



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

FOR UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS (UMAC)

REPORT 2012-2013

Period: from the annual meeting in Singapore (10/12) to the annual meeting in Rio (08/13)

Composition of the board

Chair

Hugues Dreyssé, University of Strasbourg, France (chair@umac.icom.museum)

Vice-Chairs

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

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

Treasurer

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

Secretary: by interim Graciela Weisinger, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Newsletter Editor

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

Members

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

Elena Corradini, University of Modena, Italy (elena.corradini@unimore.it)

Christine Khor, National University of Singapore (ckhor@nus.edu.sg)

Chairs of Working Groups

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

Andrew Simpson, Macquarie University, Australia (asimpson@els.mq.edu.au)

Cornelia Weber, Humboldt University, Germany (weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de)

Gabriela Weisinger, Buenos Aires (gweisinger@gmail.com) has been co-opted as associate secretary of the board during the conference in Singapore.

A. General report 2012-13 by the Chair with the help of the board

1. Mailing list

Extension of the “umac.newsletter” mailing list to **866** subscribers (11/08/12). An important work has been done to continue to “clean” our mailing list since many addresses were no more valid.

2. UMAC-ML

Started in 2009 the moderated list UMAC-ML (umac-ml@unistra.fr) is organized by Sébastien Soubiran. The mailing list, hosted and managed by the University of Strasbourg, enables the international community of university museums and collections to exchange information and to get in touch with colleagues worldwide. This mailing list has slightly increased this year to **296** subscribers (as 05/08/13).

3. Website

Number of visits: 19861

4. Newsletter

Publication of two newsletters in September 2012 and January 2013, edited by Lyndel King

See: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/newsletters>

5. Proceedings

Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 5, 2012, with 22 entries. (from the 2011 Lisbon conference) See: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>

University Museums and Collections Journal 6 with the proceedings of the 2012 Singapore conference should be edited in September-October 2013.

6. Conferences

- General UMAC Conference:

National University of Singapore, Singapore, 9-13/10/2012

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/museum/UMAC2012/>

Chair C. Khor (Singapore)

The conference was attended by about 95 delegates from 21 countries from the five continents and particularly from South-East Asia. Selected papers will be published in *UMACJ* 6 (2013).

- Future general UMAC Conferences:

- 01-08/06/2013 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during the ICOM General Conference,
- 2014: Alexandria (Egypt) with the CECA-ICOM
- 2015: Manila (Philippines) is proposed

7. Publicity and Presentation by Board Members

- Contribution from H. Dreyssé to the International conférence : *New perspectives for university museums in EU and Turkey* (Koaceli, 7-9/11/2012)

- Invitation to H. Dreysse to present the activities of UMAC during the annual ICOM-France AGM
- In a very next future H. Dreysse is invited to various conferences, as the annual meeting of the UMIS (University Museums in Scotland) end of October in St Andrew (Scotland), H. Dreysse, N. Nyst and C. Weber in Modena in December 2013 for an international workshop, as N. Nyst in Ghent in November 2013 for an international colloquium on "Positioning Academic Heritage. Challenges for Universities, museums and society in the 21st century."

8. Membership

230 voting members (individual and institutional) from 46 countries on August 9, 2013 (2011/12: 210/46, 2010/11: 208/41, 2009/10: 195/40 - 2008/09: 186/42)

Argentina (5), Armenia (1), Australia (9), Austria (6), Belarus (1), Belgium (5), Brazil (11), Bulgaria (0), Canada (2), Colombia (3), Congo (0), Czech Republic (0), Chile (1), Denmark (4), Estonia (4), Finland (9), France (23), Germany (12), Greece (2), India (1), Ireland (3), Israel (2), Italy (8), Jamaica (1), Japan (5), Korea (1), Latvia (0), Letonie (1), Madagascar (2), Mexico (7), Netherlands (9), New Zealand (1), Norway (6), Peru (1), Philippines (4), Poland (4), Portugal (4), Russia (3), Serbia (0), Singapore (1) South Africa (1), Spain (6), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), Thailand (1), Turkey (1), Ukraine (3), United Kingdom (12), United States of America (37), Venezuela (1), Zimbabwe (1)

B. Report 2011-2012 by the Treasurer Panu Nykänen

Balance of account on 08/08/2013: 16 405,35 Euros

C. Report of the Working Groups activities by their chair/man-woman

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

1. Directories Working Group by C. Weber

Function/Aim

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

Chair

Cornelia Weber (weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de)

Report 2012-3-12

The UMAC database presently has 3,134 (3.069 in 2012, 2,584 in 2011) records encompassing museums and collections from 63 countries or territories: Africa 12, America 645, Asia 319, Australasia 330, Europe 1828 (see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/collections/>).

2. Advocacy Working Group by H. Dreysé

Function/Aim

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

Aims 2012-13

Continue to increase the number of active UMAC members and participate or initiate networking activities to promote university collections and museums. Further, initiatives should be undertaken aimed at establishing national or international networks of universities.

Chair

Hugues Dreyssé, France (hugues.dreyse@unistra.fr)

Report 2012-13

The main activities of the group have been to ensure a large diffusion of the various conferences or workshops on university museums. For instance our website is reporting an increasing number of activities as conferences or workshops around the university museums all over the world. More interesting, we are directly contacted to post these announcements.

- A very interesting and complete book on the university museums in Mexico has been published (Luisa Fernanda Rico Mansard, Bertha Teresa Abraham Jalil and Elia Macedo de la Concha, coordinators)
- Under the direction of Elena Corradini, and the formal support of UMAC, a group of 12 Italian university museums got an important grant on "Computer technologies for the networking and the valorization of scientific cultural heritage: the role of the network of University Museums " by their Ministry.

3. Publications Working Group by N. Nyst

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 supervising the selection, editing and printing of the double blind refereed Conference Proceedings.

Chair

Nathalie Nyst, Belgium (nnyst@ulb.ac.be)

Members

Catherine Giltrap (Ireland), Regina Hammond (Australia), Lyndel King (USA), Ing-Marie Munktell (Sweden), Andrew Simpson (Australia), Peter Stanbury (Australia), Cornelia Weber (Germany)

Report 2012-2013

- Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 5, 2012, with 22 entries see: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>
- Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 6, 2013 [in print]

Aims 2013-2014

- To prepare the 7th issue (Rio's Proceedings).
- To prepare the 1st issue of the new thematic collection decided in Lisbon

The Work of the Committee

The Publications Committee has a heavy responsibility but much interesting work. It communicates with the Host Committee to review abstracts of proposed papers;

assists the UMAC Board and the host Committee to decide upon the topic of the annual conference and edits those papers that are considered suitable for publication. It also assists in decisions about whether a paper is suitable for publication and is on hand for assistance if required for the final stage of preparing the on-line publication.

With strict time lines in place there is sometimes a mountain of work to undertake in a short time; at other periods the Committee is less busy. The Committee would like to invite UMAC members to join the publications work force - it is important, fascinating work and looks good on a *curriculum vitae*.

4. Strategic Planning Working

Function/Aim

To develop a strategic plan for UMAC

Due to the retirement of the chairman, Peter Tirrell, no significant activities can be reported here. During the Rio conference a new chair will be chosen and the aim of this working group discussed.

5. Research Development Group by A. Simpson

Function/Aims

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

Chair

Andrew Simpson (andrew.simpson@mq.edu.au)

There was no meeting of the Research Development Working Group in 2012 during the Singapore conference. During open sessions in the conference a suggestion to develop a travelling photographic exhibition about university museums was suggested as a way of raising awareness among academic colleagues of the valuable research role that can be undertaken by university museums.

The previous meeting of the Working Group was held during the 2011 Lisbon Conference. It was attended by 32 participants. This meeting agreed that the Working Group could be of most value to UMAC through the sharing of resources and experiences. Two projects were formulated.

1. The compilation of a data base on current (and past) university museum research projects, with a view to making this data available on the UMAC website. This would specifically focus on research about university museums rather than discipline-specific research undertaken by university museums. A template was devised for collecting data on projects that would include: a project name, supporting organisations, project description, current status, any links to publications or other relevant data and contact details. This was eventually distributed to those who attended the meeting with an example of a

completed project template. The collation of information about research projects is now underway. The meeting felt that the collation of project data may reveal either broad categories of research or indicate current trends in research across national boundaries.

2. Another suggestion discussed at the 2011 Lisbon meeting was the development of an extensive and thorough bibliography of published papers on university museum research. A proposal was submitted to the UMAC Board for \$2000(AUD) for the employment of a person to compile such a bibliography, but this was not supported by the UMAC Board.

Project (1), a template was developed and circulated to all 32 members who were at the meeting of the Research Development Working Group in 2011. To date this has elicited only one response. Nothing will be added to the website unless this project produces significantly more material to share with the membership.

Project (2) has been abandoned as there was no support from the Board. This project aimed at identifying significant research on university museums that has not been captured by the group's journal. UMACJ journal contributions are essentially papers from annual conferences but sometimes extend to include papers from other sources. In the last year the most significant publication on University Museums and Collections was the double volume book "A Handbook for Academic Museums: Exhibitions and Education" and "A Handbook for Academic Museums: Beyond Exhibitions and Education" published by MuseumsEtc. This contained a number of contributions from UMAC members. Without UMAC Board support it is suggested that profiling non-UMACJ publications about university museums is best done through social media sites such as "Linkedin" and "ResearchGate". It is important to use metadata tags in identifying University Museums in this process. Another avenue for spreading awareness of these publications is through the UMAC FaceBook site. This can also be used for other issues apart from research.

<https://www.facebook.com/UniversityMuseumsAndCollections>

Priorities for 2013-2014

1. Identify more examples of University Museum research and share this information among the network.
2. Work to raise the profile of the UMACJ among research agencies (see commentary below).