Working Group on Access to Performance Ephemera
Reports and Notes 2012-14

Interim report to Council, 2014

The **Concert Programmes** (http://www.concertprogrammes.org.uk) database is the result of a three-year project (2004–07), funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council which was hosted by Cardiff University and the Royal College of Music. Building on data compiled for a scoping study commissioned by the Music Libraries Trust (2002-3), the database provides descriptions of concert programme collections held by leading libraries, archives and museums in the UK and Ireland. It has revealed the international scope of the holdings of many contributing institutions, thereby attracting users not only in the UK and Ireland, but also in many other countries worldwide. In 2013, there were 27,704 visits to the site from 116 countries. As a result, interest has been expressed by members of the IAML Working Group on Access to Performance Ephemera to contribute data for equivalent collections in other countries (including Germany, Spain, Sweden, and Italy).

During the course of the past year, discussions have been ongoing concerning the need to make improvements to the shared technical environment to bring the service into line with current practices. Thanks to a generous donation and further financial support from both MLT and IAML(UK & Irl) it is now possible to implement these changes and work is now under way.

Whilst the core RSLP collection level description relational databases will be retained, technical developments will be made in order to allow for a significant increase in data held and for the searching of that data to be much more efficient and effective. The data held will also be interoperable in such a way as to make use of existing linked data, available via the 'cloud' and exportable to other relevant services.

Our users will find a much-improved experience through a redeveloped interface, with the potential to offer multi-lingual texts with extended character sets; a more sophisticated search functionality including the ability to drill down using facet selection or to refine by categories, a portal style front end with social sharing opportunities such as tagging, linking, blogging, a twitter feed, user comments; improved visibility via major search engines and through other large-scale cultural portals such as the UK's Culture Grid (http://www.culturegrid.org.uk/) and the EU's Europeana (http://www.europeana.eu/); and both services will be compatible with smart phones. Work is to be undertaken by Orangeleaf Systems Ltd, who have hosted both services for a number of years.

It is hoped that the new-look services will be available in time for the 2014 IAML conference in Antwerp after which we hope to welcome other branches of IAML as contributors to these services.

Paul Banks

Fontes **report of meeting held on 30 July 2013**

Ten members of the working group met to discuss issues relating to the documentation of performance ephemera.

It was reported that new records for the collections at the University of Cambridge and the Royal College of Music had been added to the Concert Programmes Project database (http://www.concertprogrammes.org.uk/) during the last year, and that Barbara Wiermann and Ines Pampel had added some test records from collections in Leipzig and Dresden. These tests had revealed software problems with searches involving diacritics. The UK CPP team will seek additional funding for an upgrade of the database to address this and other issues.

The meeting also discussed a number of other issues including existing online resources relating to performance ephemera; the practicality of using existing union catalogue records within an enhanced version of the CPP database that would allow for item-level records; data visualisation, and the future leadership of the group.

There was general agreement that the group should make a case for renewal of its mandate in Antwerp in 2014.

Paul Banks

Notes of meeting held on 30 July 2013 (circulated to members)

Reported:
1. That new entries for collections at Cambridge UL and RCM 2. Test records added by Barbara Wiermann and Ines Pampel had revealed problems when searching for terms including diacritics.
3. That an offer of a donation that would have helped fund the updating of the CPP online interface had not materialised.

Discussed
1. Need to progress the preparation of an international listing of existing online resources relating to performance ephemera 2. The use of existing union catalogue records within an expanded CPP 3. The need to reach agreement about which MARC fields might be used 4. Data visualisation 5. Successor to Paul Banks who wished to relinquish the chairmanship of the group because of institutional commitments

Agreed
1. That Paul Banks would circulate a group e-mail to include e- mail addresses to facilitate group communication.
2. That David Day would circulate links to resources providing item-level records of performance events 3. Paul Banks would have further discussions with possible successors for the chairmanship of the group, and would seek advice about the necessary administrative procedures.
4. Because of timetable clashes, the Tuesday meeting of the group would be cancelled, but discussions continued informally at the conference and by e-mail.

***Fontes* Report, 2012**

The Working Group met during the IAML conference in Montreal on 23 and 25 July. The Group made further progress on building the framework for international collaboration in the documentation of performance ephemera collections, with discussion revolving around the specifications for a software enhancement of the Concert Programmes Online Database (www.concertprogrammes.org.uk) designed to improve search functionality. Some test records have been created by the German branch with a view to extending coverage to major collections in Germany in due course. A paper session devoted to the documentation of musical life was also given under the auspices of the Bibliography Commission, with contributions from three members of the Working Group: Paul Banks, Barbara Wiermann, and Catherine Ferris.

Paul Banks