

ICOM UK Travel Report

4th International Conference: IPM 2019 Integrated Pest Management for Cultural Heritage Stockholm, Sweden, 21- 23 May 2019

I was privileged to have received an ICOM UK Travel Bursary to attend the 4th International Conference on Integrated Pest Management for Cultural Heritage in Stockholm 21- 23rd May 2019, as well as a bursary from the Camilla Boodle fund to extend my travel prior to and after the meeting to conduct a research project whilst in Stockholm.



This international conference, attended by almost 200 delegates from 29 countries across Europe, the Middle East, North America and Asia brought the conservation profession up to date with the latest developments in the field of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Delegates represented the conservation and related professions, the pest management industry and scientific sectors, and presented fantastic opportunities to discuss cross-disciplinary collaborations to benefit IPM within the cultural heritage sector. Conference themes focussed on “Communicating IPM”, “IPM in the era of globalisation” and “IPM in a changing climate”.

Presentations of direct relevance included Mel Houston’s ‘Train the trainer: Newhailes, a moth case history’, which described an innovative pilot case study whereby the National Trust for Scotland’s conservators, in conjunction with an external consultancy company, trained volunteers from a non-conservation background to implement IPM and develop its background narrative. The focus of this was in assessing the efficacy of the programme for future collections care training and evaluating whether the investment to engage an external training company is worthwhile. These skills are directly transferable to my work at Imperial War Museums, where I have already engaged with the volunteering team to determine suitable mechanisms to deliver IPM training to non-specialist audiences and has provided me with new skills in evaluating the efficacy of this training. This has included examining IWM’s IPM Strategy, modification of language to encourage ownership and engender a sense of enabling and restructuring our training output.



Adam Osgood’s presentation ‘Long lasting insecticidal netting as a potential form of museum pest control: Effectiveness and safety of alphacypermethrin impregnated polyethylene mosquito netting for pest management of clothes (*Tineidae*) and carpet beetles (*Dermestidae*)’ offered new insights into using low technology solutions to museum insect pest challenges. There are definite applications for its usage in developing countries where resources are limited, and there is potential for this field study to be extended to the work I have been doing in Myanmar teaching collections care in cultural heritage organisations across the country.

I presented a poster representing Imperial War Museums jointly with David Pinniger of DBP Entomology, entitled *Integrated Pest Management: Informing the decision-making process*, outlining the importance of institutional wide cooperation across museum functions to successfully implement IPM. Since the conference I have been contacted by IPM practitioners from other UK based and international organisations to receive copies of this poster as a method of demonstrating IPM principles to encourage cooperation within their own organisations. It also provided a platform for me to increase my confidence in conversing with fellow professionals in a specialist subject.



I tweeted in both the English and Arabic languages throughout the conference from my consultancy twitter account (@Crossman_AmyL/ايمي) under the hashtag #IPM2019Sweden. As a direct result of this my audience has noticeably augmented, evidenced by a 50% increase in my twitter following, many representing Middle Eastern organisations.

Communicating the same messages via Twitter in dual languages, English and Arabic allowed for the conveyance of consistent, accurate messages to reach a wider audience, raising awareness and increasing outreach of the profession, where practitioners often preach to the converted.



Amy Crossman/ايمي @Crossman_AmyL · May 24

Replying to @LJaneHenderson

Latin names are used as universal method of understanding insect scientific names

We need more integrated pest management literature translated into other languages, this is a complex process, requiring someone with knowledge of both languages, and the topic

#IPM2019Sweden

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This has promoted interest in pest management in Middle Eastern cultural heritage organisations, where IPM is currently less established, and has helped cultivate the IPM message.

Further to this, there is a dearth of published material on insect pest species in the region in entomological literature and museum science. Since the conference, initiatives are underway to produce insect identification keys specific to this context. It is hoped that

this will lead to a better understanding of the pest species in the region and assist in informing viable treatment options.

It is also hoped that it will result in increased cooperation and sharing of data between Middle Eastern countries and ultimately contribute to a pest databank for the region, informing knowledge of the distribution of insect pests across the world due to climate change and increased international loans.

A further benefit arising as a direct result of the conference is the exploration of the use of language and terminology, not only in IPM, but in the wider conservation profession, which has historically been fraught with complexities. Issues in direct translations between languages may lead to incorrect attribution of insect pests. I have already translated one document on collections care (including a section on Integrated Pest Management) into the Arabic language and have embarked on developing an Arabic- English dictionary/glossary of conservation terminology.

Following the conference, contact has been made with colleagues in Oman with the possibility of translating IPM literature into the Arabic language, as well as possible collaborations to identify and

publish IPM information, toolkits and resources with emphasis in pest identification literature. This would be a groundbreaking initiative in terms of gathering entomological data within the region.

I am a member of the Pest Odyssey UK Steering Group and will be presenting a round-up and highlights of the Stockholm Conference at the Pest Odyssey UK open meeting in October 2019. I already have given feedback to Imperial War Museums on the conference and have begun incorporating the training-based presentations into our IPM Strategy, including modifying the use of language to enable and empower others across museum departments to support our work.

I have been in contact with the Institute of Conservation and am committed to writing a review of the conference in News in Conservation.

Camilla Boodle Bursary Fund

Prior to and after the conference, during 20th and 24th May, Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet (Natural History Museum Stockholm) and Skokloster Castle were visited to compare IPM in Sweden to that of UK based practises and strategies.



Overall IPM practice across both the museum and the Castle were found to have many similarities to UK based practice. The overarching themes were to prevent damage from pests as far as practicable. One noticeable difference in practice arose from the use of traps, both organisations focussed their trapping in collection storage areas, and Skokloster Castle has yet to implement a regular insect monitoring inspection programme. The need to only trap in collection storage areas may have resulted out of a lack of resource to cover the entire building complex or as a perception that collection

storage areas are at higher risk from insect pest attack due to their lack of visibility, with resources targeted in this area.

At Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet preventive programmes centred around cool storerooms controlled to around 15°C, greatly reducing the risk of damage by pests. Infestations in specimens when discovered are treated by freezing -25°C, the same thermal treatment used by UK based practitioners. Skokloster Castle has recently implemented an energy efficiency project to limit temperature extremes experienced in some parts of the Castle, and some interesting results came from the ducted dehumidification that was found to be the most effective method of environmental control, with the added impact of reducing incidents of insect pest infestations.





Species of insect pest infestations identified are similar to that found in the UK, and include webbing clothes moth *Tineola bisselliella*, two-spot carpet beetle *Attagenus pellio* and carpet beetle species *Anthrenus*. Berlin beetle *Trogederma angustum* is the exception to this, as currently in the UK this species is rare with only one major infestation at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Herbarium.

Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet has commenced an exciting project to carry out DNA analysis of museum pest species as part of a larger genome programme, this is something that does not take place in UK practice. Collaboration on this and sharing data between the UK and Sweden could be very useful and should be encouraged.

Whilst visiting these organisations we explored the mechanics of collaborating with them in order to expand the data collection on the movement and distribution of insect pests worldwide on the What's Eating your Collections? Website. The knowledge gained from these visits will be disseminated through the What's Eating your Collections Website? to include Sweden in this. Both organisations were keen to share their data with the UK for this purpose.

Thanks to David Pinniger, Niklas Apelqvist, Anna Hallstrom, Tor Brostrom and Julia Stigenberg for their cooperation in arranging these visits.

Amy Crossman, Collections Care Manager Imperial War Museums/Conservation Consultant, Collections Care Consultancy, June 2019

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