



IFLA National Libraries Section

STANDING COMMITTEE

70th General Conference, Buenos Aires

Minutes

1st MEETING, 22 August 2004

Members present:

Zawiyah BABA, Malaysia
Fernanda CAMPOS, Portugal (Chair and Treasurer)
Genevieve CLAVEL-MERRIN, Switzerland (Secretary)
Viktor FEDOROV, Russia
Kai EKHOLM, Finland
Andrew GREEN, Wales
Steen Bille LARSEN, Denmark
Elisabeth NIGGEMANN, Germany
Celia ZAHER, Brazil
Vladimir ZAITSEV, Russia

Apologies:

Osvaldo AVALLONE, Italy
Antonia Ida FONTANA, Italy, represented by Ms. Federica PARADISI
Mr. Graham JEFCOATE, Germany
Zoran KRUSTUOVIĆ, Slovenia
Georges ZACHOS, Greece

Observers:

Melita AMBROŽIČ, Slovenia
Nitizia BARRANTES, Panama
Claudia BARZÁN, Argentina
Nidia BERTUNA, Argentina
Robert DIZARD Jr, USA
David DORMAN, USA
Hebe Nora GARCIA, Argentina
Renée HERBOUZE, France
Winsome HUDSON, Jamaica
Vesna INJAC, Serbia and Montenegro
Gertrude KOH, USA
Kiang-Ko LAI LIN, Singapore
Ngian LEK CHOH, Singapore
Maria Elena LUCERO, Argentina
Judy MANSFIELD, USA
Deanna MARCUM, USA
Graciela PERRONE, Argentina
Gunnar SAHLIN, Sweden
Araceli SANCHEZ-PIÑOL, Spain
Gerard van TRIER, Netherlands
John K. TSEBE, South Africa
Martyn WADE, Scotland

1. Opening of the meeting:

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed the members of the Standing Committee and the observers and presented apologies for absence. Two members of the Standing Committee stood down during the year: Peter Lor from South Africa who retired and Ramachandran Rasu from Singapore who became Director General of IFLA. On behalf of the Standing Committee, the Chair thanked both of them for their active participation in the Committee, wished Mr. Lor an active and happy retirement and congratulated Mr. Rasu on his appointment, noting that this should maintain the good relationship and contact with IFLA HQ. The Chair explained that the meeting would have a new structure in 2004 with a special topic to be discussed in detail at each meeting; legal deposit at the first and The European Library at the second.

2. Adoption of agendas for SC I and SC II

The agendas for meetings were adopted without amendment.

3. Approval of minutes from Berlin meetings

(as published in the Section's web page <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/index.htm>). The minutes of both meetings were approved with one modification to the minutes of the first meeting: in point 8 (final page) change 'Graham Green' to Graham Jefcoate.

4. Officers' reports:

Professional Board and Coordinating Board I

The Chair reported the following:

- all delegates are urged to wear their badge at all times;
- all are requested to fill in the evaluation forms provided in the conference bags
- 2005 will be an election year and observers to the Standing Committee should think of standing for election. More information will be given when nominations are sought.
- volunteers were requested to attend the President-elect's brainstorming session at 8.30 am on Thursday
- all sections will be reviewed. In Division I, the University libraries' section will be reviewed in 2006, National Libraries may be reviewed in 2006 (to be confirmed). The Section needs to start planning now, looking at its strengths and weaknesses and preparing new activities for the strategic plan. The Chair encouraged all Section members to think about these points for 2005.

Financial report

The Treasurer presented the financial report 2004. Expenses arising from the production of the Section's new leaflets came to €219.11. Total expenses in 2004 (leaflets and account maintenance) came to €250.98 leaving a balance on August 17 2004 of €652.22

5. Information activities:

Newsletter and list

The Secretary reported that one newsletter was published in April 2004 and is available on the Section's page on IFLANET. Electronic and printed versions were sent to IFLA as requested. More active participation is requested from Committee members: more local information, activities, news. A list has been set up for Committee members to send information, exchange ideas etc. However its use is limited since the size of attachments allowed is restricted to 50K. It is suggested to change the scope of the list and open it up to all section members and interested parties as a general discussion list. The addresses of the observers present will be added as a start. This will make it easier to inform Section members of new publications and additions to the IFLANET site. The Committee members present agreed to this proposal.

Leaflets

The Chair reported that a new leaflet had been prepared presenting the Section and its strategic plan. The leaflet is available in English, French, German and Spanish. The Chair thanked the colleagues responsible for the preparation and translations: the Secretary for the English version, Pierre Clavel, Swiss National Library for the French translation, Britta Woldering, Die Deutsche Bibliothek for the German and Araceli Sanchez-Piñol for the Spanish. The Chair encouraged members to provide a translation into Russian. The leaflets will be distributed at the IFLA booth in the exhibition area, at CDNL. Celia Zaher requested copies to distribute to ABINIA, while Zawiyah Baba proposed to distribute them at CDNL-AO. The Secretary was requested to send the leaflets to IFLANET to facilitate distribution.

Representation at IFLA booth

The Secretary, Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, and Zawayah Baba agreed to represent the Section.

6. Review of programmes at Buenos Aires General Conference

The Chair gave an overview of the programmes involving the Section during the Buenos Aires Conference and encouraged Section members to attend.

7. Discussion theme I: Legal Deposit

7.1. Claudia B. Bazán, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Argentina presented a research report *Visibility of international recommendations for Legal Deposit of publication sin national legislations*, (see paper on the Section's page <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/>). This was followed by a lively discussion, summarised below:

7.2. "Round Robin" on legal deposit issues. Committee members and observers found the paper very informative. However the situation in each country changes rapidly so it would be good to revisit the question every few years.

Winsome Hudson raised the question of compensation to publishers for legal deposit. Zawayah Baba reported that in Malaysia the revised act of 1986 includes compensation for AV materials and costly items, but that in reality many suppliers still provide items free of charge (except for film producers). In Germany, the library must also provide some compensation for costly items. Steen Bille Larsen supported the idea but said it was very rare – in Denmark he could recall one case in the past 5 years. Genevieve Clavel explained that in Switzerland there is no national legal deposit but an agreement with publishers' associations. Discussions about the introduction of legal deposit were underway but the question of compensation gave rise to some hesitation. Celia Zaher told that in Brazil the national library relies on the goodwill of publishers and for this reason there is hesitation to revisit the acting law of 1907!

Deanna Marcum reported that in the US 2 copies of each work must be deposited at the Library of Congress and that this is mostly respected. Difficulties now arise with electronic documents – their definition, scope, nationality. All agreed that this was a key area for all countries and that there is as yet no clear answer or model. Kai Ekholm reported on the pioneering activities of the Nordic countries in harvesting the World Wide Web and underlined that in addition to the difficulties of finding, identifying and capturing data the major challenge remains its long term storage and archiving. A further difficulty indicated by Steen Bille Larsen is that access to such material is restricted. In Sweden for example access is only available in the two legal deposit libraries. It is hoped to extend this to public libraries in the future. Andrew Green told the meeting that in the UK a very general legislation has been passed for e-deposit but that it will need subsequent subordinate legislation. Meanwhile access remains the crucial area of discussion. Several participants mentioned the Consortium coordinated by the Bibliothèque nationale de France with 7 other national libraries and Brewster Kahle, from The Internet Archive. Renée Herbouze announced that results from this initiative should be available in 2005.

The debate turned to the question of penalties for non-deposit of material. In general, libraries hesitate to enforce such clauses and prefer to negotiate or to rely on goodwill, especially as in many cases the cost of litigation would far outweigh the cost of the items in question. Zawayah Baba said that in Malaysia in many cases, especially in government departments, the problem is lack of information due to staff turnover than to reluctance to deposit and this highlights the need for constant contact and, information and promotion to all publishers. John Tsebe supported this, underlining the need to work closely with publishers' associations.

After Celia Zaher indicated that the publication of their production in the national bibliography acted as an incentive to publishers to deposit items, there was discussion about the need to print the national bibliography or not given the availability of electronic files. For John Tsebe, the printed version has a value as an object, a testimony to a country's output. In Germany the bibliography is still output in print and on CD-ROM but sales are dropping and Elisabeth Niggemann was doubtful that it would exist in three years' time. However she recognised the need for eventually a cumulative edition (rather than a weekly publication as at present) and reported that a project was underway to allow users to tailor a bibliography in a particular field

or for a particular time. In Portugal, the bibliography is now electronic and there is no plan to return to print; in Brazil it is also online. However as John Tsebe pointed out there remain countries in which online access is difficult and therefore print still plays a role.

The final round of discussion concentrated on who catalogues the deposited documents. In most cases this remains the task of the national library, though there also exists cataloguing in publication which could be considered as cooperation with the publishers as they have to select and provide the data for this. The difficult topic of metadata for online and Internet material is still unsolved so there are some efforts in Europe in particular to work with publishers to set up and share standards.

The Chair thanked all present for their active participation and opened the floor for other questions or news not directly related to the theme of legal deposit. John Tsebe asked if anyone had experience on valuing their collection. Genevieve Clavel told of the recent British Library exercise in placing a value on the services provided by the collection (<http://www.bl.uk/pdf/measuring.pdf>). Celia Zaher said that it was almost impossible to place a value on the collection but that the library was being asked to do so for auditing purposes. In Argentina the library is required to estimate a value for insurance purposes too. Steen Bille Larsen indicated that in the move to cost accounting in Denmark the collection would be zero in the opening balance. In his view cultural heritage cannot be evaluated financially.

A question was raised about statistics, noting that they are very different across the board and asking if it would be possible to harmonise them. Fernanda Campos indicated that this was a line of action in the benchmarking and performance evaluation exercise. Gerard van Trier informed the group that during the Conference of European National Librarians in Rome in September 2004 there would be a workshop led by Georges Zachos on this topic and that the CENL would ensure that results were widely disseminated. Deanna Marcum considered that libraries did not know what to count anymore and that they should look at new ways to evaluate their activities. Martyn Wade gave an example of this, explaining that the National Library of Scotland had attempted to identify 12 key performance indicators to cover the roles of the library especially in lifelong learning. The Chair asked him if he was willing to prepare a report on this topic for the Section to discuss next year and he agreed to do so.

Kai Ekholm told of the research carried out on the brittleness of the collection in Helsinki : 140'000 works spanning 160 years. Funds have been found to digitise the most brittle of these (100'000 items) using a special scanner.

Finally, in the area of cooperation with Museums and Archives, Zawiyah Baba reported on an initiative to create a portal covering the theme of the institution of the monarchy in Malaysia, while John Tsebe gave information about a collaborative project with the National Archives to restore the Timbuctoo manuscript and offered to provide an update on progress in 2005.

8. Adjournment

The Chair thanked the members of the Standing Committee and the observers for their contribution and adjourned the meeting

Action	Who	When
Open list to all section member	G. Clavel	September 2004
Send leaflets to IFLANET	G. Clavel	September 2004
Report on key performance indicators	M. Wade	August 2005 (IFLA)

Genevieve Clavel-Merrin September 9th 2004