

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS (UMAC)

REPORT 2007 – 08

A. COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

Chair

Cornelia Weber, Humboldt University, Germany (chair@umac.icom.museum)

Vice-Chairs

Ing-Marie Munktel, University of Uppsala, Sweden (ing-marie.munktel@gustavianum.uu.se)

Nick Merriman, University of Manchester, United Kingdom
(Nicholas.Merriman@manchester.ac.uk)

Treasurer

Panu Nykänen, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland (panu.nykanen@hut.fi)

Secretary

Aldona Jonaitis, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA (ffaj@uaf.edu)

Newsletter Editor

Lyndel King, University of Minnesota, USA (kingx001@umn.edu)

Members

Hugues Dreysse, University Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg I), France
(hugues.dreysse@ipcms.u-strasbg.fr)

Kate Arnold-Forster, University of Reading, United Kingdom (k.arnold-forster@reading.ac.uk)

Peter Stanbury, Australian Association of Anaesthetists, Australia
(pstanbury@gmail.com)

Peny Theologi-Gouti, University of Patras, Greece (secretary@umac.icom.museum)

Chairs of Working Groups

Sally MacDonald, University College London, United Kingdom
(sally.macdonald@ucl.ac.uk)

Nathalie Nyst, Free University of Brussels, Belgium (nnyst@ulb.ac.be)

Peter Tirrell, University of Oklahoma, USA (pbtirrell@ou.edu)

Aims 2007-10

To:

- refine UMAC's mission and vision
- develop a well-founded program and provide more services for UMAC members and all people who are interested in university museums and collections

Report 2007-08 by the Chair

1. Mailing list

Extended the mailing list "umac.newsletter". As at 10.07.08: 803 subscribers (06/07: 656).

2. Website

Number of hits:73,178 over 12 months (page impressions, cleaned of search engine & spam robots) (06/07: 57,580)

Started a new Help Service on UMAC's Website including a Help Blog (<http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/help/>): The section "Technical Information" has information about practices, standards, guidelines, techniques, and protocols. The section "Helpful articles" contains articles that have been published about

concerns and issues in the field of university museums, galleries and collections. The section "Peer Consultation" is a list of colleagues with their areas of expertise.

3. Wiki

Launch of a Wiki for the Board.

4. Newsletter

Development of a new design and a template which can be used also by all board members (initiated and partly financed by Lyndel King).

Publication of a newsletter in March and July 2008, edited by Lyndel King see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/newsletters.html>

5. Conferences

- 2008 Conference

Museums and Universal Heritage

16-20 September 2008, Manchester, UK

University Museums and the Community

<http://www.meeting.co.uk/confercare/umac2008>

Conference Board: Monika Knofler (Austria), Mark Meadow (USA) Nicholas Merriman (United Kingdom), Pany Nykänen, Finland, Cornelia Weber (Germany)

Local Organizing Committee: Nicholas Merriman, Sally MacDonald, Kate-Arnold Forster, Maria Balshaw, Nichola Johnson

Academic Committee: Sally MacDonald, Chair (United Kingdom), Steven de Clercq (Netherlands), Mark Meadow (USA), Nick Merriman (United Kingdom), Aldona Jonaitis (USA), Marta Lourenço (Portugal), Cornelia Weber (Germany), Peter Stanbury (Australia)

Summary: The conference was a great success with 96 delegates from 22 countries and different types of formats (keynotes, panel sessions, and workshops). The conference addressed the themes: Developing Relationships, Digital Futures, Multiple Voices in the University Museum, Formal and Informal Learning, Public Engagement and Audience Development. The papers will be published in the second issue of UMAC Journal 2 (2009).

- Later Conferences

2009: Berkeley, USA, 10-13 September 2009 (*Putting university collections to work in research and teaching*)

2010: Shanghai, China, within the ICOM General Conference, 7-13 November 2010

<http://www.icom2010.org.cn>

2011: Lisbon, Portugal

2012: Singapore

6. ICOM Advisory Committee

Participation by the Chair in the 71th Session of the ICOM Advisory Committee and of the 23th Session of the ICOM General Assembly in Paris, June 2008

7. Publicity

- Presentations by the Chair (including UMAC's activities, among other topics):

Universitätssammlungen und -museen. Workshop Quellen zur frühneuzeitlichen Universitätsgeschichte. Typen, Bestände, Auswertungsmöglichkeiten. Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel, Germany, 4-6 October 2007.

<http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=1812>

Universitätsmuseen und -sammlungen in Deutschland: Ein Bericht zur aktuellen Lage. Conference *Wissenschaftsmuseen im deutsch-französischen Dialog. Dritte Tagung von Experten der Wissenschaftsmuseen - Le musée de sciences. Dialogues franco-allemands. 3e rencontres de professionnels de musées des sciences.* Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin, Germany, 14-16 October 2007.

Sammelleidenschaft und Sammelwert. Symposium *HUM - Die Kunst des Sammelns.* Organized by Junge Akademie der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina, KlangQuadrat - büro für

kunst :: musik, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin. Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany, 23-24 November 2007.

Chances and Visions for the Collections at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Colloquium. Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria, 26 November 2007.

The International ICOM Committee "University Museums And Collections (UMAC)". Congress at the Annual General Meeting of ICOM Germany. Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde München, Germany, 3-4 December 2007.

- Publications:

Wissenschaft kommunizieren. Die Rolle der Universitäten. Ed. by Anita Hermannstädter, Michael Sonnabend und Cornelia Weber. Essen 2008.

Sammelleidenschaft und Sammelwert. In: hum - Die Kunst des Sammelns. Von Julian Klein / a rose is. Ed. by Julia Gerlach. Berlin 2008. [unpag.]

traditionell und modern zugleich: sammlungen im hochschulalltag. In: die bildende 03, 2008, pp. 24-25. [Journal of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.]

Universities in Transition – Responsibilities for Heritage. Jahreskonferenz vom 19. bis 24. August 2007 in Wien. In: ICOM Deutschland. Mitteilungen 2008, pp.37.

8. Fundraising

Special Grant (EUR 1.500) from ICOM Paris for the Design, Establishment, and Launch of the electronic journal *University Museums and Collections Journal / UMACJ* (Proceedings of the annual conferences)

Report 2007-08 by the Treasurer Panu Nykänen

Balance of account on September 17, 2008: 9029,10 EUR.

Membership

170 voting members from 38 countries

Argentina (1), Australia (8), Austria (4), Belarus (1), Belgium (4), Brazil (3), Bulgaria (1) Canada (2), Colombia (2), Croatia (1), Denmark (3), Ecuador (1) Estonia (3), Finland (6), France (23), Germany (9), Greece (2), Iran (1), Ireland (1), Israel (2), Italy (8), Latvia (1), Madagascar (2), Mexico (3), Netherlands (5), New Zealand (1) Norway (4), Peru (1), Philippines (4), Poland (3), Portugal (3), Russia (2), Singapore (1), Spain (5), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), United Kingdom (14), United States of America (32)

Working Groups

UMAC has five working groups (Directories, Staffing, Advocacy, Publications, Strategic Planning) and a Research Development Group.

Directories Working Group

Function/Aim

To collect information about other existing directories, catalogues and inventories, to accumulate basic information about university museums in many countries and present the results on the UMAC website.

Aims 2007-08

To:

- collect further information about university museums and collections worldwide and expand the database in the number of records it contains

Chair

Cornelia Weber (weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de), in collaboration with Marta Lourenço (mclourenco@fc.ul.pt)

Members

Mauricio da Silva, Brazil; Joshua M. Gorman, USA; Christina Haywood, Ireland; Kate Arnold-Forster, Great Britain; Luisa Fernanda Rico Mansard, México; Bertha T. Abraham Jalil; Mexico; Francoise Le Guet Tully, France

Report 2006-07 by Cornelia Weber

1. Database

The database presently has 2,566 (06/07: 2,245) records encompassing museums and collections from 61 (06/07: 56) countries or territories: Africa 11, America 475, Asia 274, Australasia 326, Europe 1480 (see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/collections/>)

Thanks to the great work of Luisa Fernanda Rico Mansard and her colleagues it was possible to collect the data of university museums and collections in México (see also UMAC in México: http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/regional_mexico.html).

The National University of Colombia, Bogotá, provided a survey of its museums and collections.

2. Research project

Since 2004, Cornelia Weber has been working on a project to catalogue all German universities' collections and to compile extensive data on the holdings and the history of these collections (<http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/sammlungen/index.php>), funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Until 30.07.08 759 existing university museums and collections have been registered.

This project can be seen as a first model version to collect information about university collections and museums for an online database.

Aims 2008-09

To collect further information about university museums and collections worldwide and expand the database in the number of records it contains.

Staffing Working Group

Function/Aim

This group has in the past compiled data from Australia and Europe, but the immediate utility of such data was overshadowed by the labour for further compilation.

Aims 2007-08

To support and facilitate all kinds of exchange between colleagues.

Chair

Ing-Marie Munktell (ing-marie.munktell@gustavianum.uu.se)

Members

Isidro Abaño, Philippines; Linda Bahm, USA; Hugues Dreyse, France; Kati Heinamies, Finland; Panu Nykänen, Finland; Mauricio Silva, Brazil

Report 2007-08 by Ing-Marie Munktell

The few participants present in Vienna discussed if this working group was needed any longer. They decided to wait until next year for a final decision. There might be new possibilities within the upcoming "Strategic plan" of UMAC.

The platform on the web for information on exchange programs was opened already 2007 but has not so far been actively used.

At the Board meeting in Manchester, Ing-Marie Munktell announced that the staffing group had decided to disband. The members voted to support this disbanding.

Advocacy Working Group

Function/Aim

This group works towards increasing the profile of university museums and collections in academic and political spheres

Aims 2007-08

To revive the activities of the Working Group.

Chair

Hugues Dreyssé, France (Hugues.Dreyse@ipcms.u-strasbg.fr)

Report 2007-08

The Working Group did not report any activities.

Aims 2008-09

To revive the activities of the Working Group.

Publications Working Group

Function/Aim

This group was established in 2003. It co-ordinates the edition of publications in electronic and print form deemed to be in the interest of UMAC and the university museum's community. It is responsible for oversight of the selection, editing and printing the double blind refereed Conference Proceedings.

Aims 2007-08

To develop guidelines for the proceedings.

Co-Chairs

Sally MacDonald (sally.macdonald@ucl.ac.uk) and Nathalie Nyst (nnyst@ulb.ac.be)

Members

Steven de Clercq, Netherlands; Joshua Gorman, USA; Lyndel King, USA; Greg Liggett, USA; Carol Mayer, Canada; Ing-Marie Munktel, Sweden; Andrew Simpson, Australia; Peter Tirrell, USA; Cornelia Weber, Germany

Report 2007-08 by Sally MacDonald and Nathalie Nyst

1. Mexico Conference Proceedings

All available presentations of the UMAC Conference 2006 in Mexico City are published on UMAC's Website : <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/2006/>

A selection of papers has been published in English and Spanish by the Autonomous University of Mexico in September 2008.

2. Vienna Conference Proceedings

All available presentations of the UMAC Conference 2007 in Vienna are published on UMAC's Website, too: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/2007/?id=presentations>

The papers will be published in the first issue of *University Museums and Collections Journal* (see below).

Aims 2008-09

Design, establishment, and launch of the electronic journal *University Museums and Collections Journal* (Proceedings of the annual conferences). The electronic journal will provide global, inclusive access and distribution of the *UMAC Journal*: it guarantees open access to UMAC's conference results everywhere in the world. Of great significance is that an electronic publication (with UMAC as editor) provides the opportunity to develop a corporate identity. The UMAC website will be the key portal for important information in areas such as standards and practices, issues and concerns, networking, partnerships, evaluation, and advocacy. The electronic version also enables UMAC to provide information in other formats including multimedia elements such as videos of workshop sessions, roundtables and panel discussion. It will reduce expenses significantly.

Strategic Planning Working Group

Function/Aim

To develop a strategic plan for UMAC is the most important and urgent task.

Aims 2007-08

- That all Board Members and Members review the Strategic Plan and be prepared to discuss it at our Conference in Vienna or by sending comments to me or the Chair of UMAC.

- That the Board Members begin the process prioritizing the goals, strategies, and action steps with input from the Conference participants.
- That the Board Members approve/disapprove the Mission and Vision and recommend them to the Members for final approval/disapproval.
- That the Board Members make recommendations regarding the planning process.
- That if the Board and Members desire, PT will stay on as Chair of the WG.

Chair

Peter Tirrell, USA (pbtirrell@ou.edu)

Members

Kate Arnold-Foster, UK; Hugues Dreysse, France; Alan Knox, UK; Nicky Ladkin, USA; Marta Lourenço, Portugal; Peter Stanbury, Australia; Cornelia Weber, Germany.

Report 2007-08 by Peter Tirrell

We have made great progress in our planning since forming a Working Group at our 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden. At our 2007 Conference in Vienna, we had an open session with Conference participants. The aim and progress of the Strategic Plan were discussed. The Strategic Plan and the planning process also were discussed and critiqued by the Board. The Board approved the Plan. Several important decisions or "BENCHMARKS" were approved. The Board established the WG for Advocacy and expressed the need to develop a "tool kit" that can be used to show the value of university museums and collections. The Board decided that it would appoint Chairs of WGs and make all other special appointments to the Board. These actions have been added to webpage "Function/Aim, 2008 Goals & Objectives, and History" that is on the strategic planning section of our website: <http://publicus.culture.huberlin.de/umac/strategicplan/>.

Since our Conference, Members of the WG, Board Members, and the Chair of UMAC have proposed several new strategies. These included:

1. Simplify and streamline the Strategic Plan to make it easier for Members to understand.
2. Review the Goals, Strategies and Actions in terms of priority and importance.
3. Pursue Publication of our Proceedings in the format of an electronic journal.
4. Create a "Help" section on the webpage that provides Technical Information, Helpful articles, Peer consultation and a Help Blog.
5. Create an evaluation tool to assess the state of a museum (e.g., level of performance).
6. Prepare an Operational Plan to accompany the Strategic Plan.
7. Prepare a budget for 2008-2010.
8. Prepare Guidelines for speakers at Conferences.
9. Create a Tool Kit

All the proposed strategies were reviewed by the WG and incorporated into the Plan as strategies except 5 – this suggestion was deemed too difficult and inappropriate for UMAC although programs of evaluation from several countries were listed on the website. Members of the WG with the assistance of Board Members did strategies 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8. Strategies 6 and 9 are in planning.

The new version of the SP and the OP are available on the UMAC website (see: <http://publicus.culture.huberlin.de/umac/strategicplan/?id=planning>).

Planning Process

The WG maintained contact and participated in discussion via email (over 150 messages). The WG Chair (Tirrell) had live videoconferences with the UMAC Chair (Weber) to discuss the strategic planning process, revisions to the Plan and new strategies (15 videoconferences). Draft materials were distributed to the WG and the Board for their review and comment.

Comments from the Chair: Peter Tirrell

In 2007 - 2008, we made a great deal of progress towards our goals through our strategies and actions. We are the only ICOM Committee that has prepared a strategic plan. As we continue to revise and refine our Plan, it becomes clearer to see what we

want to do and how we will do it. We have prioritized several of our goals and strategies and we have improved our services. The planning process also becomes easier as we discard ideas that are not important or that we cannot do.

Please contact WG Members or me at any time if you have any questions or comments.

Aims and Activities 2008-09

Creating a Budget for 2008 - 2010 is very important. Financial planning must be part of our overall Strategic Plan. We also must continue to ask questions such as "Are the Goals still valid?" "What goals and strategies are most important?" and "Are the Strategies and Suggested Actions appropriate?"

Research Development Group

Function/Aim

To create and maintain a network of information exchange for researchers/students concentrating on issues related to university museums and collections. The network will promote and active, two-way exchange between university museum and collections research community and UMAC members, offering reciprocal advice and insight.

Aims 2007-08

- Compile and organise existing research material and contact information.
- Contact museum studies programmes and seek out current students and researchers focusing on university museums and collections
- Proposed website facilities:
 - List-serve (dedicated to WG Research)
 - Chat-room or open forum discussion
 - Research register – where researchers are capable of entering their own abstracts and contact information
(see Museum and Galleries History Group website for example
<http://www.mghg.org/research/>)
 - Searchable bibliography (files of available texts for download)

Co-ordinator:

Zenobia R. Kozak, PhD candidate, UK (zk2@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Members

Samual Alberti, UK; Ian Carradice, UK; Edmon Castell, Colombia; Steven de Clercq, Netherlands; Hugues Dreyssé, France; Mario Daniel Garcia, Colombia; Pierre-Antoine Gérard, France; Stephanie Alison Greene, USA; Kirsten Hardie, UK; Aldona Jonaitis, USA; Patricia Vásquez Langle, Mexico; Marta C. Lourenço, Portugal; Sebastian Moody, Australia; Natalie Nyst, Belgium; Luca Quijabo, Colombia; Aude-Laurence Pfister, Switzerland; Luisa Fernanda Rico, Mexico; Phillip Simms, UK; Andrew Simpson, Australia Claudia de Roos, Netherlands

Open Invitations

(Members who have requested to join but have yet to confirm link to online group)
a.verboon@let.leidenuniv.nl, Netherlands; e.van.gelder@let.leidenuniv.nl, Netherlands; Hannah-lee.Chalk@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk, UK; judit.szilagyi@hotmail.com, Hungary; karinita_2000_99@yahoo.com, Mexico; m.meadow@let.leidenuniv.nl, Netherlands

Report 2007-08

- Created online discussion group and research register facilities (view at <http://groups.google.com/group/umac-research-development>)
- Increased membership through UMAC website and newsletter

Aims 2008-09

- Improve online discussion forum – requested link/association with UMAC Help Blog to increase profile and activity – (available at <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/help/>)

- Contact museum studies programmes and seek out current students and researchers focusing on university museums and collections

B. PUBLICATIONS

All available presentations of the UMAC Conference 2007 in Vienna are published on UMAC's Website, too: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/2007/?id=presentations>

A selection of papers will be published soon in the new online Journal UMACJ at <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>

The papers of the UMAC Conference 2008 in Manchester will also be published in UMACJ (2/2009).

C. DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER UMAC/ICOM ACTIVITIES

- Strategic Planning

Mission

UMAC is the international forum for university museums and collections. UMAC supports and promotes their use, development, stewardship, and appreciation. It advocates that museums and collections are globally important resources for inspiration, research, interpretation, teaching, outreach, and enjoyment. UMAC provides opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practices, initiating partnerships and networking worldwide through a variety of services.

Vision

UMAC is the recognized advocate and information center for the global community of university museums and collections.

Aims 2007-2010

- Finalizing the Strategic Plan
- Prioritize the Goals
- Start the Implementation of the Highest Priorities

- Membership

Increasing membership will be one of the core duties of the Board.

- Publications

UMAC will continue publishing the proceedings of its conferences, and from time to time, guidelines for its members and the museum community.