



## **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

### **FOR UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS (UMAC)**

## **REPORT 2013-2014**

**Period: from the annual meeting in Rio de Janeiro (08/13) to the annual meeting in Alexandria (10/14)**

**After the elections in Rio the composition of the board is the following**

#### **Chair**

Hugues Dreysse, University of Strasbourg, France ([chair@umac.icom.museum](mailto:chair@umac.icom.museum))

#### **Vice-Chairs**

Panu Nykänen, Helsinki, Finland ([Panu.Nykanen@technologyacademy.fi](mailto:Panu.Nykanen@technologyacademy.fi))

Elena Corradini, University of Modena, Italy ([elena.corradini@unimore.it](mailto:elena.corradini@unimore.it))

#### **Treasurer**

Catherine Giltrap, Dublin, Ireland ([catherinegiltrap@gmail.com](mailto:catherinegiltrap@gmail.com))

#### **Secretary:**

Graciela Weisinger, Buenos Aires, Argentina ([gweisinger@gmail.com](mailto:gweisinger@gmail.com))

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Lyndel King, University of Minnesota, USA ([kingx001@umn.edu](mailto:kingx001@umn.edu))

#### **Members**

Christine Khor, National University of Singapore ([ckhor@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ckhor@nus.edu.sg))

Luisa Fernanda Rico Mansard, UNAM, Mexico ([lfrico@universum.unam.mx](mailto:lfrico@universum.unam.mx))

Barbara Rothermel, Lynchburg, USA ([rothermel@lynchburg.edu](mailto:rothermel@lynchburg.edu))

Isidro Abano, Manila, Philippines ([sidro1257@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:sidro1257@yahoo.com.ph))

#### **Chairs of Working Groups**

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

Andrew Simpson, Macquarie University, Australia ([asimpson@els.mq.edu.au](mailto:asimpson@els.mq.edu.au))

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

Ing-Marie Munktell, University of Uppsala, Sweden ([ing-marie.munktell@uadm.uu.se](mailto:ing-marie.munktell@uadm.uu.se))

Peter Stanbury, Australian Assoc. of Anaesthetists, Australia ([pstanbury@gmail.com](mailto:pstanbury@gmail.com))

## **A. General report 2013-14 by the Chair with the help of the board**

### **1. Mailing list**

Extension of the “umac.newsletter” mailing list to **888** subscribers (18/09/14). 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 **306** subscribers (as 05/09/14).

### **3. Website**

Number of visits: 4763 over the last 12 months (9/08/14)

### **4. Newsletter**

Publication of one newsletters in January 2014, and another under preparation edited by Lyndel King

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

### **5. Proceedings**

Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 6, 2013 with 10 entries (from the proceedings of the 2012 Singapore conference  
See <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>

### **6. Conferences**

- General UMAC Conference:

During the triannual ICOM conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/v57da8r9ec17eme/Wfli8efTVu>

Chair J. Lira (São Paolo)

The conference was attended by about 65 delegates from 20 countries from the five continents and particularly from South America. Selected papers will be published (2014).

- Future general UMAC Conferences:

- 2014: Alexandria (Egypt) with the CECA-ICOM, 9-14/10/14  
<http://www.alexandria-2014.org>
- 2015: Manila (Philippines) 11-15 may, 2015
- 2016 in Milano during the triannual ICOM conference

### **7. Publicity and Presentation by Board Members**

- Contribution from H. Dreyssé and participation of N. Nyst to the annual meeting of the UMIS (University Museums in Scotland) 31/10-1/11 2013 in St Andrew (Scotland)

- N. Nyst, C. Weber and H. Dreyse in Modena in 6-7/12 2013 for an international workshop on “Learning at museums” organized by E. Coradini

- C. Weber, N. Nyst, A. Simpson, E. Coradini and H. Dreyse in Ghent, 18-20/11

2013 for an international colloquium on “Positioning Academic Heritage. Challenges for Universities, museums and society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

- Contribution of H. Dreyse to the “2es Rencontres de l’Observatoire de l’OCIM », 26-26/11 2013 in Dijon

- Invitation to H. Dreyse for the workshop on « Museum and territory » in Bologna (Italie) 2<sup>nd</sup> april 2014

- Participation of H. Dreyse to the board meeting and to the sessions of the annual meeting of the AAMG (Association of Academic Museums and Galleries), Seattle (USA), 16-17 may 2014

- Invitation to H. Dreyse to participate to the annual conference of the AAMD (Association of Art Museums Directors) in Dallas, 31/5-3/6 2014 in Dallas (USA)

- Invitation to H. Dreyse for a round table during the annual conférence of the International Committee of ICOM ICOFOM, 05/06 2014 in Paris

- Invitation to H. Dreyse to present the activities of UMAC during the annual ICOM-France AGM in Nice, 20/06 2014.

## **8. Membership**

**263 voting members (individual and institutional) from 52 countries on September 15, 2014 (2012/2013: 230/46, 2011/12: 210/46, 2010/11: 208/41, 2009/10: 195/40 - 2008/09: 186/42**

Argentina (7), Armenia (1), Australia (9), Austria (6), Belarus (1), Belgium (6), Brazil (11), Bulgaria (0), Canada (2), Chile (2), China (1), Colombia (4), Congo (0), Costa Rica (1), Czech Republic (1), Denmark (5), El Salvador (1), Estonia (4), Finland (12), France (25), Germany (12), Greece (0), Guatemala (1), Iran (1), India (0), Ireland (2), Israel (3), Italy (6), Jamaica (1), Japan (5), Korea (2), Latvia (1), Lithuania (0), Madagascar (2), Mexico (9), Netherlands (9), New Zealand (1), Norway (6), Pakistan (1), Peru (1), Philippines (7), Poland (4), Portugal (5), Russia (7), Serbia (1), Singapore (1), South Africa (2), Spain (7), Sweden (3), Switzerland (1), Taiwan (3), Thailand (1), Turkey (0), Ukraine (3), United Kingdom (12), United States of America (42), Venezuela (1), Zimbabwe (1)

## **B. Report 2011-2012 by the Treasurer Catherine Giltrap**

This year a large part of the fees for the annual conference will transit in the UMAC bank account. This amount of money will be totally spent for the conference.

For sake of simplicity we report here the balance of the account, without the money coming from the conference fees.

Balance of account on 01/07/2014 was : 17 921 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 2013-14**

An important effort has been made to check the data and the information. The data in Germany have been updated. Similar work has been done for Italy and the data will be implemented soon.

The UMAC database presently has 3,056 (3134 in 2013, 3.069 in 2012, 2,584 in 2011) records encompassing museums and collections from 67 (+4) countries or territories: Africa 12, America 646, Asia 319, Australasia 331, Europe 1748 (see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/collections/>).

### **2. Advocacy Working Group by H. Dreysse**

#### **Function/Aim**

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

#### **Aims 2014-15**

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 Dreysse, France (hugues.dreysse@unistra.fr)

#### **Report 2013-14**

The main activities 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 important action was the adoption of the a resolution on the university museums**

<http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/pdf/UMAC%20Resolution%20on%20protection%20of%20University%20collections%20final%20version.pdf>

We are pleased to see that networks at a national or regional level are developing. For instance Flavio Häner from Basel has initiated a university museums in Switzerland and two general meetings have been held.

- 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.
- UMAC has supported the 5th meeting of the university museums of the Mercosur in Santa Fe (Argentine) 23-24/10/2014.
- New relations have been created between UMAC and various networks: UMIS (Scotland), AAMG (in USA), AAMG (USA), UNIVERSEUM (Europe) ....

### **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](mailto: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 2013-2014**

- Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 6, 2014, with 10 entries see: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/browsing/umacj/>
- Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 7, 2014-2015 [in process]

#### **Aims 2014-2015**

To produce:

- (Rio's Proceedings), including main papers from the International Colloquium *Positioning Academic Heritage. Challenges for Universities, museums and society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century* held in Ghent (Belgium) from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of November

To prepare:

- the eight issue (Alexandria' Proceedings).
- the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 much 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*. Please contact Nathalie Nyst at the conference in Alexandria or by e-mail.

#### **The future of UMAC Journal**

In Alexandria should be taken decisions on the future of UMAC Journal (where will it be hosted? Who will manage the practical aspects of the online edition?).

#### **4. Strategic Planning Working**

##### **Function/Aim**

*To develop a strategic plan for UMAC*

Due to the retirement of the chairman, Peter Tirrell, the effort has been stopped. However in Rio was emphasized the need to get a strategic plan. Ing-Marie Munktella agreed to present in Alexandria a first draft of the strategic plan

#### **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](mailto:andrew.simpson@mq.edu.au))

##### **Report on Activities**

There was no meeting of the Research Development Working Group in 2013 during the Rio conference.

The last full 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 and reported on in 2013, one was abandoned through lack of support from the UMAC Board. The remaining live project for the group is continuing but has only produced a small number of responses to date. The project is outlined below

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.

Project (1), a template (see below)<sup>1</sup> 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 five responses. Nothing will be added to the website unless this project produces significantly more material to share with the membership.

The second (abandoned 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 (see comments on the journal below).

It was 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 indentifying 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. This is currently being done by some researchers.

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

### **Priorities for 2014-2015**

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
3. **New Project proposal.** Publication of an article in Museums Australia Magazine<sup>2</sup> resulted in an approach from the publishing house, Ashgate. They are interested in the development of a book on the creative uses of university collections. The Board is requested to consider whether UMAC would like to officially partner in this undertaking. The book would consist of case studies in the areas of teaching pedagogy, research and engagement with appropriate editorial content. The Board could consider supporting travel to attend meetings by the editors<sup>3</sup> of the proposed book.

### **Notes:-**

1. Template distributed to members of the Research Development Working Group, submissions requested.

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| <b>Project Title:</b>      |
| <b>Location:</b>           |
| <b>Research Questions:</b> |

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
|                             |
| <b>Supporting agencies:</b> |
| <b>Timeframe:</b>           |
| <b>Publications:</b>        |
| <b>Links:</b>               |
| <b>Contact:</b>             |

2. Simpson, A. 2014. Rethinking University Museums: Material Collections and the changing world of Higher Education. *Museums Australia Magazine* 22(3): 18-22.
3. The editors of the book will not be finalised until the proposal is accepted by Ashgate, this is currently open to discussion.