

### Time of transition and consolidation...

This is a year of change for our association — the proposed constitutional change, the theme of our next conference. But immediately, I am of course thinking of the change as a result of an election: an election year which brings a significant change of officers to the IASA Board. I am very happy to be part of this team that bears a healthy balance of fresh new members with new eyes and ideas with continuing members bringing into the transition experience and stability. Judging from the enthusiastic atmosphere of our first board meeting, this promises to be a great team.

The new IASA executive board includes the returning members Pio Pellizzari as Vice President and convenor of the training Committee, Richard Ranft continuing to shoulder our presence online as Web Editor, Kevin Bradley, returning in the role of Past President and myself as brand new President. New to the IASA executive are Cassandra Gallegos, from George Blood Audio and Video to shoulder the task of editor, Marit Hamre from the NRK to take on the role of Treasurer, Alvaro Hegewisch, from the Fonoteca Nacional in México as Vice President with responsibility for membership, Bruce Gordon from the Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library at Harvard as Vice President for conferences, and Lynn Johnson from e.tv in South Africa as Secretary-General.

I would like to thank outgoing board members Dafydd Pritchard who administered the membership, Janet Topp Fargion who flagged the editorship and most of all Anke Leenings for her exemplary management of the association's accounts as one of the longest standing board member in the history of the association. The new board is also thankful for their continued support to the new members of the board during this transition.

“In Transition” is not only one of the themes for this coming board period, but also the theme for our next conference in the fantastic location of New Delhi, India, putting the focus on ‘access for all’. By the time you read this you will also have seen the Call for Papers, so let me invite you to send in a proposal for a presentation by the end of January 2012 and help make this conference the best ever!

In my inaugural President's speech I said that we live in a world of constant change, and these changes are happening at an ever increasing rate: national boundaries have changed, the political atmosphere here and there are as volatile as ever, the economic situation is ever so unstable with repercussions felt by each and every one of us, not to mention the ever more rapid development of the digital era, where devices now become obsolete almost before you get your hands on them. Change is especially hard to tackle for archivists like us who naturally prefer to preserve things as they are rather than having to deal with change.


In this unstable world, it is a source of reassurance to know that some things don't change and that we, through IASA and its reliable IASA-ness, have a stable core to hold on to and rely upon. A common denominator for IASA-ites seems to be a passion for our profession, an enthusiasm to hear of each other's experiences and a generosity in sharing our knowledge for the greater benefit of the archiving community.

To me that is synonymous with the brilliant theme of the Sydney Conference: “No Archive is an Island” — my institution is not alone with its challenges, and indeed I, in my new role as President, am definitely not alone, surrounded as I am by a wealth of competency, experience and enthusiasm for our cause.

We are not alone in dealing with the ever changing technical world.

One of the jewels of IASA, no doubt, is our Technical Committee, and over the past few years we've seen the publication of the TC-04 “Guidelines on the Production and Preservation of Digital Audio Objects” which has, as you know, become a work of reference in most sound

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and audiovisual communities and is already in its second edition. The TC-05 on storage is well on its way, we've made great progress on the TC-06 on video and we have received ideas for further publications to consider.

Our TC consists of a prolific community of experts drawn, of course, mainly from among our members. But its phenomenal strength, I believe, lies in a quality typical of IASA-ness, namely its openness, looking beyond the collective knowledge of its members for the competency necessary to complete its work, welcoming views, sharing, debating and finding solutions — in brief — working in a way that is a great benefit to IASA and its standing in the AV-world as well as an example in how we indeed can work *together* for the greater benefit.

We are not alone as an association.

Over the last years, we've kept up and improved on our relations with other organizations, taking a lead through our very own Kurt Deggeller in the CCAA (Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations). Keeping communication channels open with our sister organizations, we've been out there offering audiovisual sessions, workshops and tutorials at the ICA, at IFLA and in cooperation with other bodies. We are also monitoring several international projects by being there and waving the AV-flag.


We are not alone within our association.

We've improved on the setup of our committees and sections day during the conferences to have them perceived as an integral part of the conference program by encouraging relevant papers to be read at each meeting. This is where we meet others with the same dilemmas, or find a forum for understanding our special issues, etc. The IASA-ness is found here as well — for example by transforming the Cataloging Committee into a Knowledge Management Task Force to tackle the challenges of changed digital premises.

We are not alone, but part of an ever healthier membership. In 2005, at the beginning of my board tenure, I was handed a responsibility for the membership. You may remember me talking of gardening a membership, which was like pruning a rosebush by handing the scissors to the neighbor, then giving it personal and urgent attention for a stronger re-growth. We did cut about a third of the non-financial membership, but by gentle coaxing and being present at other conferences and workshops, the membership grew back to its original number well within that board period. Now this membership is a paying and more active membership — something that benefits IASA with a healthier bank account and fresh input from our newer members.

So, during the last two board terms in which I've served as Vice President, we've taken steps to adapt our organization to a changing world — many of these processes are still ongoing and we're still 'in transition' so to speak:

- We've cleaned up the membership, yes, but we now have the challenge of maintaining and expanding that membership. We're going to look at what it takes to keep members and attract new ones, how to keep our doors open to aspiring members and to show that membership is an investment that brings tangible fruits.
- We're in the process of assessing the needs of the previously named Cataloging Committee — the OK (Organizing Knowledge) task force is working with that.
- We're looking at implementing the running of conferences more within IASA ranks to make it less daunting for venues to take on a hosting function.
- I've already named all the publications that are under way — contributors to these need to have the room to work and the processes in place to materialize and become available.
- We are in the middle of a constitutional change that needs to be completed. If the membership agrees with the proposals, we are looking at incorporating the association, with the changes that this requires in the conducting of IASA-business.

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- We are now also looking at how to meet the challenges of board's work — both in work load and in financial resources to be able to carry out the work and meetings — so that it becomes both possible and attractive to serve as officers of the board.
  - We are now also in a much healthier financial state, and we will be looking at ways to finally address the wish list of projects.

Change will continue, premises will change, money will appear and disappear. Change is unavoidable and it easily brings us out of our comfort zone, but it is only through change that we can improve.

With all these ongoing changes and the adapting processes we've started on so far, I think it's important for this board period to facilitate the changes and prepare the fertile ground to allow the important processes already underway to come to fruition and stabilize within this board term. I would therefore call this board period a period of transition and consolidation, a time to bolt these changes into place and become part of the core of our association, part of our IASA-ness, so to speak. This does not mean, of course, that we can't at the same time, work to keep the ground fertile for further growth with our heads up and eyes open, ready to tackle the next challenges that are bound to come along.

So the red thread in this association of ours, of which I, and I am sure all of you are so proud, is the sense of community, an open and welcoming community with a stable core of IASA-ness, able to weather the storms of a changing world. With such a supportive team of colleagues and close collaborators, I am certainly looking forward to navigating these waters in the coming three years. Indeed thank you for your continuing support!

Jacqueline von Arb  
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