

Preservation and access: two concepts, one goal

The work of the European Commission on Preservation and Access (ECPA) ^[1]

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Abstract

The European Commission on Preservation and Access (ECPA) has been active now for four years as a forum for the exchange of information on preservation issues. The activities of the Commission include publications, training, conferences and workshops. This paper will present some of the activities of the ECPA against a background of changing conceptions on preservation. Over the years, preservation has come to be seen more and more as an all-encompassing activity aimed at keeping collections accessible as long as possible. This has brought with it a new emphasis on management of preservation, on issues like selection, reformatting, and training of staff and users. The digital revolution has moreover shifted attention from conventional to new media. Digital materials create new problems for long-term access that preservation experts must deal with. For preservation of conventional carriers, the surge of interest in the possibilities of new media may pose a threat by absorbing a large proportion of scarce resources. On the other hand, the support for digitization projects may have a positive effect on all efforts directed at increasing access to the cultural heritage, including preservation. This paper will outline how the ECPA hopes to contribute to the formulation of preservation policies in the light of these new developments.

Zusammenfassung

Die European Commission on Preservation and Access (ECPA) arbeitet seit vier Jahren als Forum für den Austausch von Informationen über Konservierungsthemen. Die Tätigkeiten der Kommission beinhaltet Veröffentlichungen, Ausbildung, Konferenzen und Workshops. Dieser Beitrag stellt einige der Tätigkeiten der ECPA unter dem Aspekt der sich verändernden Wahrnehmung des Begriffes 'Konservierung' vor. Während der letzten Jahre hat sich Konservierung mehr und mehr zu einer allumfassenden Tätigkeit gewandelt, die darauf zielt, den Zugang zu Sammlungen so lange wie möglich zu gewährleisten. Dies verlagert den Schwerpunkt auf Konservierungs-Management in Bezug auf Auswahl, Umstrukturierung und Ausbildung von Personal und Benutzern. Die digitale Revolution hat außerdem die Aufmerksamkeit von konventionellen zu neuen Medien verschoben. Die Konservierungsfachleute müssen sich nun mit den neuen Problemen der langfristigen Zugänglichkeit beschäftigen, die digitale Medien aufwerfen. Die Konservierung von konventionellen Trägern könnte durch das wachsende Interesse für die Möglichkeiten neuer Medien und den damit

verbundenen Verbrauch der geringen Mittel bedroht sein. Andererseits könnte die Förderung von Digitalisierungsprojekten einen positiven Einfluß auf alle Anstrengungen haben, welche den verbesserten Zugang zum kulturellen Erbe, einschließlich seiner Konservierung, zum Ziel haben. Dieser Beitrag skizziert den Versuch der ECPA, zur Gestaltung von Verfahrensweisen in der Konservierung im Hinblick auf diese neuen Entwicklungen beizutragen.

Introduction

Preservation is a must for continued access. That more or less sums up the views underlying the creation of the European Commission on Preservation and Access (ECPA) in 1994. The ECPA was founded by a group of librarians, archivists and scholars out of concern for the fate of the millions of books and documents threatened by acidification and embrittlement. The ECPA was modeled after the US Commission on Preservation and Access (which has since become a programme of the Council on Library and Information Resources, CLIR). The CPA has been successfully campaigning for about 15 years, in the US and abroad, to raise public awareness of preservation issues and to get the topic on the agenda of politicians and decision makers. The ECPA acts as a European platform for similar activities, by disseminating information and stimulating discussion and exchange of experience. The aim of the ECPA is 'to foster, develop and support European collaboration among libraries, archives and allied organizations, in order to ensure the preservation of the published and documentary record in all formats and provide enhanced access to the cultural and intellectual heritage'.

Although the direct inspiration for establishing the ECPA was the critical situation of relatively recent paper collections as manifested in archives and libraries throughout Europe, this founding statement shows that the Commission does not restrict its work to one format only. The modern collections held by European institutions constitute the accumulated knowledge of science and scholarship and are an indispensable resource for a continuing tradition of academic research. For the ECPA, the primary concern is that the intellectual content contained in these collections is saved for future use. This problem extends to all carriers of information, not only paper, but also more recent ones like film, tapes and disk - some of which decay even faster than nineteenth century paper. The challenge lies first and foremost in the preservation of the massive amounts of information represented by modern collections, which requires a fundamentally different approach than the preservation of single items.

The changes in orientation of preservation work over the past years show that to address this situation adequately and creatively, one needs to think of preservation in terms of an activity

taking place at all levels of the institution, as 'a process to be managed, not a problem to be solved'[2], with the aim of ensuring optimal access for the long term. The work of the ECPA focuses on the area where preservation and access meet, not in opposition but as complementary aspects of collection management. The name of the Commission is meant to reflect that preservation and access are inextricably entwined so that one could even speak of preservation *for* access.

Organization

The ECPA has a Board of 14 members representing universities, academies, libraries, archives and the world of publishing, and is unique in bringing all these groups together in one European platform focusing specifically on the preservation and access of the documentary heritage [3]. The members of the Commission and their institutions have committed themselves to promote this European initiative and actively support ECPA projects, acting as an intermediate between the European and the national/regional level. In addition, the ECPA cooperates with international and European organizations for librarians and archivists that have special committees for preservation activities. Cooperation with the Division on Preservation of LIBER (Ligue internationale de bibliothèques européennes de recherche), IFLA-PAC Programme (Programme on Preservation And Conservation of the International Federation of Library Associations) and the European Programme of the International Council on Archives has created partnerships to combine professional expertise with the organizational and administrative framework the ECPA can provide.

The Secretariat of the Commission, housed at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam, actively collects and disseminates information all over Europe through an extensive mailing list and maintains personal contacts with a network of active specialists in many different countries. Constant and direct input from experts is considered essential to carry out the programme successfully, to provide feedback on the contents of the activities and to make sure the right directions are chosen. The role of the ECPA is that of a facilitator that aims to support the preservation community in realizing its own objectives: directly by acting as a partner in specific projects, indirectly by impressing the need for wide-ranging preservation measures on a wider audience. By promoting the concept of preservation as a necessary and integral aspect of collection management, the Commission hopes to contribute to a climate in which such measures are taken as a matter of course and become easier to implement.

Dissemination of information

The primary activity of the ECPA is the dissemination of information. The website the Commission created in its first year of existence (<http://www.knaw.nl/ecpa>) has now expanded into various directions. First of all it is a general gateway to preservation information offered by numerous institutions and organizations, with a calendar of meetings and events and information about new publications. With the support of the Raphael Programme of

the European Community, a much more extensive directory of information on preservation activities in Europe has been added over the past two years. This 'Preservation Map of Europe' is a fully searchable database offering information on preservation work being carried out in institutions and organizations in all countries of Europe. The information is continually updated and expanded. As the use of the internet is not equally widespread in all European institutions, a paper version will also be made available.

The website of the ECPA also houses a virtual exhibition on damage to books and paper, which presents shocking illustrations of quite common types of damage, with basic explanations. This exhibition is aimed at an audience of non-specialists and is publicized among institutions to encourage them to provide some information on preservation on their own sites and link to the exhibition for instance.

The latest addition to the ECPA website is a presentation on iron-gall ink corrosion, which was developed in cooperation with a group of institutions in the Netherlands involved in research on ink corrosion. Here too many examples can be seen of damage by ink corrosion which are of interest to the nonspecialist, but the site also includes in-depth articles and an extensive bibliography on research on ink corrosion.

The way the website has been set up shows that the target audience for ECPA activities is not only the preservation community, but also a much wider circle of librarians and archivists that have an interest in preservation but do not necessarily have expert knowledge of the field, and even a general public of users with an interest in older materials. The same philosophy underlies the ECPA publication programme. To date, eight reports have been published, on preservation-related topics varying from mass-deacidification to digitization of photographs for the internet. These publications find their way to institutions all over Europe; on the average, about 800 copies of each report are distributed. The publication of these reports is undertaken in cooperation with the US counterpart of the ECPA, the Commission on Preservation and Access in Washington, to ensure optimal distribution on both sides of the Atlantic.

The reports can deal with all topics related to preservation, but should be accessible and of interest to the nonspecialist. The main aim of the publication programme is to bridge the gap between those at the forefront of research and new developments and the librarians and archivists with preservation tasks that need to be informed for their daily work. The reports usually take the form of surveys of research that can help people decide about practical applications, or case studies that show how things can be done - and, most importantly, how they should *not* be done.

In line with its goal of contributing to the dissemination information, the ECPA also tries to identify existing publications that have so far only reached a specific group and that can be translated or re-issued for a wider audience. Moreover, the Commission has undertaken the distribution of all reports published independently by the CPA in the years before the ECPA was established, and of the relevant RAMP studies published by UNESCO.

Raising awareness

It has always been one of the aims of the ECPA to involve users, and especially scholars and scientists as the most

important group of users, in the preservation debate. It is after all their work that will suffer if invaluable information becomes inaccessible through deterioration of the carriers on which it is stored. As they are the ones who benefit most from optimal access, it seems only logical that they should take an interest in the problems facing the institutions holding research collections in keeping them safe for future use. Their involvement could be crucial in that they could help librarians and archivists to decide about priorities in their preservation programmes by making recommendations about the kind of materials that should be preserved and about the formats in which this should preferably be done. And if researchers knew what is at stake, they might also support preservation efforts by putting pressure on governing bodies to pay due attention to the problem and make funds available.

Unfortunately, only very few researchers are aware of the risks threatening the resources for their work. Most scientists and scholars seem to take it for granted that someone else will assume the responsibility of providing them with what they need. They regard an archive or a library as an institution offering services, and in a way act just like consumers of other goods and services. Just as none of us fully realize how complex the logistics are to get fresh milk on the shelves of the supermarket every day, the average scholar does not appreciate how libraries and archives really work, how many books and documents they actually keep, and what the risks to these collections are. This is something they have to be told about, and this is one of the tasks the ECPA has set itself.

A first step in this direction was taken by the publication of a booklet, written in an accessible and engaging style and sketching the problems in keeping collections safe for the future. The Dutch edition ran to several thousand copies and met with considerable acclaim in the library and archive community. In 1998 this publication was awarded a prestigious prize for publications in the library field. A French translation has meanwhile been made, and negotiations are underway to publish this translation in cooperation with organizations in France, while the possibilities for an English edition are also being explored.

The ECPA hopes to continue this line of activity the coming year by producing a similar publication specifically dealing with the preservation of photographic collections. The intention is to work on this project in partnership with institutions in other European countries, to ensure that editions in several languages can be published and that dissemination can be effectively realized at the national and regional level.

To reach scholars and scientists, the ECPA will need the help of scholarly societies, academies and research organizations that can rally their respective constituencies. Making suitable materials available is only a start of what promises to be a long and arduous process. Yet it must be tried, in order to generate the widest possible support for preservation efforts that will only require more work and more money as time moves on.

Photographic collections

The idea to produce an introduction on the conservation of photographs partly came up because of the present surge of interest in photographic collections. The reasons for this are

not hard to fathom. For one thing, many photographic collections are by now reaching such an age that their conservation becomes a matter of urgency, and the motivation to protect them has become stronger with the growing appreciation of photographs as a valuable part of our cultural heritage. With the advent of the digital media, it has become possible to combine powerful search facilities and scanned images providing a level of access that simply did not exist before. In addition, for internet applications, photographs are more attractive as a raw material than text. Photographs have a direct appeal for large groups of users and lend themselves easily for educational use. No wonder then that many institutions are eager to digitize (part of) their photographic collections and are often already working on it.

The ECPA is a partner in one such digitization project, EVA (European Visual Archive) [4], which has as its aims to explore the requirements for digitization of photographic collections and for an open classification and search system. The role of the ECPA in this project is to collect information on digitization of photographic collections in European institutions. A questionnaire sent out at the end of 1998 to archives, libraries and museums yielded 130 responses, and a preliminary report presenting the data collected has now been written. The ECPA will use the information gathered as the basis for a more extensive report discussing digitization of photographs in the framework of preservation, which is scheduled for publication in the second half of 1999.

Training

Training is often mentioned as a high priority by preservation experts, and over the past years the ECPA has developed, in cooperation with the LIBER Division on Preservation, the Public Record Office of the UK, and the Marburg Archivschule, a European programme for training that focuses on preservation policy and management. The decision to focus on management aspects originated from a preliminary workshop held in Amsterdam in 1996, when 15 experts explored training needs. From the discussions emerged that in all European countries there are highly qualified experts who are familiar with the current debate on preservation and know what they would like to do. The difficult part is to translate the knowledge available into action, as this can only be done if there is sufficient understanding of the need for preservation programmes in an institution.

In many institutions, however, preservation is still regarded as an activity quite separate from other work and as the exclusive responsibility of a conservation department. It is often difficult for experts, who know what should be done, to gain wide support throughout for measures perceived to be in the preservation domain. By nonprofessional staff, not employed in a preservation department, such measures are often felt to conflict with other targets they have to meet. To make them aware of how their activities may affect the life-span of books and documents, basic training should be provided. At the same time, the management of institutions should be made to realize that an insistence on short-term targets to be met, like the production of a certain quantity of photocopies within a certain period of

time, may result in long-term loss. It should be explained to them how preservation relates to the other tasks of an institution, how it can be managed in the context of the main goals of the institution, and how this will benefit the institution as a whole in the longer term.

To involve others in preservation efforts and to bring about a change in mentality that will make it possible to realize the necessary measures, it is not sufficient to be an expert conservator. One needs to be able to negotiate, to write project proposals, to set priorities, to cost and plan the various stages of a project, to convey to other departments what their role is, and to convince the director of an institution, perhaps also funding agencies, that this work needs to be done and needs to be done in a certain way. To formulate a preservation policy, as many institutions have done, is a first step, but to implement it through procedures and projects is quite another and requires managerial and organizational skill as well as expert knowledge on preservation issues.

The training programme the ECPA has helped to realize is meant to 'train the trainers', to give those in charge of preservation tools to set up training and coaching in their own institutions and countries and thereby involve their colleagues in preservation work. It is eminently suited for a European approach, as it is aimed at key figures at larger institutions who can learn from the experiences gained at other large institutions. They can then take the work further at a national and institutional level, in whatever way is most suitable for their specific situation.

The first European Summer School on Preservation Management was organized by the Marburg Archivschule in 1997. In 1998 the Open Society Archives in Budapest organized a two-week Summer University on preservation management, and in 1999 the Public Record Office of the UK and the British Library are organizing another one-week course. In Finland a programme is being developed for the Nordic countries, and the ECPA is trying to find partners in France and Spain for preservation management courses in those countries in 2000 and after.

To support training efforts at the national and institutional level, training materials should be made available in the national languages. A considerable number of practical guidelines and basic texts is available in English (and some in French and German) that are relevant for a large audience of librarians and archivists. However, for many of them reading a text in a foreign language is an obstacle, and if one wants to promote a new way of looking at things, such obstacles mean certain failure. Translation of basic materials is therefore of paramount importance for almost all European countries if one wants training at a national or institutional level to succeed. The ECPA has supported several smaller and larger translation projects, for instance in Hungary, Estonia and Rumania, and will continue to do so whenever possible.

Conferences

To offer those involved in preservation work the opportunity to discuss experiences with colleagues from all over Europe, the ECPA has, in partnership with institutions, organized two major conferences. The first one, organized together with Die Deutsche

Bibliothek, took place in Leipzig in 1996 and attracted 160 participants from 30 countries. The theme of this conference was *Choosing to preserve* and the papers presented dealt primarily with policy issues and the choices that have to be made in developing a preservation programme. The proceedings of this conference were published by the ECPA about a year later.

From 19-21 April 1999 a similar conference, with around 140 participants, took place in The Hague, hosted by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, national library of the Netherlands, and co-organized with the ECPA and IFLA-PAC Core Programme. Here the discussion centered on the theme *Preservation management: between policy and practice*. The speakers were experts actively involved in very different preservation projects, ranging from storage and description of large-size documents and maps, to the development of a mass deacidification plant.

Interestingly, most speakers underlined the management components of the projects they are engaged in. There was a strong emphasis on aspects like training, personnel management, finances and budgeting, planning, and public relations. A proactive approach to prevent damage - rather than cure it afterwards - is becoming more and more accepted, but in spite of a high level of activity, it remains difficult to formulate a general preservation plan for the medium to long term, on institutional as well as regional levels. The proceedings of this conference will also be published by the ECPA by the end of 1999.

Preservation of digital materials

When the ECPA started its work in 1994, it still seemed possible to discuss preservation in terms of more or less 'conventional' carriers of information - paper, parchment, photographic prints, film, tapes. Since then, the digital hurricane has hit archives and libraries at full blast and threatens to sweep them off their feet. For preservation, there are several questions to be considered. One is the life-span of the digital carriers themselves to be studied by materials scientists. Although this is a comparatively concrete problem, it is complicated immensely by the variety of components used and the constant introduction of new ones, which often means that recommendations for the use of a specific type of carrier on the basis of sound testing cannot be made at the moment it is beginning to be used in practice. This effect of running after the facts is further exacerbated by the rapid developments of hardware, which makes it doubtful that a carrier much used today will still be current tomorrow. At the moment anyone with a sense of the rate of change in this field knows that it is risky to commit valuable information to whatever type of CD-ROM or tape if one wants to be certain of access over the next decades rather than the next few years. Yet decisions cannot be postponed to a later date when all will be clear - for will it ever?

For information 'born digitally', that was originally created in digital format, there is the additional problem of the myriad of programmes used that will all without question be superseded by others. Strict adherence to what standards there are at the present time would help to reduce future problems, but even so it is unclear to what extent backwards compatibility and timely migration will be able to guarantee long-term preservation of data and full functionality.

The uncertainty in this field is particularly harrassing for institutions committed to keeping their collections accessible for decades or even centuries. Digital data must be dealt with, and they must be dealt with now, whereas with conventional carriers there was at least some time to work on policy decisions. For the preservation community, it means that they have to concern themselves with matters previously outside their sphere of activity in order to be able to stand up against practices that do not seem to pay due attention to considerations of longevity. The demand for information and guidance in this area is overwhelming; whenever the ECPA announced the publication of a new report dealing with matters digital, requests for copies flooded in from all sides. Long-term access of digital materials therefore will have to remain high on the agenda of any organization concerned with preservation, and the ECPA intends to do its share too.

Digitization - an opportunity for preservation?

The longevity of digital materials in themselves is one aspect that concerns the preservation community. Another, but related issue is the widespread adoption of retrodigitization, i.e. digitization of sources already existing in paper or other formats, and the need it has created to redefine the balance between preservation and access. First of all, because of the obvious value of (retro)digitization for access, the scales tend to tip into the direction of access to the extent that it becomes hard to keep up interest in the enormous amount of materials not in digital format and not likely ever to be digitized. People have to be reminded that this is a huge category that must be cared for even in a time when digitization absorbs a substantial part of resources. And experts have to keep hammering on the fact that for preservation purposes conventional measures are sometimes a more rational choice than digitization, as microfilming for instance for material that is consulted infrequently.

Second, the debate on the exact relationship between preservation and digitization is still in the process of taking shape. An unbounded belief in the possibilities of digitization may lead to a strong emphasis on the value it has for preservation. It is true that when people can consult virtual information on a screen, the real books and documents need in theory no longer be made available to them, which will limit damage to these materials. On the other hand, it has also been reported that users who come across digitized versions become interested in seeing the originals or obtaining prints of photographs for instance. This may increase rather than decrease handling of the originals, and the benefit for preservation may become less clear than it seemed at first sight.

Yet increased accessibility of collections through digitization may also have a favourable influence on preservation, in that more users become acquainted with the materials held by archives and libraries and may better appreciate the need of keeping them safe for the future. The role in digitization in gaining public support for preservation may prove to be an important one and can perhaps be compared by the effect created by the wide dissemination of reproductions of for instance works of art, which has familiarized many people with their cultural heritage.

Finally, compared to resources available for preservation, funding possibilities for digitization projects are in many cases quite liberal. In practice, digitization projects often include tasks that fall under the headings conservation and management of preservation, and preservation work may thus profit from resources allocated to digitization. Experience shows that the actual scanning is often the most straightforward part of the digitization project: preparation, organization and documentation take up the bulk of the available time, and preservation work is often done in the process. Materials to be digitized are taken off the shelves, which offers an opportunity to do conservation work where needed, repack materials, review storage conditions etc. Description of materials is often insufficient for searching digital files, especially for photographs, prints and documents, for which descriptions per item, or in an automated system, do not always exist. When documentation is created or refined at this point, preservation information on the individual items can be added relatively easily, thereby turning the system into a valuable tool for surveying and planning preservation work. In this sense, any digitization project is potentially a preservation project.

In the digital field, then, the position of preservation can be considered as being under attack from various sides, with simultaneously new alliances on offer from (unexpected) quarters. The role preservation has to play will have to be redefined, and it may in the end benefit from new developments, provided that the chance is seized to combine seemingly opposing requirements into coherent policies. Preservation experts should engage themselves with the digitization debate in order that chances are not missed and the best decisions are taken every step of the way. Here lies a task for the ECPA in providing information and creating opportunities to conduct this debate in a constructive and inspired way.

Conclusion

In the five years of its existence, the activities of the ECPA have taken shape. What has been done so far will be the basis for future work. The ECPA will continue as a clearing house of information, will concern itself with training, workshops and conferences, and will promote the need for preservation whenever possible. Much has been learned over the past years about the possibilities as well as the limitations of a European platform. Because of the cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe, and because the ECPA is a small organization, it can never presume to reach every archivist and librarian in Europe. A European organization like this ultimately depends for its success on its network, on active representatives of large institutions who carry the work further in their own countries and professional associations that are in direct contact with their constituencies. In turn, the ECPA can provide a framework and a level of interaction that put individual initiatives in a larger perspective so that they can mutually support each other. The ECPA exists to help the preservation community to do what they want to do, and with their support the ECPA intends to continue to do so well into the next millennium.

Publications of the European Commission on Preservation and Access

- European Register of Microform Masters. Supporting International Cooperation*, Werner Schwartz, 1995, 10 pp.
- Mass Deacidification. An Update of Possibilities and Limitations*, Henk J. Porck, 1996, 54 pp., ISBN 90-6984-162-2.
- Perservation Challenges in a Changing Political Climate. A Report from Russia*, Galina Kislovskaya, 1996, 20 pp. ISBN 90-6984-167-3
- Choosing to Preserve. Towards a Cooperative Strategy for Long-term Access to the Intellectual Heritage*, Papers of the international conference organized by the European Commission on Preservation and Access and Die Deutsche Bibliothek, Leipzig/Frankfurt am Main, March 29-30, 1996, 1997, vii + 165 pp. ISBN 90-6984-166-5
- Digitisation as a Method of Preservation?*, Final report of a working group of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association), Hartmut Weber & Marianne Dörr, 1997, 27 pp. ISBN 90-6984-190-8
- Digitizing Historical Pictorial Collections for the Internet*, Stephen E. Ostrow, 1998, vi + 28 pp. ISBN 90-6984-221-1
- Selecting Research Collections for Digitization*, Dan Hazen, Jeffrey Horrell, Jan Merrill-Oldham, 1998, ix + 19 pp. ISBN 90-6984-242-4
- Computerization of the Archivo General de Indias: Strategies and Results*, Pedro González, 1999, vi + 57 pp. ISBN 90-6984-241-6
- Avoiding Technological Quicksand: Finding a viable technical foundation for digital preservation*, Jeff Rothenberg, 1999. viii + 35 pp. ISBN 90-6984-257-2
- Weten Geweten Gewist. Bedreigde wetenschappelijke collecties in archieven en bibliotheken*, Gabriëlle Beentjes, Mariska Herweijer, Yola de Lusenet, Karin Scheper and Paula Witkamp, 1997, 45 pp. ISBN 90-6984-192-4. Publication in Dutch, written to accompany a small exhibition on the dangers threatening scientific collections in archives and libraries. The exhibition was first shown in the building of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, where the ECPA is housed.

Notes

1. This article was originally prepared for publication in *Journal of the Society of Archivists*, Volume 20, Number 2, October 1999, to which any quotations should be made.
2. Trudy Peterson, 'Putting records first to make them last', p. 97. In: Yola de Lusenet (ed.), *Choosing to Preserve. Towards a cooperative strategy for long-term access to the intellectual heritage*. (Amsterdam, 1997).
3. In 1999, the members of the ECPA Board were: Pieter J.D. Drenth, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences/Free University Amsterdam (chair); Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (vice-chair); Fernanda Maria Campos, National Library of Portugal; Philippe Bélaival, Direction des archives de France; Inge Jonsson, Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities;

- Michel Jouve, Agence Socrates France; Eric Ketelaar, State Archives of the Netherlands/University of Amsterdam; Birger Ljungström, Munksgaard International Publishers; Adam Manikowski, University of Bialystok; Geoffrey Martin, University of Essex; Jack Meadows, Loughborough University ;Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; Hans Rütimann, Commission on Preservation and Access; Margarita Vázquez de Parga, Informática El Corte Inglés, Madrid.
4. EVA is a joint project of the Antwerp City Archives, London Metropolitan Archives, Telepolis Antwerp, Netherlands Institute for Scientific Information (NIWI), Gesellschaft für Multilinguale Systeme (GMS), European Commission on Preservation and Access, funded by the INFO 2000 programme of the European Union. See <http://www.eva-eu.org/>

Biographies

Yola de Lusenet has a degree in English language and literature from the University of Amsterdam. She worked for a number of years as desk editor for the Biomedical Division of Elsevier Science. She then took a job at a small independent publishing house specializing in academic publications in the field of linguistics, literature and art, where her responsibilities included editing, production, promotion and acquisition and where she was Head of the Publishing Department for several years.

Since 1995, she has worked as Executive Secretary of the European Commission on Preservation and Access (ECPA). Since 1996 she has also been the publisher of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, where the ECPA is housed.

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