

**International Council on Archives / Conseil International des Archives  
Section for Archives of Literature and Art / Section pour les Archives Littéraires et Artistiques**

**Business Meeting  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Mexico City, Mexico**

**In Attendance:** David Sutton (Chair), Deborah Jenkins, Catherine Hobbs, Heather Dean, Sebastian Gurciullo

**I. SLA Projects**

SLA currently has the following projects underway and/or completed:

**Worldwide Directory of Repositories holding Literary and Artistic Archives**

- SLA has collaborated internationally in order to create a multilingual directory of repositories with archives pertaining to literature and art. The coverage seeks to reflect the diversity of the contributing institutions and has a geographically wide coverage. The directory can be found online here: <https://www.ica.org/en/world-wide-directory-repositories-holding-archives-literature-art>.
- Finalize the directory within the next eighteen month cycle. **Action item:** HD will draft a proposal for funding from PCOM in order to employ a student to assist with reviewing and editing the directory. Possibly determine translation and inclusion of Korean content that currently could not be included because of technical issues around the script. Note that PCOM has rolling deadlines and generally response within six weeks.
- SLA has established conventions and best practices for creating directories and could provide guidance and help to other ICA sections interested in creating directories (such as the Section on Sports Archives). **Action item:** DS will discuss drafting best practices for general use with Jessica Squires.

**Directory of Literary Manuscripts Outside of their Home Country**

- The work of SLA to identify and list archives held in institutions outside of their creator's home country has been completed by the Diasporic Literary Archives Project. The directory can be found online here: <http://www.diasporicarchives.com/collections/>. A forthcoming book will discuss the work of the DLA Project. **Action item:** DS will email members of SLA encouraging them to contribute entries to the directory.

**Authors and their Papers**

- A draft document, *Authors and Their Papers: A Guidance Sheet for Authors and Writers*, which provides writers with an overview of the various considerations when considering the future of

their personal archives, is available online here: [http://glam-archives.org.uk/?page\\_id=27#afc](http://glam-archives.org.uk/?page_id=27#afc). The Diasporic Literary Archives Project, Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts, Society of Authors, and the National Archives drafted this document. SLA members have been involved in drafting and using the document, including within an international context, such as in Namibia and Canada. SLA may want to revisit the document to consider local initiatives (for example issues around copyright and access will vary from country to country).

### **Directory of Resources for Literary Copyright**

- SLA did preliminary work in this area and this work is now being managed by the ICA Expert Group on Legal Affairs.

### **Guidance for Researchers Using Literary Archives**

- The Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts (North America) completed a Literary Archives User Study in 2010 identifying trends in research with literary archives. The user study can be found online here: [https://glamna.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/glamna\\_user\\_study.pdf](https://glamna.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/glamna_user_study.pdf). This work will provide the basis for developing support for scholars in using literary archives. GLAM(NA) will continue this work.

## **II. SLA Partnerships**

### **Namibian Literary Archives**

- David Sutton and Veno Kauaria (SLA Steering Committee members) ran a workshop on literary archives in Namibia. Subsequently the National Archives of Namibia is now proactively collecting archives of writers and authors. Further information about this project will be published in the forthcoming book about the work of the Diasporic Literary Archives Project.
- To facilitate the workshop David Sutton established a toolkit to provide support in building literary archives. The toolkit includes: a model deposit agreement, a model business plan, a model classification, a model letter approaching authors and/or their literary heirs. **Action item:** SLA will use the Namibia toolkit as the basis for a general resource on collecting literary archives. SLA will solicit chairs of branches to share the toolkit and provide support.

### **Collecting Literary Archives in Other African Countries**

- Namibia has become a case study for other African countries interested in acquiring literary archives.
- While historically many countries internationally have focused on government archives, there is growing interest at African repositories in collecting personal archives.
- David Sutton gave a paper at ESARBICA (the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the ICA) in Malawi discussing the work of SLA in Namibia.
- Among the countries with a remit to collect personal papers, including literary archives, are Tanzania and Cameroon. There is potential for future collaboration with archivists in these countries.

### **Caribbean Literary Archives Project**

- A collaborator on the Diasporic Literary Archives Project, Dr. Alison Donnell, has obtained a grant from the Leverhulme Trust to conduct further work on Caribbean literary archives. The project will create a directory of literary archives including archives of women authors that are

presently distributed and difficult to locate. There is an opportunity for continued partnerships with SLA.

#### **Archives at Risk and Archival Safe Havens**

- SLA is involved in broader initiatives within ICA, and in collaboration with UNESCO, regarding archives at risk. In particular SLA is interested in the work of providing safe havens for the archives of dissident authors. swisspeace has drafted guiding principles for Archival Safe Havens.

#### **Dissident Authors Archives**

- The work of SLA regarding dissident authors archives is not under the aegis of the work around archives at risk and archival safe havens. Should this work not progress then SLA could again step in to pursue this topic in particular. **Action Item:** To support and compliment the Archives at Risk and Archival Safe Havens projects, SLA will identify and consider surveying examples of dissident authors archives such as that of Adonis whose archive is at IMEC. ITEM may similarly be able to provide examples of cases.

#### **Future Projects**

- Communication: SLA could consider working with branch chairs in order to develop collaborations within ICA and to communicate what support SLA can provide for initiatives around literary archives.
- Workshops and Toolkit: SLA could consider offering the workshop piloted in Namibia in other countries and can do so currently in both English and French. Once the toolkit is further developed this could be made available online and could foster initiatives with other branches and sections of ICA.
- Membership Survey: In order to gauge SLA and ICA member needs and to identify future projects the SLA Committee will conduct a membership survey. **Action Item:** HD and SG will take lead. Follow-up with Jessica Squires and/or ICA regarding practicalities. Timeline: Complete survey by the next conference (November 2018). The survey should identify two to three projects for the Steering Committee to work on in the future.

#### **Comma: Special SLA Edition**

- In collaboration with SLA, *Comma* will feature a special issue on literary archives in Spring/Summer 2018. The list of confirmed articles and paper titles is nearly complete with many regions and topics covered. **Action Item:** Invite Dr. Luciana Duranti and Dr. Jennifer Douglas to contribute articles.

#### **SLA Blog and SLA Official Pages on the ICA Website**

- SLA maintains a blog and website through ICA. SLA will work on developing more content for the blog. **Action Item:** Members of the SLA Steering Committee are asked to contribute.

#### **SLA General Membership and Steering Committee Membership**

- General Membership: The SLA Chair is not informed when new members join. **Action Item:** Contact ICA Office in order to get a list of current membership in advance of conducting the membership survey.

- SLA Steering Committee membership currently has one vacancy. **Action Item:** Approach Yolla Tortolero (National Archives of Mexico) to see if she is interested.
- SLA Steering Committee membership operates in eight year cycles. The next cycle begins in roughly 2019. The current SLA Committee will need to plan for the next leadership.

#### **SLA Session on Caribbean Literary Archives**

- SLA organized a session on literary archives at the ALA-ICA Annual Conference.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The SLA Steering Committee is required to meet regularly however it is difficult to meet in-person because of the membership is distributed geographically. **Action Item:** Change the section constitution in order to permit virtual meetings. Plan three or four meetings a year via Skype or similar virtual space.
- The SLA Steering Committee will also explore the possibility of meeting around other professional association meetings in various countries (such as SAA and ACA).