

COLLECTINGNET

An international museum network for collecting issues

Editors

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Collectingnet is an international museum network for collecting issues created at the conference *Connecting Collecting* at Nordiska Museet, Stockholm in November 2007. Collectingnet invites museum professionals and scholars to take part in developing the network into a vital association and mouthpiece of international cooperation. The Newsletter is published four times a year and distributed to members of Collectingnet, and is also available online at <http://www.nordiskamuseet.se/Publication.asp?publicationid=4213&topmenu=143>. We welcome contributions with reflections, conference/seminar reports, project presentations, specific questions you wish to raise, literature tips, invitations to cooperation or other themes. Please send your contribution to the next issue by **15 March 2010** to collectingnet@nordiskamuseet.se. You can also contact the editors personally: catherinemarshall5@yahoo.com, eva.fagerborg@nordiskamuseet.se

From the editors

Welcome to the eighth issue of *Collectingnet Newsletter*, with a contents list of the contributions to the newsletter from the first one in April 2008. As a glance at the contents lists will reveal, collecting practices and the issues informing new collections are both challenging and varied and have ranged over such topics as de-acquisition, specialist ethnic collections, collections dedicated to new technologies and the role of collections in strengthening communities.

Since Collectingnet will be transformed into an international ICOM committee (see page 2), this will mean intense work in developing the aims of Collectingnet which are:

- To promote debate around collecting policies and practices, and the role of collections now and in the future
- To promote debate around de-accessioning policies and practices
- To increase cooperation and collaboration across international boundaries
- To create a forum for dialogue and discussion within the international museum community
- To foster innovation in museums through this forum
- To encourage and support museum professionals in their work
- To stimulate new thinking about audiences, participation and mediation

The Newsletter will appear in a new form during next year, but for a time it will continue as usual. The next issue is planned for April, and we welcome contributions to this and forthcoming issues.

The editors wish to thank our colleague Charlotte Hyltén-Cavallius who has resigned from the editorial board and we wish our readers a happy Festive Season and New Year.

Eva Fägerborg and Catherine Marshall

Approval of ICOM proposal – birth of COMCOL

It is a great pleasure to inform all members of Collectingnet that the proposal to establish an International ICOM Committee on Collecting – COMCOL – was approved by the Executive Council at the meeting in December 2009. The decision is not yet officially confirmed in writing, but we will get back to you but as soon as possible with further information about the coming formal procedures and a call for contributions in building up the committee.

The Executive Council's decision means that Collectingnet has reached its first goal – to be developed into an International ICOM Committee. With this achievement, an institutional platform for reflections on the practice, theory and ethics of collection development is created.

Such reflections transcend the disciplinary perspectives that were hitherto represented in ICOM's subject committees, and complete the specialist perspectives of the functional committees.

COMCOL will be one of ICOM's function oriented committees. In the present range of subjects (conservation, documentation, exhibitions, audiovisual media, education, security and

management) collecting and collection development has been missing. COMCOL aims to be the professional platform where such procedures and methodologies can be discussed and thereby continue the work that started with Collectingnet.

According to the decision COMCOL will have a probationary status for three years and will be evaluated after that period.

We sincerely hope that all members of Collectingnet also wish to become members of COMCOL. See http://icom.museum/join_int_committee.html for instructions and application form. COMCOL is not yet listed, but write Collecting – COMCOL on the line for Committee Chosen.

Welcome to ICOM COMCOL!

Eva Fägerborg
Collectingnet and Samdok

Peter van Mensch
Reinwardt Academie

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