

Resolution No. 2: Accessibility of Information and Communication (S.O.2)

2.1 Improve Communication

In furthering its universal vision and commitment to the preservation, continuation, and engagement with cultural diversity as the shared heritage of humanity, ICOM facilitates heritage action plans based on intercultural dialogue focusing on tangible and intangible heritage across its committees.

The ICOM General Assembly resolves

- to develop better tools for more effective and regular communication throughout its membership and partner networks;
- to improve multilingual communication tools to reflect the diversity of its members and partners;
- to use the three languages of ICOM (French, English, and Spanish) on an equal basis; and
- to reinforce close cooperation with regional alliances to provide access to the main statements, policies, and documentation of ICOM in different languages (e.g. Arabic or Swahili).

2.2 Improve ICOM's Documentation

The ICOM General Assembly resolves

- to develop a platform for online information (including publications) to provide its committees with a tool to reach out to its members and other interested entities; and
- to re-conceptualise the role of the UNESCO-ICOM Museum Information Centre as a digital archival resource for ICOM and for the general public.

Towards the Creation of an ICOM Digital Resources Centre

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In the framework of the Resolutions adopted by the 22nd General Assembly and the Strategic Plan 2008-2010, the ICOM Secretariat is proposing the creation of a digital resources centre which shall include archives, library, documentation and the publications.

> The proposed project would transform the ICOM website into a user-friendly, multilingual, cross-cultural, integrated platform which will be able to provide most of ICOM's "content".

> It also corresponds to the general guidelines for heritage preservation in the framework of the UNESCO "Memory of the World" Programme.

> Resolution No. 2 is a materialisation of what members really expect from ICOM in terms of knowledge dissemination. This is "to develop a platform for online information (including publications) to provide its committees with a tool to reach out to its members and other interested entities; and to re-conceptualise the role of the **UNESCO-ICOM Museum Information Centre** as a digital archival resource for ICOM and for the general public."

> Our network of professionals has, over sixty years, produced a large amount material of museological interest which is presently physically available at the international headquarters in Paris.

> ICOM archives go back to 1947. ICOM holds a significant historical collection that merits being exploited. Certain documents and publications are at present difficult to locate or can only be consulted at headquarters.

> Nevertheless, the value of these documents and archives is extraordinary. Many are rare, some unique, and the interest they may have, notably in allowing for heretofore unexplored and key complementary perspectives on the

context of international museology from the post-war period until today means that it is necessary to preserve them, conserve them and use them.

> To do so, it would be well to create on our website a space dedicated to the entire ICOM collection of documentary and archival resources. Not only would this part of our site constitute a showcase for ICOM, it would provide the contents for a **Resource Centre**, to be created, which would encompass the present Documentation/Museum Information Centre, the Archives, Communications and Publications.

> At present, a part of the Centre's collections (monographs, periodicals, museum catalogues) are housed at the Centre de documentation de la Direction des musées de France. In order to reflect the entirety of the UNESCO-ICOM Centre's collections, the first phase of the project involves putting a bibliographical database (catalogue) online with the records of the ICOM collection at the DMF and those housed at UNESCO.

> The word "archives" is often perceived by non-professionals as referring only to old papers and therefore being of no operational use. But archives do not consist solely of ancient documents of recognised historical value: they may also contain the kind of records produced every day, some of which are tomorrow's historical records. Archives are found in various physical formats and media (including posters, photographs, video cassettes, magnetic tape and digital media). For an archive to have value, the content must be readily accessible and transferable. Part of the documentation and publications, in particular **ICOM News**, will be available to online users in order to promote and disseminate the vision and mission of our Organisation.

> Various contacts have been made over the past few months with colleagues at UNESCO who are ready to assist us with the task. The recent collaboration has identified some tools with which we can proceed and the project seems to be developing with a certain celerity.

> The General Secretariat has already delivered a call to all Committees, especially former officers, to recover and collect all ICOM's archives for preservation, conservation and digitalization. An integrated portal offering the historical, scientific, cultural, and educational heritage of knowledge that ICOM has produced, is producing and will produce in the future will therefore be available to the world's museological community and ultimately become the Resource Centre we and society deserve for a world where the importance of cultural and natural heritage is universally valued.

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