



International Association  
of Music Libraries, Archives  
and Documentation Centres

## Constitution Committee report 2018

Richard Chesser (Chair)

Stanislaw Hrabia (ex officio, President)

Barbara Dobbs Mackenzie (ex officio, immediate Past President)

Pia Shekhter (ex officio, Secretary General)

Bonna Boettcher

Catherine Massip

John Roberts

Barbara Wiermann

During the course of the year since the Riga congress, the main business of the Constitution Committee related to preparation of the texts for the changes to the Constitution and Rules of Procedure which it was agreed would be presented to the General Assembly at the Leipzig congress.

These changes were mainly concerned with tidying up one or two textual inconsistencies, and adding further detail or points of clarification which were considered necessary following the more substantial changes that had been made to both documents in recent years. All the procedural formalities of sending to the Board and circulation to members in accordance with the prescribed timescales were met.

All changes were unanimously approved by the General Assembly at Leipzig on 27 July.

The Committee had a very profitable meeting in Leipzig too. We were delighted to welcome John Roberts, newly appointed to the Committee at Riga, and were also joined by Anders Cato, the General Secretary elect. Pia Shekhter, Barbara Wiermann and Catherine Massip were unable to attend.

There were 2 main issues to discuss. The first related to the suggestion that it was no longer necessary for proceedings of the General Assembly and other reports to be published in *Fontes*, which at present is a constitutional requirement, since they are also published on the website. This prompted the observation that without such reports many issues would be extremely slim. One alternative might be for the journal to include more articles of a professional nature, or for the journal not to be published in paper format at all. These policy issues are not for the Constitution Committee to decide on, though any changes agreed would need to be reflected by revisions to the governing documents. If these were to be approved at the congress in Krakow, then they would have to be formulated over the coming months.

The second major issue was related to the first, and concerned the proposal on the agenda for the forthcoming General Assembly to form an Archive Committee. Archival practices had been on a temporary footing since the retirement of IAML's previous Archivist, Inger Enquist, a few years ago. The appointment of a new Archivist was highly desirable. A proposal was agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to define the Archivist's role, which in principle should carry a stipend, and other archival policies and practices, particularly addressing the need for a digital archive. This proposal, and the Terms of Reference, were approved at the ensuing General Assembly. The Constitution Committee would be pleased to advise further following the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee and the presentation of its findings.

The discussion about the Archive Committee prompted the realisation that some guidance would be helpful in the Rules of Procedure on the setting up of new committees. At the moment committees may be created on the recommendation of the Board, but there is no process set down, as is the case for eg Study groups and Project groups, as to how members might propose to the Board the establishment of a new committee.

If the Board wishes, we would be pleased to give this some thought, with the possibility of proposing some constitutional changes for approval at the General Assembly at Krakow in 2019.

In response to a final, minor, query it was confirmed that, having completed its charge, the Ad Hoc Committee on Organisational Structure (level 2) was dissolved and that that status could be accepted without further formality.