

Survey of WG1

Activities and Communication

April 26th – May 7th, 2021

Participants: 84 responds

1) What is the first channel for you to get news from ICARUS?

- ☐ mailing list
- ☐ social media channels
- ☐ webpage
- ☐ Newsletter

Results: 55 votes for mailing list (65%), 13 webpage, 5 social media channels, 4 Newsletter, 5 other (incl. personal contacts and RSS in one case).

2) Would you and/or your organisation write short postages for ICARUS?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Facebook | <input type="radio"/> once a year | <input type="radio"/> 2–5 times yearly |
| <input type="radio"/> Blog | <input type="radio"/> once a year | <input type="radio"/> 2–5 times yearly |
| <input type="radio"/> Twitter | <input type="radio"/> 2–5 times yearly | <input type="radio"/> multiple times |

Results: 32 votes for Facebook (38%), 16 Blog, 10 Twitter (incl. combinations: 4 Facebook-Blog-Twitter, 5 Facebook-Blog, 2 Facebook-Twitter, 2 Blog-Twitter), **41 no replies**.

- 23 votes for Facebook postages 2–5 times yearly (72%), 3 once a year, **3 more often**.
- 5 votes for Blog postages 2–5 times yearly, 5 once a year, **4 more often**.
- 4 votes for Twitter postages 2–5 times yearly, 3 once a year, **2 more often**.

3) Do you see a need for ICARUS Newsletter?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

Results: 58 votes for Newsletter (69%), 25 “no”, one no reply.

The details about publishing Newsletter (online/paper, regularity etc.) will be solved within WG1, and in further cooperation with ICARUS4all Newsletter team.

4) Do you see a need for an ICARUS ambassador in every country/region?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

If yes, can you propose a person in your organisation/country to take a role of ambassador?

Results: 46 votes for Ambassador (55%), **32 against**, 6 no replies.

There were 5 persons mentioned only (Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Romania, OSCE in Prague).

5) Do you see a need for ICARUS to widen communication outside ICARUS organisations and to reach any new focus groups (genealogists, museums etc.)?

☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, do you have any suggestions regarding groups that ICARUS should contact?

Results: 62 votes for new focus groups (74%), 19 against, 3 no replies.

There were mentioned new focus groups as follows: genealogists and genealogical societies (7, incl. *AG Mitteldeutsche Familienforscher e.V.*), universities (4), museums (4), student associations, archivists, special archives, historians, local and regional politicians, archival educators, community archives, database builders of church register books.

There were also made some comments:

- There's two distinct groups where different approaches are needed: groups providing documents, and those working with the documents;
- Universities with programs of departments focusing on archival and/or library studies;
- [Communication should occur] via the ambassadors, depends on the countries;
- It would be nice if ICARUS would be engaged with other groups in the Cultural Heritage sector (ICOM, Digital Humanities etc.).

6) Do you have any other suggestion to make for organising communication with the ICARUS members?

Results: most of responses had **no comment**, but 12 of them had: 5 of these included some comments on wishes towards more content in German (2), virtual meetings, social media groups, school libraries, and 7 of these had some suggestions as:

- Online pop-up exhibitions: ask each ambassador to provide a picture of their archives building, oldest document, most frequently used document, visually interesting document, public event and so on. If this was done, say, once a month, you would create 12 "online exhibitions" with a little effort. That would make archives and ICARUS members more visible and allow both archivists and public to browse through several kind of material very easily. The material could be published on Instagram and marked in other social media platforms. It could also be uploaded into Wikimedia Commons using open license and in that way allow the material to be used globally;
- I always prefer asynchronous "push" communication (mailing lists, newsletter) to "pull" communication (forum, blog, social media);
- In Belgium, the Icarus organisation is quite unknown. Is there a reason for?
- Every member and/or Ambassador could spread news of ICARUS inside his/her institution and partner organisations, if possible;
- I would suggest to grant an ICARUS badge for archives compatible to the principles of ICARUS and to the innovative ways of archival management and dissemination;
- If it's possible, keep the Insight Magazine;
- Communication via e-mail, online meetings and meeting in person on the biannual conventions.

7) Which *format of events* could ICARUS community develop in the future, apart from existing (biannual conventions) and planned ones (online lectures, portals presentations, *Jour Fixe*)?

Results: most of responses had **no comment**, but 14 of them had: 9 of these included wishes towards virtual meetings, webinars, annual workshops, workshops, digital conferences, online lectures (2 replies), more open online events, training programs, and 5 of these had some suggestions as:

- Database with Archive-projects to collaborate, and interested honorary persons;
- Best practice or success stories as short videos on a YouTube channel. Archivist providing documents, ICARUS organizing things, user does wonderful things with the data, thanks archivist. Or: archivist provides documents against internal resistance, documents are lost (stolen, fire, water), and only the digital copy survives;
- Exhibitions, in-situ visits by a team of trainers in order to deal in the field with actual situations, problems and challenges;
- Twitter Showcase of ICARUS partners and contributors once a year (probably close to one of the ICARUS events);
- Maybe it would be useful to make it possible to join the biannual conventions virtually in case some of the participants are not able to travel.

8) Do you have suggestions for *special topics* to be treated by various ICARUS events?

Results: most of responses had **no comment**, but 15 of them had, here they are:

- More information about Matricula;
- Digital transformation, European projects, next generations founds;
- Topics of relevance to archival institutions;
- Personal databases, convention to organise index-collaboration between archives and interested groups;
- Topotheque – more specific topics;
- Benchmarking cooperation, new projects, new services for users, expert exchange;
- Feminism;
- Common projects to get finances for digitising and presentation of digital content to the public;
- Living archives;
- New technologies for cultural heritage;
- Contemporary archival description, management of archival materials including multimedia materials;
- Outreach activities, pedagogical approach, citizen science, work with volunteers etc.;
- Local / national events promotion, anniversaries, sharing expertise in the cultural field etc.;
- Every member has a “unique selling point”. Show them ...;
- We would suggest to choose topics according to current world problems such as pandemics, environment and ecology, migration etc.