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 (Philippines)
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 multi-national 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