



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)

Future of IAML - Moscow 2010 Plenary Session

Notes from the Plenary Session Tuesday, 29 June 2010,

The Chair, Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi, described the Danish and Norwegian proposals as a 'stone in the lake'. After initial panic, the Board looked to see what process could be followed.

A PowerPoint presentation prepared by Jim Cassaro was shown. This demonstrated some of the change processes that could be followed.

Position Papers prepared by Michael Fingerhut and Siren Steen had appeared on the IAML website and were also reprinted in the abstracts booklet.

Michael Fingerhut and Ole Bisbjerg (on behalf of Siren) made brief presentations. Michael expressed his dissatisfaction with IAML processes. He noted that digitization and networking had become major factors. We are not well represented in digitization projects, e.g. Europeana. We must get involved in projects and promote the idea that music is not just sound.

Ole Bisbjerg talked about the need to make IAML quicker to react to match a faster changing society. He pinpointed three questions that IAML needs to ask:

1. What does the membership want from the organization?
2. When we know that, what services do we want to implement? Are they wanted?
3. We need to find ways to generate new ideas. Do we have the right organizational structure for that?

He suggested that IAML needs to be more visible. We hear little about the Board's activities.

Massimo commented that IAML was formed 60 years ago. He then summarized some of the issues facing IAML:

- Should its goals change from the original ones to perhaps taking the position of an authoritative body?
- Communication was the key and the problem. We do have the website, email and the conference. How else can we communicate among ourselves and with other associations?
- Is the website structured in the best way to suit our needs?
- Should we address our finances?
- What are our priorities?
- How *can* we convince people that music is more than sound?

The meeting was then opened up for comment from the floor. Issues that were raised:

Patrizia Rebullà: Problem of getting IAML visibility and getting responses.

Federica Riva: There are really three main purposes of IAML

1. Professional activities
2. Development of abilities
3. Promotion of libraries



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)

In Italy there are problems of funding and priorities. No one wants to hear about music because it is often too complex. For example, the Italian Library Association is happy with the new copyright legislation, even though it forbids the copying or lending of music. There 100 music voices raised against 3,000 members. There is no chance of being heard. Music is a small thing in the world, so we must all work together – publishers, libraries and performers. It is also important to form strong links with national library associations. They have the power and can achieve more in some areas.

It is preferable to change content rather than structure. All you need to do is change the way of doing things. One problem for IAML is that members don't understand the structure.

Jantien Dubbledam offered comments from an 'outsider/newcomer':

We are too modest. We should put more information and useful links on the website. I blog every day. We need to try new things. If it doesn't work, just try something else.

Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi: Yes, blogging integrated with email can be very effective.

Patrizia Rebullà: The problem is that simply don't have time to do all this.

Jantien: Make the time!

Kathy Adamson: Michael and Siren's position papers had commented on the activities of the Board. But it is the Council that dictates the work of the Board and it is well documented.

We need to define and clarify the groups and we need more activity and production of results.

Suggested that we use the membership file to add people to IAML-L.

Ruth Hellen: Agreed with Federica Riva. Restructuring is navel gazing and will achieve nothing. We need more help from our sister organizations for lobbying.

John Roberts: We need a clearer idea of the relationship between national branches and the international body. Frequency of meetings is important. Face-to-face is very important. We also need online communication, but it is usually open-ended. Conferences provide a termination.

Richard Chesser: The Council is not aware of its power to change things. The Board just carries out Council's decisions. We need to make the existing structure work. Council meetings should not just be reports, but discussions too.

Jutta Lambrecht: People interested in the website should come along to the Publications Committee meeting.

Jon Baqués: We should ask every national branch to respond to the position papers.

Other issues raised during the session:

- decreasing membership;
- importance of recruiting young music librarians;
- many people seemed to be in favour of a blog as a complement to e-mail;
- our website should also appeal to people outside of IAML;
- concern that IAML-L is so under-used;
- we need to strengthen the relationships between IAML and IMC, IASA, IFLA etc.