



STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES

69th General Conference, Berlin

Minutes

2nd MEETING, 8 August 2003

Members present:

Fernanda Campos, Portugal (Chair)
Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Switzerland (Secretary)
Kai Ekholm, Finland
Andrew Green, United Kingdom
Graham Jefcoate, Germany
Zoran Krstulovic, Slovenia
Steen Bille Larsen, Denmark
Peter Lor, South Africa
Elisabeth Niggemann, Germany
R. Ramachandran, Singapore
Celia Zaher, Brazil
Vladimir Zaitsev, Russia

Observers:

Ignacio Barreto, Venezuela
Bau-Mei Cheng, China
Pamela Benson, Trinidad & Tobago
Lise Bissonnette, Canada
Rosa M. Galvao, Portugal
Renée Herbouze, France
Winsome Hudson, Jamaica
Lin Wen Jui, China
Wan Ali Wan Mamat, Malaysia
Ian McGowan, United Kingdom
Sissel Nilsen, Norway
Vinyet Panyella, Spain
Gladys D L Salvatierra de Lévano, Peru
Araceli Sanchez-Pinol, Spain
Josephine Sche, USA
Gerard van Trier, The Netherlands (minutes)
Andris Vilks, Latvia

1. Opening

Fernanda Campos (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Standing Committee and the observers. Apologies were received from Zawiya Baba, George Zachos and others who had also sent apologies for the first meeting.

The Chair gave a brief report on the activities of the Section, especially the Open Session and the Workshop. Both activities had attracted a large number of participants (about 150) and had been very well received.

Elisabeth Niggemann reported that on Thursday a contract was signed for the IFLA/CDNL Alliance on Bibliographic Standards (ICABS). The National Library of Australia, the Library of Congress, The British Library, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and Die Deutsche Bibliothek have agreed to participate in a joint alliance together with the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, IFLA and CDNL to assure ongoing coordination, communication and support for key activities in the areas of bibliographic and resource control for all types of resources and related format and protocol standards. Die Deutsche Bibliothek, former host of the UBCIM Core Programme, agreed to co-ordinate the group's activities for three years. The participants pay contributions in kind, no additional funds are involved. Die Deutsche Bibliothek will appoint a co-ordinator for the project. The Chair said that the Standing Committee supports the initiative.

2. Review of the agenda

The agenda was approved as tabled.

3. Programme of the 70th General Conference, Buenos Aires, 21-28 August 2004

The theme of the conference in Buenos Aires is 'Libraries: Tools for Education and Development'. The actual conference will extend over 5 days (Monday-Friday). The Chair explained that each Section has two hours for presentations within the conference programme. By co-operating with other Sections the coverage can be extended. There will be no distinction between sessions and workshops.

It was decided to choose the educational role of national libraries as central theme of the Section's programme in Argentina. Several suggestions for a presentation about regional activities were made: South-America (Argentina), Caribbean (Trinidad & Tobago), Asia (Singapore) and Africa (Benin). Genevieve Clavel volunteered to translate a presentation by the National Librarian of Benin from French into English. Graham Jefcoate and Steen Bille Larsen suggested to have also a presentation on building new educational tools, such as e-learning programmes. The Chair agreed to find an author for a position paper on this subject.

In co-operation with PAC and the Section Preservation and Conservation a session on disaster planning will be organised. A questionnaire will be sent to all members of the National Libraries Section and to the subscribers to the CDNL mailing list. Celia Zaher agreed to act as contact person on behalf of the Section; Renée Herbouze said that she would like to be involved too.

4. Programme of the 71st General Conference, Oslo, 12-19 August 2005

The theme of the conference in Oslo is 'Libraries: a Voyage of Discovery'. Sissel Nilsen gave an introduction to the conference and its organisation. Several suggestions were made for issues to be presented.

Graham Jefcoate agreed to write a position paper on co-operation between libraries, archives and museum with the aim of providing access to digital cultural heritage, and to make a proposal for a programme.

The Chair said that at the first meeting many attendants had reported on building new libraries. She proposed therefore that a programme on this issues would be organised. Interesting issues are: How successful are libraries in communicating their needs and wishes to the architect? What was the mission at the start of the building process and what had been achieved at the end? What elements of a new building make the users (library staff and users) happy, and what unhappy (lessons learned). Kai Ekholm and Steen Bille Larsen referred to activities by LIBER. It was decided to organise a session or pre-conference in 2005 in co-operation with the Section Library Buildings and Equipment. Steen Bille Larsen agreed to act as co-ordinator. Vinyet Panyella and Renée Herbouze offered their help.

5. Strategic plan 2003-2005

It was agreed that it was not necessary to change the mission.

Under goal 1 (to promote universal availability of information ...) promoting the educational role of national libraries would be added. The actions would be the activities as discussed under 3 and 4 of the agenda.

Under goal 2 (to promote benchmarking etc.) improving management skill would be added. Several actions were formulated. George Zachos (not present at this meeting) had agreed to take the lead in co-ordinating a working group for this issue and to propose a work programme. Zawaiya Baba had agreed to join the group. Apart from that it was decided to adapt the questionnaire on performance indicators that was used in a survey in Europe and Asia in order to carry out similar surveys in other parts of the world, especially in South-America and the Caribbean. Winsome Hudson and Pamela Benson volunteered to co-ordinate the project for the Caribbean. Celia Zaher said that she would look for a volunteer in Latin-America.

Wan Ali Wan Mamat said that the National Library of Malaysia was willing to organise a workshop for national librarians in Asia Oceania under the Malaysian Technical Co-operation Programme (MTCP). This programme of library visits and attachment for professional librarians could be upgraded to accommodate the proposed workshop. The Chair agreed to address UNESCO and Soros for financial support and communicate with Zawaiya Baba about the content of the workshop and candidates for teaching.

No changes were proposed for the wording of goal 3 (to promote research ... , share experience with other groups ... and to promote standards). The co-operation with the IFLA-CDNL Alliance on Bibliographic Standards was adopted as an action. It was also decided to refer to the recommendations of the IFLA Social Responsibilities Group and express support for it. Also the support of activities to promote libraries as key players in the Information Society was adopted as an action under goal 3.

It was decided to skip goal 4 (to support IFLA's core programmes ...) as a separate paragraph, because of the changes in the organisation of core activities. Related goals and activities are mentioned under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

It was agreed that a draft strategic plan would be formulated on the basis of the discussion. The draft would be circulated for comment to the members of the Standing Committee and submitted to the IFLA Secretariat before October 1st.

6. Update of the Section's leaflet

It was agreed that the new strategic plan would be an important part of the new leaflet on the National Libraries Section.

7. Evaluation of Berlin's General Conference

The Chair reminded everyone to fill in the evaluation form. Peter Lor regretted the fact that no sponsor could be found for publishing the conference proceedings on cdrom. He pointed out that in some countries Internet access is limited because not enough band-width is available. He said also that publication of full scale papers should be encouraged, because Powerpoint presentations are not enough for sharing the information with others who could not attend the meetings.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Fernanda Campos thanked the members of the Standing Committee and the observers for their contribution and closed the meeting.