



Association internationale des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (AIBM)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

Working Group on Access to Performance Ephemera Meeting, 2005

Tuesday 12 July, 14.15-15.45

Session 1

The first of two sessions at Warsaw was devoted mainly to activities in the UK and Ireland. The Concert Programmes Project was launched in November 2004 by Cardiff University and the Royal College of Music. Rupert Ridgewell gave a demonstration of the offline cataloguing module and reported that the project aims to gather records describing at least 4000 collections of concert programmes over the course of three years. Thus far, the database had been populated with 478 preliminary records from three institutions: the British Library, Edinburgh City Library and the Henry Watson Music Library in Manchester. Cataloguers would be recruited in various regions in the UK and Ireland, including one in Edinburgh to cover the National Library of Scotland (NLS) and other repositories.

Almut Boehme then gave an update on ongoing work at the NLS to prepare collections prior to taking part in the Concert Programmes Project. Almut also gave an overview of two related resources being developed at the NLS. The playbill database contains images of playbills of the Theatre Royal Edinburgh, 1800-1829, including some playbills to musical events. It may be searched by keyword, date, or by theatrical profession or association. The theatre programme database provides access to records for a random and extensive collection of programmes, playbills and posters held by the NLS. These items, from theatres and other venues, date from the 19th century onwards, and represent a fraction of the Library's material relating to the theatre industry in Scotland. Users can search by keyword or year, or browse by title or venue.

A draft version of the WG report was distributed to members of the Working Group, but discussion of it was postponed until the second session. David Day, the new Chair of the Bibliography Commission, proposed organising a paper session on concert programmes and related material at the IAML conference in 2006.

Thursday 14 July, 9.15-10.45

Session 2

The session began with reports from the German and Danish branches. Joachim Jaenecke gave a brief statement concerning concert programme collections in Berlin, which are accessible via a card index giving basic details of each event, including listing main performers and ensembles. Comprehensive listing of works, performers and associated information is impossible given



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limited resources and may not even be necessary to deal with a majority of enquiries. Niels Krabbe reported on a plan to survey concert programme collections in Denmark, in a similar fashion to the work undertaken in the UK and Ireland. There are also proposals to create an item-level catalogue of the programmes of the major concert giving body in Copenhagen.

An open discussion on the WG report and the future direction of the group was chaired by Paul Banks. Much discussion centred on the title of the group, with various options being put forward. The title that emerged was designed both to broaden the group's remit and to state more specifically the group's aim to improve access to various types of material, including concert programmes, posters, tickets, flyers and brochures. All this material may be said to relate to particular events: after the event has passed, the programme, poster or ticket cannot be reused (and is often discarded). The historical importance of this material therefore derives from the fact that it is ephemeral - in other words, that its function and content is tied to a particular event in time.

The group agreed on a new title, 'Working Group on Access to Performance Ephemera', and the following elaboration of the group's remit was later formulated: 'The Working Group will provide a forum for discussion of strategies to encourage the improvement of access to performance ephemera both nationally and internationally, and where appropriate to develop common approaches and/or standards.' This was subsequently endorsed by the IAML Council at its session on Friday 15 July, although a few members raised concern over the use of the term 'Performance Ephemera'. The group was invited to reconsider the title over the course of the coming year.