

Access to Performance Ephemera Study Group

This was the first meeting of the new Study Group established last year to succeed the Working Group. There were two meetings of the new Study during the conference in Leipzig, on 23 and 26 July 2018. There was also a session of papers relating to performance ephemera in the conference programme.

The study group heard reports of various projects, including Musiconn (the subject of a paper at the conference by Andrea Hammes), a German state funded project, which is digitising performance playbills and will be using OCR to extract data. Various other projects in Europe, either in progress or planned, were brought to the attention of the Group and will be added to the IAML pages on performance ephemera.

The problem of authority control for performer names in particular was discussed, and it was noted that names added to Musiconn will be contributed to VIAF. It was suggested that the Study Group should promote the use of authority file data as a strong basis, and be the voice of advocacy in working to identify repertory and personnel.

The challenge of many datasets compiled outside a library environment, by broadcasters, event marketing websites, performing groups and performance venues, who do not necessarily consider interoperability and international standards for descriptions, or address issues of sustainability beyond their immediate project life, was discussed. Some of these are seeking guidelines for the creation of databases of performance material, and it was suggested that the Group would be the appropriate body to develop them for such organisations to use.

Katharine Hogg, Chair.