

**Society of American
Archivists Council Meeting
October 31 – Nov 1, 2023
Hybrid Meeting (Chicago, IL)**

**External Representative Report to Council:
International Council on Archives Forum of Professional
Associations (FPA)**

(Prepared by: Brenda Gunn, CA FSAA)

On October 10, 2023, the Forum for Professional Associations (FPA) Executive Board (EB) held a meeting during the International Council of Archivists (ICA) Congress in Abu Dhabi. The FPA EB meeting offered virtual attendance for members who could not attend in person. Five EB members from the Netherlands, Uruguay, Spain, Israel, and the United State (me) attended virtually. Present in Abu Dhabi were representatives from Canada, Kenya, Senegal, China, and Poland. Guests from other parts of the ICA organization included the Secretariat Executive Director, Head of Communication and Partnerships, and the Chair of the New Professionals Programme.

This report also includes information from the September 25, 2023, meeting.

Global Information Consortium

Anne Cornish, CEO of RIMPA Global, presented on the [Global Information Consortium](#) (GIC), which is an initiative founded by ARMA International and the Records and Information Management Practitioners Alliance (RIMPA) Global based in Australia. GIC's mission is to "create a global community to advocate for the effective and ethical management of information." Cornish presented the GIC vision of a global collective that creates impact from its large body of members. ARMA and RIMPA are the founding collaborators for GIC, and they seek additional members to build this "voice." As an example, Cornish remarked that GIC aims to advocate on behalf of countries and associations that don't have legislation for their country's records.

GIC is established as a membership organization with a tiered fee structure; the target members are associations of all sizes within the information disciplines rather than individual members.

The obvious question is, "How is GIC different from ICA?" Cornish responded that ICA focuses only on archives and records, whereas GIC covers all the information disciplines. It isn't clear at this time whether the ICA Executive Board has discussed GIC and the potentially overlapping missions of the two organizations, whether GIC has formally requested ICA to join, or whether ICA will seriously consider joining the consortium. Due to the time limitations, FPA board members didn't discuss the potential impact of GIC on ICA nor on their own home associations. This will be a discussion point at an FPA meeting to be scheduled before the end of 2023.

Recommendation: If SAA has a liaison to ARMA, I recommend that the liaison inquire about GIC from ARMA’s perspective and whether GIC intends to request SAA to consider becoming a member. In lieu of or in place of a liaison, I recommend that someone from SAA leadership or staff with ARMA leadership or staff.

New Professionals Programme (NPP)

Nicola Laurent, current President of the Australian Society of Archivists, and the current Coordinator for NPP described the activities of NPP and shared future plans as NPP looks toward the 10-year anniversary of its founding in 2024. (NPP is similar to SAA’s SNAP in terms of its membership profile.) NPP and the Forum of National Archives (FAN) is sponsoring a virtual seminar series in 2024 hosted by the national archives of the UK, Australia, and Canada. If successful, a 2nd virtual series is a distinct possibility since the group is very interested in continuing the series.

NPP offers a program for new professionals to build their individual capacity in their careers and to encourage their involvement in ICA. To this end, the NPP has sponsored a cohort of new professionals since 2014. They do plan to launch a new round of applications for a 2024 cohort.

FPA Mandate and Action Plan, 2022-2026

The Executive Board (EB) began a discussion during its virtual meeting held on 25 September 2023 on the FPA’s mandate in the context of ICA’s strategic priorities. Traditionally, the FPA has focused on serving what ICA categorizes as “B” members, which is defined as: “territorial, national or international associations concerned with the administration or preservation of records and archives or in archival training and education.” (SAA is a “B” member. Category A members are central archives directorates, federal archives, and national archives; NARA is a Category A member.) Questions to be considered included: How can the FPA channel ICA information and projects to individual members via the associations the EB represents?

During the EB’s meeting in Abu Dhabi, work on the action plan was limited to a review of a draft prepared by the EB’s president, Cedric Champagne of Canada. Further discussions and work will be done at an upcoming virtual EB meeting to be scheduled for November 2023.

Partnerships and Collaborations

At the September 25th meeting, the board discussed the opportunity to establish partnerships between professional associations and continued the conversation at the EB meeting in Abu Dhabi. Though no decisions or resolutions came from these two discussions, the group is interested in exploring this idea. The EB noted that partnerships could be beneficial in several ways, such as information sharing between smaller, younger associations and larger/established associations (sharing of policy or procedure documentation) and access to training materials.

This conversation dovetails with the proposal introduced by immediate SAA Past President Terry Baxter at the July meeting of Council (“Cooperative Agreement Between SAA and the Association of Polish Archivists), and which may be on the for an upcoming meeting of Council. The Polish representative to FPA is Wieslaw Nowosad,

and he is the individual who connects the SAA proposal with the proposal brought to ICA.

Recommendation/Request: Provide me with information from the Council's discussion as soon as possible so that I can bring the Council's thoughts into FPA's discussion at its next meeting ICA session at SAA conference Members of ICA governance held an informational session at the ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2023 meeting. Meg Phillips, ICA's vice-president of the Programme Commission (and from NARA); Ellen Engseth, member of ICA's Section on University Archives (and from the University of Minnesota); Cedric Champaign, president of FPA (Canada) and me as SAA's representative to FPA. We had around 60 people in the virtual audience and our presentations generated questions ranging from general clarifications on what ICA does, to questions about the panelists personal path to involvement with ICA.

**Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Gunn, CA FSAA**