

Constitution of The World History of Science Online Database Project, Detailing Its Governance and Operation

(1) Supervisors

The WHSO project will be supervised and overseen by the Secretary General and the President of the Commission on Bibliography and Documentation (CBD) of the DHST/IUHPS. The Supervisors will supervise, coordinate, and stimulate the work of the Governing Board and its Project Commissions. The President of CBD may be invited to serve on the governing board, but the Secretary General is not expected to take an active part in the execution of the project.

(2) Governing Board

The Governing Board will be composed of 7 members, who will be appointed to renewable 4-year terms, staggered at 2-year intervals. The members of the Governing Board will be selected by the Council of the DHST / IUHPS upon the recommendation of the current board. One of those appointees will be designated by the Council as chair of the board. The members should be historians of science and/or technology with expertise in bibliography and documentation projects. They should also have expertise in databases.

(3) Project Commissions

The Governing Board will develop, supervise, and integrate the various projects of the WHSO, but the projects will be run by separate commissions as designated by the Governing Board. The Board will form each commission, give it specific guidelines, and appoint a coordinator for it. The coordinators will appoint other members of their commission upon the approval of the Governing Board.

The members of the Project Commissions and its coordinators will be partly renewed after two years. The Governing Board should try to avoid appointing coordinators of Project Commissions who are currently serving on the Board, though this is not specifically prohibited.

Each Project Commission will be expected to establish contact and cooperation with existing projects worldwide related to their respective fields.

Examples of Project Commissions that will be established to advise and promote the mission of WHSO with regard to primary sources are as follows: Books and pamphlets; Periodicals and scientific papers; Cartography; Iconography; Scientific instruments; Scientific archives (personal and institutional archives, mostly modern, including electronic, oral and film resources); Manuscript items (such as medieval manuscript books) with individual description; Scientific collections (such as herbaria and geological museums). Examples of Project Commissions that will be established to advise and promote the mission of WHSO that will supplement the work of these other commissions is as follows:

Bibliography (secondary sources); Biography; Scientific institutions.

(4) Special Commissions

Initially, the Governing Board will establish two Special Commissions which will have their own Coordinators and Committees whose composition and structure is the same as that of the Project Commissions describe in section (3) above.

(a) The Technical Commission, whose directive is to oversee the WHSO website, establish the database structure, and make possible the integration of the work of the other commissions.

(b) The Commission on National Projects, whose aim will be to stimulate and coordinate specific national or regional bibliographical and archival efforts and integrating them to the WHSO project

(5) The WHSO website and database

The supervision and coordination of the central WHSO web site will be the direct responsibility of the Governing Board and its Technical Commission. The central WHSO web site will be hosted by the DHST web site.

(6) Support and funding

Funding for the various parts of the WHSO project will be coordinated by the Supervisors and the Governing Board. Because funding of project initiatives directly by DHST will be necessarily limited by the DHST budget, it will be the responsibility of the Governing Board in coordination with the Supervisors and the various commission coordinators to find outside grants to fund most of the major expenditures of the initiatives.

All funds provided by the DHST and granted to this project or its commissions by outside sources will be supervised and audited by the Supervisors and the DHST Treasurer.

Success with the project and the speed of the development of its initiatives will be dependent upon the nature of the funding and the ability of the various commissions to enlist the help of knowledgeable and enthusiastic scholars around the world.