Back to the future: policy and practice.
Final open-floor discussion, chaired by Okasha El Daly.
Summary from notes by Birgit Schoer and Stephen Quirke

Stephen Quirke

Introductory note by Stephen Quirke

For the closing session of the conference, Okasha El Daly chaired a discussion open to the floor. To guide debate, he presented a list of points and issues which he had noted from the five conference panels. In the following summary of the closing session, I draw on my own notes and those taken by one member of the audience, Birgit Schoer, a Friend of the Petrie Museum. Rather than a literal transcript, my aim here is to convey the broad direction and content of debate. I am grateful to Okasha for chairing and to Birgit for her record, and I hope that the participants find in this summary an acceptable echo of the event. I have maintained anonymity to avoid misattribution; any errors are my own responsibility. Both Birgit Schoer and I noted three phases within the flow of discussion, and so the account below is divided into those sections. In order to reflect the event as closely as possible, I have not removed instances of repetition or disconnected sequences of comments. Participants were asked both to address problems frankly, and to offer constructive examples and ideas, as principles of the future. At the end of the three sections, I have summarised as “principles” the issues where participants identified a discussion point as a major item of note, either explicitly, or by their emphasis. These abstracted points are not intended to add up to a blueprint for action, but they provide my record of the strategic ideas voiced by individual participants in this event. The record can be compared with the appendix, a summary which I circulated to conference co-organisers in June 2013 as my first draft towards an agreed set of ideas.