



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions

## IFLA Section Statistics and Evaluation - Standing Committee Meetings 2012

Helsinki, Finland

Minutes / final version: January 27, 2013

Participants

**1st meeting: Saturday, 11 August 2012 09:45 - 12:15 | Room: 101c**

*SC members:* Ulla Wimmer, Tord Høivik, Markku Laitinen, Wanda Dole, Michele Farrell , Antoni Feliu Oller, Franck Hurinville , Frank Huysmans, Julie McKenna , Svetlana Menshikova , Sebastian Mundt , Rebecca Vargha

*Observers:* Gunnar Sahlin (Sweden), Ian Reid (USA), Joyce Gozo (South Africa), Makgabela (Kgabi) Chwere (South Africa), Oscar Hernandez (Spain), Vivian Agyei(South Africa)

**2nd meeting: Thursday, 14 August 2012 09:45 - 11:15 | Room: 203**

*SC members:* Ulla Wimmer, Tord Høivik, Markku A. Laitinen??, Wanda Dole, Michele Farrell , Antoni Feliu Oller , Franck Hurinville , Frank Huysmans , Julie McKenna , Svetlana Menshikova, Sebastian Mundt , Britt Omstedt , Rebecca Vargha

*Observers:* Anna Maria Tamaro, Division Chair (Italy), Britta Biedermann (Switzerland), Ian Reid (USA), Maria Cassella (Italy), Sara Chiessi (Italy)

### 1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

### 2. Introductions

### 3. Recap on Turku pre-conference (Markku, Wanda, All)

Statistics and Evaluation Section in cooperation with Management and Marketing Section and Academic and Research Libraries Section and Turku University Library organized the satellite pre-conference “*Library’s Efficiency Impact and Outcomes: Statistical Evaluation and Other Methods as Tools for Management and Decision-making*” on 8-9 August 2012 at the University of Turku, Finland.

The conference gathered eighty-five professionals from 21 countries. There were 15 conference papers were divided in two parallel sessions, one for public and one for academic libraries. Full program and abstracts at <http://kirjasto.utu.fi/ifla2012/>. The full papers will be published and are also available as pdf-documents.

The pre-conference turned out to be very successful, both as a professional and as a social event. After a rather slow start, an active effort at recruitment resulted in a total of 85 participants, which gave the meeting a dynamic as well as a personal character. The fifteen presentations, which had been selected from a total of forty-nine submissions, held a high standard. The conference facilities, library tours after the conference and the practical organization were excellent. The section extended its thanks to the organizing committee and to Markku Laitinen in particular.

*Also see Appendix, with synopsis of library tours in Turku during pre-conference.*

#### **4. Recap on Mid-Term Meeting in Berlin** (Ulla)

Six members were present in Berlin on March 8/9, at the headquarters of the German Library Association: Ulla Wimmer, Tord Høivik, Markku Laitinen, Frank Huysmans, Britt Omstedt and Rebecca Vargha. Parts of the time Julie McKenna (Canada) and Frankie Wilson (UK) participated through Skype. A summary of the meeting was circulated to all SC members.

#### **5. Strategic plan – what will be our main topics in the next 3 years?** (All)

IFLA Statistics & Evaluation Section  
Draft Strategic Plan 2012 – 2013/2014

##### Our Mission

We promote the use and development of statistics, evaluation and assessment in libraries, because they are essential to demonstrate the value of libraries to their users, parent institutions and funding agencies, and to the successful management of libraries and information institutions.

##### Our Goals

###### *1. We help librarians understand and make use of statistics*

To achieve this goal, we will:

- Demonstrate ways to use statistical data in an accessible and understandable way, e.g. by combining statistical data with visual or intuitive information (“statistics and stories”)
- Demonstrate the use of data for advocacy purposes
- Promote a problem-solving, workplace-related approach to teaching statistics
- Promote, use and develop the *Statistics for Advocacy* course module of BSLA
- Promote open discourse on the development and interpretation of tools and results, including our own.

###### *2. We help librarians find and use the statistics and evaluation tools they need*

To achieve this goal, we will

- Provide information on practical evaluation tools for library management and on current themes and topics.

The most important topics in the next 2-3 years will be

- Projects and tools that measure the impact of libraries
- Projects and tools that help libraries assess their digital services

### *3. We help to create meaningful library statistics on an international level*

To achieve this goal, we will

- Follow developments in ISO and UNESCO, assist IFLA in statistics-related cooperation
- Promote the Library Statistics Manifesto to foster support of statistics
- Provide the section's statistics data model as a first guideline to standardized library statistics
- Monitor and promote the Globalstats module of the IFLA world report database

### *4. We help other bodies – inside or outside IFLA – deal with statistical questions*

To achieve this goal, we will

- Work with other IFLA groups, library associations and relevant bodies that approach us with questions, according to the resources available
- Establish cooperation with other IFLA groups to achieve our goals

We support IFLA's Key Initiatives:

We support the Digital Content programme by

- helping librarians assess their digital collections via the E-metrics SIG programmes and other information

We support the International Librarianship Leadership Development Programme by

- implementing a new information line on current statistics tools  
- further development and implementation of the statistics module of the BSLA Programme

We support the Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession by

- monitoring and promoting the Global Library Statistics Module of IFLA's world report

## **6. Work plan 2012 – 2013**

(All)

*Smaller projects, publications, Wiki, project proposals...*

Frank Huysmans will establish a blog for the section ...

### *Mid-term meeting in New York*

We decided to hold a mid-term-meeting in early 2013. As the main congress took place in Europe, the mid-term meeting will be in America: March 14-15th 2013, Columbia University, New York City

### *Main session Singapore 2013*

There will be nominations for new members of the standing committee for the term 2013 - 2017 in March 2013. People whose first term of office ends in 2013 will have to decide if they want to go on for another term.

### *E-metrics SIG session Singapore 2013*

The working title for the E-metrics SIG session is "New services - new measures: beyond the impact factor – towards web 2.0 measures."

## **7. Report from Governing Board, Professional Board etc.**

– Ulla, Tord

### *IFLADIAL - working group*

During the Helsinki congress, a working group of IFLA activists was formed to discuss, and suggest improvements, in communication and decision processes within IFLA. The chair and the secretary of the SES took an active part in the initiative. The IFLADIAL work is documented here:

<http://npsig.wordpress.com/2012/08/28/ifla-dialogue-opening-statement-from-the-ifladiadial-working-group/>

## **8. Technical information on Helsinki Conference**

– Ulla, Tord, Markku

More than two hundred persons attended the main session, which included the following papers:

- 2do. Censo Nacional de Bibliotecas Dominicanas: estadísticas vitales en un momento decisivo
- Supporting strategic change through statistics of virtual library usage
- Measuring the public library's societal value: a methodological research program
- User-centered decision making: a new model for developing academic library services and systems
- Challenges of data driven advocacy in East and Southern Africa

## **9. Financial status of the section**

Tord Høivik (secretary/treasurer) presented the brief facts. In 2011, the section received a project grant of (not more than) 3000 euros to support three training courses under the SFA project. It turned out that only one course (in need of funds) was initiated. The Olsztyn County Library translated the materials into Polish in the autumn, and received a grant of 500 euros for the work. The remaining amount, 2500 euros, was reallocated by IFLA for 2012.

In 2012 Makerere University Library received a grant of 1000 euros for its SFA training course in July, co-

directed by Maria Musoke (University Librarian) and Tord Høivik. Olsztyn will receive an additional 500 euros for its course, to be held in September. The remaining funds (1000 euros) were later released to IFLA HQ.

## **10. State of current projects of the Section**

### *a. Global Library Statistics Database*

The database has been finished and is now available at <http://www.db.ifla-world-report.org/home/index>

Data on ca. 30 states is currently available. All SC members are asked to encourage participation by additional countries.

There was a special session at the Helsinki congress to promote the statistics database module and the library associations module. The presentation can be found on the section's website.

### *b. Statistics for Advocacy*

- Tord

In 2012 a total of eight SFA courses had been completed or planned

- three training courses for public libraries in Norway in the spring
- one for academic libraries in Uganda in July, arranged by Makerere University Library, with economic support from IFLA/SES
- one for the library of Oslo and Akershus University College in September
- one for public libraries in Olsztyn, Poland, in September, arranged by Olsztyn County Library, with economic support from IFLA/SES
- two courses for public libraries in Norway in the autumn

Materials for the courses in Norway and Poland have been adapted and translated into Norwegian and Polish, respectively. Plans for 2013 include

- a strong commitment from Romania to do a course for academic libraries (in Romanian)
- additional courses in Norway, including add-on modules

We evaluate at the end of each course and publish the results on the web. In Norway we also do continual promotion through a dedicated statistics blog in Norwegian. Internationally we do the same through a dedicated statistics blog in English. In Norway, the course is part of an extensive networked effort to influence official library statistics and to empower the library community.

### *c. Key Performance Indicators for Libraries Serving Print Disabled People*

– Sebastian

## **11. Cooperation with other IFLA Sections**

– reports and maybe further action

### *Library buildings and equipment - Julie*

Julie was consulted by the section for their evaluation project and took part in their presentation session.

### *Metropolitan libraries - Ulla*

An analysis of the metropolitan libraries statistics was carried out. Contact has been established to the new statistics convenor of the section (based in Helsinki) to ensure cooperation in the future.

### *Dominican Republic Library Census - Toni, Tord*

In 2011 a team of researchers from the Dominican Republic National Library carried out a comprehensive and well designed census of the country's libraries. At the IFLA congress in Puerto Rico members of the team approached our section and asked for feedback on their project. Tord Høivik and Toni Oller wrote a detailed evaluation of the project plan and got a very positive response from Dominican researchers. As a result the section invited the team to present the census project at our main session in Helsinki. Fortunately they were able to participate.

At the meeting it was suggested that the Dominican Library Census, given its high quality, could be developed into a Model Census for other countries that lacked basic information about their library situation. The idea was supported both by the section and by the local research team. We will continue work on this early next year. We are planning for a workshop including one of the local researchers at the mid-term meeting in New York in March 2013.

## **12. Update on section publications - mailing lists, website, newsletter** (Markku)

The section's public mailing list iflastat has about 500 subscribers.

The latest issue of the S&E Newsletter will be published after the conference. For the winter edition, contributions from members of the group is desired to guarantee diversity of contents. Brief pieces of topical news, even just a couple of sentences, are welcome..

## **13. Recap on Helsinki Sessions**

### **APPENDIX**

Synopsis of library tours in Turku during pre-conference:

Turku University Library:

- Collection is second largest behind National Library of Finland
- Impressive underground storage
- By law they were required to keep every town newspaper until 2008 when the law was changed - and they ran out of space
- Due to a construction project, their library has 4 kilometers of materials to move by the end of 2012.
- Acquisitions budget is 2-3 million Euros including subscriptions to 200 databases

Åbo Akademi University Library:

- There are 8,000 students and 800 international students in the Swedish University
- The library was a radio factory built in 1929, then refurbished in 1974 and again in 2009
- Library web site is published in Swedish, Finnish and English
- Voyager is OPAC

- Co-located with a Learning center which is not part of the library. Its function is to help with Moodle course development

#### Arts & Humanities Library

- Library moved to current location in 2004
- Original building was an iron factory. The first tractor in Finland was made there
- The collection has 200,000 volumes with three library staff
- Self-checkout system
- They lend blankets to patrons. Signs around reading room say: "Are you cold, borrow a blanket"

#### Turku City Library (public library)

- Opened in 1903 - was inspired by a building in Stockholm seen by the architect
- Old building was constructed by Frederic von Retting
- Expanded into new building in 2008 with music, art and literature collections remaining in the first building
- 1% of library budget for new building must be used for art
- Automatic returning machines carry books and can be viewed in operation by visitors at selected areas with plexiglass in the flooring
- Self-checkout for kids which includes elements of a game with a cartoon mouse character
- New building has 500 seats. Receives 4000 to 5000 visitors each weekday