Documentation: "Identifying New Opportunities and Challenges in (North and South)"

DABOH August 21/08

Agenda

- 1. Opportunities?
 - North / South
- 2. Challenges?
 - North / South

3. Implications for DABOH/IAMS

Immediate / Short-term / Long-term

Procedure

- Divide into small regional discussion clusters (3 4)
- Each group will discuss the following questions
 - What are existing/ongoing/emerging opportunities in documentation in the region?
 - Positive case studies / examples
 - Emerging case studies
 - What are new challenges for documentation in the region?
 - Positive case studies / examples
 - Emerging case studies
 - What are mechanisms for / examples of cooperation, collaboration, enablement in the region?
- Each group will report to the larger group, followed by plenary discussion of key issues

Plenary Discussion

Opportunities

*Student internships could be funded by IAMS Theology of archives could be written by DABOH member Exposure

Existing gateways can be expanded (e.g. MUNDUS)

Directories – what is where? Could be created / located by DABOH

Dissemination? Passive/Active

Expansion/enhancement of DABOH webpage

Classification/annotation of URLs

"Repositories of primary sources" - URL

Opportunities (continued)

Openness (e.g. China)

A number of good institutional archives (Philipines)

Histories (esp. Hagiographies) emerging in India

Mood of cooperation growing

Technology increasingly affordable/available

Non-denominational societies and denominational societies are taking archives / record preservation seriously (e.g. Wycliffe / Methodist)

ATLA – world Christianity interest group

Plenary Discussion -Challenges

- Security / storage
- Decentralization
- Lack of basic retention policies across denomination
- Accessibility
- Ignorance at official level
- Standardization of terminology
- Thesaureus
- Geographical isolation
- Sensitivity of data

Challenges (continued)

Lack of policy (national) Randomly collected materials (public/private) Lack of interest Sensitivity of materials (political, social) One-sided documentation Understaffing Under training Under budgeting Trained and training librarians

Challenges (continued)

- Standardization
- Lack of interest in archives low priority
- Question of centralization of archives on the part of multinational agencies
- Support (who? Where?)
- Delusional view of digitization (= preservation?)
- Distance (ecclesiastical / geographic)

Plenary Discussion – Cooperation / enablement mechanisms / examples

- Collections of model documents as template agreements, etc.
- Information exchange meetings such as DABOH
- List-serves
- Survey of mission agencies