Message from the President

On behalf of the AMIA Board of Directors, I am very pleased to report that AMIA had a great year – in large part, as always, due to the incredible initiative and work of our vibrant members. AMIA has maintained and continues to strengthen its role as a hub for national and international discussions related to the preservation of moving image materials. We continue to foster vital communication between individuals and organizations involved in ensuring the survival of audiovisual archives and collections. Moreover, and most importantly for 2013-2014, AMIA has actively sought out new partnerships and collaborations across the United States and around the world in an effort to establish how most effectively to move forward in our era of convergence both technologically and organizationally.

At the beginning of the year, the AMIA Board of Directors discussed at length the key institutions and associations that share our mission and values and targeted six such groups with which to pursue some form of collaboration. At the Society of American Archivists annual conference, AMIA showcased its first membership and outreach booth, helmed by stalwart AMIA volunteers Tara Kelly, Lindy Leong and Debi Griffith. We look forward to adapting this outreach program and model to additional organizations in 2015. Laura Rooney and I continued to work with the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA), attending the annual meeting in Paris and, alongside our colleagues representing the International Federation of Television Archives (FIAT), the Federation of Commercial Audiovisual Libraries (FOCAL), and the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA), furthered CCAAA’s commitment to focus on specific goals and outcomes to maximize the potential in collaborative action. As mentioned at last year’s annual conference in Richmond, CCAAA’s Archives@Risk program will continue to evolve in 2015, with its official public launch on this year’s World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.

Representatives of AMIA’s Film Advocacy Task Force presented on a well-attended panel at the 2014 Art House Convergence conference in Salt Lake City. The FATF, under the phenomenal leadership and indefatigable energy of Director of the Board, Elena Rossi-Snook, continues to champion the ongoing value and role of celluloid and has played a key role in the upcoming AMIA Film Projection Workshop. The Projection Workshop has already sold-out, with attendees from all over the United States, and will be conducted in conjunction with the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema’s newly renovated flagship theater in Austin, Texas.

As you’ll read, the Cataloging Committee, led by Thelma Ross, has undertaken an expansive, international collaboration to update the AMIA Cataloging Compendium in partnership with SAA. Student chapters from Montreal to Texas, New York to California, continue to inspire with energetic projects and initiatives. The Online Education Task Force, helmed by Linda Tadic and Lance Watsky, has worked very hard to develop some exciting new programs for the association in 2015. More information about this effort will be forthcoming. Tom Regal has continued his great leadership with the fifth AMIA Digital Asset Symposium, successfully held in Los Angeles last spring – and, with fellow Director of the Board, Chris Lacinak, stepping in as curator, will take place in spring, 2015 in New York City. Thanks to all – and, in particular, the ever-fabulous AMIA office – for this great work!

All of these highlights, and those throughout the report, powerfully reflect the AMIA Board of Directors’ belief that AMIA’s public outreach, events and educational initiatives compose the key to our association’s long term viability.

We look forward to the exciting work 2015 will bring!

Enjoy the Conference,

Caroline

Caroline Frick, AMIA President
The AMIA Mission

AMIA is a nonprofit international association dedicated to the preservation and use of moving image media. AMIA supports public and professional education and fosters cooperation and communication among the individuals and organizations concerned with the acquisition, preservation, description, exhibition, and use of moving image materials.

International Advocacy

As part of the Executive Board of the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Heritage (CCAAA), AMIA has taken a lead role in the relaunch of the Archives at Risk Program. Development of the website is done and the launch of the site will be in conjunction with the 2014 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on October 27th.

AMIA is a member of the North America Archival Network (NAANICA), the US Committee of the Blue Shield and an UNESCO NGO. Through CCAA, we are also affiliated with the Libraries, Archives, Museums, Monuments and Sites Council (LAMMS), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Outreach

Every year, AMIA works to extend our outreach to colleagues in the field and related disciplines. We regularly exchange information opportunities with allied organizations such as the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, ARSC, Orphans and SCMS. This year, we included two additional outreach projects.

In February, AMIA presented a panel on the exhibition of 35mm film at Art House Convergence. Art houses are navigating the convergence of 35mm and DCP exhibition, and AMIA panel members offered practical “how-to” information on projection, working with lending institutions and successful exhibition strategies.

For many institutions there is still a need for training and additional information in handling their mixed media collections. This was a key point brought up by many visitors to the AMIA booth at SAA this year. AMIA volunteers answered questions, offered membership information and talked peer to peer about the value of a network of expert colleagues that work with analog and digital media. Their outreach has resulted in new ideas of collaboration between SAA and AMIA.
Collaboration
From its earliest days, one of the cornerstones of AMIA’s mission has been to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between media professionals. This year, AMIA has worked with a number of project partners including SaveFilm.Org, Heritage Health Index, the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, Art House Convergence, Law Enforcement Video Association, and the Media and Entertainment Service Alliance.

At the Conference in Richmond last year, AMIA partnered with Digital Libraries Federation to host a Hack Day, matching practitioners and managers of audiovisual collections with developers and engineers for an intense day of collaboration to develop solutions for audiovisual preservation and access. Five teams participated, with goals such as producing easy-to-follow documentation for the installation and use of FFmpeg transcoding software. The tools and results are open and available on a Wiki page (http://tinyurl.com/o5kj949).

In October, AMIA partners with the Alamo Drafthouse in Austin, TX for our first Film Projection Workshop. The workshop will offer a hands-on tutorial for projectionists and theatre staff working with 35mm prints. Board member Elena Rossi-Snook summed it up, “While digital has become the primary exhibition format, many theaters continue to show 35mm film prints. A number of films are simply not available in digital and showing them in their original 35mm format allows new audiences to appreciate rare prints, archive films, and titles from private collections. But it also requires special skills to work with rare and archival prints.”

I love digital projection for new release films, but only a tiny sliver of our vast film history will ever make it to the DCP format. As an industry, we must continue to preserve, protect and carefully screen 35mm films and maintain our 35mm projection equipment.”

-Alamo Drafthouse CEO Tim League

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Publications

In January, AMIA launched the Global Supplier Directory. The Directory is a free online resource that allows any service provider to list themselves at no cost. Updated three times each year, the Directory continues to grow and is a resource for anyone working with audiovisual media. It can be downloaded from the AMIA website.

AMIA’s other publications include The Moving Image, a quarterly Newsletter, Membership Directory, and AMIA Theatre Presentation Guidelines.

Projects

At its core, AMIA is a volunteer organization, driven by the energy, the creativity and the passion of its members. Many of our key projects are driven by a group of dedicated volunteers who see a need and work to answer it.

With transition to digital media, the Film Advocacy Task Force was created to explore ways to work with other organizations to promote, encourage and facilitate the use of motion picture film and to fortify the relationship between archives and repositories and film users. Projects continue to expand, including collaborations on the sustainability of film, presentations on the use of films in education, and at the upcoming conference in Savannah, the Task Force will premiere a trailer for the first in series of short documentaries, Why We Film.

Launched last year, the DEEP FOCUS portal continues to grow. It is an inclusive outreach tool designed to interconnect a disparate labyrinth of media catalogs, services and related information in a single user-friendly and centralized tool.

Responding to an increased interest in online resources, the Online Learning Task Force is moving forward to begin creating curriculum and discussing potential collaborations. In addition, a pilot program to select event sessions available online is now underway.

Other key projects include: the Cataloging Committee’s international collaboration to revise the 2001 Cataloging Compendium publication in association with SAA; the PBCore Subcommittee’s work on the further development of PBCor; the Magnetic Crisis Committee’s work on a video primer.
Scholarships and Grants

Education and training is not only central to AMIA’s role as a professional association, but essential to the long-term survival of our media heritage. Three scholarships and an internship are awarded annually to students entering the profession. In addition, a number of travel grants are offered to the annual conference.

This year, the San Francisco Silent Film Festival Travel Grant was established to help develop new media archivists, who will be the future caretakers of our film heritage. In addition, three Community Fund grants offered travel funding to the annual conference. Lastly, the Carolyn Hauer Fund, which funds archivists from developing countries, provided two grants in 2014 to speakers from the Global Exchange stream at the conference.

- Chace Foundation Scholarship: Erin Palombi
- Sony Scholarship: Felizarda Kutsakitika
- Universal Studios Scholarship: Jonathan Farbowitz
- IPI Internship: Lauren Alberque
- SFSFF Travel Grant: Alina Sinetos
- Community Fund Grant: Juana Suarez
- Community Fund Grant: Jeff McCarty
- Community Fund Grant: Sibel Melik
- Carolyn Hauer Fund: Paula Felix-Didier
- Carolyn Hauer Fund: Judith Opoku-Boateng

Education and Student Chapters

Over the past three years, AMIA student chapters have more than doubled. Student chapters are now at UCLA, NYU, University of Rochester, McGill University in Montreal and the newest chapter at University of Texas at Austin.

Earlier this year McGill students hosted a one day symposium, with speakers, student presentations and a workshop in Montreal. Other student chapter projects include Home Movie Day and strong programs for World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.
Conferences and Symposia

Each year, AMIA hosts three flagship events. The annual conference brings together more than 500 archivists from around the world. Held in Richmond, Virginia in 2013 and in Savannah this year, the conference offers more than 45 sessions and workshops over four days with plenary speakers, screenings and networking events. In Savannah, the Keynote address will be offered by Ian MacKaye, founder of the Dischord Records music label and the mastermind behind the Fugazi Live Series project.

In addition to the Annual Conference, we partner with The Reel Thing for a two day technical symposium. The Reel Thing continues to expand its audience, attracting more international presentations and attendees each year.

The 2014 edition of DAS brought together the Board focus on collaboration and outreach. Programming included speakers from different disciplines but with common concerns. Speakers from religious archives, law enforcement, film production and digital rights management addressed the full life cycle of the digital asset – from creation to archive.

Sponsors and Partners

Our partners and sponsors are passionate about their involvement with AMIA. We couldn’t survive without their generosity, and couldn't be more pleased to have their support. Because of their funding, we're able to offer events, publications, awards and scholarships. We salute all of our sponsors and partners with heartfelt thanks.

A very special thanks to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for their generous support of AMIA. The Academy’s generous support of AMIA programs, as well as their donation of office space is critical.

Our Event sponsors - Iron Mountain Entertainment Services, Deluxe Entertainment Services Group, LAC Group, Reflex Technologies, XTracks, AV Preservation by reto.ch, Audio Mechanics, Cinelicious, Digital Film Technology, Digital Vision, FotoKem, FujiFilm Motion Picture Film, Kodak, L’Immagine Ritrovata, The Media Preserve, MTI Film, NBC Universal StudioPost, Prasad Group, Underground Archives, DJ Audio, Reliance MediaWorks.
Finance and Development

Thanks to the generosity of our partners and sponsors, the Association is in good financial health today.

With the changing landscape in our field it is important that we focus efforts to identify new partners, collaborations, and revenue opportunities to assure our long term viability. Investment in projects, events, and infrastructure is critical to assure AMIA continues to be a leading force in the field.

The development of new programs, events and projects that not only fulfill the needs of the field, but also provide revenue through donations, sponsorships and grants is important. Equally important is that that we listen to the membership and examine ways of offering new benefits that are relevant to a wide variety of professionals in the field.

This Work Needs Your Help

Every major initiative that AMIA undertakes is driven by a member with an idea, a professional who wants to contribute to the field, or a volunteer willing to give a few hours. AMIA has an office with staff and the staff works to support the projects and the work of AMIA volunteers.