'BRIDGING THE GAP' BETWEEN THE
INFORMATION USER AND THE INFORMATION PROVIDER

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ABSTRACT

CIPA's Working Group 1 main goal is to provide a forum for **PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS** (i.e. Information Providers) and **CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS** at large (i.e. Information Users from ICOMOS, ICCROM, UNESCO and other organizations) to discuss and integrate recording, documentation, information management principles and practices to cultural heritage conservation activities.

In 1996, CIPA's WG1 initiated a "5-Year Outreach Workshops" Program. During these five years, it delivered 3 Outreach Workshops that took place in Austria (Gross Siegharts, 1996), in Sweden (Marstrand, 1997) and in Brazil (Porto de Galihas, 1999). These workshops brought CIPA to reflect on its activities, to question its operations and to work towards re-structuring itself with a new Framework of activities.

This paper reports on the "5-Year Outreach Workshops Program" and CIPA's new **Framework** of activities, and makes reference to some current practices of **"information users"** and **"information providers"**. It presents different points of view on the potential of resources within CIPA, and recommends actions to reduce the perceived GAPS between information users and providers. It concludes by introducing a "Bridging the Gap" concept that was developed in concert with the Getty Conservation Institute during the year 2000, to assist CIPA with increasing **information users** participation to CIPA's activities. This concept has recently been discussed in Paris with representatives from ICOMOS, ICCROM, UNESCO and IUCN, and was well received.

The Bridging the Gap concept is in the process of being developed into a proposed **"5-Year Recording, Documentation and Information Management Initiative"** that will be introduced by the Getty Conservation Institute at the Potsdam CIPA Symposium.

1. Background

The Venice Charter

Since 1966, most conservation professionals have regarded the Venice Charter as the key guiding reference in the field. Its sixteen Articles emerged during an international meeting of architects, engineers and others called for the purpose of defining international principles in the field. While often criticized as overly European in its outlook and written for a limited view of heritage, the Venice Charter has yet to be supplanted by other documents capable of earning or gaining the same respect.

Article 16 of the **Venice Charter** states that:

"In all works of preservation, restoration or excavation, there should always be precise documentation in the form of analytical and critical reports, illustrated with drawings and photographs.

Every stage of the work of clearing, consolidation, rearrangement and integration, as well as technical and formal features identified during the course of the work, should be included. This record should be placed in the archives of a public institution and made available to research workers. It is recommended that the report be published."

This implies that **the activities of heritage recording, documentation and information management**, as defined hereafter, should generally be integrated to a **Conservation Management Process**. This also implies that heritage recording should take place before, during and after any intervention to a resource if one wants to 'measure change' over time.

Article 16 has been driving Working Group 1's activities for the past 5 years as stated in its main 'raison d'être' which is:

"to provide a forum for PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS (from CIPA and other organizations) and CONSERVATIONISTS at large (from ICOMOS, ICCROM, UNESCO and other organizations) to meet and discuss how to best integrate heritage recording, documentation, information management principles and practices to heritage conservation management activities (http://cipa.uibk.ac.at/wgroups.html#WG1)".

Definitions

To facilitate understanding / dialog during this meeting, the following definitions are provided. They are taken from the **Heritage Recording, Documentation and Information Management Guidelines for world Heritage Sites** manuscript that was developed in the mid nineties with the participation of ICCROM, ICOMOS and UNESCO.

> Heritage Recording...the capture of information relevant to understanding the physical configuration, evolution and condition of heritage sites and objects, at known points in time, and the basis of decisions made to alter or care for such sites and objects.
>
> Documentation...information units acquired over time through heritage recording and other research means which constitute the knowledge base for particular sites and objects.
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> Information management...the process of acquiring, storing and sharing site documentation to ensure its accessibility, security and reliability.
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> Conservation... concerned with the transmission of cultural   heritage, with its significant messages intact and accessible to the greatest degree possible.
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> Conservationists / Conservation Specialists...those who, whatever their profession, trade or discipline of origin (i.e. art historians, architects, archaeologists, planners, etc.), engage in the practice of conservation and are committed to the application of the highest principles and standards of the field in their work. They are also referred to in this paper as "Information Users".
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> Conservation Process…the analytical decision-making process of ensuring that conservation intervention at all levels will respect heritage values of sites while maintaining functional effectiveness within applicable budget and other constraints.
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> Heritage Recorders...experts in the design and execution of effective heritage recording activity within the conservation process. They are also referred to in this paper as "Information Provider".

CIPA

CIPA is one of the first ICOMOS Scientific Committee to be established. It was created in the late sixties, in cooperation with the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), to assist conservation experts with the activities of heritage recording and documentation. CIPA had for task to develop recording tools to address the documentation principles expressed in Article 16 of the Venice Charter.

CIPA has since organized 18 symposia, 6 workshops and 7 meetings / colloquium to exchange on photogrammetric applications related to heritage conservation practices.

ICOMOS

ICOMOS is an international, non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of the world's historic monuments and sites. The organization was founded in 1965, as a result of the international adoption of the Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites in Venice the year before. Today the organization has National Committees in over 107 countries.

ICOMOS is UNESCO's principal advisor in matters concerning the conservation and protection of monuments and sites. With IUCN-The World Conservation Union, ICOMOS has an international role under the World Heritage Convention to advise the World Heritage Committee and UNESCO on the nomination of new sites to the World Heritage List.

Through its 21 Scientific Committees of experts from around the world, and through its triennial General Assembly, ICOMOS seeks to establish international standards for the preservation, restoration, and management of the cultural environment. Many of these standards have been promulgated as Charters by the organization as a result of adoption by the ICOMOS General Assembly.

The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI)

The Getty Conservation Institute, a program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, engages in activities dedicated to furthering conservation practice and education in order to enhance and encourage the preservation, understanding, and interpretation of the visual arts broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites.

The Institute serves the international conservation community through scientific research; in education and training; model projects in the field; and the dissemination of information through both traditional publications and electronic means.

In all its endeavors, the Institute is driven by a commitment to address unanswered questions and to promote the highest possible standards of conservation (note: Francois LeBlanc, Head of Field Projects at the Getty Conservation Institute, completes this description in the paper he presented during the CIPA Potsdam Symposium).

2.   The Beginning of a New CIPA

1995 - Krakow CIPA annual meeting

During CIPA's annual meeting in Krakow, in 1995, it was recognized that CIPA Symposia were not attracting many conservation specialists (or "information Users') from ICOMOS, ICCROM, UNESCO and other organizations and institutions involved in heritage conservation practices.   This was explained to some extent by the fact that CIPA was initially created by photogrammetrists to develop state-of-the-art recording tools for architectural applications. Consequently, most CIPA Symposia consisted mainly of photogrammetrists presenting their work / development to other photogrammetrists.

It was also recognized that the CIPA Executive Committee had, in the early nineties, very few active Ordinary Members representing ICOMOS and that the Committee was mainly composed of ISPRS representatives. It was therefore proposed that ICOMOS members be equally represented in CIPA if the Committee was to effectively exchange with conservation specialists to put into practice the Venice Charter's principles.

1995 - CIPA's Working Group 1 (WG1)

CIPA's WG1 was created in 1995 as a result of the Krakow CIPA meeting and its discussions on the importance of ICOMOS' participation to CIPA's activities. As mentioned earlier, one of WG1's objectives was to provide a forum for PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS and CONSERVATIONISTS to meet and discuss the integration of heritage recording to conservation practices.

To achieve this objective, WG1 initiated CIPA's 5 Year Outreach Plan (appendix A) which consisted in organizing and coordinating a series of 'Outreach Workshops'. This 5 year plan was introduced during a Special Session on CIPA activities at the 1996 ISPRS Congress in Vienna. The following specialists from UNESCO, ICOMOS and CIPA introduced their respective organizations to the ISPRS. WG1 described the 5-Year Outreach Plan:

1996 - CIPA Special Session at the ISPRS Congress in Vienna included participation from:

UNESCO represented by Minja Jang

ICOMOS represented by Leo van Nispen

CIPA represented by John Badekas

CIPA-WG1 Outreach Workshop Initiative presented by Robin Letellier

1996-1999 - Outreach Workshops

Between 1996 and 1999, three Outreach Workshops took place namely in Austria (Gross Siegharts, 1996), in Sweden (Marstrand, 1997) and in Brazil (Porto de Galihas, 1999).

Appendix C provides an overview of Outreach Workshop participants, their affiliation and the workshops they attended. This table also includes the CIPA Committee meetings where Outreach Workshop related decision making took place. All together, 36 people from 19 countries shared, at different times, ideas on how to improve CIPA's activities.

In short, the strength of CIPA was identified to be its Symposia that bring together a unique set of skilled experts that

have a passion for heritage recording (to be developed further …).

However, the main weaknesses identified during the Outreach Workshops related to the fact that:

> **The majority of Symposium participants are 'Information Providers' from ISPRS**
>
> **CIPA Symposia are too technical oriented**
>
> **Only a minority of participants are 'Information Users' from ICOMOS, ICCROM, UNESCO and other Conservation Organizations**
>
> **The activities of Heritage Recording, Documentation and Information Management are not well integrated to the 'conservation Process' of cultural resources**
>
> **There are significant "GAPs" that need to be addressed with regards to the availability of / access to heritage Recording, Documentation and Information Management guidelines, technical manuals, training and information dissemination**

These workshops brought CIPA to reflect on its activities, to question its operations and to work towards re-structuring itself with a new Framework of activities. Reports on each of these outreach workshops can be obtained from WG1.

1999 - Proposed New CIPA Framework of activities

As a result of the above mentioned Outreach Workshops, a new CIPA Framework of activities was proposed (appendix B). This Framework was initially presented in the form of a Matrix where expert fields / application areas from ICOMOS were identified on one side of the matrix, and expert fields / technical areas from ISPRS were identified on the other side of the matrix (http://cipa.uibk.ac.at/expgroups.html).

The intention behind the Matrix Framework was to provide **Information Users** from ICOMOS with a tool to have access to **Information Providers** from ISPRS and vice versa, using the Matrix as a Web communication / data sharing mechanism. Unfortunately this interaction did not take place as anticipated by Outreach Workshop / CIPA participants.

The results remain to be implemented. It is important to mention that CIPA has worked seriously in the past five years at understanding better / creating links with ICOMOS, ICCROM and UNESCO. Although these efforts led to much willingness to work closer with the Information Users, CIPA does not have all the resources needed to operate and maintain a sustainable program of activities.

Some CIPA members have taken the lead in seeking assistance from other organizations that would like to support the activities of Heritage Recording, Documentation and Information Management. The following Bridging the Gap concept is a logical continuation of the commended efforts made by the Outreach Workshops participants.

3. 2000 – Bridging the Gap concept

Background

The GCI and CIPA have been exploring possibilities for cooperation since the CIPA Symposium in Gothenburg. In 1998, the GCI showed a particular interest in WG1 activities outlined on CIPA's website. It also expressed an interest in the above mentioned manuscript entitled 'Heritage Recording, Documentation and Information Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites'. Following dialog on these interests, conservation specialists from the GCI were invited by WG1 to attend CIPA's Outreach Workshop 3 in Porto de Galinhas, Brazil, in September of 1999. As a result, the potential of CIPA's **unique knowledge base** and **newly proposed framework of activities** was recognized.

During ICCROM's November 1999 GraDoc Seminar on graphic documentation for mural paintings, dialog between the GCI and WG1 initiated the idea of '**Bridging the Gap between the Information User and the Information Provider'**. This idea became a MUST as the GAPS between the Users and the Providers of information became obvious to seminar participants (see 'Results of Working Groups' and in particular Group's 3 'Critical Evaluation pertaining to Digital Heritage Recording' discussions (see pages 291 to 298 of the GraDoc publication – ICCROM February 2001).

At both the Brazil workshop and the GraDoc seminar, the pressing need for heritage recording guidelines, technical manuals, training and information dissemination was clearly expressed. Consequently, during 2000 / 2001, dialog between the GCI and WG1 led to develop the 'Bridging the Gap' idea mentioned above and the following 5-year initiative.

Heritage recording, documentation and information management should be at the center of the "conservation management process"

The GCI and WG1 believe that proper heritage recording, documentation and information management are essential activities within the "**conservation process**" of cultural resources (appendix D) These activities provide conservationists with an <u>Information Base</u> to better:

- Understand,
- Evaluate,
- Make decisions,
- Operate,
- Maintain, and
- Monitor historic resources.

To ensure effective conservation practices, heritage recording should normally take place before, during and after any intervention to a site, structure or artifact.

The GCI and WG1 also believe that there are 'levels of recording' that need to be defined / understood so that heritage conservation managers and specialists have options to consider and choose from when undertaking heritage recording activities. The GCI and WG1 have been working in all regions of the world, they recognize that these options should take into account the <u>levels of resources</u> available to expert teams that are responsible for conservation projects.

Finally, the GCI and WG1 support the idea of working towards integrating more the recording activity to the Conservation Process (appendix E). They recognizes the GAPs between information users and providers, and the need for guidance, technical transfer and related training. Consequently, they have cooperated in developing the following proposed partnership for a 5-Year Heritage Recording, Documentation and Information Management Initiative.

3.   **2001 – The Getty Conservation Institute Proposed partnership with ICOMOS and CIPA for Recording, Documentation and Information Management**

This proposed partnership is described in Francois LeBlanc`s paper that was presented during the CIPA Symposium in Potsdam (September 18-21, 2001). This Initiative has for goal: to raise the level of heritage conservation practices worldwide.

The objectives are: to create a 50 / 50 balance of ICOMOS / ISPRS participation in CIPA, and to develop Recording, Documentation and Information Management guidelines, technical manuals, training and information dissemination outputs.

4.   **Appendices**

The appendices / diagrams referred to in this paper have been integrated to a PowerPoint presentation and are provided hereafter in the PowerPoint presentation format.