

## **New times, new statutes, new name!**

To keep up the recently established tradition, the Association once again organised an event on the 13th of the month, and we remained curse-free. In this case, following the presentation of the *Archival Science and Records Management Manual* last December and the presentation of issue 30 of *Lligall* last July, on this occasion it is the extraordinary general meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed review of the Association statutes.

After a few months for reflecting on and maturing the proposal, the Association Board of Management decided to convoke all members for an extraordinary general meeting to ratify the proposed statutes. The assembly, held on 13 December in the conference hall of the Royal Shipyards Consortium and Barcelona Maritime Museum, unanimously ratified the proposal submitted by the Board of Management.

Amongst the reasons for the proposed amendment of the statutes was a series of considerations. First of all, adaptation to Law 4/2008, of 24 April, on the third book of the Catalan Civil Code, regarding legal entities, under which associations are obliged to amend their statutes within a maximum period of three years as of its entry into force. In accordance with this legal precept, by summer 2011, the Association had to amend a series of articles referring to the objectives and functions, the establishment and calculation of terms of constitution and operation of the assemblies, the adoption of agreements by simple and/or qualified majorities, etc., in the new legislation.

Secondly, proposing a change of the Association's name to include the term 'records managers' and thus become the 'Archivists-Records Managers Association of Catalonia'.

This new name, including the modification of the Association logo, aims to reflect the unity of archiving methodology and records management, as we are not talking about two different professions; within the archival community there is a generalised consensus that when we speak of archivists and records managers, we are talking about the same thing and the use of the dash helps visualise this.

In recent years, archival science professionals have gone from postulates based solely on the protection of documentary heritage to incorporating the assuming of an essential role in information management policies in public administrations and private companies. For the archivist-records manager, this intervention has meant having to take an active part in the design of forms and administrative processes, in the decision on work media, in the formulation of programmes to computerise administrative functions and the processing of electronic documents, in policies on description and access to information, in the implementation of quality improvement plans, in formalising assessment and record selection programmes, and in the preservation of essential information. Current archival science aims to become based, in a more precise definition of its objectives, on a balance between the two aspects of archiving: administrative and historic. The challenge is to combine communication or information from collections to society, based on more dynamic integration in

projects and cultural, scientific and administrative policies, with guaranteeing the preservation of documents.

Following this line of argument, a third reason for changing the statutes was the incorporation of the concept of *records management* amongst the objectives of the AAC. The reasons are the Administration's new requirements and the demands of contemporary society. The exercise and protection of individual and collective rights, and the demands of a public administration understood as a service to citizens required, and require, specific policies on records and archive management in order to make possible a management adapted to documentation, access to public records and to documentary heritage, judicial security and greater transparency in administrative action and an improvement in the efficiency and performance of organisations.

The taking on of these roles by archivists in the dynamic sector of organisational culture has redefined and resized their sphere of action. Logically, the constant progressive development of ICT is of real impact and importance in the evolution of the profession. Given the huge influence that records and archive management (document production, processing and process management, communication, dissemination, exploitation and storage of documentation and information; e-administration; e-commerce, etc.) have and will continue to have, have determined, and will continue to determine, an important part of the profession's technical responsibilities.

The fourth reason was the need to incorporate new members on the Board of Management to respond to the Association's growth in recent years. This growth has been significant, along with the level of services, while the structure remained the same. For all these reasons, it was deemed fit to include new members on the Board and, in this respect, suppressing the limiting of the number of members may bring about more flexible adaptation to the constant need for improvement in order to undertake the actions and achieve the objectives with which the AAC is charged.

Furthermore, the fact that the profession has undergone such growth has meant, and means, taking on new tasks—consultancy, offering new products and services or seeking new assets that may benefit archiving and records management professionals.

In short, the AAC is entering a new phase, characterised by our adapting to a more pluridisciplinary environment, with a more modern image and boosting the services that we wish to continue to offer as a professional association. The AAC, now the Archivists-Records Managers Association of Catalonia, invites all members of the archival community to continue to give us their support, so it may continue to be a reference for the defence of the interests of the profession and to promote archive and records management policy amongst both public and private institutions and companies.