The Future of IAML Position Paper   Siren Steen
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The times they are a-changin'

There are several challenges in the library world: handling information-systems and digital content are the two most important ones. We should not lose sight of librarianship, but we have to turn our heads around to meet the demands of the new information needs that society is asking of us. This is a very general observation indeed, but as music production, presentation, and publishing are the fields with the most rapid growth on the Internet, their connection to the IAML community is even stronger.

The main change in all libraries over the last decade is the Internet. This change is as noticeable in the university library as in the public library. The library world has reacted differently to the fact that our patrons use the library in a more varied way now than just five years ago. As such, the library community has been a leader in using and organizing new services.

Many librarians feel their patrons are better acquainted with modern information science than they are themselves. A goal for most libraries just a few years back was to have enough computers to meet patron demands. Today, the use of small laptops, iPads, and cell phones as devices to gather and enjoy information is rapidly increasing.

IAML should indeed see it as a major task to help navigate services on the Internet. For example, suggestions databases that offer music scores for downloading; what are the best vendors for buying music scores, sound recordings, and other digital resources and websites. Many librarians have excellent skills in these areas, others have none. IAML can be a moderator, to arrange the information it considers best suited for the different types of libraries. This kind of practical help has many benefits. The most important is the training of all our members to be able to use state-of-the-art information resources, and thus giving our patrons the best service we can. Likewise it is vital to put a pressure for us to stay on top of these matters, in order to prove that libraries matter, and that the Internet needs professionals to help organize it.

A huge global debate these days concerns the downloading of music—whether stealing or buying it. Every music library meets this challenge in a different way, but IAML should be in the forefront of the debate. IAML could, as one tool to address this issue, create a survey of what is going on in the different countries concerning this topic. Another suggestion is to describe how some countries have met this challenge: Are there any government answers? What kinds of databases do libraries purchase to offer to their patrons? Etc.

Another topic that I personally would like to see created as a joint effort is about music library equipment and how one goes about outfitting a music library with state-of-the-art resources. Creating an idea-bank might help us all.

Time after time – **The IAMLs meet every year…**

People born after 1968 will be able to analyze both popular and classical music. Academia in 2010 is likely to embrace studies on popular culture in the same way it embraces studies within the old established culture. In my opinion, it is vital that IAML reflect this variety of musical interests in its conferences. We know that the membership of our organisation is declining. One way to attract new members is to include all kinds of music in our conferences. The great variety of important musical genres is addressed only to a modest degree at our IAML conferences.

Good speakers, good and surprising keynote-speakers, well informed moderators with guts to provoke are elements that I think will vitalize the annual conferences.

The Danish/Norwegian proposal from some years back listed five areas where we saw potential for modernisation: extended use of electronic communication, including *Fontes artes musicae* as an electronic journal; similar electronic procedures for elections of the IAML Board, as well as for officers of branches and subject commissions (highly relevant topics and qualified speakers would make it easier for members to find money to attend our conferences.); meeting frequency was proposed to be every two years—again a matter of reducing expenditures, as electronic communication would secure activities in between meetings; reducing the number of official languages also is a way of cutting expenditure and making IAML more efficient.

These points are still valid in my opinion. This initiative was met with an overwhelming negative response when published on IAML-L. Never before (or after) has the list had so many contributions from so many different members of our organisation. This kind of interest and involvement is what IAML needs! Provocative and stirring proposals that will turn minds and give vital input to the organization.

The IAML Board should be more active in provoking or informing IAML-members: tell us what they are doing, working on, and comment on all the on-going projects within the working-groups.

Gold digger

To me metadata is the gold reserves of libraries. I know there are different views on this, but I am firmly convinced that the more authorised metadata we can produce, the more our collections will be accessed on the Internet. IAML can take the initiative to inform us and encourage countries that are not there to participate in the VIAF-project (Virtual International Authority File).

Linked data is one issue. Another is developing multi-lingual thesauri or ontologies for the Web. IAML should lead the way and inform its members on these topics in a simple and straightforward way, not just by giving away URLs to interesting projects, but to digest and disseminate information to its members. Maybe IAML should find and pay a person to overlook and inform us on these matters as well as on the digital content I mentioned earlier, and give us advice. Our professional world is changing as you read this; we need to know about the changes that affect us much more quickly. Not everything should be the subject of a working group, whose efforts are often very slow. This is not a criticism of the good work

that has been accomplished by the working groups, but the rapid change around us requires a different way of working together, other than meeting once a year to discuss yesterday's paper.

For many years to come, libraries worldwide will have the task to guide people to the best information resources on the Internet. This need will decline, but it will take time. We should make our collections and services as visible and accessible as possible on the Internet, and, for me, IAML is the natural choice to give the best advice to its members.

IAML should coordinate some of the very good music librarianship education programs, so that we all know about the best and most common ones. For example, look at what the UK & IRL branch has done in the field; look to what is done in The Netherlands; maybe some of these courses could be translated.

In Norway we have an ongoing revision of subject headings lists. The old list dates from 1993 and the Norwegian Branch of IAML took the initiative to revise this useful tool. Members in the revision group came from the national library, public libraries, commercial library suppliers, and music colleges. This has been a fruitful collaboration, and a working group consisting of this mixture of personnel produces high expectations within the different library environments. This group also has contact with music instrument museums in Norway, the classification practitioners, the suppliers of the different library systems, and the official linguistic body in Norway.

It is stimulating and important to show that music libraries can take a leading role within the library world. IAML as an organization should be much more active in this respect.