF but not active. RK clarified that obviously everyone is very welcome at the meetings.

The Board has also requested that we create a report with:

- specific recommendations regarding international member service needs;
- development opportunities;
- proposed events and programmes, to include high-priority topics for programmes, workshops and presentations, as well as the estimated budgets required to conduct them.

RK apologised for the delays in delivering the report to the Board and stated that he hoped for completion by December 31st, 2008.

CCAAA

RE presented an update on the activities of CCAAA. He advised that there would be a 2 day meeting in March held in Den Haag, Netherlands. Among the matters to be addressed was progress on the creation of Management Symposium to compliment the already established Joint Technical Symposium.

RE reminded the meeting that AMIA would be sending representatives to the CCAAA which offered members a direct route to UNESCO.

Laura Rooney (LR) commented that there needs to be a greater collaborative dialogue on training and volunteering with improvement on interaction between the members of CCAAA in these areas.

UNESCO World Day of AV Heritage

RE gave a report on what is the second year of this UNESCO 'listed' day. ICA had proposed that this would be a broader 'Archives' day but this had been rejected in favour of a specific 'AV Archives' day.

Whilst it is a global event there is a continuing need to maintain and increase public awareness. It is intended that this is addressed at the 2009 CCAAA meeting. It was noted that, at the preceding day's Advocacy Committee meeting the suggestion was made that promotion of the WDAVH could be done through AMIA's website.

IASA

RK gave a report on the September 2008 meeting in Sydney, Australia. This had been well attended and not only RK but also KVM and Mona Jimenez (MJ). RE was also an attendee in Sydney.

For many years IASA has been dealing not only with sound in isolation but also sound in relation to the moving image. RK expressed his opinion that AMIA and IASA should work far more closely together and establish formal contacts. A representative of IASA could also present their recommendations about sound archiving at a future AMIA conference. RK suggested that sound is a very important issue in film restoration, and very often the ethical criteria that are applied to the sound are not as precise as those applied to the image.

RK advocated that AMIA should officially open his field of activities to sound. He proposed to include this suggestion in the report to the Board. A short discussion about this issue had taken place yesterday at the annual meeting of the Advocacy Task Force and RK stated, in his opinion, this could be a common issue of both groups.

Leo Enticknap (LE) suggested that this topic was much larger than an IOTF issue. By example LE is particularly worried by some film restorations having mono tracks turned into Dolby 5.1.

RK explained the reasons for the IASA discussion specifically and RE reminded the meeting that IASA was now more than ever involved in audio-visual matters.

4 Activities for the coming year

AMIA Events outside continental North America

RK stated that it has been difficult to get input from the membership. For instance, RK was disappointed that the vast majority of the people having requested development of such at events at the AMIA conference in Anchorage two years ago have failed to give us any input at all about the ways to achieve these goals. No proposals had been made regarding events in 2009. The Bologna Festival, held in late June / early July, already has a full schedule and there would appear to be no local support for an AMIA presence.

Whilst there was a presence at the Biënnale in Amsterdam, in 2008 following the Anchorage AMIA Conference, the next possibility would be in 2010.

As regards further activities outside continental North America the most advanced discussions have been done with colleagues from Africa. RK stated he is looking forward to the FIAF conference 2011 in Pretoria (South Africa) and hopes that we can do something useful and constructive for this continent and our colleagues who are dealing on a daily basis with extremely difficult situations.

Another idea we are working on is to find ways to spread, on a wider scale, useful information gathered at the annual conference. Some presentations could easily be made available on the AMIA web-site. But we have to find also other ways to spread this information, such as CDs or paper printed documents. It is important not to forget that the majority of the population living on this earth has no internet access at all or a very bad internet access. A failing of the AMIA web-site, and many others, is that it is not really 'internet dial-up' friendly.

RE, in Questions Arising, repeated the need for a full AMIA meeting in Europe and RK suggested Pordenone might prove a good venue in October, 2010. RE also raised the issues of training through links with ESARBICA in Africa and the proposal for formal contact to be established was accepted by RK.

With no specific plans received for 2009 it was determined that in 2010 possible events could be considered in Amsterdam and Pordenone with Pretoria (FIAF) in 2011.

5 Reports on international activities from IOTF members

MJ spoke about a recent (June 2008) NYU-funded project to Ghana which came about through a pre-existing academic relationship and a workshop at the Reel Life Documentary festival. It focussed on archiving on cultural advocacy.

The study project included site visits, archival activities and assessment of archival needs in Ghana. Information was provided on Ghana Broadcasting Corp (GBC), Ghana's Ministry of Information.

This is seen as being an on-going relationship with NYU. MJ outlined further the poor resources available, inadequate and unstable power supply which leads to film decomposing and tape developing moulds. External information is required on material relating to Ghana held externally. Whilst GBC has extremely good facilities and IT this is the exception not the rule.

KVM continued by saying there was a need for an additional 1 week training covering planning, cataloguing and preservation methodology. Through title selection material could be showcased by which further funding could be sought. KVM reiterated the issues of poor infrastructure- correspondence is only by post due to no access to e-mail for their partners.

KVM went on to say that whilst this was not an AMIA project AMIA could assist by offering equipment and supplies that are desperately needed. Further workshops will be funded by NYU and goal is to improve levels of collaboration. All participants learned a great deal through this experience.

RK suggested that training manuals and handbooks could be made available for local translation. Liaison with regional trainers, Ishumael Zinyengere, for example, might prove useful

Dan Streible (DS) then spoke about the NYU AV Preservation Exchange (NYU-APEX) programme that is being launched in Argentina and plans for activities in Buenos Aires in 2009.

RE advocated the use of the AMIA website to maintain awareness and publicise projects and their needs.

LE raised the issue of a collection in the Falkland Islands from the 1960s and 70s that required migration/preservation but where there was no funding available. It was proposed that this was highlighted via the website.

There followed discussion about the lack of co-ordination. AW raised the Archives at Risk (A@R) project that was on-going and may have had some involvement in Ghana. The FIAF Summer School seems not to have been widely publicised and consequently some of the smaller institutions may not have been aware of its existence.

Sam Kula (SK) questioned the effectiveness of the CCAAA in acting as a co-ordinator. LR suggested that the CCAAA's current focus was perhaps more on training.

LE suggested that coordination by IOTF through the AMIA website is perhaps a strategy to adopt.

BP and NM raised the on-going ICA Archival Solidarity project that co-ordinates outreach and collaboration across all archives founded in 2002.

6 AMIA Committee Structure Revision

BP reported that plans had been submitted to restructure AMIA.

Going forward it was proposed that there would be:

- A Committees of the Board (appointed by the Board)
- B Members' Committees (arising out of members interests)

Consequently the IOTF is now the IOT Committee. BP feels that the IOTC should be in category A and not B.

SK stated in his opinion it was better to be a Committee rather than a Task Force. Due to shortage of time the matter was adjourned.

7 Any other business

No issues were raised

8 Closing

RK thanked the attendees and closed the meeting at 09:01.