

Discussion points on the future of IAML

The principal aims of IAML are:

- To encourage and promote the activities of music libraries, archives and documentation centres and to strengthen cooperation among institutions and individuals working in these fields.
- To promote a better understanding of the cultural importance of music libraries, archives and documentation centres nationally and internationally.
- To support and facilitate the realization of projects in music bibliography, music documentation and music library and information science at national and international levels.
- To promote the availability of all publications and documents relating to music, including international exchange and lending.
- To support the development of international and national standards for cataloguing, preservation and availability of music materials.
- To promote professional education and training.
- To further the bibliographic control of music collections of all kinds.
- To support the protection and preservation of musical documents of all periods.
- To cooperate with other international organizations in IAML's fields of interest.
- To bring together interested people at its annual meetings.

Are these aims all still relevant? Do they need to be added to, changed or in some cases even deleted?

Questions

General

- What do members expect of IAML, internationally and in national branches?
- Should IAML foster closer relations with other related bodies such as: IASA, IAMIC, IMS, MOLA?
- Could IAML broaden its approach on advocacy? — music is more than just sound.
- Should IAML simplify its name just to the initials, IAML rather than IAML/AIBM/IVMB with full spelt-out versions? Would this improve visibility? Many other organizations such as BP, IBM, BPI have formally changed their name to just their initials, no longer using the original spelt-out version.
- Most IAML communication happens in English — to some extent this already excludes French and German speakers. Should English then be designated as IAML's primary language? This might mean some content not being translated and languages other than French and German also being accepted. Tools such as Google Translate would need to be embedded in web pages.
- How can IAML encourage more participation at all levels when everybody is so busy?
- How can IAML connect more effectively with its membership at both national and international levels?

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- Should IAML engage more with popular culture to help attract a younger membership?
- Should IAML position itself as an information resource for music availability, rights issues, practical advice and resources for equipping new music libraries etc.?
- How can IAML promote professional education and training? Should there be improved sharing of national initiatives in training and information provision?
- Should IAML apply to become a recognized special interest group within IFLA? This might perhaps bring funding opportunities.

Organization

- How can we improve IAML's slow decision making process — Council and General Assembly take place only once a year and half yearly Board meetings implement Council's policy decisions. How can Council be reformed as a dynamic and responsive decision-making body?
- IAML's structure and decision making processes are now sixty years old. Are they still fit for purpose in the modern interconnected age?
- Are branches and commissions still the best way to organize what we are trying to do? Has the time come to examine them and to realign them to suit current purposes and facilitate more collaborative working? How can they be made to work all year round, not just around the conferences?
- Should national branches in Council have voting rights in some way proportional to their membership? How would non-branch members then be represented?
- Might IAML follow the IFLA model of nominating officers of branches and commissions? The voting constituencies for officers of branches and commissions are not well-defined.
- How can IAML (international), enhance its work with national branches?

Conference

- Should branches and commissions continue to run their own programme sessions? A more broadly based Programme Committee (including Chairs of Branches & Commissions) might instead have full autonomy to assemble programmes in the most imaginative way.
- Should IAML attempt to hold more of its conferences in conjunction with other organizations such as IASA, IAMIC, IMS or MOLA?
- Should conferences be themed in a similar way to IFLA?
- Should papers be accepted only on the basis of a well-developed abstract and CV?
- Should IAML follow the lead of conferences such as ISMIR by publishing the proceedings, including poster sessions? This might be in print or online. This would benefit the wider membership who are unable to attend the conferences.