

The meetings were made possible by the financial help of the Compagnia di San Paolo and the Fondazione CRT, and by the support of the Municipality of Turin.

Giulia Barrera, International Relations, Directorate General of Archives

**Girona 2014. Archives &
Cultural Industries
9th ECA Conference**



We can not hide our satisfaction about the organisation of the International Conference “Archives and Cultural Industries”. It was held in Girona between 11th and 15th October. It was an important event that we organized in collaboration with other institutions and a large group of people that were really involved.

<http://www.girona.cat/web/ica2014/eng/index.php>

First of all, we would like to mention that 94,6 % of attendees who answered the survey did agree that the Conference was satisfactory. However, this figure alone does not provide much information and must be put in the context of the overall figures with the aim to objectively describe an event of this nature. For example, almost a thousand archivists from 90 countries were attracted by a proposal that drew the attention of professionals from such remote places as Korea, Mexico, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Australia, New Zealand, Armenia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Haiti, India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Peru, Senegal, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam or Zimbabwe; without forgetting, of course, dozens of European and Western countries.



2nd Annual Conference and the 9th European Conference on Archives held in Girona, in October 2014.

It's probably a general feeling that the main goal of any scientist conference should be broadening and deepening the knowledge in certain areas through the participation of professionals who work there, in this case, the archival community. In this sense, we can provide objective figures that show the success of the Conference. A participation of 255 speakers from 37 different countries, who have submitted 135 presentations and more than 1600 pages of scientific content, is proof of the generous attempt to share their knowledge.

We also want to emphasize that these 135 submissions were selected by members of the Programme Committee among the 237 received. We would like to thank all those who wanted to participate with their work. Most of these presentations had simultaneous translation into four languages: Catalan, English, French and Spanish, that helped for a better understanding.

We also highlight the participation of 6 keynote speakers. Behind this cold figure, nevertheless, those of us who were there feel very fortunate to have assessed their contribution. Allow us to focus on the first and last speakers: Joan Roca and Jordi Savall. It is truly stimulating, and makes us live our profession with pride, to see how the archive (in the broadest sense of the word) has become a key element in the creative process of people who have reached such degree of excellence in their fields. Archivists have also been able to participate at some of the 26 ICA meetings and have had the opportunity to register themselves to some of the 12 workshops organized. At the same time, all visitors have been able to attend to some of the parallel activities organized in the city related to the archives field: exhibitions (9) conferences (4) and cinema screenings (5), among others.



2nd Annual Conference and the 9th European Conference on Archives held in Girona, in October 2014.

Moreover, we can assess positively the impact of the Conference on the economy of the city. That can be explained through more figures: full hotels with 100% occupancy rate. The Spanish Convention Bureau, an organization dedicated to studies of the business tourism segment in Spain, states in its last study published in 2012 that the average daily expenditure per participant, in a city with Girona's characteristics, is 230 €. If we multiply this by an average five-day stay, the direct economic impact of the Conference Archives and Cultural Industries in Girona has been of the order of a million euro. And, without any doubt, the discovery of the town by many participants in the Conference will have a multiplying effect on the city's economy when they come back again with their family or friends (destination experience, as technically known in the sector).

However, as we mentioned earlier, this Conference has left an intangible mark, personal, intimate, hardly quantifiable. World's archivists have been able to work together and show exhibitions, communications, projections and publications to the entire citizenship. Both visitors and locals have had the opportunity to understand their documentary heritage in greater depth and we, archivists, have had the opportunity to explain the foundations of our profession and the role that we aim to play in an extremely changing environment such as the present.

For us, it has undoubtedly been a privilege to organize this event; as it was to realize the thrust, vitality, professional ambition and solidarity of archivists from all around the world. This is the great strength of the International Council on Archives (ICA) and it is one of the main reasons why we all must contribute to its continuous development.

Joan Boadas i Raset, Municipal Archivist of Girona