

CIDOC 2014 Chair's Report

Nicholas Crofts
CIDOC Chair

CIDOC has been very active this year, organizing a number of training events, initiating new projects and promoting international cooperation. The CIDOC board met on several occasions, both physically (February in Dresden) and online. The CIDOC working groups have also been very active. The documentation standards working group, chaired by Jonathan Whitson Cloud, launched a collaborative museum terminology project. Two key CIDOC publications produced by the working group, already available in French and English, were published in Portuguese: the *International Guidelines for Museum Object Information: The CIDOC Information Categories* and the *Statement of Principles of Museum documentation*.¹ We are grateful to the State of São Paulo, the São Paulo Pinacoteca, and the Museum of immigration for their support and for the tireless efforts of our board member Gabriel Moore Forell Bevilacqua in making this possible. The CRM SIG, chaired by Dr Martin Doerr, established successful extensions to the CRM in cooperation with IFLA and a newly updated version of ISO 21127, the ISO version of the CIDOC CRM, is now due for release. A new working group, dealing with the documentation of intangible cultural heritage held its inaugural meeting during the CIDOC conference, chaired by Dr Manvi Seth, and the Data harvesting and interchange working group was renamed as the *LIDO working group*, in order to highlight its main focus. Minutes of the board meetings and reports of the working group activities can be found on the CIDOC website.²

CIDOC Training programme

The CIDOC training programme proved exceptionally successful in 2014. As in previous years, the Museum of Texas Tech University (MTTU) hosted the CIDOC Summer School in July 21 -25, attended by 20 students from a wide range of countries. This was followed in August 17-22 by a highly popular training week in São Paulo, organised by the São Paulo Pinacoteca and the State of São Paulo. Ninety students attended the session, divided into three parallel streams. Classes were delivered in Portuguese and English, with simultaneous translation. The session was massively oversubscribed with a waiting list of over 100 people. Plans are already underway for 2015: training sessions will be held in the US, in Brazil and in Finland. The scale of the CIDOC training programme has now reached a level where the organisational needs are beginning to outstrip capacity of the CIDOC board, so we have decided to create a structure devoted specifically to its administration. Our plan is to establish a not-for-profit association under Swiss law, overseen by CIDOC and MTTU. We hope that this will allow the CIDOC training programme to develop its full potential.

CIDOC newsletter/bulletin

Emmanuelle Delmas-Glass took over as editor in 2013 and the first newsletter under her responsibility was published this year. CIDOC newsletters can be downloaded from the CIDOC website or you can have a printed copy sent on request. Emmanuelle is also working to improve the quality of the CIDOC website, identifying gaps, inconsistencies and broken links, and adding images

¹ ISBN 978-85-8256-029-7

² <http://network.icom.museum/cidoc/organisation/minutes/>

from past events to our photo album. You can also find us on various social media platforms. If you have something that you would like to contribute – articles, photos, letters or comments – please get in touch.

Finances

Stephen Stead, who was elected as CIDOC treasurer in 2013, stepped down this year for personal reasons. Dominik Remondino, CIDOC vice chair, has agreed to take on the role of acting treasurer until the next elections. Once again, CIDOC benefitted from the generosity of the Getty Trust who provided funding for twenty delegates from developing countries to attend the 2014 CIDOC conference in Dresden. In addition, ICOM and CIDOC provided financial support for another five delegates and for two board members who would otherwise not have been able to attend the conference. CIDOC outgoings exceeded income this year, though we still have a healthy balance in our bank account. This was partly due to a reduction in the subsidy we received from ICOM, but primarily because our policy is to use CIDOC funds actively for the benefit of the organisation, investing in key projects and providing support where it is most needed. Full details can be found in the treasurer's report.

CIDOC 2014

The 2014 CIDOC conference “Access and Understanding – Networking in the Digital Era” Dresden September 6-11, has just come to a close. The event was a resounding success, attended by 300 delegates from around the world. The conference started with a series of workshops on the weekend of Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of September. The main conference was opened on Monday by the State Minister for Higher Education, Research and the Arts of the Free State of Saxony. Over 100 presentations were packed into a dense three-day schedule of parallel sessions devoted to the different conference themes. Each day was introduced by one of the three keynote speakers: Murtha Baca, Günther Schauerte and Tanya Szrajber. Following the AGM, a magnificent farewell party, complete with fireworks, concluded the event and on Thursday the attendees had the opportunity to join different excursions. German-English translation was provided for all the plenary sessions and financial support was provided by the state of Saxony for delegates from the region. Papers from the conference can be found on the CIDOC website.³

The conference was notable for the friendly atmosphere of exchange and cooperation. Our two major audiences – *museum practitioners*, on the one hand, confronted every day with the practical reality of their institution's documentation, and *specialists in information science*, on the other – were able to get together and find common ground, where new technologies can be of practical benefit. Many delegates also commented on the uncompetitive and ‘nurturing’ character of the conference, where old hands welcome new delegates and help them to get their bearings. I believe that this is an important part of CIDOC's organisational culture, a defining tradition that contributes to the committee's unique character.

³ <http://network.icom.museum/cidoc/archives/past-conferences/2014-dresden/>