

Launching an international network of folklore archives

Dear colleagues,

Folklore archives and collections have played a crucial role in the institutionalisation process of folkloristics. They serve as valuable repositories of knowledge, providing research materials for scholars as well as for various interest groups. Today's tradition archives are multifunctional memory institutions that have the task of managing unique collections, disseminating knowledge through publications and databases, and documenting manifestations of contemporary folklore.

In the era of digital revolution and under the circumstances of economic depression, folklore archives in different countries face and share similar problems. The need for a more intense cooperation in the field of folklore archiving was underlined at the round table of the 85th anniversary conference of the Estonian Folklore Archives in Tartu on September 24–25, 2012, which brought together archivists and researchers from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia. Participants of the round table suggested launching an international network of folklore archives that would bring together both institutions (representatives of folklore archives) and individuals whose research is related to folklore archives.

Some of the ideas concerning the network included:

- Website with links to participating archives and researchers, providing preliminary information in a common foreign language (English) on archives, researchers/archivists and their topics, and about the accessibility of digitised collections of different institutions.
- Network meetings and online groups to discuss possibilities for joint financing, cooperation in the field of collecting campaigns, technical upgrading, etc.
- Joint seminars, conferences and panels in international conferences.
- Newsletter in English, published and disseminated electronically.

A possible name for the archive network has been suggested by the participants of the round table – Folklore Archives' Network (FAN).

It would be our pleasure to invite representatives of archives as well as other individuals interested in folklore archiving to join the network by contacting the co-ordinator Ave Goršič by e-mail at avetupits@folklore.ee by December 1, 2012. Your suggestions concerning the archive network are warmly welcome.

Participants of the round table: Ave Goršič (Estonia), Risto Järv (Estonia), Anu Korb (Estonia), Svetlana Kosyreva (Russia), Kati Mikkola (Finland), Mari Sarv (Estonia), Janika Oras (Estonia), Rabindranath Sarma (India), Lina Sokolovaitė (Lithuania), Svetlana Tsonkova (Bulgaria), Ergo-Hart Västriik (Estonia).

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