



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

FOR UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS (UMAC)

REPORT 2011-2012

Period: From the annual meeting in Lisbon (09/11) to the annual meeting in Singapore (10/12)

Composition of the board

After the election in Shanghai on November 10, 2011, the Board is:

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)

Two members, who are retired, have quitted the board:

- Aldona Jonaitis, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA (aldona@jonaitis.net)
- Peter Tirrell, University of Oklahoma, USA (pbtirrell@ou.edu)

Gabriela Weisinger, Buenos Aires (gweisinger@gmail.com), has been co-opted as associate secretary of the board on June 2012. During the 2012 meeting, her duties will be precised.

A. General report 2011-2012 by the Chair with the help of the board

1. Mailing list

Extension of the “umac.newsletter” mailing list to **919** subscribers (23-08/12). An important work has been done to “clean” our mailing list since many addresses were no more valid and we have been pleased to welcome this year a large number of new members.

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 increased of 25% in one year to **293** subscribers (as 20/08/12).

3. Website

Number of visits: 21.010 over the last 12 months.

4. Newsletter

Publication of 2 Newsletters on December 2011, and on August 2012, edited by Lyndel King.

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

5. Proceedings

Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 4 2011, with 12 entries. (2010 Shanghai conference Proceedings) See: <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj>

Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 5, 2012, with 22 entries [in print] (2011 Lisbon Conference Proceedings)

6. Conferences

- General UMAC Conference:

Museum of Science, University of Lisbon, Portugal, 21-25/09/2011
(<http://www.mc.ul.pt/umac2011/home>)

Chair: Marta C. Lourenço (Lisbon)

The conference was attended by about 90 delegates from 25 countries. Selected papers are in print (*UMACJ* 5, 2012)

- Future general UMAC Conferences:

- 09-13/10/2012: Singapore, National University of Singapore (NUS);
“Encoutering limits: The university musems”

- 01-08/06/2013: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, during the ICOM General Conference
- 2014: Egypt, Alexandria, with maybe two other ICOM international committees, ICOM-CECA and ICOM-CIPEG (on discussion)

- Regional conference:

* UMAC Ukraine

On October 6 and 7, 2011 has been held a meeting on “University museums: European experience and Ukrainian practice”, in Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev. One of the aims was to develop a network of universities with museums and collections in Ukraine. More than 30 universities were present.

- Conferences with support of UMAC

* Three Workshops have been organized by E. Corradini (U. Modena) and L. Campanella (U. La Sapienza, Rome):

- 28/10/2011 in Rome on the “Contributions of the university museums to the cultural development”

- 07/06/2012 in Modena and 08-09/06/2012 in Roma on “Scientific museums for the valorization of the landscape”.

* E. Corradini (U. Modena) has organized a seminar on the “Cataloging in the Italian university museums” on 23/02/2012.

7. Publicity and Presentation by Board Members

7.1. Activities of H. Dreyssé & N. Nyst

- Invitation for H. Dreyssé and N. Nyst in Rome for a workshop in Rome on the “Contributions of the university museums to the cultural development” on 28/10/2011; communications: H. Dreyssé: “*UMAC: an International committee for the universities museums and collections*” – N. Nyst: “*Short review of UMAC Publications* ».
- Presentation of UMAC at Kiev on 06-07/11/2011 by H. Dreyssé during the meeting on “University museums: European experience and Ukrainian practice”.
- H. Dreyssé has been invited to the 2011 University Museum Conference on the theme: “New Visions of Campus Museums” at the National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, on 11-12/11/2011.
- Contribution by video from H. Dreyssé to the second meeting of university museums of the Mercosur in Santa Fe on 23/11/2011.
- Contribution of N. Nyst to the “Studiedag Academisch Erfgoed VUB-ULB”, Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, on 16/12/2011; communication: “*UMAC. An international Committee for University Museums and Collections*”.
- Contribution of H. Dreyssé to the two Study Days “Pour un réseau national des musées et collections universitaires” organized by the Jardin des Sciences with the OCIM-Université de Bourgogne in Strasbourg on 02-03/02/2012; communication (with M. Lourenço & S. Talas): “*Les associations et réseaux internationaux de musées et collections universitaires*”.
- Contribution of N. Nyst to the International congress “Médiation muséale et patrimoniale. Enjeux et perspectives”, in Namur (Belgium) on 09-10/02/2012; communication: “*Musées et collections universitaires. Interfaces entre chercheurs et grand public*”.

- Invitation for H. Dreyssé and N. Nyst in Rome for a workshop organized by ICOM-CECA and its President, E. Nardi, on “Scientific museums and new technologies” on 17/05/2012.
- Presentation of UMAC activities by H. Dreyssé to ICOM France during the annual meeting on 11/05/2012.
- Contributions of H. Dreyssé and N. Nyst to the workshop on “Scientific museums for the valorization of the landscape” in Modena and Roma on 07-09/06/2012; communications: H. Dreyssé: “*University museums and valorization of the urban landscape*”; N. Nyst: “*University museums as keepers of the history of (their) landscape and surroundings*”.
- Contribution of N. Nyst to the 9th “Congrès de l’Association des Cercles francophones d’Histoire et d’Archéologie” in Liège (Belgium) on 23-25/08/2012; communication: “Musées et collections universitaires. Spécificités et problématiques”.

7.2. Activities of Cornelia Weber

- Presentations
 - *Anatomisches Kabinett, Bohrkernarchiv, Cold Archive: Universitätssammlungen in Geschichte, Gegenwart und Zukunft.* Lecture series on the occasion of the exhibition *Dinge des Wissens*. Göttingen, Germany, Georg-August-Universität, Juni 27, 2012.
 - *Von der Anatomie zur Zoologie: universitäre Sammlungen in Geschichte und Gegenwart.* Lecture series *Sammeln, Lehren, Forschen: Universitätssammlungen im Fokus*. Bochum, Germany, Ruhr-Universität, Institute for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, May 24, 2012.
 - *Auf dem Weg zur Universität der Dinge. Akademische Sammlungen im modernen Wissenschaftsbetrieb.* Lecture series *Wissen: Ideal - Kultur - Institution zur Wissens-, Wissenschafts- und Universitätsgeschichte*. Rostock, Germany, Kulturhistorisches Museum, April 3, 2012.
 - *Auf dem Weg zur Universität der Dinge. Akademische Sammlungen im modernen Wissenschaftsbetrieb.* Meeting *Universitätssammlungen: Kuriositätenkabinette oder Forschungsinfrastruktur?* Mainz, Germany, Johannes Gutenberg-University, November 17, 2011.
- Publications
 - *Universitätssammlungen.* In: Europäische Geschichte Online (EGO). Ed. by Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte (IEG), Mainz 2012-07-16. <http://www.ieg-ego.eu/weberc-2012-de>.
 - *Universität der Dinge? Akademische Sammlungen im modernen Wissenschaftsbetrieb.* In: *Forschung & Lehre* 04, April 2012, pp. 272-274. <http://www.forschung-und-lehre.de/wordpress/?p=10492#more-10492>
 - *Geowissenschaftliche Universitätssammlungen in Deutschland und ihre Bedeutung für die internationale Scientific Community.* In: *Beschreibung, Vermessung und Visualisierung der Welt. Beiträge der Tagung vom 6. bis 8. Mai 2011 an der Akademie gemeinnütziger Wissenschaften zu Erfurt.* Ed. by Ingrid Kästner and Jürgen Kiefer. Aachen 2012 (Europäische Wissenschaftsbeziehungen 4). pp. 393-407. *Addendum: Universitätssammlungen in Deutschland mit geowissenschaftlichem Objektbestand*, pp. 408-424.

8. Membership

210 voting members (individual and institutional) from 46 countries on August 9, 2012 (2010/2011: 208/41 -2009/2010: 195/40 - 2008/2009: 186/42)

Argentina (4), Armenia (1), Australia (8), Austria (6), Belarus (1), Belgium (7), Brazil (9), Bulgaria (1), Canada (1), Chile (1), Colombia (3), Czech Republic (1), Denmark (4), Estonia (4), Finland (10), France (25), Germany (12), Greece (2), India (1), Ireland (1), Israel (3), Italy (6), Jamaica (1), Japan (2), Latvia (1), Madagascar (1), Morocco (1), Mexico (7), Netherlands (8), New Zealand (1), Norway (3), Peru (2), Philippines (4), Poland (4), Portugal (4), Russia (1), Singapore (1) South Africa (1), Spain (4), Sweden (2), Switzerland (2), Thailand (1), United Kingdom (7), United States of America (38), Ukraine (2), Zimbabwe (1).

B. Report 2011-2012 by the Treasurer Panu Nykänen

Balance of account on 31/08/2011: 12.222,85 Euros

C. Report of the Working Groups activities by their chair/men-women

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.

Aims 2010-2011

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)

Report 2010-2011

Thanks to Mirjam Bröhl (Germany) and Tiago Pereira (Portugal) we were able to increase the number of records significantly. The UMAC database presently has 3,106 records encompassing museums and collections from 66 countries or territories: Africa 12, America 643, Asia 318, Australasia 333, Europe 1800 (see: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/collections/>)

Aims 2012-2013

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

2. Advocacy Working Group by H. Dreyssé

Function/Aim

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

Aims 2011-2012

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 2010-2011 and Aims 2011-2012

The members of this working group have particularly active by organizing national or regional meetings.

Many activities worth to be mentioned:

- Early January 2012 UMAC-Mexico has created a website <http://museosuniversitariasmexico.blogspot.fr/> with, namely, a presentation of more than 70 university museums or collections as university botanical gardens in Mexico.
- A young group from Ukraine has organized the first meeting of UMAC-Ukraine on «University museums: European experience and Ukrainian practice» in Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev (6-7/10/2011). The proceedings are under press and a “round table” with Ukrainian university museums is scheduled for fall 2012.
- The University of Santa Fe (Argentina) with the support of ICOM-Argentina has organized the second meeting of university museums of the Mercosur in Santa Fe on 23/11/2011 with the participation of 54 university museums and collections coming from 9 countries: Argentina (33), Brazil (12), Chile (2), Colombia (2), Costa Rica (1), Guatemala (1), Mexico (1), Uruguay (1), Venezuela (1).
- The group in Italy with Elena Corradini (Modena) and Luigi Campanella (Roma) is very active. They organized three workshops and one seminar this year (cf. supra). A website has been developed (http://www.icom-italia.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=782&Itemid=1%) and a web portal of the Italian university museums (www.pomui.unimore.it).

The Italian group presented at the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research a proposal of a schedule agreement among twelve Italian Universities: University of Modena, University of Parma, University of Ferrara, University of Florence, University of Siena, University of Perugia, University of Rome "La Sapienza", University of Tuscia, University of Chieti, University of Bari, University of Lecce, University of Cagliari, coordinated by Elena Corradini for the project "The computer technologies and the new realities for the knowledge, networking and valorization of scientific cultural heritage: the role of the University Museum network" that will last 24 months.

- On February 2 and 3, representatives of more than 20 French universities

participated to a conference under the theme "Toward a French network of university museums", and they proposed a Manifesto on the future of the French university museums and collections.

- Regional Report from Australia by A. Simpson

A consultant was hired by the Council of Australian University Museums and Collections (CAUMAC) to undertake a review of the sector in 2011. The university museums and collections sector in Australia had not been reviewed nationally since the 1990s. The preliminary results of this review were presented to UMAC at the Lisbon meeting in late 2011. This work revealed a general decline in the number of scientific collections and a significant and relatively rapid growth in art collections. The current research has also thrown open many issues regarding the original definitions applied in the 1990s reports, by identifying other or new categories of collections – such as collections of digital objects; and collections and archives held by residential colleges, theological colleges and student organizations.

As a result of this work CAUMAC is seeking funding for a major third sector wide review to be undertaken over the next couple of years. The 1990s reviews were focused on identifying university museums and collections in Australia, identifying significant objects held in the sector and assessing conservation needs and requirements. The proposed new review will focus on integration of the utilization of museums and collections into university strategies, links to learning and teaching programs, ICT capacity and governance models.

It is intended that this research will enable growth in CAUMAC membership and improve the effectiveness of advocacy with peak bodies such as Universities Australia.

- Moreover a presentation of UMAC has been done during various meetings. H. Dreyssé has participated to the annual conference of AAMG (American Association of Museums and Galleries) in Minneapolis on 28/04/2012. It was an excellent opportunity to establish connections with this very active association. Many exchanges have been performed with members of the board of Universeum.

For the next year, these activities will continued and more contacts will be developed with other institutions like national or regional networks.

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)

Report 2011-2012

- Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 4, 2011, with 12 entries

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

- Publication of *University Museums and Collections Journal* 5, 2012, with 22 entries [in print]

- As decided in Lisbon in 2011, project to edit thematic issues has to be realized. A proposition for the edition of a volume on "University museums and the landscape" will be presented in Singapore.

Aims 2012-2013

- To prepare the 6th issue of UMAC Journal (Singapore's Proceedings).

- To prepare the 1st issue of the new thematic collection.

4. Strategic Planning Working Group

Function/Aim

To develop a strategic plan for UMAC

Due to the retirement of the chairman, Peter Tirell, no significant activities can be reported here. However the board will examine during the annual conference in Singapore how to continue this working group and look for a new chairman/women.

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)

Aim for 2011-2012

To revive the activities of the Research Development Group.

A meeting of the Working Group was held during the 2011 Lisbon Conference. It was attended by 32 participants. There were discussions at Board level about the possibility of winding up the Working Group because of a lack of interest but the high level of participation at the meeting prompted a resolution for the Group to continue with a newly defined agenda of specific projects.

It was agreed that the Working Group could be of most value to UMAC through the sharing of resources and experiences. Two projects were discussed at the meeting.

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 organizations, 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.

It is anticipated that a meeting of the Research Development Working Group at the 2012 Singapore meeting will be able to discuss some examples of current research and possibly identify some broad categories of research activity.

Membership of the Working Group and future priorities are currently being reassessed. It has been proposed that there be closer co-operation with the Publications Working Group to ensure that the more interesting examples of university museum research get published in UMAC's own journal.