



IFLA National Libraries Section

STANDING COMMITTEE

73rd General Conference and Council, Durban

Agenda

2nd MEETING, 08.30-10.50, Friday August 24th 2007

Members present

Martin Bossenbroek, Netherlands
Jasmine Cameron, Australia (Secretary/Information Officer)
Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Switzerland
Antonia Ida Fontana, Italy
Zhan Furui, China
Magdalena Gram, Sweden
Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, Finland
Galina Kislovskaya, Russian Federation
Elisabeth Niggemann, Germany
Colette O'Flaherty, Ireland
Ingrid Parent, Canada (Chair/Financial Officer)
Lucien Scotti, France
John Tsebe, South Africa
Martyn Wade, Scotland
Vladimir Zaitsev, Russian Federation

Apologies

Deanna Marcum, United States
Araceli Sanchez-Pinol de Anta, Spain

Absent

Renee Herbouze, France
Vigdis Moe Skarstein, Norway
Tiiu Valm, Estonia

Observers

Andrew Green, Wales
Michelle Rago, United States
Amadou Bekaye Sidibe, Mali
Beacher Wiggins, United States
Fadhilah Aini Yusof, Malaysia
Shafikullah Shafie, Malaysia
Roger Josevold, Norway
Gunnar Sahlin, Sweden
Fariborz Khosravi, Iran
Ingibjorg Sverrisdottir, Iceland
Rosa Maria Galvao, Portugal
Bin Wu, China

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair convened the meeting at 8.35am, presented the apologies and invited members and observers to introduce themselves.

2. Review of the agenda

Several items of other business were put forward for consideration at the end of the meeting under Item 11:

- Update on activities from Bibliotheque nationale de France (Lucien Scotti)
- Cooperation with CDNL (Ingrid Parent)
- Preconference, Florence, 2009 (Ida Fontana)
- National libraries in Africa (John Tsebe)
- Small smart libraries group (Martin Wade)

The Chair noted that Catherine Lupovici, currently working on the European Digital Library, and Ingeborg Verheul from the Royal Dutch Library, would join the meeting at 10.00am for a brief presentation on the manifesto for a World Digital Library.

3. Evaluation of Durban General Conference and NL sessions

Members were very positive about the conference and the general overall quality of sessions. The Section's sessions had been well attended and comments from attendees indicated that the themes and papers had been well received.

Members who had attended CDNL commented that the presentations by African national libraries had been very interesting, although it was noted that national libraries from French speaking African nations and Western Africa were under-represented. In general there was agreement that the content of the conference sessions had been very good, and that hearing from African colleagues was useful.

4. Feedback on hearing on professional structure review

The Chair reported on the open forum that had been held on Sunday 19 August to discuss the proposed changes resulting from the review of IFLA's professional structure. The Governing Board announced some changes from the original proposal that had been made as a result of feedback from divisions and sections. These include a reduction in the proposed minimum number of members for sections from 50 to 40 and retention of 5 divisions instead of the proposed 4 divisions. The Chair said she would circulate the paper outlining the changes to members when it becomes available.

5. Programme of the 74th General Conference and Council, Quebec, August 2008

The Chair noted that the theme of the conference is *Libraries without borders: navigating towards global understanding*, which allows for a variety of topics. After a wide ranging discussion of possible themes, which included a proposal from the Management and Marketing Section, it was agreed the Section's main session would be on performance indicators, given that Roswitha Poll's work on the ISO project will have concluded. Genevieve Clavel agreed to attend the meeting of the Statistics and Evaluation Section at 2.00pm to discuss the potential for a joint session. Martyn Wade suggested that a series of short presentations would provide interested national libraries with the opportunity to speak on particular issues. Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen volunteered to work with the Chair and Secretary on the format for the session.

It was also agreed that Martyn Wade would approach the Library Buildings and Equipment Section to see if there was scope for a joint session around the topic of the role of library buildings in a virtual world. It was noted that the Royal Dutch Library and the Library Buildings and Equipment Section would host a conference on the theme *Buildings for the Future: National and Academic Libraries From Around the Globe*, from 3-5 October 2007.

The Chair will investigate the options for a specific event for Francophonie national libraries.

6. Satellite meeting

As Chair of the Cataloguing Section, Beacher Wiggins undertook to explore the potential for involvement of the National Libraries Section in a session in Quebec about RDA (Resource, Description and Access).

Antonia Ida Fontana reported on a proposal by the National Central Library of Florence to host a two-day pre-conference satellite meeting in 2009 around a theme relating to classification and indexing. The Chair of the Classification and Indexing Section has endorsed the idea.

7. Selection of papers to be published in IFLA Journal

Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen and Galina Kislovskaya informed members that they had chosen a paper presented at the main session of the National Libraries Section, *From Beer halls to Public Library: the Story of Naivasha Community Library, Kenya* by Irene Kibandi from the Kenya National Library Service, for publication in the IFLA Journal. While all papers had been interesting, this paper met the selection criteria very well. The criteria were: relevance to the topic of the conference, *Libraries for the Future*; demonstration of innovative ways to fulfil the mission of national libraries and strong evidence of a practical implementation.

The Chair undertook to nominate the remaining papers for inclusion in *Alexandria*.

8. Strategic plan (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/annual/sp01.htm>)

The Chair explained that the Section's new strategic plan must align with the IFLA strategic plan for 2008-2010, which is based on the three pillars of Society, Members and Profession. In order to develop a draft for members to comment on, the Chair called for volunteers to form a small working group. Genevieve Clavel, Magdalena Gram, National Library of Sweden and Colette O'Flaherty, National Library of Ireland will work with Ingrid Parent and Jasmine Cameron to prepare a draft. The Chair noted that the new strategic plan needs to be completed by December 2007. The plan will include strategies relating to digital issues and ways to increase membership of the section.

Members noted that the cost of IFLA membership is out of reach of some countries and this could perhaps be addressed through 'twinning' arrangements between developed and third world countries.

The subject of twinning was also discussed under Item 9.

9. Recommendations from the workshop on national libraries in Africa: report and discussion

Jasmine Cameron and John Tsebe reported on the workshop. Representatives from eleven African national libraries attended the workshop, which was held on Thursday 23 August 2007. A major outcome of the workshop was agreement by those present

to establish a body to represent African national libraries. The group would be convened in the first instance by the National Library of South Africa and would report at CDNL. A contact list of African national libraries would be established and a survey conducted to create a profile for each national library. Members discussed the importance of cooperation with each other and the role of partnerships with developed national libraries, particularly where there is a previous administrative association and/or common language. It was agreed that a newsletter would be a good way for members to share information. The National Library of Egypt offered to host and cover some expenses for workshops on conservation and preservation for African national libraries.

National library section members noted that the idea of twinning had come up in several different discussions during the week. It was suggested that twinning should be defined and be discussed locally in the first instance, given that different governments would already have priorities for external relationships. John Tsebe agreed to discuss this with African national libraries at the next all Africa meeting and report back to the Section. It was noted that Electronic Information For Libraries (EIFL) provided a good partnership model.

10. News from SC members and observers

- i) The Chair reminded members that in non-election years it is possible to hold only one Section meeting at either the beginning or end of the IFLA Conference. It was agreed to hold two meetings in Quebec and to look again at this issue in the future.
- ii) The Chair also spoke briefly about progress on closer cooperation between CDNL and the National Libraries Section. Nothing specific had resulted from the CDNL meeting, however the Chair will continue to liaise with Penny Carnaby, Chair of CDNL and the Section's strategic plan will reflect this.
- iii) Lucien Scotti informed members that Agnes Saal has left the Bibliotheque nationale de France to become director of the Centre Pompidou in Paris; a new version of the Gallica website would be released early next year; work has commenced with French publishers to bring public domain and in-copyright works together into a single aggregation; there is now an informal network of French speaking national libraries looking at setting up a Francophonie digital library-there will be a meeting in Brussels soon to discuss issues including who will contribute to the digital library
- iv) Martyn Wade reported on the establishment of a new group for small national libraries, known as 'small smart libraries'. The group emerged from informal discussions amongst several small but innovative national libraries. The group will concentrate on best practice, digital issues and emerging trends. Those interested in joining should contact Martin.

11. Any other business – World Digital Library www.worlddigitallibrary.org

- i) The Chair introduced Catherine Lupovici, who has recently moved from the Bibliotheque nationale de France to work on the World Digital Library and Ingeborg Verheul, Royal Dutch Library, who is working on the manifesto for the World Digital Library.

Catherine Lupovici informed members about the Working Group on Digital Library Guidelines which met in Washington in May 2007. She encouraged members to let her know of any guidelines or similar documents relating to digital activities.

A draft manifesto would be prepared by March 2008, and this and the guidelines would be discussed at the 2008 IFLA Conference. More information about this is at Appendix 1.

Ingeborg Verheul spoke about the proposal for an IFLA Special Interest Group on Digital Libraries. In line with the new IFLA governance structure the group requires twenty five people to support the proposal and a Section to act as sponsor. The aim of the group is to provide a forum to discuss emerging digital issues and trends. Its emphasis would differ from ICABS which would concentrate on standards and guidelines. More information about the Special Interest Group is at Appendix 2.

ii) Support for national bibliographies in Africa

Genevieve Clavel referred members to the paper, *Bibliographies nationales africaines*, delivered by Amadou Bekaye Sidibe, National Library of Mali, at the Bibliography Section session on Wednesday 22 August 2007. It was agreed that the National Libraries Section should work with the Bibliography Section to develop a proposal on the best way to assist African national libraries in this area. The Chair indicated that she would seek approval from the Bibliography Section for Genevieve Clavel and Beacher Wiggins to move forward with the development of a proposal.

Appendix 1

Working Group on Digital Library Guidelines Meets in Washington

- **From:** sophie.felfoldi@ifla.nl
- **To:** ifla-l@infoserv.inist.fr
- **Subject:** [IFLA-L] Working Group on Digital Library Guidelines Meets in Washington
- **Date:** 14/05/2007 17:10

Working Group on Digital Library Guidelines Meets in Washington

The International Federation of Library Institutions and Associations (IFLA) and the Library of Congress co-hosted a meeting of the IFLA-World Digital Library Working Group on Digital Library Guidelines in Washington on May 4, 2007. The working group was established by IFLA in early 2007 to develop digital library guidelines and best practices for use by libraries and other cultural institutions around the world.

The IFLA group is one of four working groups established at the conclusion of the UNESCO experts meeting on the World Digital Library on December 1, 2006. UNESCO, the Library of Congress, IFLA, and a number of national libraries are cooperating on the development of a plan for a World Digital Library. The guidelines developed by the IFLA working group will be a contribution to this plan. The guidelines also are expected to be of value to all libraries that are creating or that intend to create digital libraries, whether or not they participate in the World Digital Library.

Claudia Lux, Director General of the Central and Regional Library, Berlin and president-elect of IFLA, convened the group and chaired the meeting. Other members of the working group who participated were Allene Hayes, Library of Congress; Jaesun Lee, National Library of Korea; Catherine Lupovici, Bibliotheque nationale de France; Dale P. Peters, Digital Imaging South Africa; Winston D. Roberts, National Library of New Zealand; Ingeborg Verheul, Koninklijke Bibliotheek; Simone Vieira, Federal Senate Library of Brazil; and Marcia L. Zeng, Kent State University. Members of the World Digital Library team at the Library of Congress who participated as observers included John Van Oudenaren, Michelle Rago, and Donna Wilson.

The working group met with Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, and discussed with him his vision of a World Digital Library and its relationship to other national and regional digital initiatives. The members of the group organized their work and established subgroups to work in the areas of content selection, metadata, technology, service, and organization. The group is expected to produce a set of recommendations and guidelines by mid-2008.

Appendix 2

A Special Interest Group on digital libraries or digital memory initiatives

Several national libraries, all over the world, have created portals and websites to present the digitized cultural heritage of their country. Examples of these initiatives are for instance *American Memory* in the US, *Memoria Chilena* in Chile, *Picture Australia* and *People's Australia* in Australia, *Metapihi* in New Zealand, *DISA* in South Africa, *Alouette* in Canada and *Memory of the Netherlands* in the Netherlands. These portals or digital libraries very often not only contain digitized collections from libraries, but also digitized collections of museums and archives in the country concerned.

Last Monday, here at the WLIC in Durban, a small group of representatives of these initiatives met in an informal lunch. The purpose of this meeting was to get familiar with each others digitization initiatives, to exchange information and experiences. At this occasion we also discussed the possibilities of any form of cooperation within IFLA to bring digitization more prominent on the IFLA Agenda. Several sections are concerned with digitizing, but no section really takes it up as a main topic.

In the recent report and recommendations of the IFLA Professional Structure Review IFLA has introduced the Special Interest Groups. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) address emerging issues and trends and bring together IFLA members with common and continuing interests. Interests that may cut across the concerns of multiple sections and identify and follow an emerging issue or trend. A SIG must be attached to a section. This means that a section sponsors the SIG and includes the work of the SIG in its strategic plan. If someone wants to create a SIG 25 persons have to sign a SIG proposal for the Professional Committee. SIGs can be virtual, or meet at every WLIC.

We now have a proposal to create a SIG on Digital Libraries, or on digital memory initiatives. This SIG covers emerging activities in libraries to build digital libraries, to establish portals and websites for digitized cultural heritage in the ALM-sector on a national and international level and to carry out national digitization programs. The focus will be on the cooperation between the various cultural institutions, the access part and the creating of content and context.

The IFLA working group on Guidelines for Digital Libraries strongly supports this initiative. It forms a practical addition to IFLA's core activity ICABS. ICABS will be restyled within the next year and will focus on standards and guidelines for digital resource management from creation to access to long term preservation.

Since in most cases the national libraries are responsible for national digitization initiatives the proposal is to ask the national library section to support this SIG. The first step will be that we will organize a meeting at the WLIC in Quebec next year, to see if there will be enough supporters to set up a SIG on Digital Libraries. This week some other initiatives in the digital field came up; the IT section will sponsor a SIG on Library 2.0, and the Preservation & Conservation Section has carefully mentioned a SIG on Digital Preservation. Together with the SIG on Digital libraries, or digital memory initiatives, this might provide IFLA with a more solid base for digitization initiatives through all sections.