Major Challenges for the Safeguarding of ICH Information and Networking, Including Through the Web

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Key Issues to Be Discussed
Functions of international organizations: collecting and sharing of information

Information function, Normative function, Rule-creating function, Rule-supervisory function, Operational function

- Harold K. Jacobson

Promoting intellectual activities and strengthening exchange

Peace and Development

Information
Intellectualization and knowledge revolution

- Information — Knowledge — Intelligence
- Urban revolution — Industrial revolution — Information revolution — Knowledge revolution

Diversification of medium

- Spoken language
- Letters
- Prints
- Byte
Challenges and Tasks of Organizations

- Develop new modes of communication
- Overcome the information divide

- High cost (financial and human resources) of information collection, management, and distribution
- Relationship and cooperation with NGO and civil society
- Limitations in producing contents
- Difficulties in operating SNS
Importance of information and networking

Diffusion of knowledge, development, and mutual understanding stems from the sharing of information.
Article 19.1 – Cooperation

“...international cooperation includes, inter alia, the exchange of information and experience, joint initiatives, and the establishment of a mechanism of assistance to States Parties in their efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage.”
information

“a complex of all the knowledge and relevant materials that are useful for ICH and its safeguarding.”

Information activities

“all the actions that are taken in the processes of collecting, processing, preserving, and disseminating the information that happens both online and offline in terms of safeguarding, transmitting, and promoting ICH.”

- Evaluating ICHCAP’s Information Activities and Establishing Future Strategies project in 2014
Networking

Developing and maintaining “networks among all relevant parties and organizations, both online and offline” in relation to promoting the ICH safeguarding

- Reviewing ICHCAP’s Networking Projects and Developing Future Strategies project in 2014
Problems and issues

1. Weak academic foundations in the ICH field
2. Lack of awareness on ICH
3. Insufficient policies/approaches for ICH safeguarding encompassing humans, nature, and societies
4. Difficulty in identifying needs for ICH information
5. Information divide: vulnerable information society

*. No standards or specific guidelines
*. Large scale of funds required to provide and maintain
What Kind of Information is Needed?

Information activities need to be strengthened
Survey conducted under the 2014 projects*: 85 respondents from 200 people

Collecting and distributing safeguarding information 26,4%
Supporting ICH identification and documentation 23,8%
Establishing archives and DB 15,0%
Producing ICH video 14,5%
Publications and digital contents 11,5%
Restoring and digitizing analogue materials 8,4%
Others 0,4%

*Evaluating ICHCAP’s Information Activities and Establishing Future Strategies; and Evaluating ICHCAP’s Networking Projects and Establishing Future Strategies
ICHCAP’s Database

- **Basic DB**: country status, organizations, persons, publications, multimedia, research, exhibitions, and performances
- **Cooperative DB**: Help of museums, educational institutions, relevant C2 centers, research institutes, etc
- **Thematic DB**: Information generated by active networks in various fields of ICH
What Kind of Information is Needed?

Challenges ICHCAP discovered

• Lack of useful information on ICH safeguarding
• How to differentiate information by entities
• Costs to collect useful and updated information
• Language problem
ICH Safeguarding

Documentation, research, preservation, protection, enhancement, transmission, and revitalization
Sub-regional and national focal points
Sub-regional focal points: organizational division
1. What kind of information should be provided by C2 Centers?
   • Information for whom, question of priority
   • Is this information differentiated from that provided by Headquarters or regional offices?
   • What kind of information is this?

2. How should information be collected?
   • The production and collection of information (including audiovisual materials) is costly. Is there a more economical way?
   • Possible cooperation between C2 centers (joint projects, research)?
3. Is it possible to build a global information system connecting UNESCO, etc?

• Is it necessary to link independently operated databases at the respective C2 centers without the presence of an executive organization like the World Heritage Center?
• Standardization of information, if any
• Conducting basic research to create a system of cooperation?

4. Building healthy relationships between networks and partners?

• Model case studies of network operation (online/offline)
• Possible connections between networks (eg. culturelink)
• Workshops on the reinforcement of C2 center functions