The FIAT/IFTA Key Activities

The challenges of audiovisual archiving in a rapidly changing world can only be confronted in a strong, global network of professionals.

The work of FIAT/IFTA as an international forum of experts for modern media and audiovisual archiving organisations has led to a significant improvement in the co-operation between national media and broadcasting archives, heritage institutions, researchers and industry.

Which are our key activities?

World Conference
A highlight of our working year, the World Conference, is hosted every year by one of our members. Around 300 delegates from all over the world gather to share, debate and exchange knowledge and expertise with colleagues and industry partners. The conference features workshops, keynotes, case studies, discussion tables, a vendor market and plenty of networking opportunities.

Specialist Seminars and Workshops
Seminars such as the biennial Media Management Seminar and the Media Studies Seminar are somewhat smaller than the World Conference. They bring together 100 to 150 participants around particular topics of interest to our members. In two intensive days they give an overview of state-of-the-art projects and thus help our members to quickly make large strides forward in the seminar's particular domain. Some seminars also focus on the particular needs of a region or involve specialist workshops in partnership with local organisations or institutions.

Publications
FIAT/IFTA regularly publishes the proceedings of conferences and seminars. On the website and social media channels, the presentations are shared, often translated into more elaborate articles and brought together in a book. Responding to requests from a large number of the members, FIAT/IFTA also maintains its tradition of publishing guiding documents for audiovisual archives, for example about the dos and don'ts of tendering for mass digitisation.

Save your Archive
Launched in 2012, Save Your Archive is a special Programme designed by FIAT/IFTA to support endangered archives worldwide. It has contributed, in kind or in financial support, to a range of archive projects: coping with financial difficulties, fragile media, lack of appreciation and awareness, difficult climatic conditions and other challenging circumstances. The Programme specifically aims to empower local archivists, raising awareness and supporting advocacy with policy makers and works with partners and other organisations wherever possible.

Awards Programme
The FIAT/IFTA Archive Achievement Awards offer an excellent opportunity to showcase the best of the audiovisual archives world has to offer. Excellence in several categories of the profession, showcasing the most effective, innovative and creative projects and applications are rewarded with one of the prestigious FIAT/IFTA Cubes. Running for more than 20 years, this initiative rewards excellence and enhances the value of the archive.
Surveys
Surveys are an ideal way for FIAT/IFTA to know where exactly the needs and challenges of its member base are and to adapt the subjects tackled at its events accordingly. In the annual Timeline Survey the situation of audiovisual archives worldwide is measured via a limited number of key questions. The results, presented at the World Conference, also offer our members the opportunity to compare their situations, to draw meaningful conclusions and to use these hard figures as part of their own lobbying. Similarly the Media Asset Management Survey provide useful comparative insights, exchanges and recommendations for archives and software vendors.

Multilateral Consulting
A highly valued aspect of FIAT/IFTA membership is the close and direct connections members make with colleagues worldwide. This allows for easy contact and open and unbiased discussions between specialists. FIAT/IFTA members also regularly visit each other bilaterally to learn directly from trusted sources and to exchange their most valuable insights on highly specialized topics.

Media Studies Research
FIAT/IFTA offers a small annual grant to enhance collaboration between research and archive communities, and to ensure the valorization of academic knowledge for archival practice as well as to promote research into the holdings of member television archives. This Programme offers support for such research with the aim of studying archival material or archiving practices at these institutions. Priority goes to projects researching topics relevant to the history of the archive institution, and to the development of media history through archival studies.

Travel Support Grant
FIAT/IFTA enables media archivists and researchers from all over the world to attend and present at our annual World Conference via the FIAT/IFTA World Conference Travel Grant. For the successful applicants it covers some of the costs associated with attending the conference. It allows them to become an active part of the international audiovisual heritage community and it promotes the development of their professional skills and opportunities.

Would you like to join?
For institutions or individuals involved in the management of audiovisual archives FIAT/IFTA offers three membership categories:

Full
Full Members are Broadcast or Media Archive Organisations, maintaining archives of their own programmes, or those authorized by broadcast organisations or national governments to maintain archives of broadcast programmes.

Associate Individual
Associate Individual Members are members with a specialist interest in broadcast or media archives who are not part of an organisation or institution involved in broadcast or media archive services. Associate members receive the regular communications and publications issued by the association as well as having the opportunity to participate in the meetings.

Associate Organisational
Associate Organisational Members are organisations who have an interest in or whose collections are in part audiovisual or media focused. They may include learning and academic institutions. Members receive the regular communications and publications issued by the association and have the opportunity to participate in the meetings.

More information about membership and the application procedure can be found on the HA/IFTA website:
www.fiatifta.org/Index.php/community/become-a-member/
or by contacting the FIAT/IFTA Office: office@fiatifta.org
The FIAT/IFTA working structure

In order to govern the federation and to develop and maintain its activities, FIAT/IFTA has created an internal working structure consisting of the following bodies:

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest governing body in the Federation. It is composed of full, associate, supporting and honorary members. The General Assembly meets at least once every two years, during the annual World Conference and elects the President and the Executive Council. In this election only Full Members have a right to vote.

Executive Council

FIAT/IFTA is managed by an Executive Council consisting of twelve members elected by the General Assembly. The Council is headed by a President. The General Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-presidents are appointed by the Executive Council from among its members.

Commissions

Four commissions bring together specialists affiliated with FIAT/IFTA’s members in particular domains:

- **The Media Management Commission** specialises in current and future trends in metadata and media management and in their causes and consequences when it comes to the archive the technologies used and the skills of the archivists. This is done through the organisation of seminars and the publication of proceedings.

- **The Media Studies Commission** is the link to the academic world researching audiovisual material. It aims to facilitate the access to television archives and collections for academic studies. This is done through the organisation of seminars, focusing on particular historical topics or approaches to archival studies. The commission also awards an annual Media Studies Grant.

- **The Preservation and Migration Commission** focuses on technical challenges of analog and digital preservation, more specifically digitisation and migration plans. It consults with FIAT/IFTA members who have plans in this direction and publishes guidelines to inform and support these projects.

- **The Value, Use and Copyright Commission** provides a forum to support valorization, exploitation and opening up of audiovisual collections with a focus on the end user, e.g. general audiences, education, tourism, and other sectors. The Commission’s core objective is to gather and share experience and knowledge of all aspects in the process of making collections available in a digital environment (value assessment, copyright and intellectual property issues, technology, ethics, user experiences, storytelling, curation etc.) in order to increase awareness and grow the value of audiovisual archives worldwide.

FIAT/IFTA Archive Members

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