

Resolutions, Recommendations and Wishes
of the Extraordinary International Archives Congress
held in Washington, May 9-13, 1966

1. The Extraordinary Congress reaffirms that one of the principal objectives of the International Council on Archives is "to facilitate more frequent use of archives and the effective and impartial study of the documents they contain by making their content more widely known and by encouraging greater freedom of access", as stated in Article 2 of the ICA Constitution.
2. The Congress expresses the wish that researchers, irrespective of nationality, should everywhere be accorded equal and easy facilities for access to archives, and that every means should be employed to make this principle effective. It requests that the Executive Committee of the ICA investigate the possibility of creating an international readers' card to serve as a recommendation of the bearer to foreign archival institutions, and that it submit a report to this effect at the next session of the General Assembly that will take place in 1968.
3. In view of the needs of contemporary historical, economic and social science, the Congress expresses the wish that responsible archival authorities strive to obtain substantial liberalization of the rules of access by reducing, if possible, the restriction periods in effect, and, in addition, by opening certain categories of documents to research use before expiration of the prescribed term.
4. Arrangement and the preparation of finding aids being ^{among} the principal functions of archivists, the Congress expresses the wish that this work be accelerated and that comprehensive guides to documentary sources be published. It desires especially that archival depositories be provided with qualified personnel in sufficient numbers to carry out as rapidly as possible the work required to permit access to the increasingly voluminous archives of contemporary times.
5. Inasmuch as current concepts in the copyright field may have an influence on research in archives, the Congress desires that the International Round Table Conference put this problem on the agenda of its next meeting.
6. The Congress desires, in order to promote the publication of documentary sources in each country, that the ICA Executive Committee establish a working committee to investigate ways and means of adapting the most economical and rapid methods to the publication of archival sources; it desires that this committee concern itself particularly with a study of the use of microfilm as a means of publication.
7. The Congress expresses the wish that the Archives Committee of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PIGH) and the

Inter-American Technical Council on Archives (ITCA) be invited to make an inquiry, by means of questionnaires, into the conditions under which historical documents are published in the countries of Latin America, as a first step toward the formulation of national publication programs. The questionnaires would be submitted to the national archives of each Latin American country. The Congress also expresses the wish that the International Council on Archives, the Archives Committee of PIGH, and the ITCA concert their efforts to obtain the assistance of UNESCO and of foundations interested in the progress of scientific research, for the purpose of developing national documentary publication programs. The order of priority would be predicated upon the economic situation in each country, upon the informational value of the sources, and upon the risk of their destruction.

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8. The Congress, in view of the needs of the historical sciences, recommends the strengthening of microfilming programs by extending them, if possible, to entire series or fonds. It desires that a very considerable share be allotted to documents relating to nations whose history is dependent upon archival sources held in other countries. The Congress believes that agreements concerning the exchange or the provision of microfilms should contain clauses regulating their reproduction or their further transfer.
9. The Congress recommends that the ICA Executive Committee take the initiative in making a study of the conditions under which films may be preserved in tropical climates.
10. The Congress considers that the operating funds available to the ICA are clearly inadequate. The growth of the Council's activities, the execution of the projects desired by the Congress, and the implementation of the wishes and resolutions that it has adopted, require increased financial means that would make possible, especially, the establishment of a permanent secretariat. The Congress considers that it is important to obtain, in the first place, a substantial increase in the usual subvention granted to the Council by UNESCO. Consequently, it requests that all of the delegations present in Washington recommend to the national UNESCO commissions of their respective countries that they take forceful action on behalf of ICA during the next General Conference of UNESCO.
11. In addition to the projects referred to under points 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, ¹⁷ and 18 of the present document, an increase in its funds (either in subvention form or by means of contracts of various kinds) would enable the International Council on Archives:
 - a) to resume publication of the International Archival Bibliography suspended since 1960;

- b) to put into operation the Paris International Archival Documentation Center.
- c) to reactivate the Committee on Terminology in order to complete the vocabulary published in 1964 and to determine equivalent terms in languages other than those originally included (*Portuguese, the Slavic and Scandinavian languages, and American Terminology*).
- d) to establish a Liaison Committee of document restoration and preservation technicians in order to facilitate the spread of new techniques and the continuous exchange of experience in this field.
- e) to undertake the study of the problems of international law in the archival field in accordance with the wishes of the 1961 Warsaw International Round Table Conference.
- f) to establish regional branches of ICA in Southeast Asia, in English-speaking African countries, and in French-speaking African countries.

12. The Congress expresses the wish that a special item be added to UNESCO's technical assistance budget for the purpose of helping developing countries to organize their archives.

13. The Congress warmly approves the UNESCO idea of starting an archival pilot project in Africa, and assures the collaboration of the ICA in carrying it out. In order that this program of assistance may be as effective as possible, it believes that two sub-regional projects should be provided for: one based in English-speaking East Africa, and the other in French-speaking West Africa.

It would also be useful to strengthen the operations of the UNESCO mobile microfilm units and, eventually, in Africa, to incorporate them into the sub-regional projects.

While awaiting the start of the sub-regional projects, it would be appropriate to take immediate action to train qualified personnel for African archival institutions by making use of opportunities existing locally.

14. The Congress has taken note with satisfaction of the progress of the work on the series of Guides to the Sources of the History of Nations. It hopes that the national volumes constituting the Guide to the Sources of Latin American History will soon appear, and expresses the wish that countries holding relevant sources, which until now have not participated in the project, would lend their support to the Latin American Guide, as well as to the Guide to the Sources of African History now in progress.

In addition, the Congress desires that there should be undertaken, under the sponsorship of the International Council on Archives, another series of guides devoted to sources preserved in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

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15. The Congress approves UNESCO's initiative looking toward the association of the International Council on Archives with the vast project of preparing a General History of Africa.
 16. The Congress expresses the wish that the national members of the International Council on Archives (central archival authorities or comparable institutions, and national professional associations) submit to the ICA secretariat within six months a list of candidates -- for whose competence they can vouch -- to undertake UNESCO archival technical assistance missions. The international roster will be transmitted to the responsible UNESCO department as soon as it is drawn up, and supplemented by new candidates as they are nominated.
 17. The Congress approves the plan to establish a permanent working group, composed of representatives of concerned departments of the UNESCO secretariat and of the International Council on Archives, whose principal function would be to investigate ways and means of assisting archival institutions in developing countries, to oversee the implementation of projects, and to coordinate activities in this field.

~~Later, a special international commission should be established to develop an assistance program of wider scope.~~

18. The Congress expresses the wish that a working group should be created by the President of the ICA with the mission of continuing the work started in Washington. It desires that the International Round Table Conference should take special interest in the application within Europe of the measures recommended by the Congress and that the Executive Committee submit to the 1968 General Assembly a report on the progress achieved between the Washington and Madrid Congresses. *prepared by the working group*
19. The Congress notes with satisfaction that its meeting took place at a most appropriate time and that the exchanges of views there have been particularly useful. It expresses its gratitude for their generous hospitality to the American colleagues and institutions responsible for this meeting. It addresses its thanks particularly to the United States Department of State which put its Conference Room at the disposition of the delegates, to the interpreters who provided a brilliant simultaneous translation of the proceedings, and finally, to the National Archives of the United States which organized in a perfect manner the working sessions and the sojourn of the delegates in Washington.
20. The Congress requests the President of the International Council on Archives to instruct the Secretary of the Council to prepare messages of thanks to the following individuals and institutions:
 - a) To Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson who kindly received the members of the Congress at the White House.

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- b) To Mr. Verner Clapp, President of the Council on Library Resources, for the generous subvention which made possible the convocation of the Congress and the presence in Washington of 55 national delegations.
 - c) To the Society of American Archivists, to the records management officers of United States Government agencies, and to the Library of Congress which have successively been the hosts of the delegates during their stay in Washington.
 - d) To Messrs Kenneth Munden and Morris Rieger, whose excellent work of preparation and organization enabled the Congress to have productive discussions.

Washington, May 13, 1966