

The role of international organisations in preserving our world heritage cannot be stressed enough. For example, not long after UNESCO was founded in 1948, an archival expert meeting was convened (Roper, 1996a). There has been progress ever since. Most western countries have their own international development programmes and some bilateral assistance goes into archives management and preservation (Archer, 1996; Murray-Lachapelle, 1999; Olofsson, 1988; Söderman, 1999). For a guide on institutional help in librarianship in developing countries see *Sandell, 1996*.

Different multilateral organisations and international professional institutions give more large-scale aid but in general the initiatives of international cooperation should be more coordinated (Dean et al., 2001; Noerlund et al., 1991). In an interesting article Kukubo reviews the areas of actual and potential cooperation in preservation and conservation in Eastern and Southern Africa (Kukubo, 1995). The success of a preservation programme that involves the cooperation of several agencies would need the coordination of its activities by a local agency (Berrada, 1995). The need for regional cooperation in Africa is stressed by *Sonnet-Azize, 1995*. International projects, however, can also raise politically and culturally sensitive issues. When well-meaning foreign scholars obtain funds to help local repositories to preserve their valuable artefacts, conflicting interests can come into play. It should be emphasised that balancing the needs of local ownership with the pressures for global access and the preservation community's belief in the notion of global responsibility towards the world's cultural heritage, is not always easy (Lindsay, 2000; Roberts, 2001).

Perhaps the digital highway is the solution to at least one form of global access. The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) is taking advantage of the trend towards virtual education and has started to develop web-based tutorials on preservation and conservation for use in Southeast Asia. The tutorials will enable librarians, archivists, etc. to acquire basic and reliable preservation information, and to develop strategies and responses to preservation challenges distinctive to their climate, culture, resources, and content. The first modules are scheduled for implementation by summer 2002 and after evaluation in Southeast Asia CLIR anticipates adapting the modules for use in other regions in the world.

On tropical librarianship in general see *World Librarianship, focusing on librarianship and socio-economic development in Africa, Asia and Latin America*. This journal is the continuation of the *Third World Libraries* that was published from 1990 to the summer of 1996. It is published by Rosary College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Illinois, USA. A.M. Abul Huq published an interesting bibliography on world librarianship, which is an indispensable reference tool for international and comparative librarianship (Huq, 1995). This publication is a continuation of his earlier work covering the period 1960-1975 that presents the literature of an important developmental period in the globalisation of library and information services (Huq et al., 1977). In this respect the *International Journal of Libraries and Information Services, Libri*, also publishes interesting articles see e.g. *Libri 1997(47/3)*. See also *Cloonan, 1997b; Evans, 1995* and *Faber, 1994*.

1.7.1 UNESCO

From its earliest days the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been involved in international archival development. It was responsible for convening the 1948 experts' meeting, which resulted in the formal establishment of the International Council on Archives (ICA) in 1950. As the international archival community grew and expanded beyond Europe and North America, so did UNESCO's and ICA's interest in and support for that community. Support has been provided to individual countries or groups of neighbouring countries from several UNESCO programmes as well as from other UN sources (e.g. UNDP, United Nations Development Programme). It is good to know that almost every country has its own local UNESCO library.

1.7.1.1 RAMP

In order to meet the needs of member states in the specialised area of archive administration and records management particularly in developing countries, the Division of the General Information Programme of UNESCO established a long-term Records and Archives Management Programme (RAMP) in 1979. The basic elements of RAMP reflect and contribute to the overall themes of the General Information Program. RAMP thus includes projects, studies and other activities. UNESCO regularly publishes specialist studies and guidelines on records and archives management (RAMP studies), which cover basic issues of records and archives management such as:

- archival infrastructure development including archival legislation;
- training and education;
- protection of the archival heritage;
- promotion of the development and application of modern information;
- research in archival theory and practice.

The majority of the studies, mainly those published after 1996 are available on-line. For older publications on archives by UNESCO, or published with their assistance, see *Evans, 1983*. The drawback is that the specialist publications are very quickly outdated.

1.7.1.2 Museum International

An interesting UNESCO publication is the quarterly *Museum* published since 1948. In 1992 it changed its name to *Museum International* and is now published in five languages (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish). It is a must for those who want to keep abreast of the many aspects of museum life all around the world. Each issue features a theme of particular interest e.g. *Museum, 1987 (156): Staff training* and many an issue is dedicated to conservation e.g. *Museum, 1982 (34/1)* or to museums of a particular developing country or region e.g. *Museum, 1976 (28/4): Africa*. The magazine provides a clearinghouse for the exchange of views through case studies, on-site reports, interviews, and informed editorial commentary. For further information see the UNESCO-website.

1.7.1.3 Memory of the World

In 1993 UNESCO initiated the *Memory of the World* programme. Documentary heritage reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. It is the mirror of the world and its memory. But this memory is fragile. Every day, irreplaceable parts of this memory disappear forever. UNESCO has launched this programme to guard against collective amnesia calling upon the preservation of the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world ensuring their wide dissemination. The objectives of the programme involve preservation by the most appropriate techniques, access without discrimination and the distribution of the results to the widest possible public (see also Ornager, 2000).

1.7.2 ICA

The International Council on Archives (ICA), as the international professional organisation, is concerned with all aspects of the management of records and archives throughout their life-cycle. Where UNESCO provides funds for international development, ICA supplies the brains and muscles. Its general objectives are to encourage and support the development of archives in all countries, so as to preserve the archival heritage of mankind; to promote, organise and coordinate, on the international level, activities in the field of records and archives management; to establish, maintain and strengthen relations between archivists of all countries and between all institutions, professional bodies and other organisations; and to facilitate the interpretation and use of archival documents by making their contents more widely known and by encouraging greater ease of access to them. To facilitate its work throughout the world ICA has established regional branches in the non-European regions. Each of these ten regional offices controls its own affairs and publishes its own journal. The earliest branch (1968) was SARBICA, the ICA Regional Branch for Southeast Asia.

Broad issues of professional concern are discussed every four years at the International Congresses on Archives, which incorporate open meetings of ICA sections and committees as well as plenary sessions and business meetings. In 1975, following a general conference held in Dakar (Senegal), ICA established an International Archival Development Fund (FIDA) to provide top-up aid to archives in developing countries. Together with UNESCO ICA established the International Microfilming Programme for Developing Countries to assist national libraries in exchange or purchase of microfilm copies. ICA also facilitates the dissemination of professional and technical good practice through publications like the journal *Comma* (a merger of *Archivum*, *Janus*, and *CITRA-proceedings*) and their series of Studies.

1.7.3 IFLA-PAC

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is a worldwide, independent, non-government organisation with a membership of 1,300 in more than 130 countries. Its members are library and related associations, libraries and similar institutions, institutional affiliates, and individuals. Its aims are to promote international cooperation, discussion, and research in all fields of library activity. It considers all aspects of library work to be within its province and strives to extend its membership to all countries. IFLA has a complex organisational structure with, amongst others, five Core Programs, one being the Preservation and Conservation (PAC) Core Program.

Unlike other Core Programs the IFLA-PAC Programme operates from a number of national libraries. The International Focal Point is at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, France and there are six Regional Centres. The programme has one major goal to ensure that library and archival materials, published and unpublished, in all formats, will be preserved in accessible form for as long as possible. In 1986 this programme set up a network of Regional Centres to deal with preservation issues around the world (Appendix II). The PAC Programme publishes a newsletter, *International Preservation News*, three times a year in English, French and

Spanish, free of charge. Issue number 24 from May 2001 is totally dedicated to *Preservation in Asia and the Pacific* (see also Blanco, 1988).

Next to IFLA there are, of course, plenty of regional library associations. To mention one example: the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL). It was founded in Singapore in 1970 in response to a growing sense of Southeast Asian identity, fostered particularly by the formation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Its main mission is to promote library and information development in the region and to lead the region towards greater participation in the international information community.

1.7.4 *Pacific Manuscript Bureau*

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PMB) is one of very few long-term archival projects in the world based on international cooperation. For 33 years it has responded to the twin imperatives of academic research requirements and the need to preserve the documentary cultural heritage of the Pacific islands. The Bureau is small in scale but nevertheless has a strong reputation, a resilience born out of the necessity of its task and an enormous amount of support (Cunningham et al., 1996).

1.7.5 *NRLC*

The National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC) is a scientific institution, supported by the Indian government, established in 1976 to give a scientific footing to the conservation of cultural property in India. In its formative stages, the NRLC was developed with assistance from the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), and now it is an associated member of ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property). To achieve this end, NRLC carries out research in materials and methods of conservation and diagnostic investigations, imparts training in preventive and curative conservation, disseminates knowledge in conservation and related areas through library and information service, provides technical assistance in the development of conservation facilities. The NRLC has developed and standardised a good number of methods for the conservation of different types of objects and for the analytical study of cultural property. It has also conducted several workshops on preventive conservation and training programmes in curative conservation for candidates from South and Southeast Asia.

1.7.6 *APOYO*

The Asociación para la Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural de las Américas (APOYO), Association for the Conservation of the Cultural Patrimony of the Americas, is an informal group of international members with the mission of supporting the conservation and preservation of the material cultural patrimony of the Americas (see Torres, 1994 and 1997). It was started in 1989 by interested members of the AIC (the American Institute of Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works) but has functioned independently. The main goals of APOYO are to bond professionals working in the conservation of Latin American cultural heritage, to promote high standards and to inform members in their native languages. To meet this need, the immediate objective was to promote and accelerate the exchange of information on conservation and preservation issues. APOYO has promoted this exchange through an outreach programme. Today the strategic APOYO-network includes approximately 4,000 conservation and preservation professionals, and continues to grow. These professionals are drawn from throughout the Americas, as well as Spain and other countries. Since 1990 APOYO has produced a newsletter consisting of one or two issues a year. Currently it is the only publication on conservation issues in Spanish reaching such wide audience. A directory of individuals and institutions involved in the conservation and preservation of the cultural patrimony of the Americas was published in 1996, in 1998 and in 2000. Useful information, especially significant translated preservation literature, can also be found on the website of the *Biblioteca Nacional de Venezuela* (National Library of Venezuela). On the website *Conservation online* (CoOL) Whitney Baker has added several pages on Conservation in Latin America.

1.7.7 *CECOR*

The main objective of the Brazilian Centro de Conservação e Restauração de Bens Culturais Móveis (CECOR), the Center of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Movable Properties at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, is the application of scientific techniques for the protection of the Brazilian cultural patrimony. This way CECOR wants to contribute to the protection and the study of the worldwide patrimony. The main areas of research are the scientific analysis of works of art in order to increase knowledge of the constituent materials and artistic techniques, and preventive conservation to understand better the physical, chemical and biological processes involved in the ageing and deterioration of artefacts. They have a very interesting web site in Portuguese with some publications on preventive conservation online. They also host the CPBA, Projeto Conservação Preventiva em Bibliotecas e Arquivos (Project on Preventive Conservation in Libraries and

Archives). The project aims to propagate preservation knowledge of the documentary heritage by dissemination and exchange. Its activities are carried out in cooperation with a great number of institutions. The CPBA has already translated 53 titles on preservation into Portuguese and recently published a manual on Microfilming in Archives. They also publish a Map of Preservation. Also worth mentioning are the websites of ABRACOR, the Brazilian Association of Conservators and Restaurators, and *Arquivo Nacional*, the Brazilian National Archives.

1.7.8 GCI

The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), a programme of the J. Paul Getty Trust since 1982, engages in activities dedicated to furthering conservation practice and education in order to enhance and encourage the preservation, understanding, and interpretation of the visual arts- broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The Institute serves the international conservation community through scientific research into the nature, decay, and treatment of materials; in education and training; model projects in the field; and the dissemination of information through both traditional publications and electronic means. They initiated several fascinating research projects such as Collections in Hot and Humid Environments, Latin American Consortium, Performance of Pollutant Adsorbents, and the Maya Initiative (see *GCI website*).