**IFLA Statistics and Evaluation Section**

**Standing Committee**

**Draft minutes of session 1 and session 2 in Lyon, 2014**

**Session 1: Saturday, August 16th, 2014, 9:45-12:15, room: Gratte‐Ciel 3**

**Observers**

Lea Maunon, SCD, Universite de Poitiers

Thomas Jouneau, Universite de Lorraine

Catherine Roussy, Universite federale de Toulouse

Pateka Ntshuntame- Matshaya, University of Western Cape

Loveness Maambo, National Assembly of Zambia

Hassan Saafi, NOC, Tripoli, Libya

Maryam Al Mutowa, Qatar National Library

Patrice Landry, Head, Committee on Standards

Ai Cheng Tay Metropolitan Libraries chair

Corrado di Tillioo  ML secretary

**Delegates**

Rebecca Vargha

Ulla Wimmer

Frank Huysmans

Frank Hurinville

Julie McKenna

Ugne Lipeikaite

Britt Omstedt

Toni Feliu

Markku Laitinen

Tord Høivik

**1. Rebecca opened the meeting and wished everybody welcome.** Those present introduced themselves briefly.

**2. The agenda was accepted** with one modification: the planning for Cape Town 2015 was moved from session two to session one.

**3. The minutes from Singapore** (which had been [distributed](http://iflastat.org/about/minutes-from-singapore/) through the section's web site) were accepted.

**4. Review of activities**

Ulla and Tord were members of the working group on the impact of IFLA standards

Patrice noted that the previous impact study by the Library Training and Research Section (LTR) section did not provide the right results. The Statistics and Evaluation section had been rather sceptical about the value of a standardized global survey. The standards committee is now planning a satellite event in Cape Town (Bellville) and invited the SES to contribute to the design of an empirical study of impact.

MET

The metropolitan section consists of representatives of large city libraries (400.000 and above). The section has collected a standard set of statistical variables, and calculated some standard indicators, from the participating libraries for about a decade. In recent years, data collection and presenation has been handled by a consultancy firm (Counting Opinions), at a cost of about 6.000 euros per year.

External Funding for this is now running out, but the section finds the comparative database useful and would like the work to continue.  The section is interested in collaboration with SES and the Public Libraries Section to achieve this. The MS has a tradition of very substantial mid-term meetings and would like to discuss this proposal further with SES at its planned mid-term meeting in Zurich in May 2015.

**5. Recruit new members**

Ulla reviewed the current situation and stressed the need to recruit new members. Three of the current members (Markku, Tord, Toni) have completed eight years in 2015 and have to leave the section. Frank Huysmans and Britt have changed their institutional affiliation and may have difficulties in getting travel support in the future. This depletes the "working force" of the standing committee. She encouraged existing members to propose new names. Ugne and Tord promised to do contact work in Lithuania and Norway, respectively.

**7.  E-metrics**

The e-metrics SIG has been very successful in attracting participants during IFLA conferences. This year we were able to use the existence of this SIG to arrange a joint session lasting three rather than two hours. IFLA has also (on its own) scheduled an e-metrics business meeting on Thursday. But if we do not find a convenor, the SIG will be terminated. Some efforts have been made, without success.

After a discussion the SES agreed that our final deadline for recruiting a convenor will be December 1. If no-one has been found by then, the SIG will end.

**8. Strategic plan**

The current plan expires in 2014. Ulla asked the meeting to review the four main goals ( each with a set of bullet points) to see whether the text should be changed. In the discussion several contributors emphasized the need to stress the purpose of statistics (evaluation, planning, management) rather than the technical use of numbers, which scares librarians away ...

Tord suggested that the discussion of plans without reference to practice and experiences during the previous plan period was not very valuable. Since the current plan emphasized the value of open discussions of professional issues, he proposed that the section set aside some time to discuss our experience so far. The meeting agreed to include such a discussion during the second session meeting.

IFLA has also asked us to prepare an annual report, which has not been done for a long time.

**Session 2: Wednesday, August 20th, 13:15-15:45, room: Tete d'OR**

**Officers**

Rebecca Vargha (co-chair)

Tord Høivik (secretary/treasurer)

Markku Laitinen (information coordinator)

Absent with apology: Ulla Wimmer (co-chair)

**Members**

Britt Omstedt

Antoni Feliu

Frank Huysmans

Julie McKenna

Absent with apology: Frank Hurinville

**Observers**

Samia Hassan al-Shiba

Thomas Jouneau

Harlinah Teoh

Helen Adey

Jonni Juntumaa

Mary Nassimbeni

Gorazo Vodeb

Nathalie Clement

Anne Simoneau

Lorena Siguenza

Axel Ermert

**REVIEW of MAIN SESSION**

Rebecca welcome the participants and invited comments on the SES session on Monday. There was general satisfaction with the content and the format. The session lasted for three hours. This was possible since the time slots for SES and the emetrics SIG were combined.

The World Cafe format combined

* a 30 min keynote speech, presented by two speakers in tandem
* six lightning speeches, 7 mins each
* three 15 mins rounds of discussions at round tables (6-9 persons), which were moderated by our eight presenters + some SES volunteers (participants moved between tables)
* brief reports from the tables

This made for variety, interaction and freedom of movement. The room itself had windows and was light and attractive. It did not have enough space for those interested, however. People had to stand or sit on the floor and dozens of latecomers were not allowed into the room at all (security regulations).

The meeting felt that this year's topic : telling the library story, was far from exhausted and could be very relevant in Cape Town 2015 as well. Other sections, like CPDWL, are also experimenting with different interactive formats. We should draw on their expertise in planning for 2015. In South Africa we should prepare even more for effective logistics: like having enough moderators to staff a large number of tables, inviting speakers to provide brief & pointed handouts on paper at all tables, and defining interesting questions for the tables to discuss.

E-METRICS

Rebecca welcomed Helen Adey, who was willing to serve as e- metrics convenor between now and Cape Town. This was highly appreciated by the meeting.

WLIC 2015

The meeting continued with a discussion of plans for WLIC 2015. After some discussions, the Buildings and Equipment Section had decided not to partner.  The section on Academic and Research Libraries (one the strongest in IFLA) wanted to collaborate on a program for the main conference - this will be explored further by Rebecca and Ulla.

Several members stressed, however, that we should not let the academic library sector dominate. We ought to use the Cape Town location of WLIC to explore public library needs and interests in the developing world, and to bring out the very substantial differences between public librarianship in the North and the South. In that connection we should also try to contact the SIG on LIS in developing countries (Tord will do that).

The section has decided not to try to organize its own satellite meeting, but has welcomed the initiative from the Committee on Standards to do a joint satellite. The co-chairs will follow that up. If this is realized, we need to be on the steering committee.

Markku promised to share some central planning documents from the (very successful) satellite in Turku in 2011 - Including some translation from Finnish.

ACTION PLAN

Rebecca and Ulla would do more work on the action plan and also arrange for the production of an annnual report. A member stressed the need for measurable (rather than highly elastic) objectives. She also wanted fewer goals - or the introduction of a fifth goal on recruitment.

STATISTICAL QUALITY

The last half hour of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on the statistical quality and possible improvement of section documents. Tord gave a brief introduction, stressing the need for discussion of professional issues based on statistical arguments. He pointed to the statistics manifesto as a document that had not gone through a quality control process, with the result that the SES and IFLA  are recommending a statistical model ( based on the Latin American pilot survey) that need substantial revision and improvement. He therefore suggested that the manifesto be revised.

The time only allowed a few brief comments and arguments, but the data model proposed by the manifesto was not strongly supported by the section. How to deal with that situation, was a more complex matter, however. The important thing at this stage was that the issues had been raised, especially with the new emphasis on IFLA standards and the active role the section has taken in standards work.

IFLA AND ISO

The relationship between the ISO standards and the work of SES in this area was also discussed. Markku is currently the only SES member who is also a member of ISO, and he is leaving the SES in 2015. Having an overlap between the two communities is useful. This raises questions about access to - and interest in - ISO standards in developing countries, where the high cost of the docunents is a strong de facto barrier against dissemination.

Drafted by Tord

Wednesday August 20, 2014