



*Conferencia Regional sobre Preservación Patrimonial
Preservación Patrimonial en las Américas:
Intercambios Prácticos y proyectos futuros
30 ago-2 sep, 2016 Medellín, Colombia*

Association for Heritage Preservation of the Americas
Asociación para la Preservación del Patrimonio de las Américas
Associação para a Preservação do Patrimônio das Américas
www.apoyonline.org



Conference and Workshop Summary Report

1. The Conference and Workshop

The 1st APOYOnline¹ Regional Conference on Heritage Preservation brought together over **70 professionals** from **15 countries** in Medellín, Colombia from August 30 to September 2, 2016. This event provided the opportunity to share and communicate experiences in the conservation practice, education, collections care, and heritage management. The conference proved to be a successful contribution to building and strengthening networks in the heritage field in the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries in the region.

Efforts to study and preserve the priceless cultural heritage of the region are being made in Colombia and other countries, in contrast with very few opportunities for sharing with other professionals, having direct contact with major conservation material or service providers, or strengthening capacity-building through specialization courses.

¹ Founded in 1989, APOYOnline (formerly APOYO) is a non-profit organization that has been deeply committed to strengthening exchange and regional/global professional networks, sharing conservation information via translations and new scholarship, and building awareness about the need to preserve cultural patrimony across Latin America and the Caribbean region. For over 20 years, APOYOnline has worked closely with the AIC/FAIC and the Getty Foundation to bring Latin American and Caribbean professionals to the AIC meetings in the USA every other year.

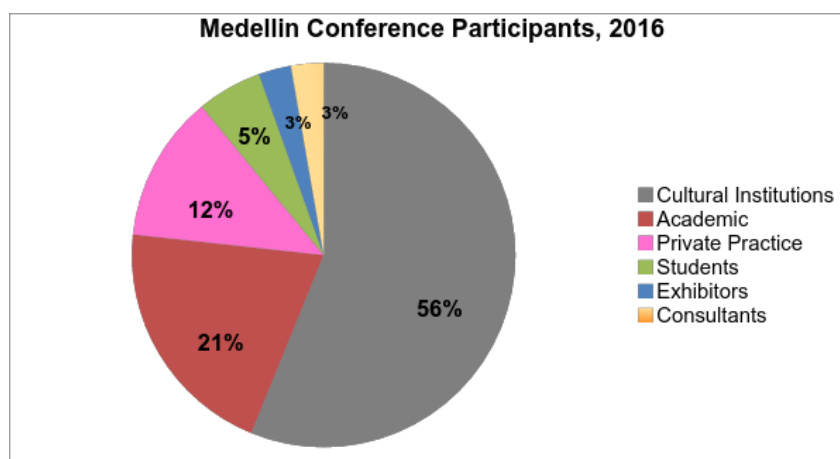
The theme of the conference was: *“Heritage Preservation in the Americas: Practical Exchanges & Upcoming Projects”*, which provided thought-provoking presentations, discussions groups and posters about current and future heritage preservation projects in the Latin American and Caribbean regions. The participants represented major collections and holdings from national libraries, national and regional archives and museums; cultural ministries, national and regional universities and preservation training programs, film repositories, centers for the restoration of patrimony and conservators in private practice from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Spain .

The conference offered an opportunity for professional development through a four half-days **Workshop on Photographic Conservation, Fundraising & Advocacy**, offered by Debbie Hess Norris, Chairperson, Art Conservation Program from the University of Delaware, USA. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of photographic holdings in the region. The workshop included lectures, open discussions, and hands-on work to familiarize participants with the identification of early photographic processes, and degradation and preservation of common photographic print materials, including salted paper, albumen, silver gelatin, and chromogenic color processes. The workshop had been originally organized for 25 selected participants, but due to the overwhelming interest of attendees, the workshop was opened to all with exceptional simultaneous translation and teaching material translated in three languages (English-Spanish-Portuguese)

Who participated?

The **73 participants** included professional practitioners in conservation and restoration, conservation sciences or collection managers currently working in public and private institutions in Latin America. Participants active in the academic field also took part in the conference: researchers, professors, and students. Professionals in private practice participated in the conference as assistants and presenters. Furthermore, additional consultants were invited to give special lectures within the workshop program. A total of five companies were represented as exhibitors of products, services and supplies related to heritage preservation and conservation. Two of these exhibitors made presentations during the event, and answered questions from the participants.

Cultural Institutions' staff (museums, archives, libraries, historic buildings, etc.)	41 persons
Academic field (university professors and staff, research field)	15 persons
Private Practitioners	9 persons
Students	4 persons
Exhibitors	2 persons (5 exhibitors)
Consultants	2 persons



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What topics were presented at the conference?

Topics of presentations covered broad cultural heritage preservation issues such as terminologies in conservation and restoration, impact of microbiological studies in conservation in the region, emergency response after natural disasters, stabilization of archives and manuscripts, collections care and cleaning of rare materials, and analysis and conservation treatment proposal for ceramic murals. Additional topics addressed specific photographic conservation topics such as preservation needs, inventory of collections, treatment, conservation policies, and professional training in photographic conservation. For summaries of each presentation, see the link provided at the end of this document. A short summary of the presentations of the speakers can be accessed through a link at the end of the document.

Posters addressed a wide variety of topics such as preservation of glass plate negative collections, international meetings in preventive conservation, risk management for sculptures exposed to the outside, paper conservation in tropical climates, training of maintenance staff in historical constructions, conservation survey of negatives, Memory of the World project as an opportunity for preservation of photographic collections, management of historical documents, studies on biocides products of natural origin to control microorganism; preservation of audio-visual material; preservation of historical photographs; cataloguing and preservation plan for philatelic collections; emergency recovery plan for museum collections; master course in conservation of documents; archeological collections preservation; professional development and preservation workshops; preservation of 19th century furniture; history of preservation in archaeological sites; preservation challenges in judicial archives; photo-observatory; building communication bridges in the Americas. A link to the complete list of posters is included at the end of this document.

Photographic conservation workshop

The conference offered an opportunity for professional development through a four half-days' **Workshop on Photographic Conservation, Fundraising & Advocacy**, offered by Debbie Hess Norris, Chairperson, Art Conservation Program from the University of Delaware, USA. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of photographic holdings in the region. The workshop included lectures, open discussions, hands-on work, and technical visits to the photographic archive of the *Biblioteca Publico Piloto*, inscribed to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, enabling participants to familiarize with the identification of early photographic processes, and degradation and preservation of common photographic print materials, including salted paper, albumen, silver gelatin, and chromogenic color processes

What special events were included in the Conference Program?

- Public Lecture about *Preserving your Family Photographs* by Debbie Hess Norris.
- Special guest Lecture on Fundamentals of Leadership by Bob Norris (USA)
- Special guest Lecture on International Alliances in Latin America for Heritage Preservation Professionals, by Francisco Vieira (USA/Brazil)
- Exhibition of five preservation supply manufactures on site
- Public Presentations from exhibitors of preservation supplies and services
- Public Screening of the Documentary "*Garras de Oro: Heridas Abiertas de un continente*" at the Biblioteca Pública Piloto Auditorium
- Technical visit to the art collections from the 19th to 20th centuries at the *Museo de Antioquia* by museum's conservation, documentation and curatorial specialists
- Technical visit to the Philatelic Collection (*Museo Filatélico*) of Banco de la República, by the Institution's Cultural Coordinator and Librarian

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- Visit to the Medellín Historic Archive (*Archivo Histórico de Medellín*)
- Special final session: APOYOnline Vision 2020

2. Sponsors

The 1st APOYOnline conference could not have been possible without the immense support of important North American institutions and foundations, private donors, manufactures of preservation supplies, whose generosity provided scholarships (partial or full) for **ALL participants** to attend the conference and workshop. Scholarships covered registration, lodging, air fare as well as the distribution of technical publications and preservation supplies to participants. APOYOnline wants to express its gratitude to University of Delaware; Tru Vue; Rosa Lowinger (RLA Conservation of Art & Architecture) and friends; Photographic Specialty Group of the American Institute of Conservation (AIC); Image Permanence Institute; Getty Publications; University Products; Hollinger Metal Edge; Gaylord Archival; Peck Stacpoole Foundation; and Preservation Technologies.

APOYOnline also wants to acknowledge the support of the Colombian institutions, which opened their facilities and collections for the conference and workshop; offered special guided tours of their collections, labs, and storage facilities for the participants; and, also provided special support to all participants to fly to Medellín. Our gratitude to Banco de la República; Biblioteca Pública Piloto; Museo de Antioquia; Archivo Histórico de Medellín; and Avianca, the Airline of Colombia.

3. Impact

The conference received press coverage in the most important newspapers and Embassy newsletters from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Uruguay ² highlighting the impact of such initiative in the region. In addition, some of APOYOnline Facebook posts related to the conference reached up to 9,000 people during the week of the conference as they were shared on social media.

APOYOnline conference organizers spoke about AIC and IIC activities during the conference to promote future professional exchanges. The impressive response to the conference reiterates the importance of promoting professional networking and professional development in the Latin American and Caribbean region and APOYOnline is very proud to have been the leader of this initiative.

The impact of the conference is even more evident as the data shows that of all participants of the conference, **77% were new grantees** of APOYOnline and **36.5% had never heard** about the activities of the organization until that moment.

What were the opinions of the participants?

APOYOnline received a large number of thank you notes from participants, thanking sponsors for supporting their participation and also expressing their support to host the 2nd APOYOnline Regional Conference in 2018. They agreed that this was an enriching and productive experience, and some expressed the need to work on the continuation towards the future of the projects and vision of APOYOnline. A link to a selection of transcripts translated from the original letters is provided at the end of this document. Also, APOYOnline obtained feedback from the participants through a survey distributed at the end of the conference, with an 85% response rate.

How was the dissemination and media coverage?

² The links to some articles are added below:

<http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/medellin/reflexion-sobre-como-cuidar-de-los-documentos/16687079>
<http://www.banrepcultural.org/blog/noticias-de-medell-n/reflexiones-en-torno-al-patrimonio-de-las-am-ricas>
<http://diariosocialrd.com/vida/20906-ruahidy-lombert-participa-conferencia-regional-preservacion-patrimonial/>

The event was covered in national media – paper and online edition of the national newspaper in Colombia-, and internationally in Argentina, Costa Rica, Honduras, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic, through local press and the website of institutions that participated. An extensive coverage in social media occurred, by professional network groups in Latin America, as well as through individual and institutional accounts, before, during and after the event. APOYOnline postings during the conference reached over 9,300 people. A complete list of press coverage on the event, organized by country, can be accessed through a link provided at the end of this document.

4. Result Highlights

The near absence of formally trained conservators in the Latin American and Caribbean regions highlights the need for informed preservation professionals. These professionals are essential to care for the wealth of cultural heritage of the region, including photographs dating from the early 19th century to the present. The commitment of the participants to preservation is heartfelt and they are not deterred by limited resources. Many are looking for opportunities of internships abroad while seeking to be able to attend to future professional development initiatives in the region.

The conference provided a welcoming environment to exchange professional expertise, learning and collaboration among participants. Collaborations, such as a joint- research project between Argentina, Curacao and Dominican Republic for the development and testing of a Gel cleaning systems to clean inorganic supports, which was formed during the conference.

5. Next Steps (Vision 2020)

In APOYOnline's Vision 2020 session, all participants discussed future collaborations and activities of the organization in the next four years. This led to the establishment of seven **main ideas for APOYOnline's future vision**: 1) research work lines; 2) carry out more events – rotation; 3) disseminate activities; 4) preserve memories and networks; 5) institutional collaboration; 6) professional development; and 7) foster APOYOnline's mission.

Action plans were identified to encourage the establishments of **MOUs** between Latin American cultural institutions and APOYOnline to support future initiatives in professional development, translations of technical material, grants and more, within a framework of three months.

Additionally, participants volunteered to be **correspondents in each country**, in charge of gathering information from participants within his/her country, and communicating this information to APOYOnline in addition to suggestions to organize **emergency teams** for disaster response in the region. APOYOnline will continue to serve as a bridge to help secure internships and professional training opportunities for some of the participants in the United States and Canada, as well as serve as a link to North American professionals interested in heritage preservation experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

6. Conclusions

APOYOnline's first ever regional conference proved to be a true inspiration to continue reinforcing the interdisciplinary field of heritage preservation across the Americas. Participants revealed a deep interest to further develop the initial networking and learning opportunities resulted by the conference, to foster future collaborations. The meeting provided an environment that fostered engagement and empowered participants to share their work and their stories through presentations and talks that presented compelling stories.

The extraordinary success of this conference is an amazing and tangible result of 27 years of tireless hard work and perseverance of countless volunteers. My greatest satisfaction is knowing the younger

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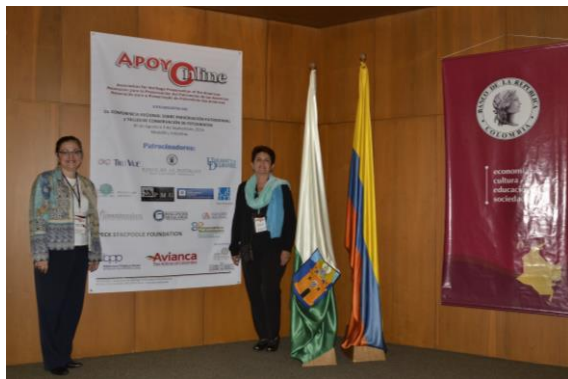
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generations involved in the APOYOnline leadership today are as enthusiastic and passionate as the small group who started this initiative in 1989, with the tremendous advantage of having the 21st Century technological tools to continue advancing APOYOnline's Mission of building communication bridges for the preservation of cultural heritage in the Americas."

"The fact that the conference was conducted in 3 languages was a powerful statement that the language of caring for preservation of cultural heritage and cultural identity is universal".

Under the leadership of Beatriz Haspo and Amparo Rueda APOYOnline, will continue to embrace the challenges ahead in leading such initiatives to integrate and support professional development and exchange in the region

APPENDIX 1 - Selection of Photographs



APOYOnline 1st Heritage Preservation

Left Photo: Beatriz Haspo, Executive Director, and Amparo Rueda, co-founder APOYOnline

Right Photo: Beatriz Haspo, Ingrid Frederick (Communications APOYOnline), Debbie Hess Norris (University of Delaware), Marisol Zúñiga (Marketing APOYOnline) and Amparo Rueda



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**ARGENTINA****BRASIL****CHILE****COLOMBIA****CUBA****DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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ECUADOR



HONDURAS



GUATEMALA



MEXICO



PERU



SPAIN

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UNITED STATES



URUGUAY



VENEZUELA

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Workshop in Photographic Conservation



Exhibit Hall and Posters





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APPENDIX 2 - Further Information

Conference Program

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By_MamwUFLroX1Rla3NRUklsQmFwQmZYaTVNWTv6QkphNXFj/view?usp=sharing

Poster List

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By_MamwUFLroZFR6Vk9YNUdkV2M/view?usp=sharing

Workshop Program

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By_MamwUFLroTXVocEt2QUNtbE5NbG12Vm1KQV9oUzhsaXpn/view?usp=sharing

Summaries of Speakers Presentations

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By_MamwUFLrod19vQjFSZXdXYms/view?usp=sharing

Statements from Participants

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By_MamwUFLroWnhhb3NCbkw0R1U/view?usp=sharing

Press Coverage

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By_MamwUFLroaEVMbUNIVXpmaXc/view?usp=sharing

Youtube Videos

Public Lecture Debra Hess Norris: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aodB8Kv-bRA>

APOYOnline Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZZYx6USrVl>

APOYOnline Team:

Escarlet Silva	President
Amparo Rueda	Vice-President
Beatriz Haspo	Executive Director
Ingrid Frederick	Communications
Marisol Zúñiga	Marketing
Francisco Vieira	International Alliances
Alex Ankersen	Website Design
Felipe Cocco	Website Design
Diana Díaz	Newsletter
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Ana Astrid Molina	Consultant
Hilda Abreu	Consultant
Magdalena Krebs	Consultant
Ann Seibert	Consultant

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