



IFLA National Libraries Section

STANDING COMMITTEE

71st General Conference, Oslo

Minutes

1st MEETING, 13th August 2005, 14:30-17:20

Members present:

Zawiyah BABA, Malaysia
Martin BOSSENBROECK, Netherlands
Jasmine CAMERON, Australia
Fernanda CAMPOS, Portugal (Chair and Treasurer)
Genevieve CLAVEL-MERRIN, Switzerland (Secretary)
Kai EKHOLM, Finland
Andrew GREEN, Wales
Renée HERBOUZE, France
Steen Bille LARSEN, Denmark
Deanna MARCUM, USA
Elisabeth NIGGEMANN, Germany
Ingrid PARENT, Canada
Araceli Sanchez PIÑOL, Spain
Vigdís Moe SKARSTEIN, Norway
Celia ZAHER, Brazil
Vladimir ZAITSEV, Russia

Apologies:

Oswaldo AVALLONE, Italy
Viktor FEDOROV, Russia
Antonia Ida FONTANA, Italy, represented by Federica PARADISI
Graham JEFCOATE, Netherlands
Zoran KRUSTUIOVIĆ, Slovenia
Georges ZACHOS, Greece

Observers:

Hasna ASKHITA, Syria
Vladimir GNEZDILOV, Russia
Suzanne D. GYESZLY, Qatar
Samia KAMARTI, Tunisia
Chen LI, China
Irina LYNDEN, USA
Ekaterina NIKONOROVA, Russia
Guillaume NIZIERS, France
Federica PARADISI, Italy
Alice RAMOHLOLA, South Africa
Natalia SANTUCCI, Italy
Annette SMITH, Barbados
John K. TSEBE, South Africa
Sreten UGRİČIĆ, Serbia
Haji Wan Ali WAN MAMAT, Malaysia
Francis ZOGO, Benin

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present, Standing Committee members and observers, and invited colleagues to present themselves briefly. She presented the apologies of those members unable to attend.

2. Adoption of agendas for SC I and SC II

The agenda for SC meetings I and II were adopted with one change: Discussion theme 1, Key performance indicators was transferred to the second meeting, and replaced by a report by Zawayah Baba on the aftermath of the tsunami in Aceh.

3. Approval of minutes from Buenos Aires meetings

The minutes of the Buenos Aires meetings were approved.

4. Results of elections and election of Chair and Secretary

The Chair, Fernanda Campos, reminded the Committee, that after 8 years in the Committee and 4 as Chair, she would be standing down after this meeting. A proposal of Ingrid Parent as Chair had been made. The proposal was seconded by Elisabeth Niggemann, Martin Bossenbroek, Celia Zaher, and Renée Herbouze and Ingrid Parent was elected to applause from the Committee. Genevieve Clavel offered to remain as Secretary to the Committee, this was agreed and welcomed by all attending. The Chair welcomed the new Committee and re-elected Committee members:

- Ms Ingrid Parent, Library and Archives Canada, Canada
- Ms Jasmine Cameron, National Library of Australia, Australia
- Ms Elisabeth Niggemann, Die Deutsche Bibliothek, Germany
- Ms Deanna Marcum, Library of Congress, United States
- Ms Vigdis Moe Skarstein, National Library of Norway, Norway
- Mr Martin Bossenbroek, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Netherlands
- Ms Renée Herbouze, Bibliothèque nationale de France, France
- Mr Vladimir Zaitsev, National Library of Russia, Russian Federation (2nd term)
- Ms Araceli Sánchez-Piñol de Anta, Biblioteca Nacional de España, Spain

She gave the floor to Vigdis Moe Skarstein who welcomed all participants to Norway and to the National Library, reminding all of the official opening of the renovated library to take place on Monday August 15th.

The Chair then thanked the outgoing members and on behalf of IFLA presented a certificate of appreciation to Steen Bille Larsen.

5. Officers' reports

Professional Board and Coordinating Board

The Chair explained that the Professional Board and Coordinating Board encourage all to structure their activities around the IFLA 3-pillar approach: society, members and the profession. See <http://www.ifla.org/III/IFLA3Pillars.htm> IFLA activities will be presented according to these pillars, as will the budget in the future. The Section should prepare its strategic plan taking into account this new approach.

The Chair informed about the IFLA position on WIPO and its signature of the Geneva Declaration, encouraging all to read the paper at: <http://www.ifla.org/III/clm/CLM-GenevaDeclaration2004.html>

During the past year, the newly appointed Secretary General, R. Ramachandran, had resigned. A new Secretary General, Peter Lor, ex-member of the Standing Committee has been appointed. The Committee send its congratulations and support. A new Governing Board has been elected, see <http://www.ifla.org/III/eb/govboard.htm> and new president Elect: Claudia Lux.

Delegates were reminded to wear their badge at all times, and to be sure to collect their voting cards in time for Council.

Financial report

The Treasurer presented the financial report 2005. There were no expenses other than account maintenance, amounting to 84.05€, leaving a total balance of 568.17€. The Chair welcomed the new financial management: all monies are to be kept by IFLA and funds to be requested as required. This will simplify management when changeovers of responsibilities occur and reduce the account costs. The Committee approved the report.

6. Information activities

Newsletter and list

The Secretary reported that only one newsletter was published in 2004 and is available on the Section's page on IFLANET and none yet in 2005. Electronic and printed versions were sent to IFLA as requested. More active participation is requested from Committee members: more local information, activities, news. An effort will be made to increase the frequency of the newsletter. As approved by the Committee in 2004, the list was opened to all Section members but traffic has been light.

The Chair reported on the ICABS activities and encouraged members to attend the ICABS session on August 18: Maintaining access to digital collections. Support for ICABS would be included into the Section's strategic plan. For more information on ICABS <http://www.ifla.org/VI/7/icabs.htm>

The Chair summarised her report of the Section's activities to CDNL which highlighted the following two elements of the strategic plan, with two sessions in the Buenos Aires conference in 2004: The promotion of the educational role of national libraries as centres for lifelong literacy and learning with special emphasis on e-learning technologies and The development of awareness for disaster planning dispositions in national libraries in order to help the preservation of our cultural heritage.

In other areas, the Chair reported that the rare Books Section had requested help from the Section to participate in the Memory of the World registry and that on her suggestion Kai Ekholm represented the Section.

Representation at IFLA Booth

The Secretary agreed to represent the Section.

7. Review of programmes at Oslo

The Chair asked for comments on the Section's open session, recognising that there were many speakers in a short time but explaining the aim to have an overview of activities. John Tsebe reported that the assignment had been interesting: it was the first time he had tried to get full contact information for national libraries in Africa. He underlined the language problem – a multiplicity not just across the continent but also within countries such as South Africa (11 languages). He welcomed the Standing Committee's initiative to launch this investigation into activities in the field of networking cultural heritage.

Andrew Green said the assignment had been difficult because there are so many initiatives that it is difficult to cover them all, but this is also encouraging. He felt there was scope for the Section to do more work in the area, especially in seeing how national libraries can ensure that items digitised are relevant to the population.

Zawiyah Baba reported that in Asia Oceania there is relatively little cooperation across museums, library and archives except in Australia. She underlined the work being carried out in New Zealand also and expressed the hope that this would serve as a good model for the region. The main problems remain gathering data on initiatives and providing infrastructure and support for cross institution cooperation. She suggested a workshop, perhaps through CDNL-AO to promote collaboration.

Celia Zaher indicated that it was difficult to discover museum and archive cooperation and that ideally a questionnaire would have been useful, but not possible in the time and scope available.

The Chair encouraged all to attend the National Libraries' open session on Monday August 15th and also the ICABS session on Thursday August 18th.

8. Information : Mission to Aceh – Zawiyah Baba

Zawiyah Baba informed the Committee about the aftermath of the December 2004 tsunami in Aceh: in addition to the heavy loss of human life, great damage was done to the library services. The National Library of Malaysia led a mission to Aceh from 2-5 August 2005 on behalf of the Libraries' Associations to investigate how best to assist with rebuilding the library services, to establish direct contacts, to see how best to deliver assistance. A report is in preparation and will be submitted to the government and to IFLA.

The damage and type of assistance required may be summarised as follows:

- The central library's collection of 200'000 books has been destroyed, as was the document centre in Aceh containing rare books and manuscripts;

- books in Indonesian but also English language academic texts are required in order to rebuild the collections. The National Library of Malaysia has already provided books about Aceh as a start;
- the vehicles for mobile library services were destroyed, some have been replaced but more are needed, also books for these collections;
- library furniture and equipment are needed;
- human resources development is essential: 23 out of 77 staff, including the head of the library, were killed : morale needs to be restored, all the population needs counselling;
- computers were stolen, telecommunications are out of order: new material is urgently needed;
- literacy projects already under way require books and writing materials

The National Library of Malaysia proposes to play a leading role in tracing information on collections for Aceh. Sponsorship is coming from IT, Telecom and book suppliers in Malaysia. IFLA is establishing a relief and development partnership with national associations.

Jasmine Cameron informed the group that the Australian government, through its office in Jakarta, has provided 10 thousand Australian dollars' worth of children's books and other leisure reading books directly into the camps. The National Library of Indonesia assisted with transport and distribution of the books.

Deanna Marcum said that the Library of Congress also has an office in Jakarta and has tried to work with libraries so would like to be informed of any requirements to work directly with Aceh.

Haji Wan Ali Wan Mamat, the new Director general of the National Library of Malaysia reported that during the CDNL-AO meeting in Kuala Lumpur on May 24 2005 it was suggested that during the IFLA conference in Oslo all would attempt to highlight the needs for help in the region and see what IFLA can do to assist. Celia Zaher confirmed that there would be time during the CDNL meeting for this point.

It was agreed that Zawiyah Baba send the report to the Secretary for posting on the Section's part of the IFLA site.

The Chair and all present thanked Zawiyah and her colleagues for their excellent work in the region. Ingrid Parent proposed that the report be sent to the Secretary General of IFLA in order that it be taken into account within the development of the IFLA relief fund.

9. Questionnaire for review of sections

The questionnaire for review of the sections was distributed. All were requested to contribute their ideas on the achievements of the Section. Most goals in the strategic plan had been achieved with the exception of the follow-up to the performance indicators' session. The Secretary proposed to send out a reminder in October to Committee members for replies.

10. News from SC members and observers

Korea: The director of the National Library of Korea was unable to be present at the meeting, but would speak about plans for IFLA 2006 at the CDNL meeting.

Qatar: Suzanne Gyeszly announced that Qatar is building a national library and hoped to get new staff.

Denmark: Steen Bille Larsen reported that the Danish parliament had passed a law on legal deposit enabling the harvesting of the .dk space four times a year (the first harvest was done on July 1st) and providing money to preserve the files. The public will have access to those parts of the data not covered by data protection acts.

Norway: Vigdis Moe Skarstein said that Norway would also harvest four times a year: the first harvest was carried out in January 2005 and collected twice as many pages as had been expected.

Brazil: Celia Zaher reported that the Brazil legal deposit law dating from 1907 was replaced by a new law in December 2004.

Spain: Araceli Sanchez-Piñol reported that the National Library of Spain had a new management structure, a new technical director and a new management director.

Finland: Kai Ekholm informed the group that the Finnish National Library was now the first national library to have worked with OCLC to apply FRBR to its catalogue. First results showed that only 7% of the collection needed this approach. He encouraged other national libraries to test this.

Italy: Natalia Santucci said that the Management and Marketing group were interested in preparing a joint session in Seoul with the National Libraries Section covering 'Proactive tools for strategic thinking and planning.

South Africa: John Tsebe introduced the National Library's legal deposit coordinator, Alice Ramohlola. He reported that the library had received 2 million US dollars from the Carnegie Corporation to build a comprehensive collection of South African material in the country's eleven languages.

USA: Deanna Marcum reported that the Library of Congress will open its national audiovisual conservation centre, 90 miles from Washington DC. All film, video, sound collections will be brought together for the first time. 53 new staff with expertise in AV conservation will be hired. The collections are in the process of being moved.

Netherlands: Martin Bossenbroek reported that the Dutch government has decided to provide structural support for digitisation, making the budgets permanent.

Wales: Andrew Green announced that the National Library of Wales had just chosen a new library system which should be able to manage the many different types of collections that until now had been in different systems and formats. However no one system could cover all requirements and it would be interesting to see how different solutions could be brought together and companies encouraged to cooperate.

A general discussion on the topic ensued showing that all were in agreement that a unified access to different format remained very difficult especially with commercial systems. While many, for example the National Library of Australia, had a policy to do no in-house development this was sometimes inevitable. Some felt that libraries remained too traditional in their requirements, others that the problem was to translate and explain those requirements to IT people. The question was raised as to whether national libraries have a specific need in this area, especially with the extension of their mandate in many cases to cover a wider public than previously. This could be a useful topic for a session and should be explored further.

Genevieve Clavel reminded the group to follow the IFLA WSIS activities, especially the Success stories database and the pre-WSIS conference in Alexandria <http://www.bibalex.org/wsisaalex/>

11. Any other business

Bruce Royan, Chair of the AV and Multimedia section, presented briefly the legal deposit claims and receipts system being developed for the National Library of Scotland comprising among other elements publisher name authority control (required for tracing publishers) MARC import and export functions, generation email requests and reminders, a separate accessions' register, claims and accessions statistics.

Suzanne Gyeszly announced a project to create an online directory of the world's national libraries, similar to that of The European Library, but greater in scope containing practical information but also libraries' missions, the extent of digital collections etc. Project start is September 2005, with two mirror databases, one in Texas, one in Budapest.

The Chair thanked all those who had attended and contributed to ensuring a lively and interesting session and closed the meeting.