

International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) Report to IFLA Newspaper Section, August 2006

*Submitted by Linda Ronan, ICON Project Coordinator and James Simon, Director of International Resources,
Center for Research Libraries, 8/11/06*

PRESERVATION MICROFILMING

ICON's preservation microfilming effort continues at a steady pace. All titles are in stages of preparation for filming or have already been completed. Current estimates are for 13 titles, resulting in approximately 207 reels of microfilm.

1. *Anadolu* (Izmir, Turkey) 1950-54: Filmed – 7 reels
2. *Dunya* (Istanbul, Turkey) 1952-62: Filmed -16 reels
3. *Národní Listy* (Prague, Czech Republic) 1918-31: Filmed – 43 reels
4. *Le Journal d'Alexandrie* (*Alexandria, Egypt*) 1951-54: Filmed – 5 reels
5. *La Bourse Egyptienne* (*Cairo, Egypt*) 1929-31, 1943-52, 1955-61, 1963: Filmed – 29 reels
6. *Szabad Szó* (*Budapest, Hungary*) 1945-50: Filmed – 10 reels
7. *Új Magyarország* (*Budapest, Hungary*) 1945-48: At filmer – 2 reels
8. *New Hungary* (*Budapest, Hungary*) 1946-47: At filmer - 1 reel
9. *Eritrean Daily News* (*Asmara, Ethiopia*) 1941-47: At filmer – 8 reels
10. *Vanguardia* (*Lima, Peru*) 1945-63: At filmer - 6 reels
11. *Universal* (*Caracas, Venezuela*) 1922-1931, 1941-1943: In prep – 59 reels
12. *Il Quotidiano Eritreo* (*Asmara, Ethiopia*) 1944-1950: In prep – 6 reels
13. *Diario de Costa Rica* (*San Jose, Costa Rica*) 1936-42, 1952-55: In prep – 15 reels
14. *Epoca* (*La Paz, Bolivia*) 1845-1867 Eliminated. Loaned copies could not be provided.

ICON DATABASE OF INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

Continued improvements to the ICON database of international newspapers allow users to search by OCLC number, as well as by title, country, language and year. Record display includes the bibliographic record, preservation information, and holdings by institution. We expect to further improve the database to limit search results by format.

The administrative improvements to the database are very near to completion. We now have an interface which will allow an add/edit function so that partner institutions can make adjustments to their records. The batch import function is operational, with the minor exception of sorting out procedures for the import of records with separate attached holdings records (as opposed to records with holdings information integrated in the main record).

ICON will pursue broad participation in the database contributions following the completion of the batch loading process and a reload of the complete CONSER database set of foreign newspapers being prepared by the Library of Congress CDS.

ICON WEB SITE

The complete redesigned Web site (<http://icon.crl.edu>) has recently been made live. It has expanded considerably from its previous incarnation and now will provide the kind of information we had originally envisioned. Along with access to the ICON databases, the Web site will be a clearinghouse for information related to newspaper preservation, resources and

projects, as well as providing a link to the newspaper listserv. With continued updating and improvements of the Web site, we expect that this vital outreach tool will help in the long-term sustainability of ICON.

DISTRIBUTED CATALOGING

We are currently working with two institutions, the University of Illinois and the University of Connecticut, in an effort to make and distribute CONSER-level records for uncataloged newspapers. ICON Project Coordinator Linda Ronan and Cataloging Coordinator Steve Early have implemented a procedure which allows the partner institution to collate, record title information, preservation status, and holdings, and transfer the information to CRL. A complete catalog record is created and redistributed back to the institution as well as added to the ICON database. Though we are still in the early stages of the pilot project, we have completed cataloging on the following titles:

Feuille de la Guyane Française (French Guiana)
Geprivilegeerde Surinaamsche Courant (Paramaribo, Suriname)
La Esperanza (La Paz, Bolivia)
El Tiempo (La Paz, Bolivia: 1881)
El Tiempo (La Paz, Bolivia: 1905)
Nueva Época (La Paz, Bolivia)
Berlinske Aftenavis (Copenhagen, Denmark)
Berlinske Aftenavis Weekend (Copenhagen, Denmark)
Weekendavisen (Copenhagen, Denmark)

LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

At the Business Meeting of the IFLA Section on Newspapers (19 August 2005), Bernard Reilly, President of CRL, presented an ICON update, laying out the Business Model and the future plan for ICON. He pointed out that the ICON Advisory Board agreed on the need to expand participation in ICON to institutions that would support the objectives through financial contributions and/or in kind activity.

Bernard Reilly also provided a briefing about the need for ICON to provide a framework for libraries with regard to collective dealing with commercial organizations (publishers, content providers). The three areas are:

1. for libraries to secure certain digital distribution rights when filming permissions are given
2. terms to be addressed in agreements for third-party distribution of a library's microform content
3. Libraries to secure a greater return when making agreements for third-party digitization of library microform content.

It was agreed to distribute the draft terms to members and to ask for comments by the end of October 2005 to the Secretary. The terms are posted on the ICON website as follows: <http://icon.crl.edu/rights-draft.pdf>

Sustainability and long-term plans

At the ICON Advisory Board meeting in April 2005, James Simon, Director of International Resources, CRL, discussed the original objectives of ICON and activities that have since progressed. ICON has largely been successful in pursuing the original objectives of the project. The database, cataloging, preservation activities, and clearinghouse services are all fully in process. In terms of future activities, ICON should remain focused on its objectives, expanding whenever need or opportunity makes sense.

Existing and potential long-term activities for ICON were presented as follows:

Preservation Projects

1. (Existing) Establish an ongoing framework for the identification and selection of titles for preservation.
 - a. Work with selection committee of bibliographers and scholars to identify and recommend priorities
 - b. Provide preservation or seed funding for titles not falling within other scopes (national library preservation, area studies preservation)
2. (Existing) Serve as liaison, coordinate information, and provide advice to existing or prospective projects.
 - a. LC / Field Office filming
 - b. Area Studies Microform projects
 - c. Preservation grant activities
 - d. commercial microfilming
3. (Emerging) Provide services (such as the proposed film queue database) to better inform and coordinate efforts among institutions.
4. (Existing) Act as an operational arm for IFLA Newspaper Section activities regarding cooperative preservation
5. (Potential) Engage national libraries in discussions and standardized agreements for print repositories for the "copy of last resort."

Database of International Newspapers

1. (Existing) Provide ongoing support for coordinated collection of information on titles held in print, microform, electronic
 - a. develop simplified workflow for institutions to participate with minimal intervention
 - b. recruit international participation through IFLA.
2. (Potential) Explore further aggregation of information through new technologies

Cataloging

1. (Existing) Continue to play an advocacy role in the creation of bibliographic records and the provision of comprehensive holdings statements for retrospective and current newspaper collections
2. (Existing) Continue to explore efficiencies in cataloging operations, including distributed cataloging arrangements, cooperative provision of holdings statements.

Digital archiving and delivery

1. (Potential) Work with other institutions to develop economically viable strategies for the preservation of electronic newspapers and news sources.

Expanding stakeholders in ICON

The original intent of the project was to form a truly global consortium. Given the magnitude of the challenge of preserving a diverse corpus of the world's news the number of ICON participants will need to expand, and the effort will have to recruit internationally.