

Australia

Looking back: Annual Conference September 2013, Perth

Our annual conferences continue to be an enormously valuable networking experience, as well as an opportunity to highlight projects, services and collections in the host state. We were able to discover more about both the Eileen Joyce and John Blacking Collections held at The Calloway Centre. John Blacking is described as one of the most important musicologists of the 20th century for his research into African music. The collection spans 35 years and comprises diaries, field notes, audio recordings, photographic negatives, 8mm films, unpublished conference papers and published research. Internationally acclaimed concert pianist Eileen Joyce spent her childhood in Western Australia and chose this as the home of her personal archive. The archive is made up of 1,000 letters, 900 newspaper clippings, 27 scrapbooks, 13 diaries, 700 concert programs, five autobiographical essays, 100 photographs, 100 records, and a private collection of 750 scores. Moving away from Western Australia, the conference considered some of the wider issues faced by our profession such as value of metrics in research, or more specifically the application of Research Impact Advisory Services in music (Georgina Binns), the implementation of RDA (Rebecca Gibbs), and Linked Data and the Semantic Web (Dr Toby Burrows). Pianist and academic Kirill Monorosi gave us insight in the editorial process of publishing a previously unknown work discovered as part of his research into the music of Cesar Cui, Louise Devendish talked Australian Contemporary Percussion Music and Dr Tim Nikolsky joined us via Skype to discuss the digital delivery of his Australian Jazz Real Book collection. In all our Western Australia members came together to present a fantastic event hosted by the University of Western Australia attended by 34 individuals including 17 members. Planning is already underway for our next conference to be held in Melbourne in October this year.

Administration

In 2014 we decided to cease our 'Young Professional' scheme which offered 2 years free membership to under 35s, in favour of a 10% discount to all new members. Although the initial scheme attracted new members the retention was low and it was felt the free membership didn't highlight the value of the association. We hope the discount is a useful marketing tool.

Our venture into the Twittersphere continues to be successful with 270 followers across the globe, double the followers to last year, our website visits are up 52%, and although our Facebook followers are limited our overall reach was over 3,000. We now also issue a monthly eNews bulletin, generated on MailChimp, which includes National and International branch updates including the latest on conferences plus a round up of relevant social media postings to help our members keep abreast of developments in the industry.

Membership & members

Australian membership in 2014 stands at 30 personal members and 21 institutional members and our executive remains relatively unchanged from 2013. The President is Julia Mitford (Australian Institute of Music), the Vice-Presidents are Denise Tobin (Elder Music Library, University of Adelaide) and Allison Fife, and the Treasurer is Erin Gallant (Australian National University). We took the decision at our AGM to continue without a secretary residing on the committee, although one is still required for incorporation purposes, instead sharing the role amongst the committee.

We are disappointed to see that the State Library of Western Australia has decided not to continue with a Music Librarian role, and note that many of our Academic libraries are seeing the increase in Liaison Librarians who deal with a range of subjects, with music just part of their portfolio. Although they no longer have a music librarian the SLWA are working to create projects to highlight cultural archives and activities. We are looking at ways to

support non music specialists through our public and academic libraries to ensure expertise and information is not lost.

In more positive news many of our academic institutions have recognised the work of music librarians over the last year. Margaret Green's significant contribution to music librarianship was acknowledged at University of Melbourne with the naming of a room in the Louise Hanson-Dyer Music Library – the first for the profession in Australia. Jenny Wildy was awarded the Chancellor's Medal for her outstanding service and significant contribution to the University of Western Australia's Wigmore Music Library.

Projects

The National Library of Australia's app Forte has been a great success allowing easy browsing access to 13,000 digitised music items from 1800s to 1950s. As of October 2013 the app had been downloaded almost 4,000 times with over 2,000 active users listening for 5mins per session. You can learn more about the development of this project on our blog. Other projects have included the digitisation of The Australian Musical News at the University of Melbourne which is now 75% complete and the Queensland University of Technology's new Media Warehouse repository ensuring the creative works of QUT staff and students will be preserved and accessible in the future.

Collections

New collections in Australian libraries include;

- University of Melbourne : Éditions de l'Oiseau-Lyre Archive – business records including correspondence between Louise Hanson-Dyer and Bartok, Britten, Debussy and other notable composers; Gossec's *Les agréments d'Hylas et Sylvie* and a manuscript score of and libretto to Gatti's *Coronis*.
- Elder Music Library : John Bishop Collection – annotated scores & rare manuscripts of the former Elder Professor & co-founder of the Adelaide Festival
- Australian Institute of Music: Robert Broadley Collection – 400 musical theatre scores, libretto, CDs & DVDs from the estate of the founder of the Strathfield Light Opera Company.

Our academic libraries seem to be all be facing the challenge of ensuring information literacy stays on the agenda and are all working in similar ways to embed this in course curriculum and provide as many digital tools as possible.

The good news here in Australia is that culture and creativity is very much on the broader agenda. Cultural hubs are being developed in many of our cities. City of Sydney have released their new Cultural Strategy and there are already plans for community facilities for artists in a new residential development including recording studios and rehearsal spaces. In Queensland Indie 100 has been a great example of partnership working to develop opportunities for artists. It's important that libraries continue to be represented as a way to achieve these cultural visions. We have contributed to the City of Sydney's consultation process to highlight some of the successful projects from IAML members across the globe which could be incorporated here in Australia and we plan to continue to champion the role of libraries in the cultural enrichment of communities.

Julia Mitford
President, IAML (Australia)