

Minutes of the Meeting of the SIEF Working Group on Archives:

Monday 22nd June, 17:50-19:00

Main venue: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ivana Lučića 3

A 105

Present: Chair: Lauri Harvilahti, Secretary: Ave Goršič, Kelly Fitzgerald (member of the Board) and 31 SIEF WG on Archives members, supporters and visitors.

Meeting begins at around 18.00

1. Welcome, General Information by Lauri Harvilahti (LH).

LH explains firstly the minutes of the online Board meeting in October 2014, some points of which will be discussed at the present meeting. Meetings in Dublin in March 2015 (described by Kelly) and in Oslo in April 2015 (Network of Nordic Baltic Tradition Archives (NBTA), explicated by Audun Kjus). New meeting of the NBTA will take place in Copenhagen on August 2015. There are many activities due to changes in the archival world. List of those present is being circulated in the room for names and contacts.

2. Establishing regular joint collecting projects.

LH talks about a global collecting project idea: Write about your day globally! There has also been a proposal to inform each other of forthcoming collecting projects via the SIEF WG on Archive's webpage.

Lauri explains previous successful campaigns organized in the Nordic countries of collecting experiences and sentiments of one particular day. There should be a web platform for collecting, there are several to choose from. It would be a good idea to celebrate the Centenary of the freedom of Baltic States by organizing such a collecting campaign. Anna Bale: how do you process that much information? Lauri: In our case we had cooperation with other organizations. We have to decide how to do it. Proposals for electronic tools for collecting are welcome. Audun Kjus: it is like a day on earth, value and dignity of everyday life. Such a project would also be good for developing infrastructure and ethics for materials of such a scale. To strengthen the alliances between the archives, social sides of such a project are important. Lauri: there is a need to build up a system that would enable archiving of the Internet material in a semi-automatic way. We need to talk about it in Copenhagen in order to apply for funding from EU instruments. Audun: this would resonate well with the UNESCO. WG of SIEF would be a good platform to raise such a programme. Question: Who would be funding

the hosting? Is this questionnaire based, narrative? Lauri: it would be questionnaire based and there should be facets for adding essential information and enough space to write about the chosen day. Also pictures could be included. Recording voice would be demanding. Lauri expresses an idea that the material could live its life in the Internet, but the problem is how to archive at least essential part of it. Informants would have to give consent for their materials to be used and shown online. It's a topic for Copenhagen. Generally members like the idea.

3. Creating the Code of Ethics.

Universal code with some room for each country depending on their specific needs/rules/legislation.

Lauri: in the 1980-90s, a code of ethics group organized by Lauri Honko and Barbro Klein, Betty Alver, published in 2007. Due to things in digital world, it's good to address the issue again. Kelly Fitzgerald: the ethnography online, ethics of putting material in Facebook etc., should be addressed. Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch: this is a good topic for interim meeting of the WG.

Audun has been reading through ICOM guidelines, there are some relevant parts for the traditional archives. Mostly it's work on institutional level. Also guidelines on humanities and social sciences in Norway. Such preparation is good for calling together a meeting on this topic. Lauri: we continue preparations for it.

4. ICA – Approaching the International Council of Archives in order to establish the Cultural Archives Section at the ICA

Lauri: the ICA are creating new cataloguing rules, which will be based much more on the digital world, this is a big change. It would be wise to have a section there as well – cultural heritage, folklore and ethnology, or whatever it will be called. This could bring a possibility to influence the work done in the ICA. We are very different from other archives in many ways and it is wise to be active in this arena. Lauri could take care of being in contact with the ICA. Comment from a Member: a great idea, since folklore archives are different than some other archives.

Lauri: I would propose to establish a Section of folkloristic, ethnological or culture archives in the context of the International Council of Archives. So far there is no such section in the ICA. We would serve our goals and principles and face the challenges of the digital age by joining the international organizations that will be creating new concept and data models, rules for archival description and cataloging, and new archival standards in a very near future.

Member: the move into digital world is good, folklore archives are in a better position here, more developed.

There will be an ICA conference in Reykjavik this year. Actions will be taken next year.

5. Electing of the WG Board

We were established 1,5 years ago. Lauri lists the board members at present. The Board wants to continue. Members present re-elect the board unanimously. Applause. Lauri: the board could have more than three members. Could we have one more board member? Maryna Chernyavska (Canada) announces to be willing to become a board member and is elected unanimously.

6. Points of information

Homepage restructuring – Ave Goršič explains the structural changes for the homepage, which is supposed to be a cross-roads of information to all folklore archives and activities. Susanne Ö-P suggests the AFS sister group should be added to the WG homepage. Members agree.

Mailing list for the WG on Archives – Ave Goršič explains the pros and cons of fan-org@folklore.ee (fan denoting the Folklore Archives' Network) and a Google group. It is decided that "fan-org" will remain the mailing-list name. A closed Facebook group will be set up for more informal talks.

Membership issues – there will be quite a few new members. Ave explains the issue with paying members, new members will be added to the mailing list.

Johannes Müske from Zurich with his project "Broadcasting Swissness" has offered the WG to co-join a conference in Zurich in May 2016. The theme will be on folk music, archives and identity politics. There is funding for the conference and travel costs could be covered. The CfP will be distributed in July 2015.

Members agree to make an interim WG conference in Zurich in 2016, Ave will contact Johannes for further co-operation.

Joint anthology of archival panels. Audun: There will be archival panels in Zagreb and Copenhagen. This creates a good ground for editing an anthology. Lauri: in order to document the present situation, we are now making decisions as to where to go. Audun: convenors will get together later to discuss the anthology. Lauri: there are already ideas for anthology, issues and topics for that.

7. Kelly, Lauri: Anything else, ideas for the WG?

A round of introduction of the members and supporters present is made.

Ave mentions the number of e-mails in the present list, we are a large group of around 80 people! (*Concretization: when adding the official WG members to the present existing fan-org list, the number of members and supporters in the list is around 100, considering some members have two e-mails in the list. – A.G.*)

Meeting closes at 19.00