

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS (UMAC)

REPORT 2009 – 10

A. COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

Chair

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

Vice-Chairs

Ing-Marie Munktell, University of Uppsala, Sweden (ing-marie.munktell@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 Dreyssé, University Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg I), France
(hugues.dreyse@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)

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

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 2009-10 by the Chair

1. Mailing list

Extension of the "umac.newsletter" mailing list. As at 27.08.10: 900 subscribers (08/09: 854).

2. UMAC-ML

Start of a new moderated list UMAC-ML (umac-ml@unistra.fr), 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.

3. Website

Number of hits: 28,716 over the last 12 months (page impressions, cleaned of search engine & spam robots)

4. Newsletter

Publication of a newsletter in February 2009, edited by Lyndel King
see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/newsletters.html>

5. Proceedings

Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal 2*, 2009
see: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>

Digitalization and re-publication of past issues (ongoing process) at:

[http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/browsing/umacj/index.php?\[4\]=Past+Issues&_id=776ddb189750a603a3b5b5363d77060](http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/browsing/umacj/index.php?[4]=Past+Issues&_id=776ddb189750a603a3b5b5363d77060)

6. Conferences

- 2010 Conference

Museums for Social Harmony / University Museums and Collections as Recorders of Cultural and Natural Communities Worldwide

Shanghai, China, within the ICOM General Conference, 7-12 November 2010, in co-operation with the International Committee for Egyptology (CIPEG)

<http://www.icom2010.org.cn/> / <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/2010/>

Local organizing partner: Chinese University Museums Committee (CUMC), Song Xiangguang, Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology at Peking University
Academic Committee: Ing-Marie Munktel, Chair (Sweden), Nick Merriman (UK), Peter Tirrell (USA), Cornelia Weber (Germany)

The conference was attended by about 70 delegates from 24 countries. Selected papers will be published in *UMACJ 4* (2011).

- Future Conferences

2011: Lisbon, Portugal

2012: Singapore

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

2014: Manila, Philippines (applied)

7. Publicity

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

Zur gegenwärtigen Situation der Universitätsmuseen und -sammlungen. Symposium *Universitätsmuseen und -sammlungen im Hochschulalltag. Aufgaben - Konzepte - Perspektiven*. [University Museums and Collections in Academic Practice. Tasks - Concepts - Perspectives.] Symposium of the Helmholtz Centre for Cultural Techniques, Humboldt University of Berlin, in cooperation with the Berlin Medical Historical Museum, Charité. Scientific Chair: Dr. Cornelia Weber, Humboldt University, Dr.-Ing. Klaus Mauersberger, Technical University Dresden. Funded by VolkswagenStiftung. Berlin, Humboldt University, 18.-20.02.2010. <http://universitaetsmuseen.hu-berlin.de/>

- *Archäologische Universitätssammlungen in Deutschland*. [Archaeological university museums and collections in Germany. Conference *Archäologische Universitätsmuseen und Sammlungen im Spannungsfeld von Forschung, Lehre und Öffentlichkeit*. University of Innsbruck, Austria, 18-20 March 2010. http://www.uibk.ac.at/archaeologie-museum/Programm_Innsbruck.pdf

- *Universitätssammlungen im Fokus der Forschung/University Collections in the Focus of Research*. Workshop *Das "Akademische Museum": Universitäre Sammlungen als Räume der Produktion, Repräsentation und Vermittlung von Wissen/The "Academic Museum": University Collections as Spaces of the Production, Representation and*

Dissemination of Knowledge. University of Göttingen, Germany, 22-24 April 2010. <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/104832.htmlde/136339.html>

- *Die Wiener Universitätssammlungen im internationalen Vergleich*. [The university collections of Vienna in international comparison.] University of Vienna, Austria, 10 June 2010. [http://http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/sammlungen/sammlungstreffen.html](http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/sammlungen/sammlungstreffen.html)

8. Presentation by Board Members

December 2009, H. Dreysse & N. Nyst, meeting in Lisbon with Marta Lourenço (Museu de Ciência, Universidade de Lisboa) to talk about the relations between UMAC and Universeum.

26 August 2010, H. Dreysse & N. Nyst, meeting in Mexico City with Luisa Fernanda Rico Mansard (University Collections and Museums in Mexico) & Elia Macedo de la Concha (Palacio de Minería, Facultad de Ingeniería, UNAM) to talk about the regional University Museums Networks.

Report 2009-10 by the Treasurer Panu Nykänen

Balance of account on August 31, 2010: 11.127,90 EUR.

Membership

195 voting members from 40 countries (2008/09: 186/42)

Argentina (3), Armenia (1), Australia (7), Austria (6), Belarus (1), Belgium (4), Brazil (3), Bulgaria (1) Canada (3), Colombia (3), Congo (1), Czech Republic (1), Denmark (4), Estonia (4), Finland (8), France (21), Germany (12), Greece (2), Ireland (1), Israel (1), Italy (6), Latvia (1), Madagascar (2), Mexico (5), Netherlands (8), New Zealand (1) Norway (5), Peru (2), Philippines (3), Poland (4), Portugal (4), Russia (3), Serbia (1), Singapore (1), South Africa (1), Spain (6), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), United Kingdom (16), United States of America (36)

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 2009-10

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)

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 2009-10 by Cornelia Weber

The UMAC database presently has 2,580 records encompassing museums and collections from 63 countries or territories: Africa 11, America 482, Asia 274, Australasia 326, Europe 1509 (see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/collections/>)

Aims 2010-11

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 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.

Chair

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

Report 2009-10 and Aims 2010-11

In the continuation of the discussions during our annual conference in Berkeley, we have tried to better understand **the commitment** (or not) **in UMAC**. It should be reminded that before being member of UMAC, we are member of ICOM. Informal discussions seem to indicate that besides a kernel of members strongly involved in the politics related to collections and museums, many colleagues are reluctant to become member of ICOM since they don't see the "advantages". In fact it has often been heard that the free entrance in museums is a good argument. But it is valid only in a limited number of countries and institutions.

Therefore, we propose for the next year to realize a – light – survey among the members of UMAC on the motivations to join UMAC (and ICOM) and how to be involved inside UMAC. Then, concrete propositions could be made to develop the impact of UMAC.

Another important aspect was pointed out last year in Berkeley: **the development of regional activities** in order to take root. Various initiatives have been undertaken this year. For instance:

- UMAC-Mexico is very active and the fourth national annual meeting will be held next month with a growing number of participants. Also impressive are the documents edited by UMAC-Mexico which, it must be noticed, has almost no financial support and is working on a fully voluntary basis. Another remarkable point is the interaction of UMAC-Mexico with structures in Guatemala and Costa Rica in order to develop their activities and build a regional network.
- Last year in Berkeley, Graciela Weisinger from Buenos Aires mentioned the project of a regional meeting in South America. It will soon become reality: Santa Fe (Argentina) will host the *Meeting of the university museums of the MercoSur* in early October 2010. This meeting is organized by ICOM-Argentina and the university of Santa Fe. The number of participants is impressive: 15 universities from Argentina, but also representatives from universities in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- After its annual conference in Uppsala on June 2010, Universeum has established its statutes as a European network of academic heritage institutions. This will give Universeum a new dimension in Europe, and surely this network will play a great role in operational projects.
- In France, the OCIM (a recent member of UMAC), in connection with four universities (Toulouse 3, Montpellier 1, Dijon and Strasbourg), leads the project of a database of collections and museums and, more generally, of cultural activities in the French universities (<http://www.ocim.fr/-Observatoire>). The same universities are planning a conference before summer 2011 on *University collections and museums and the changes in the French universities* towards the purpose of creating of a network.
- Last but not the least the activities led by Andrew Simpson in Australia involving eight main universities should be also emphasized.

In this context, a meeting of the WG is scheduled in Shanghai, in order to allow exchanges of good practices and to see how to organize a better dissemination of the

information. More generally will be investigated how to increase the nomination of 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.

It should also be mentioned that after the annual meeting of Berkeley, UMAC has started a moderated list (<http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/>). End of July 2010, 238 persons have joined the list, which is larger than the number of members of UMAC. Clearly, this tool has large possibilities of development. It is also a way to show the interest in UMAC and the reasons for becoming or not becoming a member of UMAC.

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

Aims 2009-10

- Publication of the second issue of *University Museums and Collections Journal (UMACJ)* including the proceedings of the conference held in Manchester in 2008.
- Preparation of the third issue of UMACJ, to include Berkeley Conference Proceedings and papers from the *Object Based Learning* conference held at UCL in April 2009.
- Development of a robust methodology for peer review.

Co-Chairs

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

Members

Kate-Arnold-Forster, UK, Aldona Jonaitis, USA, Lyndel King, USA, Carol Mayer, Canada, Ing-Marie Munktel, Sweden, Panu Nyänen, Finland, Andrew Simpson, Australia, Peter Stanbury, Australia, Peter Tirrell, USA, Cornelia Weber, Germany

Report 2009-10 by Sally MacDonald and Nathalie Nyst

- New guidelines and a template for peer reviewers were created and introduced.

- Manchester Conference Proceedings

UMACJ is a peer-reviewed online journal for the proceedings of UMAC. Articles are fully accessible and free of charge. A selection of papers has been published in the second issue of the electronic *University Museums and Collections Journal (UMAC)* at: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>

- Berkeley Conference Proceedings

About 26 papers will be published in the third issue of *University Museums and Collections Journal*, together with 7 from the Conference *Object based learning* held in April 2009 at University College London (UCL).

Aims 2010-11

- To publish the third issue of UMAC Journal (Berkeley's Proceedings).
- To prepare the fourth issue (Shanghai's Proceedings).

Strategic Planning Working Group

Function/Aim

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

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.

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 2009-10 by Peter Tirrell

The SPWG recommends that the Strategic Plan should undergo a full review by the incoming elected officers and board members following the 2010 elections. As part of this process, the officers, board members and conference attendees will participate in a strategic planning workshop that will take place at the 2010 ICOM/UMAC conference in Shanghai, China. The workshop will focus on an orientation to strategic planning and an opportunity for participants to provide input to UMAC's Strategic Plan. The SPWG also recommends that UMAC undertakes a survey of its members to find out more about their needs and interests. A previous survey in 2006 was instrumental in providing direction for planning. In addition, the SPWG recommends a new Performance Tracking Report (PTR) format for UMAC's the Operational Plan. The SPWG Chair (Tirrell) and the UMAC Chair (Weber) communicated through numerous SKYPE conferences.

At the 2009 Conference in Berkeley, California, the board reviewed the plan. It was noted that renewing membership was a difficult and disorganized process. This is a problem regarding Goal 4: Create a sound and sustainable organization. It was agreed that the international organization might not be the best vehicle for advocacy within individual countries, something best done by the national groups. A major value of UMAC is how it offers international collegiality. UMAC is more of a vehicle for a network of those with common interests. In regard to Goal 3 - Share best practices and resources - the website is doing that. The board plans to expand its "Help" section, by having links to accreditation standards in the UK and US. The board was urged to send Weber appropriate links for information. Goal 2 - Disseminate information of UMAC: when she is no longer chair, Weber will work with Arnold-Foster on a database on university museums. Goal 1 - Advocacy. The board indicated that there was a need for more members to the advocacy group. It was agreed that specific people who might be interested should be approached to join. The conference itself is the best way to share information.

The following strategic activities were accomplished: 2010 elections; 2010 budget; increase in Database; Newsletter; 2010 Conference planning; 2009 Conference papers; and establishment of UMAC list-serve.

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.

Aim 2009-10

To revive the activities of the Research Development Group.

Chair

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

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 2009-10

The group did not report any recent activities.

B. PUBLICATIONS

- *University Museums and Collections Journal* 2/2009 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 2010-2013: will be determined by the new Board

- 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.