

## AMIA Conference 2007

### Minutes of the International Outreach Task Force Meeting Friday 28 September 2007, 17:30–18:30 Gleason Room, Clarion Riverside Hotel, Rochester NY

#### 1 Opening statement:

Reto Kromer (RK), Co-Chair, apologised on behalf of Brigitte Paulowitz who is unable to attend due to her work in Thailand. He noted that he and Brigitte had taken over the chair of the IOTF from Ray Edmondson.

Following this the meeting approved the agenda. Adrian Wood agreed to act as recorder.

#### 2 Minutes of the 2006 meeting at Anchorage:

It was proposed by Amy Gallick (AG), seconded by Ray Edmondson (RE), that these be agreed and accepted. All attendees were in favour.

#### 3 Matters arising from the previous meeting:

- *AMIA Event at the Biennale in Amsterdam:*

It was agreed that the report given in the immediately preceding AMIA 2007 Business Meeting adequately covered this topic.

- *Status change from a Task Force to a Committee of the Board*

Brian Graney (BG), spoke on behalf of the Board and reported to the meeting that the IOTF remains an 'ad hoc' Committee and until such time as the report and information requested in September 2006 is provided then full AMIA Sub-Committee status cannot be given.

- *CCAAA update*

RE presented an update on CCAAA activities and informed the meeting that the post of CCAAA Convenor was vacant and further details could be found on the CCAAA website.

CCAAA Meetings in March and June 2007 included preparations for confirmation that UNESCO's 1st World Day of AV Heritage, which will take place on October 27th 2007.

RE went on to inform the meeting of the CCAAA policy statement on heritage access and repatriation issues.

- *UNESCO World Day of AV Heritage update*

It was agreed that the report given in the immediately preceding AMIA 2007 Business Meeting adequately covered this topic.

#### 4 Tasks for the coming year:

- *Roster of the working membership*

RK informed the meeting that the AMIA Board had requested a roster of the individuals who were prepared to actively work for the IOTF. Attendees were asked to confirm their willingness by adding their names to a list circulated at the meeting. This list is attached as Appendix 1.

- *Report to the Board*

RK stated that he and BP will make draft proposals to a working group on the future role of the IOTF, as requested by the Board, and following the necessary re-drafting this will be finalised prior to the next AMIA Conference in 2008. Subject to their being no objection to this failure to meet the deadline suggested to the IOTF by the AMIA Board the IOTF will proceed in this manner. No objections were noted.

- *Volunteering*

No concrete proposals were made from the Chair and RE was asked to address this matter generally and also specifically update the meeting on initiatives in Cambodia.

RE advised the meeting that clearly there was a need for a structure and mechanism to be created to ensure certain safeguards and standards for volunteers. RE suggested that AMIA offers considerable advantages over other organisations, as it is an association of individuals.

With regards to Cambodia, RE informed the meeting that a National Memory of the World Committee is being set up in Cambodia.

RE went on to talk about Antonella Bonfanti, a Selznick student, who is being funded to work in Cambodia at the Bophana Centre by the Thomson Foundation. RE also spoke on the general situation regarding the various institutions in Cambodia and stated that the National Archive of Cambodia is the appropriate national repository for audiovisual materials. This role is backed up by legislation.

RE proposed that the IOTF Chair liaises with SEAPAVAA on the matter.

RK outlined the key issues regarding volunteering, related complexities and how it can perhaps be organised.

Nancy Marrelli (NM) apologised to the meeting for not submitting proposals that she had undertaken to produce last year but urged that AMIA and the IOTF proceed cautiously. NM suggested that perhaps direct aid, as defined by the recipients and not be the donors, is a better mechanism. NM made a further proposal that another list be circulated for people to register their interest in a small action group that starts work immediately to develop a strategy in 3- 6 months. Small steps should be taken, concrete albeit modest.

Mick Newnham (MN) spoke about his own personal experiences in setting up an assistance project and even the smallest things can be considerable hurdles. MN cited the example of creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) about a project and asked whether or not AMIA could facilitate in creating document templates on which projects could be structured within.

Jim Lindner (JL) reiterated the need to create secure mechanisms for funding and stressed that these were vital to the success of any volunteering project.

General discussion on the subject of repatriation and specific reference to Cambodia followed. Geoff Alexander (GA) suggested that perhaps the members carried out an audit of content within their own collections of materials that could be made accessible as a first step to a repatriation / heritage digital access project.

Loubna Regragui (LR) representing the Thomson Foundation stated that their funding of the Bophana Centre was to ensure that Cambodia's heritage was accessible and urged the meeting to visit the Centre's website at: [www.bophana.org](http://www.bophana.org) LR went on to stress that Cambodia was not the only country in need of assistance and that contributions could be made to many other recovering and developing nations.

Kara Van Malssen (KVM) reminded the meeting that she had worked on behalf of INA to create for the Hanuman Centre (the Bophana Centre's predecessor) an audit of materials. KVM endorsed the statement of LR regarding their being many other countries requiring assistance.

TF added that it was important to make materials available although Josh Harris (JH) expressed the opinion that repatriation was perhaps difficult for some content holders to agree to.

RE reminded the meeting of the CCAA's position on the sharing of heritage.

Nicola Mazzanti (NAM) stated that the IOTF was established specifically in relation to volunteering and stressed again the need for clear mechanisms and structures to be established. NAM endorsed the earlier proposal of drafting an MOU and suggested liaison on the subject of volunteering with CCAA and UNESCO.

NM repeated the need for structures, funding sources and caution. NM suggested creation of a database of resources available and in conclusion suggested the initiative be referred to as 'outreach' rather than 'volunteering'.

- *AMIA Events outside North America*

No suggestions were received for the coming year.

**5 Any other business:**

Mona Jimenez (MJ) spoke to the meeting on behalf of the Diversity Task Force and explained she was in attendance to propose a survey of the attendees at the IOTF meeting to understand the IOTF's make-up.

GA informed the meeting that through an initiative between Academic Film Archive of North America and the Internet Archive material was being made accessible via the web in an economic and generally affordable manner. [www.archive.org/details/movies](http://www.archive.org/details/movies)

**6 Closing:**

There being no other business the Acting Chair thanked the meeting for their attendance and continued support and at 18.28 closed the meeting.