

FIAF Executive Committee
FIAF General Assembly

FIAF TECHNICAL COMMISSION REPORT TO THE FIAF EC BUENOS AIRES MAY 2009

1) Members of the Technical Commission (2009-11)

Members:

Thomas C. Christensen, Danish Film Institute, Head of Commission
Mikko Kuutti, Finnish Film Archive, Deputy Head
David Walsh
Nicola Mazzanti

Correspondent members:

Alfonso del Amo, Noël Desmet, Michael Friend, Grover Crisp, Mark-Paul Meyer,
Giovanna Fossati, Paul Read, Reto Kromer, Torkell Saetervadet, Patricia di Fillippi,
Ekbart Koppe.

The members are expected to attend all meetings and events of the TC and to ensure that the TC lives up to its obligations as far as projects etc. are concerned. Appropriate funding will be provided from the TC budget to ensure their attendance. The Correspondent members are invited to participate in meetings and projects, but are not obliged to attend all meetings.

2) Projects:

FIAF congress 2009, Buenos Aires:

The Technical Commission is providing a workshop at the congress. The subject of the workshop is mainly focused on issues in digitization and digital storage. The workshop in Paris had an "open forum" format, which will be continued in Buenos Aires.

FIAF congress and JTS 2010, Oslo:

The Technical Commission is already in contact with the Norwegian National Library and Norwegian Film Institute with possible content for a combined FIAF congress and Joint Technical Symposium. It is foreseen that most of the effort of the commission for the next year will go into the preparation of the JTS.

FIAF Technical Commission Basic Bibliography

A draft of a basic bibliography has been created by the Technical Commission. It will be attempted to provide a listing heavily based on free or cheap resources to ensure accessibility to all archives and collections. Currently the bibliography is very English biased. It is expected that it will be available on the FIAF website within the year.

FIAF Technical Commission Preservation Best Practice

A draft of the best practise document will be discussed with the EC in Buenos Aires. The document is not meant to be an exhaustive description, but rather a basic document for guidance to archives starting from scratch or to function as a guiding list of core issues, when making changes in archival structures. Film archiving is a complex activity and the document is an attempt at tying together the multifaceted approach to film preservation practised by FIAF, by describing the symbiotic relationships and dependencies throughout the action chain of film preservation and presentation.

3) Meetings (recent and future)

Paris, April 2008
Bologna, July 2008
Copenhagen, January 2009

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(Buenos Aires, May 2009)
Bologna, June 2009

4) Other activities & cooperation with other commissions and working groups
JTS, Oslo, 3-5 May 2010.

FIAF Summer School, Bologna, June 2008.

Thomas Christensen, Mikko Kuutti and David Walsh were among the speakers at the session during the Bologna Festival.

FIAF Summer School, Bologna, June/July 2009

The Technical Commission supports the efforts by Cineteca Bologna to hold the Summer School, and commission members frequently make themselves available for talks and panels.

EDCINE

Nicola Mazzanti and Paul Read are involved in the EDCINE project on behalf of the Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique and the ACE (European Cinémathèque Association). It is an important project, which will hopefully answer many questions within the field of digital film handling, storage, archive interchange, and screening. It is a European Union funded project. The result of the project will be presented in Bruxelles in June 2009.

DCI and frame rates

The SMPTE DC28 group is in contact with the FIAF TC on the subject of archival frame rates of less than 24 fps.

ISO liaison

FIAF TC has become formally liaised with the ISO/JPEG2000 SC29/WG1

European Film Gateway

A number of European FIAF/ACE archives have initiated an EU funded project to create a single access point to the film heritage held at European archives. Several TC members are involved and the results of the project will be disseminated to the FIAF membership as it progresses.

5) Budgetary matters

Apart from travel and meeting subsidies there are no activities planned requiring funding. Publication and dissemination of project findings will go through the existing channels such as The Journal of Film Preservation, the FIAF web-site, and at the annual congress. The commission is aware that funding beyond the annual budget is available by application. However, most of the relevant research and work is currently funded through external projects such as EDCINE and European Film Gateway.

Thomas C. Christensen, Copenhagen, May 11, 2009

