



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)

Italy, report 2010

The seventeenth annual meeting and assembly of IAML-Italia took place on 7th April 2010 in Bologna at the new home of the Museo Internazionale e biblioteca della musica di Bologna (<http://www.museomusicabologna.it/>; also on Facebook). This is the former Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale.

In the following seminar Paola Gibbin (National Library, Florence) and Alfredo Vitolo (our guest) presented respectively “SBN-web” and “Sebina SOL”, two pieces of software that allow the cataloguing of music documents online within the SBN network using authority files and music fields available in the central system “Indice 2”. Indice 2 contains data collected since the start of the “Musica” project. Libraries using any software officially approved for the SBN data exchange - as the two presented are - now have the chance to import and correct their own data at the local level, as well as inputting, at the same time, into both the local and the national databases.

A paper on the state of art of music cataloguing in the SBN network by Alfredo Vitolo and Federica Riva began the session.

The meeting follows the theory course on cataloguing rules organized by the Branch in Parma on 25 through 27 February 2010, which was attended by 22 music librarians and cataloguers from all over Italy. The aim of the course was to update and discuss the forthcoming cataloguing rules prepared by the Music Study Group of the National Agency for cataloguing (ICCU). Two texts will be published: *The Uniform Title for Music Documents*, an appendix to the new national code for cataloguing (Regole italiane di catalogazione : REICAT / edited by Commissione permanente per la revisione delle regole italiane di catalogazione. - Roma : ICCU, 2009) and *The SBN Guide for Music Document Cataloguing - Printed Music, Sound Recordings and Librettos* will be published on the ICCU website (<http://www.iccu.sbn.it/genera.jsp?s=14&l=it>).

The IAML-Italia Board meets regularly on Skype using both voice connection and chat. A future aim is to add a blog to the branch communication tools. We thank Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi, as list owner of the national discussion mailing list IAMLITA-L, which is also open to international contribution (to subscribe see www.iamlitalia.it).

Critical issues of the year include the heavy cuts on culture by the Italian government. State funding has been reduced at the national level to opera theaters and cultural institutions, such as the Fondazione Cini in Venezia, the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, and the Istituto Nazionale di Studi Verdiani in Parma.

The reform of Music Conservatories offers both dangers and opportunities to the small librarian community working in Italian conservatories (roughly 60 people in the whole country) but no chance to improve its number. Thanks to the experimental courses and laboratories in music bibliography offered by some institutions since 2005, an annual 30-hour course in Music



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bibliography and library science has been approved as part of the standard undergraduate curriculum (*triennio*) in any Italian Conservatory of music, while a similar course at higher level (*biennio*) is optional. The experimental courses have already shown that direct contact within a teaching framework between music students and librarians improves qualities on both sides: both for the students' careers and for library management.

In spite of this success, music librarians, who are engaged as teachers, are under pressure. The national contract signed in August 2010 among the Ministero dell'Istruzione and the Unions creates the new position of "direttore di ragioneria e di biblioteca" (account department and library manager) as an administrative employee, intended to replace the teacher music librarian. This new position could immediately reduce the range of music librarians' work, facilitates possible conflicts with the administrative staff of the Conservatory, and could lead to an end of the best practice of the mutual cooperation between library management and music bibliography teaching.

Other best practices projects seem to have come to an end, instead of developing further based on their results. After ten years of activity, the special project to improve online cataloguing and digitization of the collection at the Music Library of the San Pietro a Majella Conservatory in Naples was ended. As a result, from 1 November 2010, the library loses two of its three librarians, and is must reduce its services in a significant way. The IAML-Italy annual assembly declared its great concern about this incomprehensible step-back and invite the international community to follow forthcoming initiative on www.iamlitalia.it.

Federica Riva

President, IAML (Italy)