

Report by the Director of Publications 2018

IIC's *Studies in Conservation*, the premier international peer-reviewed journal for the conservation of historic and artistic works, records and publishes the latest developments in the field. Its content is fully peer reviewed. Most have served for 3-5 years or more. Over the 2017-18 year there were no supplements to the journal published, although work was proceeding throughout the 2018 calendar year on the preprints for the IIC Turin congress, with three additional guest editors and a member of the regular editorial board working with the Director of Publications to produce them. In September 2018 the preprints were printed for delegates, and published online. All of these publications are published both online and in print by IIC's publishing partner Taylor and Francis Routledge. At the end of the 2017 calendar year IIC signed a new 5-year rolling contract with Taylor and Francis Routledge, which reflects the IIC's current situation membership offers, and makes provision for member groups (currently, only students) to receive only online publications. All IIC members receive free online access to *Studies in Conservation* and all previously published issues including congress preprints, and all member classes except students also receive paper copies of the eight issues per year of the regular journal.

Taylor and Francis provides statistics on the journal's content for the calendar year of 2017 rather than IIC's reporting year. Over 2017, the journal published well in excess of 100 papers, which were peer-reviewed and edited by Chandra Reedy and her editorial board of some 20 volunteers. The latest 5 year impact factor for *Studies* is 0.631, and the journal is indexed in Web of Science's Science Citation Index (SCI), the Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) and many others. The journal offers open access options to authors and has seen increased take-up of this, most notably for papers that have authors working in UK universities. The most frequently downloaded papers are understandably such open access ones. Some trends are clear: the largest numbers of downloaded papers were sought by IIC members, followed by those museums and universities worldwide that host the largest training and outreach programmes. The most popular subjects downloaded concern modern polymers (in artefacts and as conservation materials), reviews of what an analytical of examination technique can offer to practitioners and conservation decision-making. While the US and the UK account for the greatest quantity of downloads, China is now near the top of the list, and increasing numbers of subscribers are Chinese and/or from south-eastern Asian institutions. Over the year, the time from submission of a paper to online publication was sometimes as low as 3 months but is more typically 6 months, and the time between online and print publication was reduced to 8 months.

Transcriptions of IIC's *Dialogues*, and also book reviews, all constitute IIC publications that are permanently available online, to non-members and members alike, on the public side of the IIC website. All these are overseen by the Director of Publications, who is responsible for IIC's compliance with copyright law for all website content.

IIC's freely downloadable, e-magazine, *News in Conservation*, publishes information on IIC activities, as well as international news on conservation projects and short articles that constitute citable publications, with six issues per year. Its editor, who receives an honorarium in recognition of the journalistic aspect of the role, is part of the social media team of volunteers overseen by the IIC's Director of Communications. The IIC web-site, with its linked social networking systems, thus contributes towards the interchange of ideas. Sharra Grow was appointed as editor for *News in Conservation*, following the departure of Barbara Borghese to a full-time role elsewhere, towards the end of the reporting year. The appearance of *News in Conservation* has been modified by Sharra to comply with the relaunched IIC website in later 2018, but its content continues to reflect the high standards set by Barbara over more than five years. Its success is measured by the number of downloads, as well as the number of times articles are viewed on other sites and by the

range of countries where these downloads have taken place, measuring the geographical spread of IIC's message and awareness of IIC's activities.

Joyce H Townsend, Director of Publications