



## **IFLA Core Activity for Preservation and Conservation (PAC)**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2001**

#### **A- REORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT**

##### ***1. International Focal Point***

The PAC Programme Officer resigned on December 1<sup>st</sup> for a more stable position with a higher salary. She has not yet been replaced.

##### ***2. Advisory Board***

MTV proposed the following names to serve as members of PAC Advisory Board:

- ✓ ***Alix Chevallier***, BnF, Hosting institution
- ✓ ***Jan Fullerton***, National Library of Australia, Hosting PAC Regional Centre for the Pacific and South East Asia
- ✓ ***Deanna Marcum***, President of CLIR (Council on Library and Information Resources)
- ✓ ***John McIlwaine***, Chair of Section of Preservation and Conservation
- ✓ ***Sissel Nilsen***, National Library of Norway, Member of the Governing Board

##### ***3. Regional Centres***

Mr Takao Murayama was appointed as Director of the Regional PAC Centre for Asia in replacement of Mr Masashi Murakami.

##### ***4. Annual meeting of PAC Directors – Boston – August 17***

Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff (MTV, Programme Director, BnF) and Mark Roosa (Library of Congress) were the only directors present. Four directors could not attend. Three of them were represented (National Library of Australia, National Library of Venezuela, National Diet Library).

John Dean (Cornell University) and John McIlwaine (Chair of the Section of Preservation and Conservation) were invited to the meeting.

The activities of the various centres were briefly presented and MTV reported about the uncertain future of PAC due to financial restrictions. There remained a major concern for finding ways of raising additional funding.

Although 2001 proved to be a busy and fruitful year with several in co-operation projects being developed: **Blue Shield** with ICOM (International Council of Museums), ICA (International Council on Archives), ICOMOS (International Council on Museums and Sites) and IFLA ; **UNESCO “Memory of the World”** ; **CLIR** ; **Cornell** ; **JICPA** ; **ABINIA** ; **Social Science Research Centre**. During this meeting PAC priorities proposed by MTV were approved: raising awareness, training, digital preservation and Blue Shield.

Proposals for an action plan 2001-2003 were made (See Action Plan in annex) and it was decided that each Regional PAC Centre would include one or several fields of excellence among its priorities.

- ✓ Library of Congress
  - Deacidification
  - Digital preservation
  - Audio-visual
  - Photography
  
- ✓ Library for Foreign Literature (Moscow)
  - Training
  
- ✓ National Diet Library
  - Paper Conservation
  
- ✓ National Library of Venezuela
  - Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
  - Newspapers
  
- ✓ National Library of Australia
  - Digital Preservation
  
- ✓ BnF
  - Risk Preparedness

## **B- ACTIVITIES**

### **1. Publications**

- **IPN** (International Preservation News = PAC newsletter)
  - ◆ N° 22-23 published in December 2000, was printed and distributed in January 2001
  - ◆ N° 24 , May 2001, print run 3000 copies
  - ◆ N° 25, August 2001, print run 3000 copies
  - ◆ N° 26, December 2001, print run 3000 copies
  
- **IPI** (International Preservation Issues)
  - ◆ N° 3 – “*Principes de conservation de l’IFLA*” (French translation of “*IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material*” by MTV and Virginie Kremp). Print run 1000 copies.
  
- **CD ROM**

The 2000 initial copies of the CD-ROM “*Safeguarding our Documentary Heritage – Conservation préventive du patrimoine documentaire*” were distributed. To meet the demand, 1000 extra-copies were produced.

The implementation of a Spanish version was discussed with UNESCO and the University of Colima (Mexico). The project is ongoing.

## □ **Translations**

- Paris IFLA PAC was asked to review the BnF leaflet of the Department of Preservation (in English).
- Caracas Regional PAC Centre translated into Spanish the text of a poster exhibition on the conservation of library documents prepared by the BnF. The exhibition was to be presented at the Book Fair in Havana (February 2002) then at the Caracas Book Fair (May 2002). The Caracas PAC Regional Centre also translated the ABINIA questionnaire (See B.5.).
- PAC Programme Officer translated the “*JICPA Survey of Preservation Resources in Africa 1999 / Enquête du JICPA sur les Ressources en Préservation en Afrique 1999*” by Peter Coates which was published by IFLA ALP (Project Report n°17).

## **2. Mailing activity**

Apart from distributing IPN

- Paris → 900 copies
- Canberra → 550 copies
- Caracas → 300 copies
- Moscow → 200 copies
- Tokyo → 500 copies
- Washington → 550 copies

Paris Focal Point received 1258 e-mails and letters and sent 692 answers.

## **3. Standardisation**

MTV is a member of two standardisation working groups (AFNOR: French Association for Standardisation):

- “*Requirements for the preservation of library materials when exhibited / Prescriptions de conservation des documents graphiques et photographiques dans le cadre d’une exposition*”.

The standard was completed in January 2001 and will be published in 2002.

- “*Assessment methods to determine the state of preservation of archives and library materials / Méthode d’évaluation de l’état physique des fonds d’archives et de bibliothèques*”.

- A third working group on the terminology of disaster and degradation of items is in process.

MTV attended 12 meetings.

## **4. Training**

Paris PAC Centre has participated actively in the organisation of a preservation workshop in South Africa and of an International preservation-training course at the BnF in Paris.

### **Preservation workshop – Cape Town – February 26 – March 2**

The workshop “*Safeguarding African Documentary Heritage*” co-organised by South African colleagues and PAC – Paris was supported by UNESCO. It gathered 16 participants (most of them were Library or Archives Directors) from 13 countries (Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe).

MTV and Virginie Kremp (VK) were responsible for a number of sessions. (See Report in Annex)

- An **International Preservation training course on preventive preservation** was organised by the BnF in co-operation with PAC - December 3 – 14. Nine participants from Palestine, Vietnam, Senegal, Moldavia, Mayotte and France attended. MTV taught a number of sessions.

## 5. *Expertise and surveys*

### ✓ Expertise

PAC Director has been asked to be a member of the following Advisory Boards or Committees:

- CLIR (Council on Library and Information Resources): *Advisory Board on the Web-based Tutorial on Preservation and Conservation* - Washington, November 1<sup>st</sup>
- SSRC (Social Science Research Centre, New York) : *Standing Committee on Cuban Libraries and Archives* - Havana, Cuba, June 15-17
- UNESCO : *“Memory of the World” Register Sub Committee*

### ✓ Surveys

PAC Paris launched two surveys:

- In co-operation with ABINIA and PAC (Caracas): a **survey on the state of the art of preservation of Latin American and Caribbean collections** was implemented. PAC Paris wrote the questionnaire and PAC Regional Centre in Caracas translated it into Spanish. MTV presented the results of the survey at the ABINIA Conference in Lisbon, October 19.
- During the Symposium “*Managing the preservation of periodicals and newspapers*” that took place at the BnF, August 2000, we decided to make a **survey on the existing collections of newspapers in Africa and their state of preservation**. PAC Paris wrote the questionnaire (French and English) and sent it to National Libraries and Archives in Africa. The results will be made available in 2002.

## C – CO-OPERATION

### 1. *Blue Shield*

#### ✓ ICBS (International Committee of the Blue Shield)

MTV attended three meetings (February 9, June 8, and October 1<sup>st</sup>)

#### ✓ National Blue Shield Committees

The French Blue Shield Committee was created (June 15). PAC attended five meetings (March 9, 30, June 15, July 4, November 9). MTV was elected Vice President.

PAC has kept raising awareness and advocating the Blue Shield. Several other national Blue Shield Committees were created or are in project (Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, UK).

#### ✓ Promotion of the Blue Shield

- MTV wrote a press release for the French Committee of the Blue Shield with a mission to contact the press.
- Presentation of the Blue Shield :
  - at the workshop in Cape Town – February 2001
  - at the ABINIA Conference – November 2001
  - at the “Memory of the World” meeting in Korea, June 2001
  - on the BnF “Biblionautes” intranet
- Blue Shield web site

MTV volunteered to develop a Blue Shield web site. Contacts were taken with number of webmasters. Finally, UNESCO proposed to host the web site and MTV convened three times with UNESCO webmaster (April 9, September 25, and November 30). A frame was decided upon and agreed by ICBS members. The web site is to be developed in 2002.

## **2. UNESCO “Memory of the World”**

**a-** MTV was invited to represent IFLA at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the “Memory of the World” Programme in Cheongju, Korea, 27-29 June. At the end of the meeting she was appointed member of the Register Sub-Committee. Report available at: <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm>

**b-** A contract was signed between IFLA and UNESCO to produce guidelines for digitisation. The guidelines are addressed to developing countries. A working group has been formed, composed of representatives from IFLA and ICA (International Council on Archives). A 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was convened during IFLA Conference in Boston. A 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting took place in The Hague (4-5 October). MTV is a member of the working group.

## **3. JICPA**

The 6<sup>th</sup> JICPA (Joint IFLA/ICA Committee on Preservation in Africa) meeting took place in Cape Town – March 1-2, chaired by the new chairman, Mohammed Benjelloun. JICPA financial situation was presented as critical and the involvement of some members was judged not sufficient. Thanks to the co-operation of Alain Godonou from the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain in Benin, who had been invited by PAC to the meeting, a JICPA web site was created <http://epa-prema.net/jicpa>

Abderrazzaq Alli from ESI (Ecole des Sciences de l’Information – Morocco) distributed a JICPA brochure, published by ESI and translated into French by PAC.

The future of JICPA appears very uncertain due mostly to financial difficulties, although PAC is still determined to develop training activities in favour of African libraries. (See report on annex).

## **D – FUND RAISING**

Throughout the past year, MTV spent much time in trying to find support and raise funds. PAC is very grateful to Deanna Marcum, President of CLIR, who offered to allocate 20,000 US\$ for the period 2001-2003. This significant support makes the situation of PAC not as critical as it was. Nevertheless it is still very worrying and a cause of constant concern for the director, who would like to spend more time on preservation issues than on fund raising activities.

Although very much concerned by the situation, all other colleagues or possible sponsors did not - and most of time could not - respond favourably. There were suggestions, among which, to have people pay to receive IPN. A solution firmly rejected by PAC Director for three reasons:

- PAC could not handle invoices and cheques without recruiting someone to do the job, which would mean extra expenses ;
- PAC thinks its mission is to raise awareness, especially in developing countries. If they had to pay they could not afford it ;
- Each time PAC receives money from abroad the Bank fees amount to US\$ 10, which would represent twice the price of IPN. The situation would then becomes ridiculous.

During the IFLA Conference in Boston, several companies dealing with preservation techniques were approached and proposed to help PAC by advertising in IPN. This could be a solution to lower publication expenses.

## E- PARTICIPATION TO CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Place	Date	Object	Who
Cape Town, South Africa	24-28/02 / 1-7/03	Workshop and JICPA meeting	MTV + VK
Havana, Cuba	13-18/06	Standing Committee on Cuban Libraries and Archives	MTV
Cheongju, Korea	24/06 – 1 <sup>er</sup> /07	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Programme	MTV
Boston, USA	16-26/08	IFLA Conference	MTV
The Hague, Netherlands	4-5/10	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the working group IFLA/ICA Guidelines for digitisation	MTV
Lisbon, Portugal	16-22/10	ABINIA Conference	MTV
Washington, USA	01/11	Advisory Board on the Web-based Tutorial on Preservation and Conservation	MTV

## F – ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM PAC REGIONAL CENTRES

The PAC Regional Centres sent their report. They are available on request from the PAC Focal Point in Paris (in printed version or as an attachment). The activities of the PAC Regional Centre for Western Europe, Africa and the Middle East (Paris) have already been described in the first part of this report (see JICPA meeting – C.3 ; Workshop Cape Town – B.4 ; Survey on the existing collections of newspapers in Africa and their state of preservation – B.5 ; JICPA Survey of Preservation Resources in Africa 1999 – B.1 ; Training course in Paris – B.4 ; Standardisation – B.3).

All centres reported to have distributed IPN in their region. Caracas helped with the translation of summaries into Spanish and Moscow with fliers in Russian.

All centres now have a web page presenting PAC activities:

- Tokyo <http://www.ndl.go.jp> ;
- Moscow <http://www.libfl.ru/win/conservation/index/html> ;
- Canberra <http://www.nla.gov.au/preserve/ca/html> ;
- Caracas <http://www.bnv.bib.ve> ;
- Washington <http://www.loc.gov/preser/>

Apart from IPN Caracas and Moscow translated, printed and distributed documents and/or videos from CLIR (Council on Library and Information Resources) or NEDCC (Northeast Document Conservation Centre) in Spanish and Russian.

Tokyo is translating into Japanese the “*IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material*”. It will be published shortly.

Training constitutes another major activity of the centres : workshops, seminars, conferences were organised and gathered attendees from different countries of their geographical areas. Resource persons from the centres also went abroad to participate in international conferences and to give lectures. Main themes and topics include preservation management, traditional conservation techniques, emergency preparedness and digital preservation. Washington hosted several interns from different parts of the world (Korea, Armenia, Europe, North America and Brazil) and showed special interest for the Mariinsky Archive (musical and theatrical materials) in St Petersburg, Russia.

Although digitisation and digital preservation is a major priority for all, microfilming still remains an important issue, together with the promotion of permanent paper (especially in Tokyo where they regularly test the pH of current Japanese official publications).

Hybrid solutions (microfilm / digitisation) are in process for the safeguard of book collections from the Showa Era (283.000 books from the period 1926-1949).

Canberra, Caracas and Moscow work on standardisation issues (microfilming, digitisation and permanent paper). The Library of Congress hosted the Annual Meeting of the United States Newspaper Program.

The preservation of newspapers is a major concern for all centres with a particular attention from Moscow and Caracas.

Among other individual projects that retained PAC attention let us quote :

- the cellulose acetate project (vinegar syndrome) / Canberra
- the Russian Register of Microfilm Masters / Moscow
- the setting up of a preservation centre in Moscow in co-operation with ZFB (Leipzig)
- A bilingual (English-Spanish) glossary of terms by Caracas
- the on-line Register of the documentary heritage preservation projects / Canberra

We expect to succeed in strengthening the PAC network in 2002 in order to weave more co-operative links between all centres, as it is already the case with Tokyo and Canberra or Paris and Caracas.

Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff  
February 13, 2002

**PAC home page:** <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/pac.htm>