

SOIMA 2007: SAFEGUARDING SOUND AND IMAGE COLLECTIONS

DATES: 6 August - 31 August 2007 (four weeks)
Application deadline: 10 January 2007
PLACE: Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte and São Paulo

ORGANIZERS

AN (National Archives of Brazil) www.arquivonacional.gov.br
ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) www.iccrom.org

With the cooperation of:

- School of Fine Arts, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, (Graduate Programme in Arts, CECOR - Center for Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Movable Property), Brazil
- Cinemateca Brasileira, São Paulo, Brazil
- Centre de Recherches sur la Conservation des Documents Graphiques (CRCDG), France
- Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA), UK
- European Commission on Preservation and Access (ECPA)
- Masters Degree Program in Moving Image Archiving and Preservation, New York University, USA
- Office of Records Services, National Archives and Records Administration, USA

THE COURSE

Audiovisual records are an integral part of our contemporary life and culture. Yet, audiovisual materials all around the world, especially those housed in heritage or other institutions with mixed collections are at risk due to deterioration, technological obsolescence or damage from natural and other disasters. Moreover, preservation and conservation of audiovisual materials is complex, requiring specialized guidance, skills and infrastructure.

While digitization offers new possibilities for wider access and preservation, many institutions lack expertise to assess the technological implications and to make informed choices that do not strain institutional resources and at the same time respect the authenticity and inherent values of this heritage.

The course will discuss the meaning, selection and use of audiovisual collections in various contexts, exploring the potential of audiovisual media in transmitting knowledge and cultural traditions. It will provide an overview of issues related to the preservation and access of audiovisual materials e.g., films, tapes, cassettes, disks. It will especially focus on identification of various formats including the playback equipment, life expectancy of media and ways of detecting deterioration. Course topics will include: current knowledge and practices for documenting, handling and storage, risk assessment of collections, emergency preparedness and response, criteria and technologies for migration and reformatting, planning preservation projects, outsourcing options, mass storage systems and management of metadata. Other issues such as copyright laws, legal deposit, institutional and national preservation policies will be discussed in context with participants' working realities. Adaptation to technological changes and related cost-effective preservation strategies will form a key component of the course.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, participants will be able to recognize all the materials and media in their audiovisual collections, to identify risks, and make informed choices for preservation and access. They will have improved their skills to communicate effectively across disciplines and to work in a

team.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The course will comprise lectures, a variety of group activities, practical sessions, case studies and site visits. Significant time will be allocated for independent consultation with the course team.

Case studies for the course will be based on participants' inputs and will address issues and challenges identified by them. Thus, active involvement of participants will be sought during the course preparation phase.

A follow-up programme, will involve working on self-defined initiatives in participants' home institutions and communicating as well as networking through a platform supported by the organizers.

PARTICIPANTS

The course is aimed at professionals working with collections containing audiovisual materials of national significance. In particular, it will interest archivists, collection managers, conservators, curators and librarians in charge of preserving such collections. It will also interest Information Technology professionals working on projects involving digitization of audiovisual collections or allied professionals and managers working for broadcasting institutions. Preference will be given to people actively involved in teaching and advising.

A maximum of 20 participants will be selected.

TEACHING TEAM

International team of recognized experts identified through professional networks of the organizers.

WORKING LANGUAGE : English

COURSE FEE: 900EUR

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND LIVING EXPENSES

Participants will be responsible for their round trip travel costs to and from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In order to cover living costs during the course, participants should plan for a minimum total allowance of US\$ 1300. This sum would include the costs of accommodation in moderately priced hotel rooms (which National Archives will locate for the participants). Candidates are strongly encouraged to seek financial support from sources such as governmental institutions, employers and funding agencies. The organizers may be able to offer a limited number of scholarships to selected candidates who have been unable to secure funding.

APPLICATION

Please use the Course application form at

http://www.iccrom.org/eng/01train_en/forms_en/applfrm_en.doc

and send it together with a statement summarizing your experience and the relevance of the course to your current or future projects in no more than 700 words.

Applications should be mailed to the following contact address:

SOIMA 07-Collections Unit

ICCROM

13, via di San Michele

I-00153 ROME RM, ITALY

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E-mail: collections@iccrom.org