IFLA - Information Technology Section

Meetings in Quebec 2008

Minutes

Standing Committee Meeting – 9th August 2008

Presiding Officers:
Reinhard Altenhöner, Chair; Alenka Kavčič-Čolić, Secretary; Edmund Balnaves, Information Officer

Standing Committee members present:
Noha Adly, H. Frank Cervone, Patrick Danowsky, Gill Hamilton, Cindy Hill, Belén Llera Cermeño, Catherine Lupovici, Eva Müller, Eli Youmba.

Apologies for absence received from:
Robin Fortelius, Alexeis García Pérez, Karen Hunt, Dawei Wei, Zhixiong Zhang

Other Standing Committee members absent:
Kiran Kumar Doshi, Nazar Hachad, Tagashi Nagatsuka, Jagtar Singh, Hee-kyung Yoo, Gwen Zlim.

Guests:
Shamky Salem (Egypt), Felicis E. Etim (Nigeria), Rose B. Okiy (Nigeria), Annika Lund (on behalf of Robin Fortelius), Hasna Askhita (Syria), Antonia Ida Fontana (Italy), Sally McCallum (USA), A. Kabir (?).

1. **Welcome and introductions**
The Chair welcomed the present members of the Information Technology Section Standing Committee (ITS SC) and guests. Each person was asked to introduce him/herself.

2. **Wrap up participants: trends and figures**
Every participant was asked to say a few words about his/her vision on the IT future trends and needed IT developments in his/her local environment. These ideas would be used as a guideline for the IT Section program of IFLA 2009, which will be discussed in next ITS meeting. (See the minutes of 15 August 2008).

3. **Approval of Minutes**
The minutes from the 2007 ITS SC meetings in Durban were accepted as posted and approved by all ITS SC members.

4. **Financial report**
The Chair reported that the Section has a balance of 600 EUR only from last year.
Patrick Danowski asked for a possible sponsorship by the Section of the lecturers in the Special Interest Group (SIG) for Library 2.0. The Chair promised that he will discuss this issue again with the division Chair.

5. **Report on ITS activities in 2007-2008**
Reinhard Altenhöner very briefly reported about the activities implemented last year which included:
- Preparation of two issues of the Newsletter, Edmund Balnaves will report later on;

- Preparation of two sessions for IFLA 2008 which many ITS members attended;
- The Chair informed that the proceedings of Dakar conference in 2007 will be published very soon. The conference was very successful for small communities of libraries in Africa.
- The Chair also informed that the Professional Committee did not accept the renaming of the ITS section. The main reason was that the Committee did not like "innovation" in the title. A new working group should be formed to find another appropriate name.

Actions: Frank Cervone volunteered to lead this group.

6. ICABS (IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards) report

Reinhard Altenhöner informed ITS members that the Information Technology section has a combined IFLA activity with ICABS as well as with the Preservation and Conservation section (PAC), and Law Libraries sections.
The ICABS report is available on the web (http://www.ifla.org/VI/7/annual/ICABS-Report02-2008.pdf).

7. eIFLnet / FOSS (Free Open Source Software) activities

The Chair reported that eIFLnet / FOSS activities started in 2007 and collected different parties of eIFL initiative. They decided to support both Greenstone and KOHA open source software resp. to join activities with other. They built up a consortia of 16 countries. In Africa they have to fight with daily business coordination due to electricity power cuts, lack of IT competence, etc. (Their web page is at URL: http://ww%20w.eifl.net/cps/sections/services/eifl-foss). We can use the list for provide them information.

8. ITS- SIG "Library 2.0"

Patrick Danowsky reported on the activities of the ITS Discussion Group "Library 2.0". The next step will be the formal inauguration of the Special Interest Group, the new vehicle for IFLA for those activities. They have created a wiki page for different content and plan to invite the IFLA officers for training.
On Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at 8.30 a.m. the Discussion Group session on Libraries and Web 2.0 will take place. They had difficulties in attracting resource persons to the session.
National libraries are specially invited to publish their data on the internet and build something completely new.

9. Cooperation with the Cataloguing section

The Chair informed that the Cataloguing section is organizing a meeting of the Metadata Working Group, where it feels a lack of IT competence. In this regard the section asked for support from the IT section.
Actions: Eva Müller will see if she can take part at the next meeting.

10. Report from the Information Coordinator

Edmund Balnaves reported about the new format of the ITS Newsletter. It has included more content, country based articles and technology implementations of library 2.0 as well as committee members' contributions on the work done so far. There are difficulties in the maintenance of the IFLA's web content, since the content management system does not permit it. It solicits a number of issues like wikis, different logging, etc. for active use and hosting. We expect changes very soon. Edmund Balnaves will hear more about it in the next information officers meeting.
Actions: The next ITS Newsletter issue will include reports from IFLA ITS sessions. The following members volunteered for this task:
1. Brief report on the joint Preservation and Conservation and IT session (Monday, 11 August 2008) – Belén Llera Cermeño and Alenka Kavčič-Čolić
2. Library and Web 2.0 Discussion Group (Wednesday, 13 August) – Eva Müller, Frank Cervone and Edmund Balnaves
3. IT session (Thursday, 14 August) – Gil Hamilton
4. KGM and IT session (Thursday, 14 August) - Frank Cervone

Edmund Balnaves asked for new submissions for the next Newsletter issue and informed that there are 360 members of the IT section who receive it.

11. RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)
The Chair reported that all sections are requested to define their positions in order to help IFLA to prepare a joint statement.
Actions: A group of volunteers has been established to discuss this topic, consisting of:
- Belén Llera Cermeño
- Noah Adly
- Patrick Danowsky
- Edmund Balnaves
- Reinhard Altenhöner

They will meet on Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 11.00 a.m.

Quebec 2008
12. **Report from the Coordinating Board**
Reinhard Altenhöner reported on the meeting of the Coordinating Board.
- There are 3200 registered participants at IFLA conference this year.
- All delegates have to wear their conference badges at all times.
- There will be a Council meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2008.
- The section has to recommend a paper to be published in IFLA Journal.
- There is an officers' meeting where the new IFLA website will be presented.
- At the Divisions meeting a discussion about the election procedures and the lack of library associations' representative took place.

13. ITS activities in Quebec 2008
An overview of ITS activities in Quebec 2008 was formerly e-mailed to all IT SC members by Alenka Kavčič-Čolić. Due to lack of time and the priority to discuss the next years' IFLA satellite conference in Florence it was not necessary to repeat this issue. For this reason Antonia Ida Fontana, Director of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze, joined the meeting as guest.

14. IFLA ITS Satellite conference 2009
Antonia Ida Fonatana reported about the activities in Florence regarding the organization of the IT Section Satellite conference "Emerging trends in technology: libraries between Web 2.0, semantic web and search technology". The Chair and the Secretary informed her about the correspondence with Maurizzio Lunghi, Scientific Director of the Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale, regarding the conditions and requirements of the conference. There are two other sections organizing their satellite conferences at the same time.
Actions: It was agreed on having a joint meeting with the representatives of this two other sections and the Italian organizers during IFLA conference in order to discuss the organization of the 2009 conferences in Florence.

15. SC IT social event in Quebec
There will be an informal dinner on Wednesday, August 13 at 7.30 p.m.. We agreed on meeting in front of the Conference Center entrance. The information on the exact location will be distributed the next days.

16. The Chair closes the meeting.

The meeting will be continued on August 15, 2008.

Alenka Kavčič-Čolić
Secretary, IT Section

Standing Committee Meeting – 15th August 2008

Presiding Officers:
Reinhard Altenhöner, Chair; Alenka Kavčič-Čolić, Secretary; Edmund Balnaves, Information Officer

Standing Committee members present:
H. Frank Cervone, Patrick Danowsky, Cindy Hill, Karen Hunt, Belén Llera Cermeño, Catherine Lupovici, Eva Müller, Eli Youmba, Gwen Zlim.

Apologies for absence received from:
Noha Adly, Kiran Kumar Doshi, Robin Fortelius, Alexeis García Pérez, Dawei Wei, Elie Youmba, Zhixiong Zhang

Other Standing Committee members absent:
Nazar Hachad, Gill Hamilton, Tagashi Nagatsuka, Jagtar Singh, Hee-kyung Yoo.

Guests:
Felicis E. Etim (Nigeria), Antonia Ida Fontana (Italy), Annika Lund (on behalf of Robin Fortelius), Christian Lupovici (France), Rose B. Okiy (Nigeria), John Tsebe (South Africa), Xiaolin Zhang (China).

1. Update Strategic Plan ITS
Due to the large number of issues that we have urgently to discuss, there was no time for discussing the ITS Strategic Plan in detail. The Chair asked all ITS SC members to read the text of the Strategic Plan of ITS in the IFLA website or ITS Newsletter and to send their comments and suggestions to the Chair/Secretary.

2. IFLA as an organization in transition: global issues
Reinhard Altenhöner reported very briefly on main changes in IFLA organization restructuring which will take place after Milan conference in 2009. They will have more important impact on the Divisions leadership, but not on the members. They will mainly influence the timetables. The Discussion groups will change into special interest groups (SIG). We have to reinvent the discussion group "Library 2.0" into a SIG. There will be also a review of every section and SIG every 4 years in order to reduce the number of sections and small sections restructure into SIG. The transparency was the problem of the old section. The new structure seems to be a good solution.
Christian Lupovici added that there will also be a slight change for the nomination of Division Chairs. A proposition will be given very soon. It was proposed that outgoing members will not be able any more to select their successors. A paper will be published to explain all these procedures.

3. Other IFLA Quebec issues

- **RFID**
  The group delegated to discuss RFID came to the conclusion that the IT Section should be expressing recommendations in the direction of protecting privacy while encouraging adoption.
  Actions: Edmund Balnaves will circulate a position paper among all members.

- **Cooperation with the Cataloguing section**
  Eva Müller reported on the working group meeting on metada she took part in. She said that FRBR and CIDOC came together. The IT Section can connect the bibliographic terminology and try to contribute more to its activities and vocabulary problems. Unifying the language will

be helpful for both sides. There were different levels of discussion: OAI, Europeana, digital objects, uniform modeling languages etc. There is a need of guidelines about understanding IT terminology.

- **Digital Libraries Group**
Catherine Lupovici reported on the session of the Digital Libraries Group she took part in. There was an initiative of the World Digital Library by the Library of Congress - strongly supported by UNESCO and IFLA - to establish guidelines for creating digital libraries. These will be IFLA guidelines with compliments to UNESCO. The content will be on a political level with the goal to push countries and institutions to sponsor these activities without political interfering. As other IFLA guidelines, they will try to focus into a curatorial approach. The draft shall be finished by Spring 2009 and will be circulated to IFLA members. The evaluation phase will start 2-3 months before next IFLA. The group, together with Claudia Lux, will decide or review it in Milan. It was not possible to discuss it before since it was a closed session.
Patrick Danowski suggested a wiki for open discussions before publishing the document as a book. Reinhard Altenhöner suggests an electronic publication in order to adopt changes and new developments in the recommendations. Consindering the permanent curation of the information content there is a need for continuing guidance of the guidelines.

- **ITS Newsletter among the three best IFLA sections' newsletters**
The Newsletter of the IT Section was one of the three nominated best IFLA sections' newsletters this year and it was very near to win the first place. The new concept was fully designed by Edmund Balnaves and the present members congratulated him for his excellent work.

4. **Highlights and experiences of the 2008 Conference**
A nonrepresenatative overview of all IFLA Quebec sessions showed that some of them offered very detailed and specific topics, organized under a very broad headline. Therefore the audience misses the "red line" in those sessions, the planning and structuring hand of the preparation committee. The members of the IT SC agree that more focused sessions seemed to attract more audience and should be a quality item for ITS-sessions. It has also been observed that longer sessions divided in two parts had less attendance in the second half. It was noted that the IT and PCS sessions have published all papers online, which was very well accepted by the participants.

The ITS SC members noted several possible formats of presentation of the topics during the conference:
   - Presentations and small discussions.
   - Panel situation with reactions from the audience.
   - Moving discussions from table to table – if there are enough chairs, people can move through the room and stay where they find free chairs.
   - Project based contributions – discussions in small groups.
   - Speaker corners, requiring the audience to move from corner to corner – considered as not that practicable, since it depends on good facilitators and also people can be confused trying to find the right topic.
The question was which one of these formats was the most successful one for ITS sessions next year. It should be considered, that the "open formats" could arise some language problems since these sessions never have translations. In the discussion it came out that especially the Discussion Group can serve as a field for new experiences for those new formats. For the regulary session the classic format with presentations within a well prepared session including online available papers as well as a little panel situation seems to be best.

Decision: It was decided to suggest the IFLA HQ to reserve three rooms for the discussion group next year. We shall decide on the format afterwards.

5. **Paper nominated by the ITS SC for publication in the IFLA Newsletter.**

The attending ITS SC members and guests voted for the best ITS paper presented in IFLA 2008. The paper by Anthony Browne (East Renfrewshire Council, Community Services, Scotland, UK) and Christine Rooney-Browne (Department of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK) received the most scores: Punching above our weight: a small Scottish Library Service joins the global community.
Actions: The Chair will inform the IFLA HQ about our selection**.**

Milan 2009
6. **Satellite conference in Florence: "Emerging trends in technology: libraries between Web 2.0, semantic web and search technology".**
Reinhard Altenhöner, Edmund Balnaves, Antonia Ida Fontana and Alenka Kavčič – Čolić reported on the results of the meeting held with the Organizers from Florence and representatives of the Classification and Indexing Section and the Statistics and Evaluation Section.
We took the following decisions:
- Appointment of contact points between Local Organisers and Planning Committee Members: the IT Section will be cooperating with the local organizer Maurizio Lunghi, Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale.
- **Activities of the local organizers:**
- The IT satellite conference will take place on August 19-20, 2009. The present IT SC members were asked to decide about this date.
   o *Decision:* **The date August 19- 20, 2009 was approved by IT SC members**.

   o **Location:** Square San Marco, via Santa Cologna.
   o A**ccommodation arrangements** and block bookings will be handled by an Agency selected by the organizers.
   o **Website** – a website for first announcement and Call for papers will be published by Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale on 15 September. The Call for papers and the proceedings will be hosted by IFLA Website. In addition, Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale will give a permanent identifier to papers. The deadline for Call for Papers will be the same as IFLA: calls will start in October and will end in February. A CD could possibly contain all proceedings.
   o **Social event** will be shared by sections. A Welcome is planned in Sala dei Cinquecento by the mayor or political commission as well as a social dinner in Palazzo Pitti. The local organizers will try to limit the costs and get local sponsors. Fontana has taken the contacts with local government to obtain the authorization for the building. The social event has to be included in the fee.
   o **Budget** – the budget will be separated for the three satellite conferences, with the definition of a maximum fee for a day. A possible fee could be 150 EUR per day. Expected 150 participants, technical environment: wireless LAN, logistic support, wiki available for the event.
   o **Catering, local arrangements**. This will be handled by local organizers within the budget limits.
   o **Administrative support** – A secretary for the satellite conferences in Florence will be appointed by Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale. During the conferences, three experts secretaries, one for each section, will support the participants, together with volunteers.

- **The IT section will be responsible for the content of the event.**

   Actions: It is necessary asap to:
   o Define the Programme Committee, which will have to decide on the content and contributions selection. We also need to include external experts for this task as Maurizio Lunghi. The volunteers are:
      ▪ Catherine Lupovici – reviewer only

- Patrick Danowski
- Frank Cervone
- Gwen Zlim
- Cindy Hill
- Eva Müller
- Zang Xiaolin
- Reinhard Altenhöner
- Alenka Kavčič – Čolić
- Maurizio Lunghi – will be contacted.
- Others – open to suggestions.

  o Prepare the Call for papers text – Alenka Kavčič-Čolić will circulate the former text of the proposal to all IT SC members and gather comments and suggestions.

ICCU – Institute for cataloguing in Italy is organizing an off-site meeting in order to invite two members from any standing committee. It is necessary to remain in touch with this organizer in order to avoid duplication.

7. Plans for Milan: choice of theme; choice of SC members who will develop this theme and organize the 2009 session

IT core session
Following the first meeting of the IT SC a wrap up of all suggested topics was made by Alenka Kavčič-Čolić. The members had to decide about the following themes for IFLA Milan 2009:

7.1 Library 2.0/3.0 applications
- mixed applications and platforms of web 2.0 and digital libraries (Patrick Danowski);
- Building platforms for libraries web 3.0 and for adult people, database for literal reviews and readers, where they can take part with comments, ontologies for sematic web (Annika Lund)
- Microformats (Patrick D.)
- Community data integration - waves of trust (Reinhard Altenhöner).

7.2 New technology impact on users:
- Impact of information technology in users communities especially for older people (Frank Cervone);
- Impact of Library 2.0 on different generations and cooperation among them (Cindy Hall).

7.3 New architectures and information systems for larger amounts of data and different types of contents and usage in the context of web harvesting:
- Integration of different and huge amounts of digital library materials and problems concerning long-term preservation in different environments (Eva Muller);
- Building institutional repositories that would be able to accommodate different kind of media and map other structural and physical data (e.g. web archives and other digital collections). Addressing the problems of digital preservation of huge amounts of data. Different business and logical models which would allow the community to participate and maintain the quality of digital material (Noha Adly);
- Scalability and storage of new architectures: New types of repositories which will be able to integrate different and huge amounts of data, implement LTP processes, workflow assessment and development - how to change the concept and architecture, together with bibliographic research (Reinhard A.)

7.4 New repositories' architectures interoperability and data exchange:
- Development of open APIs that can mass up/provide joint access to different metadata from various types of collections and organizations (Catherine Lupovici);
- Digital archives and mapping/presentation of the data (Gil Hamilton);

- Development of library management software for community size libraries and international standards – deployment to small libraries
- Registries & vocabularies as points of trust in the semantic Web – technical and operational implications (Sally McCallum)

7.5 IT development in poverty areas:
- Open source software development and new appropriate tools for teaching (Elie Youmba).
- Solutions to IT problems in Africa (electricity power and internet supply problems, lack of know-how and experienced technicians, lack of funds for IT, problems with automation introduction etc.) (Felicia Etim, Nigeria & Rose B. Okiy)

7.6 New information services as result of new technologies development:
- Current demands of users, digitization, etc. How to put this in the information market (Belen Llera);

7.7 Impact of information technology in digital rights definitions:
Open source for the small library context; professional development activities in the librarian communities; increasing issues with copyright and digital rights and understanding what the local archives mean in the context of e-subscriptions. Issues around open source archival formats (Edmund Balnaves)

7.8 Workflow-Development in the digital library environment (Reinhard A)
- Techniques, methods, professionalization
- New challenges in the education area

7.9 Digital libraries evaluation: methods of evaluation and measuring digital systems (Alenka Kavčič-Čolić)

Discussion:
The first topic (7.1) will already be covered by the satellite conference in Florence and the Special Interest Group. Patrick Danowski was planning to introduce two different formats of conference: to have presentation first and then have a question and answer session with the public. The emphasis will be on implemented projects.

The topic 7.5 **IT development in poverty areas,** suggested by our guests from Nigeria at the first IT SC meeting is very important and needed. In this regard, there would be major impact and results if we create a Special interest group of IT support and implementation in underdeveloped regions, which will specially focus on these problems and offer help. Members from IT SC can be involved and we can start next year creating a discussion group first, involving IFLA members from African, Asian and South American regions.

- It would be necessary to get 25 signatures for the discussion group and in Milan we can start addressing different problems.
- Patrick Danowski's platform will be in use in September and can be used for the purpose of the discussion group, too.
- The Chair will take the initiative to spread the information among the IT members. Ask the representatives of different sections.

The topic 7.3 **New architectures and information systems for larger amounts of data and different types of contents and usage in the context of web harvesting** is interesting for larger libraries or national libraries section and as consequence can reach limited audience.

Impact on library users of social computing tools and new architectures is a possible topic for IFLA Brisbane 2010.

Final decision: It was decided to address the topic: "New repositories' architectures interoperability and data exchange in the IT core session. This theme will cover issues of interoperability in all types of libraries, open mass-up that occurs in services and open sources, convergence with archives and the new paradox for digital libraries from the point of view of the services and user impact. In this way we shall cover the topics 7.2, 7.4, 7.6 and 7.8.

Actions:
- We have to follow the IFLA deadlines. By the end of January 2009 we have to prepare the program announcement. The description and Call for proposal have to be out on October1^{st,} 2008.
    - The following IT SC members will take part in the preparation of this session:
    - Frank Cervone
    - Patrick Danowski
    - Catherine Lupovici
    - Xiaolin Zhang
    - Reinhard Altenhöner
    - Eva Müller
    - Edmund Balnaves
    - Alenka Kavčič-Čolić

Joint sessions with other sections
There are various open possibilities to cooperate with other sessions. E.g. :
- Joint session with the Continuing Professional Development & Workplace Learning section including ideas in learning and understanding IT and dealing with the new digital heritage.
- It would also be interesting to cooperate with the Knowledge Management Section regarding new technologies and information organization.
- The topic 7.3 can be dealt with the National Libraries Section.
- Cooperation with the National Libraries Section on digitization and strategy business plan. We can tell them that if there is a need for technical support in selecting papers we would like to cooperate - John Tsebe will contact the section.

Actions:
- We shall stay open for proposals from other sections.
- John Tsebe will contact the National Libraries Section and ask them if they need our support.

8. First steps to Brisbane: WLIC 2010

The members of the IT SC decided to address the topic on indigenous knowledge in IFLA Brisbane 2010. We can announce the idea to other Standing Committees. An interesting cooperation can take place with the Knowledge Management Section, where we can address some of the topics:
- Preserving knowledge in indigenous culture
- Knowledge management and knowledge exchange in the indigenous cultures.
- Linguistic management tools and retaining knowledge at the top
- Terminology definition in technical terms

There were also ideas of addressing some of the topics that were suggested during the first IT SC meeting:
- new architectures
- impact of IT in digital rights definition
- Social computing tools for learning in knowledge area
- Impact of IT on users
- Indigenous knowledge management and digital archives

Edmund will look into the possibility of a satellite conference in IFLA Brisbane on the topic "Innovations in information services supporting indigenous knowledge management and digital archives".

9. Communication Infrastructure IFLA

The new IFLA website showed positive results. It includes a virtual working group for full activities. Patrick Danowski will start testing the SIG and contact IFLA HQ to be in the next testing group.

In January IFLA HQ will launch the new site. The Web Content management has been implemented and conversion of existing web content will be completed by the end of the month.

10. Decisions on the SC website / information platform

Edmund will give some new suggestions for the ITS website. Content of the ITS section website should be revised immediately. We shall wait to see the site first and then integrate our contents.

11. **Progress report on A&A publication** – this topic was skipped – Maria Ines Cordeiro informed that the publication is outdated now. No additional activity is necessary.

17. The Chair closes the meeting.

Alenka Kavčič-Čolić
Secretary, IT Section