2017 ICA/SUV CONFERENCE, 21 - 27 AUGUST 2017, RIGA LATVIA

CULTURAL HERITAGE MATERIALS – UNIVERSITY, RESEARCH AND FOLKLORE ARCHIVES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

OVERVIEW

In early 2016, the International Council on Archives' Section on University and Research Institution Archives (SUV) welcomed folklore research archives into its constituencies. In so doing, SUV hopes to advance professional dialogue on issues of common interest relating to cultural heritage and the preservation and accessibility of society's records. SUV's 2017 conference will therefore explore archival practices in universities and research archives and those in folklore archives where more intensive collection management, access, and use practices have been critical.

University, research and folklore archives will equally benefit from these discussions. We all face similar challenges relating to the preservation of complex, including digital, records as well as greater demand for digital access at a time of greater sensitivity to personal and community rights in collection content. An analysis and discussion of our potentially similar or different archival policies and practices will offer us better insights and may suggest adapted or new tools that shed light on communities that too often were marginalized in conventional archives. As such our collaboration offers opportunities for greater research use of folklore-related materials held in university and research archives collections.

To begin this dialogue, the 2017 SUV conference in Riga, Latvia, calls for sessions or single paper proposals on the following four topics:

(1) CULTURAL HERITAGE MATERIALS: FOUNDATIONS AND DEFINITIONS
(2) BORN DIGITAL MATERIALS – APPRAISAL AND PROCESSING FOR SMALL ARCHIVES
(3) DESCRIPTION AND USE OF ARCHIVES - RECORDS IN CONTEXT (RIC) STANDARD
(4) RESPECTFUL STEWARDSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT WITH CREATOR COMMUNITIES

CONFERENCE TOPICS

(1) CULTURAL HERITAGE MATERIALS: FOUNDATIONS AND DEFINITIONS
Proposals on this topic may start with a working distinction between *formal institutional records* created in the conduct of institutional functions and *tangible and intangible cultural heritage materials* which are preserved in folklore as well as in research and university archives. While

we strive to preserve and make accessible all of these materials, they can raise different issues for us archivists.

Presentations in this area are invited to address questions including but not limited to:

- What defines (tangible and intangible) cultural heritage and collections of folklore and traditions and what issues do these raise?

- How are specialized folklore archives different from archives with broader collection focus, if indeed they are different?

- Does the acquisition of cultural heritage materials raise special issues (e.g. purchasing folklore objects, identifying the 'creator' of oral history and field research materials, communal collecting, etc.)? Do folklore archives and general archives differ in how they acquire cultural heritage materials and if so how?

- When is someone a folklore archivist? How does their work differ from university and research archivists?

(2) BORN DIGITAL MATERIAL – APPRAISAL AND PROCESSING FOR SMALL ARCHIVES

For the last three decades, born digital materials have been created at an ever increasing scale in formats ranging from emails, digital files and AV materials, social media, to web sites and large data sets, among others. Regardless of whether we are conventional, specialized, or folklore archivists, all of us face tremendous challenges in appraising, accessioning, preserving and making accessible contemporary digital record formats and the technical and resource questions they raise. Most of us are not digital experts and work in resource strapped institutions: we need scaled down approaches to appraising and processing born digital materials in order for us to incorporate them into our general workflow.

ICA-SUV is particularly interested in papers on the following topics:

- Practical projects in appraising and processing large, complex and unstructured collections of born digital materials (akin to 'More Product, Less Process' approaches to analog materials) and how these can be scaled for 'regular' (not digital) archivists.

- Practical projects in digital preservation of large research date sets and audiovisual materials. How do these scale to small archives?

- Record creator and donor relations as regards digital materials: e.g. virtual wills, routine or intermittent transfer because of threatening format obsolescence, next to issues such as e.g. file formats and labeling by donors, harvesting of social media or web sites, and related issues, including context, provenance, and original order.

- Automated, archival, or crowd-sourced creation of access points to digital cultural heritage materials, benefits and issues.

(3) DESCRIPTION AND USE OF ARCHIVES

SUV invites proposals reflecting theoretical, technical, and practical aspects of archival description and especially those focusing on the potential applicability and usefulness of the ICA *Records in Context* (RIC) draft proposal for a new standard (2016).

Presentations are invited to address issues including but not limited to the following:

- How is RIC applicable and useful for archival description? Is RIC a feasible standard for archives facing fewer and fewer resources also amidst an ever-growing digital records universe?
- How can RIC support a more intensive understanding of the contextual web of relationships that gives meaning to records of all types?
- How does RIC's focus on context and more detailed access and analysis compare to the traditional archival emphasis on aggregate control and hierarchy?
- What does RIC offer for archivists describing cultural heritage materials? What does it offer for researchers of such materials?
- If archivists were to apply RIC selectively, which types of records and materials would most benefit and why?
- Without requiring a restructuring of archives descriptive tools, to what extent can RIC access points be added to traditional descriptive practices?
- In addition, papers and sessions discussing user contributions to archival description, as well as user studies and measurement are welcomed.

(4) RESPECTFUL STEWARDSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT WITH CREATOR COMMUNITIES

There have been long debates within the World Intellectual Property Organization about appropriate legal regimes to manage intellectual property rights in traditional cultural expressions and traditional knowledge. Although these are a long way from resolution, in the interim, archivists dealing with indigenous and presumed communal cultural materials have to face several issues.

ICA-SUV is particularly interested in papers on the following topics:

- How can our professions' own standards provide appropriate professional norms regarding the ownership, appropriate research use, patrimony, privacy, and cultural norms for the management of such materials?
- What can archivists and folklore archivists learn from each other about how to navigate the privacy, personal, and community rights in the materials they collect, preserve, and make accessible?
- Do archivists interact differently with indigenous cultures and folk communities to preserve their documentation than with creators of institutional records or donors of personal papers? Should they?

- Are there 'community rights' to cultural documentation materials? Which documentary materials can be claimed to be communal, why and when?