



Minutes of IFLA General Assembly Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, 2016



World Library and Information Congress: 82nd IFLA General Conference and Assembly

Endorsed minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday, 17 & Thursday, 18 August 2016, in Hall E of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America.

1. Opening by the President, Donna Scheeder

President Donna Scheeder opened the meeting at 16.15 on Wednesday, 19 August and welcomed the members and delegates thanking them for their attendance at the Congress. She introduced those on stage: Secretary General Gerald Leitner and Martyn Wade, Parliamentarian.

Apologies were received from Kay Raseroka and Alex Byrne.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Members agreed that Genevieve Clavel-Merrin be appointed Head Teller and that Marian Koren, Kelly Moore, Eve Woodberry, Michael Dowling and Kerry Smith serve as Tellers.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the beginning of the meeting there were 134 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2016 and were not in arrears. With 68 members present, a quorum was established.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

5. Minutes of the General Assembly held in Cape Town, 19 and 20 August 2015

The minutes were adopted.

6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year

The President invited members to stand in silence to remember Gary Gorman, Dorothy Anderson, Antonio M. Santos, Angela Bersekowski, Danielle Mincio, Mireille Chazal, Russell Bowden, Roza Berdigaliyeva, Alan Hopkinson, Hilda Urai, Alberico Montecchiari, Raymond Bérard, John Murrell, Piyadasa Ranasinghe and other colleagues who have died during the past year.

7. Presentation of the report of the President, Donna Scheeder

The President noted how many libraries and librarians had been responding to her call to action and to transforming libraries. IFLA has advocated at international meetings on literacy, services for children and young adults, and open government. A toolkit for advocacy around the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and positioning libraries as critical community assets is now available to all. A *2016 Update to the IFLA Trend Report* shows that global change continues to affect us all. While the Treaty of Marrakesh will come into force, IFLA must ensure further action to make its implementation successful. Three new Preservation and Conservation Centres have been established to fill identified gaps. Strengthening IFLA's regional presence is occurring through the continuation of the Building Strong Library Associations programme, the International Advocacy Programme and the involvement of a new cohort in the IFLA International Leaders Programme.

The full text of the President's report is on the IFLA website

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/presidents-report-2016.pdf>

8. Presentation of the report of the Secretary General

Gerald Leitner, IFLA's new Secretary General, provided a glimpse into IFLA's future. He stated that libraries needed to work together and find solutions to the rapid development of the information society and the transformation of publishing markets. IFLA will work with libraries to develop a global vision for a strong and connected library field able to adapt and meet the needs of users. Together IFLA and its members will create programmes to fulfil the vision. IFLA will utilise the International Advocacy Programme to allow everyone to be an advocate and will increase its engagement and communication with all members.

The full text of the Secretary General's report is on the IFLA website

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/sg-report-2016.pdf>

The Secretary General introduced Deborah Jacobs, Director of the Global Libraries initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She noted that Global Libraries has been supporting libraries since 1997 and has spent over one billion US dollars on public libraries globally, impacting over 255 million people. The initiative will wind down in 2018 however they have been asked to leave the field strong. Their exit strategy is to invest in three legacy partners to carry forward the goal of impacting the lives of the information poor. The three partners are IFLA, PLA (Public Library Association – USA), TASCHA. Each organisation will receive a ten-year grant to continue the work. IFLA is currently working on a proposal which aims to be finished by the end of 2016. Deborah noted that IFLA was strong due to its members, volunteers, governing board and staff and thanked the IFLA leadership for taking on the work of the legacy.

9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

Treasurer Christine Mackenzie presented the 2015 annual report as accepted by the Governing Board in its April 2016 meeting for presentation to Members.

The year 2015 shows a surplus of €170,758`. This compares to a surplus of €227,355 for 2014. The overall result of a surplus is a positive sign of a strong and well-managed budget. This surplus means that our general reserves now stand at €1,119,293, and earmarked reserves at €51,974. These reserves are an important asset for IFLA to be able to secure our work and sustainability in the years to come.

It is important that the general accounts meet the needs of IFLA's core business. IFLA has also benefited from outside support such as grants from Global Libraries which have allowed IFLA to develop and implement new programmes around the world.

The meeting adopted the 2015 Annual Accounts.

The full text of the Treasurer's report is on the IFLA website

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/annual-accounts-2016.pdf>

10. Motions and Resolutions

10.1 Approve the holding of the next General Assembly

In accordance with Dutch legal requirements the Members resolved in the affirmative

Resolution: The General Assembly resolved to authorize the Governing Board to convene the General Assembly to coincide with the next IFLA World Library and Information Congress which shall take place in August 2017. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2017.

10.2 Setting of Membership Fees

The Governing Board requested the General Assembly to vote on the motion regarding annual membership fees for 2017, 2018 and 2019. A number of members spoke against the motion noting the difficult financial situations facing many libraries. Increases in fees made participation harder to promote within institutions. The Treasurer noted that the increase of 2% was small in dollar terms and that the sustainability of IFLA had to be considered as a factor.

The members resolved in the affirmative:

Resolution: The Governing Board is empowered to increase the membership fees in all categories by the percentage of the official retail price inflation, as recorded by the Netherlands government, since the time of the last increase.

In a year where the average retail price increase is below 1.0% the Governing Board may increase the membership fees in all categories up to 2% in order to ensure financial sustainability.

The General Assembly will continue to approve the IFLA membership rates for all categories at intervals of no more than three years.

12. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16:15 on Thursday 20 August 2016

The General Assembly resolved in the affirmative:

Resolution: The General Assembly resolved that this meeting adjourns to meet at 16.15 tomorrow (Thursday 18 August) for the Closing ceremony.

13. Closing Session

Presentation of Awards

Maria Carme Torras I Calvo, Chair of the Professional Committee, presented the Professional Committee awards for 2016.

IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award 2016

This was awarded to the Public Libraries Section and the New Professionals Special Interest Group. Both units were selected due to the variety of platforms adopted, the innovative approach and creativity, their collaborative attitude and their efforts in reaching out to professionals inside and outside the IFLA community. The awards were received by Jan Richards, Secretary and Information Coordinator of the Public Libraries Section, and Maria Violeta Bertolini, Convenor of the New Professionals SIG.

Best IFLA Poster 2016

There were more poster applications than space available. Over 200 posters were on display. The winners of the Poster of the Year 2016 Award were Saule Shingaliyeva and Kabiba Akzhigitova for *Readers are Leaders at the East Kazakhstan Regional Public Library*.

IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to Patrick Losinski and Carol Diedrichs, co-chairs, in grateful recognition to the National Committee of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 82nd IFLA General Conference and Assembly, Columbus Ohio, August 2016.

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to the following recipients:

- Dorothy McGarry for her distinguished service to IFLA and global librarianship especially through an outstanding commitment to advancing cataloguing, classification and indexing standards and practices
- James G. Neal in grateful recognition for his distinguished service to copyright and legal matters and outstanding contribution to fundraising to assist librarians around the world to attend IFLA Congresses
- Lynne Rudasill in grateful recognition for her exemplary service to IFLA particularly in linking the expertise within the professional units to IFLA's strategic work and creating opportunities for the exchange of knowledge
- Jacinta Were in grateful recognition for her distinguished service to IFLA especially in supporting the development of librarians and as a pioneer of computer technology in libraries in Kenya and Africa

IFLA Medal

There were two recipients of the IFLA Medal

- Antonio M. Santos for his distinguished service to international librarianship and contribution to leadership in the Asia region. The IFLA Medal was awarded posthumously and was accepted on behalf of his family by Elvira Lapuz.
- Gordon Dunsire for distinguished service to IFLA and international librarianship, advancing the field of bibliographic data, linked data and the semantic web.

Honorary Fellow

Honorary Fellow is IFLA's highest award. Honorary Fellowship may be conferred on a person who has delivered long and distinguished service to IFLA, with outstanding achievements and that has brought distinction to IFLA in the international arena. The President presented the IFLA Honorary Fellow to Jennefer Nicholson.

Jennefer's contribution to IFLA included many years of service with the Education and Training Section and Management of Library Associations Section before becoming Secretary General in 2008. She changed the face of IFLA with a strong staff team in addition to enhancing IFLA's political representation and advocacy work. The result has been the positioning of IFLA as the global voice and world leader in representing library and information services and their users. Jennefer created partnerships with others in the field in order to support initiatives such as the Building Strong Libraries Programme and the International Leaders Programme. Her professionalism, commitment and reliability raised the image and influence of IFLA at all levels.

Invitation to WLIC 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The President announced that in 2018 the World Library and Information Congress will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She invited Nafisah Ahmad, Director General of the National Library of Malaysia and President of the Librarians Association of Malaysia to address the meeting and invite delegates to Kuala Lumpur in 2018.

Invitation to WLIC 2017 in Wrocław, Poland

The President invited Rafal Dutkiewicz, Mayor of Wrocław, Poland to address the meeting and invite delegates to meet next year in Wrocław.

Vote of thanks by the WLIC 2016 National Committee

The co-chairs of the IFLA WLIC 2016 National Committee, Patrick Losinski and Carol Diedrichs, gave the vote of thanks to all who had contributed so much in the organization and presentation of this highly successful Congress. They recognised the National Committee members and the Local Planning Team who worked with 367 enthusiastic volunteers and committed sponsors to make the congress such a success. Special mention was made of the 107 funders who provided over \$420,700 to assist librarians to attend the congress. With this funding, they were able to award 73 full international fellowships and 120 partial North American fellowships. Key sponsors including OCLC, Chemical Abstracts and Limited Brands had provided generous support.

Acknowledgement of donors and sponsors

IFLA recognised the donors to IFLA Strategic Programmes in 2015 and IFLA's corporate supporters.

Address by the President Donna Scheeder

The President outlined how she had been able to deliver the call to action in all regions of the world and had seen how libraries were responding enthusiastically. The President's meeting in Toronto in April 2016 had focused on building the change agenda and incorporated the need to define a long term sustainable information environment that provides solutions to many of the barriers to accessing public information. While there was no shortage of innovation and action in libraries, it was clear that not all libraries are changing. She sought the participation of all to build a stronger library field to act as the bedrock for the communities they serve.

The full text of the President's address is on the IFLA website:

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/address-by-the-president-2016.pdf>

Close of the Assembly

President Scheeder invited all delegates to meet again in Wroclaw, Poland in August 2017. She thanked all delegates and formally closed the 82nd IFLA World Library and Information Congress at 18:00.