

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**  
**FOR UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS (UMAC)**

**REPORT 2008 – 09**

**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 (aldona@jonaitis.net)

**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 2008-09 by the Chair**

**1. Mailing list**

Extension of the "umac.newsletter" mailing list. As at 26.06.09: 854 subscribers (07/08: 803).

**2. Website**

Number of hits: 94,849 over the last 12 months (page impressions, cleaned of search engine & spam robots) (07/08: 73,178)

Currently, UMAC is developing a dynamic and flexible Content Management System for the current website located at <http://umac.icom.museum>

**3. Newsletter**

Publication of a newsletter in March 2009, edited by Lyndel King

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

#### 4. UMAC Journal

Launching of *University Museums and Collections Journal* (electronic publication)

see: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>

#### 5. Conferences

##### - 2009 Conference

*Putting university collections to work in research and teaching*

Berkeley, USA, 10-13 September 2009

<http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/meetings/umac/index.shtml>

Local Organizing Committee: Rosemary A. Joyce, UC Berkeley; Mark Meadow UC Santa Barbara; Bruce Robertson, UC Santa Barbara

Academic Committee: Mark Meadow (USA), Bruce Robertson (USA), Cornelia Weber (Germany)

Summary: The conference was a great success and attended by more than 100 delegates from 75 universities and 25 countries. Selected papers will be published in *UMACJ* 3 (2010).

##### - Future Conferences

2010: Shanghai, China, within the ICOM General Conference, 7-13 November 2010, organized in co-operation with [the International Committee for Egyptology \(CIPEG\)](#). UMAC subtheme: University Museums and Collections as Recorders of Cultural and Natural Communities Worldwide

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

2011: Lisbon, Portugal

2012: Singapore

2013 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (scheduled), during the ICOM General Conference, 1-8 June 2013

2014: Manila, Philippines (applied)

#### 6. ICOM Advisory Committee

Participation by the Chair at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the ICOM Advisory Committee and at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICOM General Assembly in Paris, June 2009

#### 7. Publicity

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

*Zur Bedeutung von universitären Sammlungen bei der Herausbildung von wissenschaftlichen Disziplinen. Conference Kategorien des Wissens - die Sammlung als epistemisches Objekt.* Organizer: Institut für Denkmalpflege und Bauforschung der ETH Zürich, Collegium Helveticum Zürich, Innovationszentrum Wissensforschung der TU Berlin. ETH Zürich, Switzerland, May 28-29, 2009.

<http://www.idb.arch.ethz.ch/199-0-sammlung-0509.html>

*"Ein Adonis aus Gips und ein Zwitter um Glas". Universitätssammlungen in Geschichte und Gegenwart.* Lecture Series *Universitäre Sammlungen*. University of Giessen, Germany, 20 January 2009.

- Public Lecture: *University museums in Europe*, held by Hugues Dreysse and Nathalie Nyst. Macquarie University Art Gallery, North Ryde, Sydney, March 4, 2009. Both academics are on the governing board of UMAC as well as prime movers in a consortium of European university museums called *Universeum*.

- Public visit: Hugues Dreysse and Nathalie Nyst visited the Museum of Arts and Sciences and The Centre for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET) in the University of Santo Tomas (Manila) (member of UMAC) on 13 July 2009. They were welcomed by the UST Secretary General Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P.

#### Report 2008-09 by the Treasurer Panu Nykänen

Balance of account on July 31, 2009: 9975,70 EUR (Financial obligation: 3000 EUR).

## Membership

### **186 voting members from 42 countries (2007/08: 170/38)**

Argentina (1), Armenia (1), Australia (8), Austria (4), Belarus (1), Belgium (4), Brazil (5), Bulgaria (1), Canada (2), Colombia (2), Congo (1), Czech Republic (1), Denmark (4), Ecuador (1), Estonia (4), Finland (7), France (23), Germany (12), Greece (2), India (1), Ireland (1), Israel (2), Italy (6), Korea (1), Latvia (1), Madagascar (1), Mexico (4), Netherlands (6), New Zealand (1), Norway (4), Peru (1), Philippines (4), Poland (3), Portugal (4), Russia (3), Singapore (1), South Africa (1), Spain (5), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), United Kingdom (14), United States of America (35)

## Working Groups

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

### **Directories Working Group**

#### **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.

#### **Aims 2008-09**

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

#### **Chair**

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

#### **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; Françoise Le Guet Tully, France

#### **Report 2008-09 by Cornelia Weber**

The UMAC database presently has 2,574 (07/08: 2,266) records encompassing museums and collections from 61 countries or territories: Africa 11, America 477, Asia 274, Australasia 326, Europe 1486 (see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/collections/>)

#### **Aims 2009-10**

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

### **Advocacy Working Group**

#### **Function/Aim**

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

#### **Aims 2008-09**

To revive the activities of the Working Group.

#### **Chair**

Hugues Dreyssé, France ([hugues.dreysse@unistra.fr](mailto:hugues.dreysse@unistra.fr))

#### **Report 2008-09**

During the Manchester meeting, various difficulties restricting the visibility of university museums and collections in academic and political spheres were addressed. Many troubles are shared. The most common is presumably a lack of political presence or support within the university's institutions which is continued outside. This year, we have attempted to reach out further and also investigate the possibilities of acting on a larger, national or supra-national scale. Through visits or exchanges, two key points have emerged:

1. It is good news that UMAC was able to welcome a number of new members this year. But a detailed study of certain countries seems to indicate that many of the voting

members are not particularly active. Moreover, we have to register the absence of eminent colleagues, and occasionally even colleagues from eminent universities which are known to own valuable collections. Finally, the number of truly engaged colleagues seems to be limited.

2. Universities today face very important changes. In Europe, for instance, the general trend is set towards greater institutional “autonomy”, but remains marked by huge inner-European differences. Universities could soon own their heritage, and recent developments have shown how appealing the sale of art pieces or collections can be to solve financial problems. Therefore, formal or informal European networks ought to be organized. In the Americas, the situation is much more advanced.

The annual conference will provide a unique opportunity to examine these two aspects in greater detail. In particular, we propose to nominate one member per country to act as a promoter for UMAC with two main goals: to increase the number of engaged members and follow or initiate national or supra-national activities of museums and academic collections in order to increase their recognition.

From a more practical point of view, a general framework has been elaborated to allow each collection or museum to perform a self-analysis of its communication activities. It will be presented and discussed during the annual meeting.

#### **Aims 2009-10**

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 a national or international union of universities.

### **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 2008-09**

Design, establishment, and launch of the electronic publication *University Museums and Collections Journal* (Proceedings of the annual conferences). The journal will provide global, inclusive access to and distribution of UMAC's conference results. It is of great significance that an electronic publication (with UMAC as editor) provides us with the chance 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 discussions. It will reduce expenses significantly.

#### **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, Sue-Anne Wallace, Australia, Robin Walsh, Australia, Cornelia Weber, Germany

Report 2007-08 by Sally MacDonald and Nathalie Nyst

#### **- Vienna Conference Proceedings**

A selection of papers has been published in the first issue of the electronic *University Museums and Collections Journal (UMAC)* at: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>

UMACJ is a peer-reviewed, online journal for the proceedings of UMAC. Articles are fully accessible free of charge.

#### **- Manchester Conference Proceedings**

About 23 papers will be published in the second issue of *University Museums and Collections Journal*.

5.000 bookmarks have been printed and distributed during conferences etc. to promote *UMACJ*.

#### **Aims 2009-10**

- To publish the second issue of UMAC Journal (Manchester's Proceedings).
- To prepare the third issue (Berkeley's Proceedings).
- To develop a strong method for the peer-reviews.

### **Strategic Planning Working Group**

#### **Function/Aim**

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

#### **Aims 2008-09**

- To revise and simplify the 2008 "Manchester" version of the plan.
- To revise and simplify the 2008 Operations Plan.
- To provide advice to the Chair of UMAC regarding projects and expenditures.
- To assist the Chair of UMAC in preparing requests for grants.
- To update information and resources on the UMAC Website regarding matters of Strategic Planning

#### **Chair**

Peter Tirrell, USA (pbtirrell@ou.edu)

#### **Members**

Kate Arnold-Foster, UK; Hugues Dreyse, France; Alan Knox, Scotland; Nicky Ladkin, USA; Marta Lourenço, Portugal; Ing-Marie Munktel, Sweden; Peter Stanbury, Australia; Cornelia Weber, Germany

#### **Report 2008-09 by Peter Tirrell**

At our 2008 Conference in Manchester, England, we held a meeting of several Members of the WG. We prepared a new version of the Strategic Plan for presentation to the Members of the UMAC Board and a follow-up discussion with Conference participants. The aim and progress of the Strategic Plan were discussed. Since our 2008 Conference, Members of the WG have worked on the Objectives for 2009-2010.

Members of the WG were successful in revising, streamlining and simplifying the Strategic Plan. A new version is available on the UMAC website. We did not succeed in revising the Operations Plan. The WG Chair provided advice to the Chair of UMAC regarding projects, expenditures and grants. Information about strategic planning was updated on the UMAC Website (see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/strategicplan/>).

#### **Planning Process**

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

#### **Comments from the Chair: Peter Tirrell**

In 2008-2009, we made a great deal of progress towards our goals through our strategies and actions. 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. Please contact WG Members or me at any time if you have any questions or comments.

#### **Aims and Activities 2009-10**

Succession planning is most important during an election year. Financial planning must be part of our overall Strategic Plan. We will continue to ask questions such as "Are the goals still valid?", "What goals and strategies are most important?". We will be assessing our resources and programs.

## 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 an active, two-way exchange between university museum and collections, research community and UMAC members, offering reciprocal advice and insight.

### Co-ordinator

In December 2008, the former coordinator Zenobia R. Kozak stepped down and passed the responsibility over to the board because she has secured employment outside of the university museum world and cannot dedicate the time necessary to keep the group moving forward.

### Members

Samuel 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

### Report 2008-09

The group did not report any recent activities. The Board will discuss its further existence at the next meeting in Berkeley.

At the General Annual Meeting, the Research Development Group was transformed into a regular Working Group. Andrew Simpson from Australia (asimpson@els.mq.edu.au) has been elected Chair.

### Aim 2009-10

To revive the activities of the Research Development Group.

## B. PUBLICATIONS

- *Nueva rutas para los Museos Universitarios. 6º Congreso Internacional de Museos Universitarios. / New Roads for University Museums. 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress for University Museums.* México 2008. (ISBN 978-970-32-5118-6)

- *University Museums and Collections Journal* 1/2008 at: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj> (ISSN 2071-7229)

## 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

- Finalize the Strategic Plan
- Prioritize the Goals
- Begin 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.