

After two days we changed site and were put to work in the warehouse of a Cologne furniture company where from then on the preliminary treatment of the archive material took place. Individuals from the Archives School were directly involved in planning the move and in conversion work. Here it could be done in a more controlled way and under better conditions. A wind tunnel was set up for the archive material that was only slightly damp. A temporary office was set up for the Cologne City Archive employees and the logistics of cataloguing the single boxes of archives was considerably improved.

Precisely, in this early stage, conceptual and logistic problems had to be recognized and solved. That we could make a small contribution to this and not only to

the purely manual tasks - with a second volunteer detail in June we were able to see how our suggestions had been acted on – filled us with pride. We left Cologne with mixed feelings. On the one hand we were sad that Cologne was no longer that which it had once been for archivists and historians. On the other hand we were glad that we had been able to help a little and that we were permitted to offer and experience a special kind of solidarity. In the meantime the news from Cologne is that they were able to recover 90% of the archive holdings. A new archive building is being planned. So we have hopes that with much effort and in many years, probably decades of work, a “New Cologne Model” will be taught at the Archive School.

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Susanne Reick and Michael Aumüller

Translated by Margaret Crockett

A Professional “Stage” at the University Of London Computer Centre (ULCC)

In July 2009 I had the opportunity, through an agreement between the University of London Computer Centre (ULCC) and Girona City Council (Catalonia) to learn about different programs and collaborate with different professionals who work in ULCC.

As the head of the Records Management and Archives Department of our organization (City of Girona council), I am particularly interested in improving my knowledge regarding digital document management and in advancing our understanding of the costs of preservation for the administration. I also wanted to know the various services offered by the ULCC.

Throughout all contacts and meetings with various professionals working in the ULCC, I must stress the high level of competence and their willingness to share their expertise.

As a result of my experience, I would like to:

- Encourage ULCC to continue their selfless work and their proposals which are intuitive and extremely useful.
- Express appreciation for the level of international awareness which is evident in their projects, which I feel should look at incorporating, through collaborative agreements, translation into other languages.
- Suggest, bearing in mind that training is the only tool which can ensure a permanent improvement in the universal digital heritage management, an increase in the dissemination of projects such as an on-line version of the Digital Preservation Training Programme (DPTP, see <http://www.dptp.org/>) through e-learning and anticipate the possibility that it could be offered in different languages.
- Promote the use and

dissemination in other countries of the Assessing Institutional Digital Assets (AIDA) tool (see <http://aida.jiscinvolve.org/>), as a comprehensive project to understand the current situation and “health” of the digital information within organizations.

- Promote professional exchange and international cooperation in order to improve knowledge in the field of digital asset management.

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Joan Boadas i Raset

Girona City Council



Joan Boadas i Raset at the recent ICA CITRA with Ian Wilson, President of ICA. Image courtesy of National Archives of Malta - Photographer - Stephen Busuttill.