



National Libraries Section Standing Committee

75th IFLA General Conference and Council, Milan

Minutes of the meeting, 8.30am-11.20am, Saturday 22 August 2009

Members present:

Ingrid Parent, Canada (Chair)
Melita Ambrožič, Slovenia
Janne Andresoo, Estonia
Jasmine Cameron, Australia (Secretary - Minutes)
Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Switzerland
Antonia Ida Fontana, Italy
Magdalena Gram, Sweden
Gerald Grunberg, France
Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, Finland
Irina Lynden, Russian Federation
Deanna Marcum, United States
Elizabeth Niggemann, Germany
Vigdis Moe Skarstein (Norway)
John Tsebe (South Africa)
Martyn Wade (Scotland)
Vladimir Zaitsev (Russian Federation)

Apologies:

Martin Bossenbroek (Netherlands)
Colette O'Flaherty (Ireland)
Araceli Sanchez-Piñol de Anta (Spain)

Absent:

Pepa Michel Rodriguez (Spain)
Tiiu Valm (Estonia)

Observers:

Penny Carnaby (Chair, Conference of Directors of national Libraries)
Pierre Clavel (Clavel SA)
Maria Ines Cordeiro (National Library of Portugal)
Rosa Maria Galvão (National Library of Portugal)

Andrew Green (National Library of Wales)
Erland Kolding Nielsen (National Library of Denmark)
Kelly Moore (IFLA National Organisations and International Relations
Special Interest Group)
Ludmila Tikhonova (Russian State Library)
N Varaprasad (National Library Board, Singapore)
Ingeborg Verheul (IFLA Headquarters)
Yan Xiangdong (National Library of China)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members, observers and guests to the meeting. Those present were invited to introduce themselves and to note whether they were new, continuing or outgoing members of the Standing Committee or observers or guests.

Three apologies were noted: Martin Bossenbroek, Netherlands; Colette O’Flaherty, Ireland and Araceli Sanchez-Piñol de Anta, Spain. No apologies were tabled at the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment. The Chair invited members to indicate if they wished to speak under Item 12, News from members and observers. It was noted that Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, John Tsebe and Yan Xiangdong would report under this item.

At this point in the meeting Steve Bergen, Program Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation joined the meeting briefly to talk about the foundation’s annual Access to Learning Award (ATLA). ATLA commenced in 2000 and each year US\$1m is awarded to a public library project outside the United States that provides free access to computers and the Internet. It was noted that libraries in the Commonwealth of Independent States were being encouraged to apply and that an ATLA brochure was available in Russian. Irina Lynden undertook to speak to the Russian Library Association about ATLA. An ATLA brochure was handed to all present.

3. Approval of the minutes from SC1, Quebec, 2008

The minutes were approved without amendment.

4. Report from the Chair on the Professional Committee and Governing Board meetings

The Chair highlighted several conference housekeeping issues:

- Conference badges must be worn at all times while in the Milan Convention Centre
- Voting papers are available for collection by voting members from the IFLA Office
- A session for newcomers will be held on Sunday at 1.45pm
- Over 3,200 delegates have registered for the conference, including 300 Italian delegates
- Conference badges must be left as surety when obtaining headsets for simultaneous translation services
- Wifi is not available in the conference centre, however, there will be Internet terminals available from Sunday

The Chair reported on a pre-conference workshop at which the issue of IFLA information in languages other than English was discussed. A recommendation will be made concerning improving the availability of IFLA documents in the seven official IFLA languages.

The Governing Board has approved an increase in the fee for IFLA membership of 2.3% from 2010. The Chair spoke about the difficult decision regarding cancellation of the 2010 conference in Brisbane, Australia and the relocation of the conference to Göteborg, Sweden. The decision was made on financial grounds as continuing with the conference in Australia would have resulted in a significant deficit for IFLA which relies on the conference to generate revenue for its activities. Göteborg was selected because preparations were already underway in Sweden to host a major library conference in 2012 and the groundwork for this could be readily channelled into preparation for the IFLA conference. While this is disappointing for delegates from Asia/Oceania the region will be offered an opportunity to host an IFLA conference in the near future.

Penny Carnaby noted that many librarians in the Asia/Oceania region cannot normally afford to attend IFLA and feel disadvantaged with the relocation of the 2010 conference to Europe. Communication with librarians in the region had not been satisfactory and this needed to be addressed as a matter of some urgency. N Varaprasad reiterated this and noted that the issue needed to be addressed. The Chair responded that the Governing Board has recognised the need for improved communication on the issue and that Claudia Lux, IFLA President and Ellen Tise, President-elect, were meeting with members of the Asia and Oceania Section on Sunday for discussions.

5. Review of conference session and procedure for selecting a paper for publication

The Chair reminded members that the Section's conference session, *National Libraries in the Digital Age: Leadership and Collaboration*, comprised a keynote address from Penny Carnaby followed by three case studies presented by Martin Bossenbroek, Netherlands; Minna Karvonen, Finland and Vigdis Moe Skarstein, Norway.

The Chair called for volunteers to select one of the papers for inclusion in the *IFLA Journal*. Magdalena Gram and Irina Lynden agreed to jointly recommend a paper for publication.

6. Update on the Online Directory of National Libraries by Pierre Clavel, Clavel SA

The Chair welcomed Pierre Clavel and invited him to provide an update on the online directory. Pierre referred members to a report tabled at the meeting. He drew attention to several aspects of the directory:

- The arrangement of the main list of libraries has been changed in line with Wikipedia rules and this has resulted in some negative comments on the fact that dependant territories do not have an entry in their own right. The main entry for each library is in English with the name of the library in other languages in brackets after the main entry. The entry for the Bibliothèque nationale de France is an exception.
- The content of individual pages varies considerably although use of the 'infobox' assists by standardising the presentation of basic information
- Changes in content are easily traced through the transaction page and vandalism is also traced in this way
- There has been good progress with the directory during the year although more remains to be done, for example assisting libraries to create and/or update directory entries and occasional checking for vandalism

In discussion following the update several points were noted:

- Some countries have more than one national library; this can be accommodated in the directory as there is no restriction on the number of lines under each country entry
- Wikipedia rules require that the name of the library appear first in English

- To ensure directory entries are updated regularly the directory could be on the agenda of both the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) and its regional groups
- Use of the directory needs to be monitored through pageviews or other mechanisms
- The relationship with the IFLA website needs to be explored once it is fully functional.

Members supported a recommendation from the Chair that the Section's administrative funds of 610 Euros be used to engage Pierre to continue to work on the maintenance and development of the directory until December 2009. The list can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_libraries .

7. Report from the Chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries

Penny Carnaby reminded members that she and Ingrid Parent had met last year to look at ways that the Section and CDNL could work more closely together. This year's conference theme reflected one of CDNL's priorities, that of leadership in the digital age. This theme is also being taken up at the workshop organised for Tuesday 25 August by IFLA and the Italian Government. It was noted that the chairs of CDNL and the Section Standing Committee would continue to meet as appropriate to develop the relationship between both groups.

8. Update on IFLA Special Interest Group: National Organisations and International Relations

Kelly Moore, Chair of the National Organisations and International Relations Special Interest Group (NOIR SIG), reminded members that the concept of the NOIR SIG had been supported by the National Libraries Section at the IFLA conference in Durban. The National Libraries Section is now the sponsor of the NOIR SIG. Its terms of reference are available on the IFLA website at <http://www.ifla.org/en/about-noir> . A roundtable discussion session will be held on Tuesday at 1.45pm to determine a set of projects for members of the NOIR SIG to work on together in the coming year.

9. Election of the Chair, Secretary and Information Officer for 2009-2011

The Chair spoke about some of the achievements of the Section over the past four years, including the development of the development of the national libraries online directory, building closer ties with CDNL, contributing to the development of standards and training sessions and the establishment of the NOIR SIG.

The Chair noted that there were three nominations for three positions as follows:

Martyn Wade for position of Chair

Jasmine Cameron for position of Secretary

Genevieve Clavel-Merrin for position of Information Coordinator

Following a call for additional nominations members present at the meeting unanimously supported the election of the officers nominated above.

Jasmine Cameron expressed thanks to Ingrid Parent on behalf of members for her significant contribution to the Section as chair over the past four years.

Martyn Wade chaired the Standing Committee meeting from Item 10 onwards.

10. Discussion of conference session theme for IFLA Göteborg 2010

The Chair sought suggestions from members on topics for the Section's conference session in Goteborg, noting that the theme for Göteborg is 'Open access to knowledge: promoting sustainable progress.'

In discussion, open access emerged as a topic of interest to all members. It was agreed that the role of national libraries in relation to open access repositories and the issue of managing intellectual property rights and balancing this with open access should be explored further as potential conference themes. It was also agreed that a joint session with the Academic and Research Libraries Section should be pursued. The Chair called for volunteers to form a sub-committee to develop the topics further. Deanna Marcum agreed to oversee a sub-committee with Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen and Irina Lynden.

11. Strategic Directions for 2009-2011

Ingrid Parent noted that the theme of the in-coming IFLA President, Ellen Tise, is 'Access to knowledge' and that students at the University of Parma, Italy, are contributing to this through work relating to access to the 'tree of knowledge'. A link could be provided to this from the Strategic Directions when available. The Strategic Directions were supported without amendment.

12. News from members and observers

Members reported on activities as follows:

Finland: Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen has been elected to the Executive Board of the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER) and is chair of their Digitization and Resource Discovery steering committee.

South Africa: With support from the Department of Arts and Culture the National Library of South Africa is undertaking a project to reprint African classics in indigenous languages; the National Library of South Africa is leading an initiative to form a regional national libraries group and this will be the topic of a meeting in Gaborone, Botswana.

Singapore: The National Library of Singapore has reached agreement with Singaporean newspaper publishers to digitise within 20 years of publication. More information can be found at <http://newspapers.nl.sg/> .

United States: The Library of Congress is working with twenty four libraries of varying types and sizes to test RDA to determine the resource implications; a plan to require the deposit of born digital resources is currently in the public arena for comment but it anticipated that some form of deposit will be implemented at the end of the discussion period; the newspaper digitisation project, Chronicling America, has passed the 1m page mark.

China: The National Library of China will hold a symposium in September to celebrate its centenary. The symposium which is being held in collaboration with the National Libraries Section, will explore among other things cooperation between national libraries.

Denmark: The National Library of Denmark is participating in a ProQuest project called Early European Books involving the digitisation of works in the collection published between the 15th century and the early 18th century. The Library will receive a master copy which can be made available in Denmark and after ten years it can be released into the public domain.

Russia: The National Library of Russia will host an international conference on manuscripts in the digital age. For more information see <http://www.nlr.ru/tus/20091112/> .

Norway: The government has recently presented two white papers, one on the future of libraries and the other on how to care for digital heritage. The government has widened the mandate of the National Library of Norway which will now have responsibility for storing and preserving digital data for museums in Norway.

Slovenia: A study of electronic usage has just been conducted and another study on the economic value of the National and University Library of Slovenia is about to commence.

Italy: The national libraries in Rome and Florence are now sharing responsibility for digital texts; a new FRBR cataloguing code has been published and is in use for the national bibliography.

France: The Bibliothèque nationale de France is looking for a partner for digitisation and is talking to a number of companies including Microsoft and Google.

Estonia: The Legal Deposit Act is under review and a proposal has been made for electronic pre-print files to be deposited with printed copies. This has received a positive response from publishers.

Scotland: The National Library of Scotland is working with other small national libraries to conduct research into the nature of national libraries in twenty years time. A market research company has conducted interviews with selected national libraries on this topic. A meeting of the 'small smart libraries group' will be held on Monday at 3pm to discuss this; the report will be made publicly available.

Ingrid Parent noted that the Bibliography Section has completed work on *National Bibliographies in the Digital Age: Guidance and New Directions*, available through the IFLA website, see <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/new-publication-national-bibliographies-in-the-digital-age-guidance-and-new-directions> .

13. Other business

Genevieve Clavel-Merrin reported that there has been a delay in securing funding for a proposed workshop on national bibliography for French speaking West African libraries. Genevieve is in discussion with colleagues from the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the National Library of Mali on this issue. The National Libraries Section will be kept informed of any progress.

Elisabeth Niggemann raised the issue of creating metadata for digital works: while Google is giving access to works in digital form it is not interested in creating metadata for these works. The National Library of Germany is anticipating a requirement to create metadata for 600,000 digital works annually but cannot afford to do this through traditional

cataloguing: new methods and workflows are being investigated for German digital resources and the issue of what is included in the national bibliography is under discussion.

Ingrid Parent presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr Zaitsev for serving the interests of national libraries on the National Libraries Section Standing Committee for eight years.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.