

With the very successful conference in Paris behind us and the 2016 conference to look forward to in Washington DC, the IASA Board pondered about an appropriate theme. While a few of us looked to music for inspiration—Bob Dylan's '*The times they are a-changin'*' came to mind—the more level-headed consensus was rather to examine opportunities the digital age brings to IASA and our collections. Bearing in mind that IASA has been forward looking in promoting the digitisation of content, this is particularly appropriate. The theme for the 2016 conference is therefore: *A World of Opportunity: Audiovisual Archives and the Digital Landscape*. The theme follows neatly on last year's *All for One—One for All: Common Concerns—Shared Solutions*.

The ever-evolving digital landscape of today indeed offers a world of opportunities for us. Not only has access to information improved dramatically, but the value of our collections is increasingly being recognised, especially within the broadcast sphere where re-purposing and re-using content is vital for broadcasters wanting to reach new audiences and save costs. From a historical point of view, the digitisation of collections such as the South African Rivonia Treason Trial from obscure dictabelt carriers<sup>1</sup> contributed to ensuring that more cultural and historical content is preserved and shared than ever before. On the other hand, born-digital content is also becoming part of our cultural heritage. Kara Van Malssen in her article *Planning beyond digitization: digital preservation of audiovisual collections*<sup>2</sup> states that 'These (born-digital) collections will soon become the majority of the archive's holdings... A large amount of that data will be audiovisual media, which are some of the largest digital objects out there.'

Digitising audiovisual content, as well as managing born-digital content is of course not a simple process and many factors have to be considered, notably copyright, ownership, and intellectual property, as well as choosing file formats, codecs, storage systems, developing metadata standards and frameworks, developing new workflows, skill sets, migration strategies, to name a few factors. But, as with most challenges, the digital domain creates exciting opportunities and learning experiences.

The recent JTS (Joint Technical Symposium), held in Singapore and organised by SEAPAVAA is a case in point. The event was a great success with many interesting papers on audio and audiovisual projects which will soon be available in print. The JTS papers pointed to the many opportunities that the digital era has brought, whether in further research with regard to analogue collections, metadata standards, new thinking about restoration and digitisation, or how to manage newly created or born-digital collections.

We look forward to hearing about the opportunities digitisation has created for you, and importantly about the lessons you have learned on the road towards digitising your collections and how you manage born-digital content.

2016 will be the third time the IASA conference takes place in Washington, DC, but the first time IASA will not share the conference with another organisation. The Library of Congress, with its dynamic history spanning more than 200 years, has kindly agreed to host the conference. The IASA Board and especially Bruce Gordon and Judith Gray, are already hard at work to ensure that the conference will be a success. As usual, Richard Ranft has created the 2016 Conference website where you will be able to find all relevant information to start planning your travel.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Washington, DC.

*Ilse Assmann*  
*IASA President*  
*March 2016*

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1 <http://www.archeophone.org/dictabelt/windex.php>

2 <https://www.avpreserve.com/papers-and-presentations/planning-beyond-digitization-digital-preservation-for-audiovisual-collections/>

In IASA Journal, Issue 45, an article was published that made specific mention of IASA member Richard Wright, including unsupported claims about his professional opinions. Dr. Wright communicated his discomfort and disapproval to the IASA Journal Editor about the way his opinions were framed in the article “Original Physical Recordings of Audiovisual Documents: Preserve or Destroy After Digitizing” in IASA Journal, Issue 45, pp. 8–10.

The IASA Journal invited Dr. Wright to make a formal response within this issue of the Journal. Dr. Wright’s response follows:

*Regarding the article “Original Physical Recordings of Audiovisual Documents: Preserve or Destroy After Digitizing,” IASA Journal, Issue 45, pp 8-10.*

*My name is mentioned several times in this article, including the comment that I, personally, do not ‘set much store by the preservation of originals’. The evidence is an article, by me, mainly on another issue: digital preservation – written for (and to the space constraints of) the UK Digital Preservation Coalition. I suggest that the fact that the fate of originals is not discussed in that paper, is no evidence for anything.*

*Richard Wright  
UK  
January 2016*