



14 September 2019

To the Greek Association of Librarians and Information Scientists

*Letter of endorsement of the Greek branch of IAML and their advocacy efforts towards an improvement of the status of the profession of music librarianship and music information professionals.*

Dear Madam / Sir,

As Chair of the Advocacy Committee of IAML, the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres, I am writing to express my support towards potential advocacy initiatives that can raise the profile of music subject specialists within the profession of librarianship and information provision.

Music holds a unique position in the library context, as it is a language with its own notation system and its own forms of publication. Whether manuscript, print or digital, notated music comes with its own specific characteristics. For notated music and recorded sound, the correct identification of musical works across a wide range of publishing formats is key and requires highly specialised knowledge informing core tasks such as creation of metadata in order to enable users to retrieve the information and resources they require. It is the role of the music specialist to ensure all levels of musical sources and resources about music are made available to all levels of library users.

In addition to the ability to read music, having a good understanding of publication patterns, genres and repertoire of music worldwide, the music information professional can advise on requirements of technical information retrieval systems. Music specialists need to be able to work with archival and manuscript as well as with published materials. An understanding of key concepts of physical as well as digital conservation and preservation requirements is essential to ensure musical heritage is safe and available to current and future users.

Any initiatives and support your organisation can deliver to raise awareness of the highly specialised and professional status of the music information professional would of great benefit.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Pensaert

IAML Advocacy Committee, Chair