



Association internationale des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (AIBM)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

# Notes from The Future of IAML

## IAML CONFERENCE

### Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, 2011

Plenary Session on “The Future of IAML”, Tuesday 26 July

Moderator: Jim Cassaro (University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA)

*Summary of notes taken by the Secretary General*

These notes from the Plenary Session on the Future of IAML are a record of the ideas and comments put forwarded by members at that session. Together with other comments from National Branches, blogs and emails over the past year, they will contribute to the process of change currently being examined by the Strategy Committee. The Committee will present a preliminary report to the Board in March 2012, and a full presentation to IAML delegates at the Montreal Conference. There will be plenty of opportunity to discuss the report and give feedback. The ultimate decision-making authority for any changes to the structure and processes of IAML rests with the General Assembly.

## STRUCTURE

Michael Fingerhut, Bibliomus, Paris

We must look over the decision procedure to enable the organization to move forward at a faster pace.

John Roberts, University of California, Berkeley

Abolish Council, which is no longer relevant since the General Assembly now meets during every Conference. That would make IAML more democratic and the work more rational and effective.



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Pam Thompson, Royal College of Music, London

John Roberts' suggestion is worth discussing, but we should start by looking over the structure of the Board. We must also remember that the Council has the function of a representative body of the organization. It is important to make clear that everybody is welcome to the Council meeting.

Everybody should be doing something and not just expect the Board to be active. It is usually difficult to get people to volunteer.

We should open a forum on the website so we can communicate throughout the year.

It should be allowed to use any language on the website.

The website should look attractive for potential members.

We should look at the IAML organization – are branches and commissions still the optimal structure? This will have an effect on what the programme will look like.

Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi, Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense, Milano

We must not forget that only a small part of the membership has the possibility to attend conferences. Therefore it is important that IAML is active throughout the whole year.

The Constitution Committee should revise our Rules of Procedure so that Chairs are given more power, but at the same time are obliged to undertake certain duties. There should be precise responsibilities and fixed deadlines.

The website should be informative, authoritative, and show what we are “producing” externally.

The membership of working groups etc. should be fixed and it should be clear who has the responsibility of the work.



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Gerry Ostrove, Library of Congress, Washington

Professional Branches, Subject Commissions and Working Groups should have clear terms of reference: Who are they? What are they expected to do?

Thomas Aigner, Wienbibliothek im Rathaus, Wien

It is important to remember to pass on information in an active way.

Jane Gottlieb, Juilliard School, New York

Should we necessarily have three officers in branches and commissions (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary)? What are they supposed to do?

## **OUTREACH**

Michael Fingerhut, Bibliomus, Paris

We should join forces with other organizations and make sure that we are represented in important projects. An example is Europeana (the largest digitization project there is) where music is underrepresented.

Astrid Smith, Music and Theatre Library of Sweden, Stockholm

From where originates the topics we are discussing today?

Jim Cassaro, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The topics come from the questionnaire, which was sent out before the conference in Moscow, so-called position papers, the Future of IAML session in Moscow + posts on IAML-L and on the website.



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Jim Cassaro, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

There should be a dedicated area on the website where branches, commissions, working groups etc. could inform about their work and maybe publish the minutes. Projects should have a concrete aim.

Michael Fingerhut, Bibliomus, Paris

Papers and PowerPoint presentations should be published on the website.

We should produce Conference proceedings.

Federica Riva, Conservatorio di Musica "Luigi Cherubini", Firenze, Florence

IAML should concentrate on what the members need in their everyday work. There is too much focus on scientific topics.

We should discuss the future of our profession and address the great economic problems.

We need to cooperate more with other organizations, such as European Association of Conservatoires (AEC).

Pamela Thompson, Royal College of Music, London

We should put on the website a clear statement about why music librarians are important.

We should share our knowledge about what funding possibilities there are.



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Mary Davidson, Indiana University (Emerita), Concord, MA

Subject commissions should move away from putting out papers at conferences, and move towards producing statements of best practice.

Daniel Paradis, Concordia University, Montréal

We have to have a voice and present the IAML position on topics like RDA and ISBD.

## **CONFERENCES**

Maureen Buja, Fontes Artis Musicae, Tuen Mun, NT

Remember that issue 4 of Fontes consists of the proceedings of the conference.

Some academic papers are already committed for publication elsewhere.

Michael Fingerhut, Bibliomus, Paris

In Fontes you will find summaries, but not the paper in full text or the PowerPoint presentations.

We could consider it as a “pre-publication”.

Kathryn Adamson, Royal Academy of Music, London

The papers should be published on the website. The publishers Maureen mentioned could see it as an advertising tool.



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Antony Gordon, British Library, London

The website should reflect a lot more of what has happened during the conference since the majority of the members can not participate.

David Day, Brigham Young University, Provo UT

We should produce a mission statement.

Jantien Dubbeldam, ArtEZ, Institute of the Arts, Arnhem

The programme committee should play a stronger role – there are too many overlapping papers.

The conferences should be shorter. That would make it possible for more people to attend.

Andrew Justice, University of North Texas, Denton TX

The Open Access movement may help to solve the problem Maureen mentioned about papers which are committed for publication. The trend is that publishers accept the idea of Open Access and it is often a requirement from the institutions. It is not unusual with several versions of a paper before the final publication.

Geoff Thomason, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester

The reason why the conferences are so long is that we have to do all work during these days. Little activity takes place during the year. The length of the conference also depends on how long you have to travel. Your employer may not accept that you go to, for example, Montréal for a few days.



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### Delegate from Cambridge

The idea of video conferences is excellent. We should aim at doing that already next year.

### Erin Mayhood, University of Virginia, Charlottesville

We must get involved in educating younger music librarians. There are very few travel grants. One idea could be to stream at least one or two sessions so they can get a flavour of the conference.

### John Roberts, University of California, Berkeley

The proper place for education is at national level since there are different systems in different countries, for example regarding credentials etc.

At an international level we should concentrate on producing guidelines and templates rather than specific tools.

### Amelie Roper, Royal College of Music, London

The IAML UK & Irl Branch has a long tradition of producing different types of courses and would be willing to share its training material. Maybe other national branches have something similar? It would be a good ideal to put in a depository on the website.

### Delegate from the UK

We should include colleagues who are not music librarians as such, but cover several subject areas, amongst them music. This is a big issue in the UK at the moment.



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Federica Riva, Conservatorio di Musica “Luigi Cherubini”, Firenze, Florence

The conference itself is a form of education.

We should exchange experiences from our national branches.

Jim Cassaro, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

We should share experiences on a broader level. Many member countries do not have a national branch.

Delegate from Manchester

It would be good to have discussions in smaller groups.

Roger Flury, National Library of New Zealand, Wellington

What differences are there between the conferences of IAML and those of MLA?

Jerry McBride, Stanford University, Mountain View, CA

Similar discussions are going on in MLA, but the “Organization Development” is now at the “implementation stage” of the “Process of Change”. A so-called task force has presented a strategic plan divided into 6 areas to the Board.





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## **CONCLUSIONS**

Astrid Smith, Music and Theatre Library of Sweden, Stockholm

Who will be responsible for constituting the Strategy Committee?

Jim Cassaro, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Council will do that at the meeting on Thursday afternoon.

Pamela Thompson, Royal College of Music, London

It is important that the minutes from this panel discussion will be published on website as soon as possible so that the whole membership is involved.

John Wagstaff, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

We must find a system to support the younger generation when it comes to fundraising.

Jutta Lambrecht, Westdeutscher Rundfunk

At its meeting last Saturday the Board decided to propose to Council that a “Committee on Strategic Directions” will be established. It should consist of 5 – 6 persons representing the three official languages and the younger generation. The Board appointed Antony Gordon as the Chair of the Committee.