



MINUTES - AMIA Advocacy Committee Meeting

Hilton Portland, Portland, Oregon, November 19, 2015.

1 Opening

Caroline Yeager (CY co-chair) and Gloria Ana Diez (GD co-chair) Caroline and Gloria introduced themselves and thanked Ray Edmondson for his many years of leadership in forming and heading the Advocacy Committee in AMIA.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting – These were sent to the committee members; no changes were made. The minutes have been sent to AMIA for posting on the Advocacy page.

3 Matters arising from the minutes (old business)

(a) Preparation of new UNESCO instrument - Safeguarding the Memory of the World – UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage in the Digital Era. Status Update – Ray Edmondson
Ray provided an update on UNESCO and informed the committee of a new instrument that was adopted as an established international archival standard for paper, digital and audio visual documents that nations can be expected to observe. He suggested that it is a resource we can and should use promoting our agendas to funding authorities.

(d) UNESCO “Memory of the World” – Proposed Workshop for AMIA 2015 –
Deferred to 2016.

Ray briefed the committee on what the *Memory of the World Register* and why it is an important tool in saving cultural heritage. He proposed offering a workshop at the 2016 conference in Pittsburgh, aimed at archivists who come to this conference and who may be considering films or documents in their collections they could propose. The workshop would offer guidance identifying significant archival moving image material within a collection and tips and techniques for writing *Memory of the World* submissions.

(b) Advocacy statement: “Digital/ Analog preservation: save the originals” and creation of the AMIA Code of Conduct are both complete. Thanks to the members of the Advocacy Committee for seeing these through to completion and adoption. Caroline Yeager provided an update on the Advocacy statements and thanked all of the committee members who contributed to those discussion. She encouraged anyone on the committee to provide feedback.



(c) Cinemateca Boliviana and Cinemateca Uruguay – Status Update – Gloria Ana Diez

Gloria Diez provided an update on the situations in the Cinemateca Boliviana and Cinemateca Uruguay: both archives are facing problems. Gloria provides an overview of the problems both are facing and the committee decides to continue to monitor both situations. Ray Edmondson emphasized why it is important to get involved in issues like this and stresses that the bottom line is the continuity of the archive. He argued that it is important and proper for international bodies such as FIAF and AMIA to get professionally involved and make statements about issues like this. He stressed the importance of expressing a professional opinion and contended that AMIA is the right professional organization to do that. Caroline Yeager added that there have been letters sent by AMIA to both the Governor of Illinois regarding the closing of the state museum system, and to the government of Quebec regarding the recent changes at Cinémathèque québécoise. We acknowledge that many of these situations are a combination of political initiatives driven by economic and ideological agendas.

Julio Cabrio, current MIAP student provided an update on the current situation in the Cinematheque Uruguay. Julio worked at the Cinematheque Uruguay during 2013 as a consultant. They have 19,000 titles and 2,000 Uruguayan titles (a large portion of the Uruguayan film heritage), and he is currently working at the university general archive as a moderator between the government and the Cinematheque, trying to reach an agreement between the two institutions. The main problem is political and not necessarily financial. The committee offers to send a letter of support if that would improve the process.

(e) Advocacy Liaisons with: Film Advocacy Task Force; Projection Task Force – Update – Gloria Ana Diez –

Both groups are looking forward to collaborations. Advocacy Committee members are needed to volunteer to liaison with these groups.

(f) Board Liaison – Advocacy Committee

Elena Rossi-Snook is the new Board Liaison. The projection committee is also interested in collaborating.



4 New business

(a) Advocating for Archives: Project ARCC – Casey E. Davis – presentation

Caroline introduced Casey E. Davis from WGBH in Boston who presented her new advocacy group ARCC, created on Earth Day 2015 to develop programming on climate change to increase public awareness. She detailed several recent reports in the news about the human causes of climate change and suggested that climate change is already impacting the professional careers of archivists globally and is something we should be preparing for on a larger scale. She suggested that as archivists we have a moral obligation to document and to advocate on these issues and urged us to reach out to local officials to prepare for the global impacts of climate change. Project ARCC is a task force advocating for archivist intervention in climate change with three committees: Protect, Reduce - promoting environmentally sound practices among archives; Elevate - elevate collections related to climate change; and Preserve - working with climate activist organizations such as partnership with Deartomorrow.org. She encouraged both global and local activism. Website: Projectarcc.org. She suggested that the Advocacy Committee:

- 1) Create an Issue Brief for the AMIA Board to take an official position on climate change.
- 2) Draft template letter and/or phone conversation text that archivists can use to discuss climate change and energy issues with elected officials.

(b) Advocacy Panel AMIA 2016 – Acknowledge, Adapt and Survive: Environmental Issues and Archives – Caroline Yeager

Caroline Yeager stated that it is imperative to get cultural institutions, including film archives, completely off the grid. She called for volunteers to take up Casey's suggestion and draft a text for AMIA to take an official position on climate change, as well as a template letter and phone conversation text that archivists can use to discuss issue with elected officials. She suggested that next year we propose an *Advocacy Stream: Acknowledge, Adapt, and Survive* to discuss all the aspects of climate change, environmental issues, and energy/power issues that impact archives with the goal of providing support to archivists in methods to advocate within their institutions to effect change.

(c) Advocating: New Life for Old Theatres – Renovating & Restoring Old Movie Theatres for Contemporary & Archival Screenings. Calls for volunteers to draft a



statement supporting this initiative and monitor cases around the world that could use our support. – Gloria Ana Diez

During the 80s and 90s many old theatres that were an essential part of the identities of neighborhoods and communities but are now closed. There are organizations calling for the preservation or restoration of these cultural sites. Gloria is making a list of success stories and a list of other communities like this in need of support. Calls for a volunteer to draft a statement of letter of support, and to monitor such cases around the world. Hoping to talk with the projection and presentation committee about potential collaboration.

(d) Advocating for the Neutrality of Archives. Volunteers to draft a statement for the Board that AMIA supports the Geneva Conventions and UN Protocols protecting repositories of cultural heritage worldwide. – Caroline Yeager

Looking for volunteers to draft a statement advocating for the neutrality of archives. AMIA should take the stand and say that archives, cultural institutions and museums are places of neutrality.

Questions:

1. Mark Williams proposes, director of the media ecology project which wants to advocate for more and better access to online digital material to benefit the scholarly community and the crowdsourcing community to provide new metadata. Proposes synergistic pursuit of these goals with the advocacy committee. Advocating for a scholarly secure tier of access to archival materials online which would produce more elbow room for what archives are willing to produce online. Suggests collaboration between scholars and archives to crowdsource metadata tagging of online archival collections.

Meeting adjourned 1:49 pm.

Attendees:	Joining Committee
Casey E. Davis	Y
Julio Cabrio	Y
Kate Cronin	Y
Ray Edmondson	Y
Howard Besser	Y
Sarah Smith	Y
Chalida Uabumrungjit	Y
Janice Allen	N
Anne Morra	Y
Christophe Dupin	N
Mark Williams	Y



AMIA

Phang Lai Tee	N
Jonathan Farbowitz	Y
Janneke van Dalen	Y
Daniela Currò	N
Débora Butruce	Y
Gloria Diez	Y
Caroline Yeager	Y