IFLA - Information Technology Section

Meetings in SEOUL 2006

Minutes

1st Standing Committee Meeting – 19th August 2006

Presiding Officers:
Reinhard Altenhöner – Chair; Hanna de Vries - Secretary

Standing Committee members present:
Robin Fortelius, Gill Hamilton, Sally McCallum, Takashi Nagatsuka, Zhixiong Zhang, Gwen Zilm. Marko Tenkanen, Elie Youmba

Apologies for absence received from:
Noha Adly, Nazha Hachad, Mary E. Jackson, Christine Lupovici, Jagtar Singh, Alenka Kavcic-Colic

Other Standing Committee members absent:
 Mats Herder, Hilde Hoegaas, Wei Liu, Wynand van der Walt.

Guests:
Marie Inês Cordeiro, Karin Sunden, Leif Magne Iversland, Manvela Palavox, Radu Buddharaju, Ku Li Ping, Xiaolin Zhang, Eva Kodric-Dacic, Magdy Nagi, Elisabeth Freyre, Réejean Savard, Christel Hengel,, Sarita Bali

1. Welcome
Reinhard welcomed the members and visitors. Each person introduced him/herself.

2. Changes in the SC
Reinhard explains why Larry Woods had to stand down as Chair and to leave the SC. A call was sent to all SC members to propose a Chair. Finally it was decided that Reinhard would take the place of Larry as Chair and Hanna would take the place of Reinhard as Secretary.
This leaves the place of Information Coordinator open. Marko Tenkanen declares himself willing to take this job. Hanna will help him with the Newsletter, provided all the members help with information and articles.

Mercedes Chacon Fuertes has been obliged to leave the SC recently as she has accepted a new job. The two empty places in the SC have been filled by candidates on the list of the last elections: Elie Youmba and Alenka Kavcic-Colic. Reinhard welcomes the new members.

All these changes are only for one year. Next year there will be new elections and a new possibility to fill in the IFLA Officers jobs.

3. Minutes
The minutes from the 2005~~4~~ meeting in ~~Buenos Aires~~Oslo were accepted as posted through a motion that was seconded and approved.

4. Financial Report
Reinhard reported that we have a small balance; a remnant of the old financing system. Reinhard will use this to pay the printed newsletter. Funds are now supposed to be handled centrally. Reinhard will discuss with the IFLA Bureau how to deal with any remaining funds; we will probably have to return any unexpended funds to IFLA.

5. Report on ITS activities of the last year.
The activities included:
▪ Preparing two newsletters; the one in March was distributed only electronically; the second one in July has also been sent by post. Copies are available in Seoul for distribution. Hanna has switched to Microsoft Office Publisher as software for the Newsletter. This has made it easier to compile.
▪ A number of SC members have been involved in preparing the sessions for Seoul. The ITS is involved in a number of sessions with other sections.
▪ Reinhard has been involved in the preparations of the Pre-conference that ITS will be involved in in 2007 in Dakar, together with the Library Management section.

6. Coordinating Board
Reinhard reported on the meeting of the Coordinating Board for Division VI.
• We were asked to take a look at the Strategic Plan for IFLA. A new text will become available during the Conference. It was decided to have a look at this in the second meeting, on August 25.
• Everybody is requested to wear their badges during all conference activities.
• The paper we selected for publication last year was indeed published. We can select one again this year.
• The sectional reviews have lead to suggestions for reform. A special meeting will be devoted to discussing these options, on Sunday. Some members of the ~~S~~ITS will attend the meeting.
• IFLA has decided to add more languages to the official IFLA languages, e.g. Arabic and Mandarin. The languages will be added in two phases: this year and next year.
• Reinhard will represent the ITS at the IFLA booth on Wednesday. Members are encouraged to join him.

7. Programs at Seoul.
The ITS is involved in the sessions 91 and 97. In particular 97, part II of the combined session, was prepared by the section. All papers were handed ~~in~~ well in time and translated into French and Spanish (thanks to Mercedes Fuertes).
The ITS was also involved in 140, 151 and 155. For the last two (2 parts on institutional repositories) Hanna helped to read and select from a large number of papers.

See the Newsletter for more information on all these sessions

8. Professional Committee: revision of sections
As a follow up to the sectional reviews, the Professional board proposes some changes. There will be a meeting on Sunday to discuss these. Issues are e.g. the minimum number of members for a section and for a standing committee. Reinhard and some of the other SC members will attend this meeting. The SC decided to discuss this further in the last meeting on Friday.
IFLA has plans to make IFLA web a more active platform. We should hear more about this during the conference.

9. ICABS
Sally McCallum reported on ICABS (the IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards). She drew special attention of the meeting to a number of items. The July report is posted on the ICABS website.

10 Strategic Plan for ITS
It is decided that no changes are needed to the Strategic Plan for ITS at this stage. The plan will be updated next year.

11. Strategic Plan IFLA
IFLA is working on a new plan. The latest version will be published in IFLA news during the Conference. The SC will await this version and discuss on Friday.

12. Satellite meeting 2007
Rejeau Savard was present to discuss the pre-conference 'Managing technologies and library automated systems in developing countries: open source versus commercial options'' with us. A leaflet is handed out. The ITS members Reinhard Altenhöner, Nazha Hachad and Elie Youmba will be on the Scientific Committee.
The ITS will try to pursue the idea of a cd-rom with open source software to be distributed at the pre-conference for use in developing countries. This requires choosing suitable software. Reinhard will look into this. Everybody is encouraged to suggest papers, to distribute the information in the pre-conference widely and to attend the conference. Suggestions for sponsors for the conference, in particular for financing the travel expense of African attendees, are very welcome!

13. Durban 2007 Conference

A first inventory of possible issues for Durban is made:
- Information integration
- Combination of different resources in one interface
- Advanced methods of categorization
- Integration of the library in the course systems
- Globalization of information
- Role of technology in a shrinking world
- Metasearch engines
- Digitization; scanners

The meeting will be continued on Friday August 25th.

The Chair closes the meeting.

2nd Standing Committee Meeting – 25th August 2005

Presiding Officers:
Reinhard Altenhöner – Chair; Hanna de Vries - Secretary

Standing Committee members present:
Robin Fortelius, Gill Hamilton, Sally McCallum, Gwen Zilm, Elie Youmba

Apologies for absence received from:
Noha Adly, Nazha Hachad, Mary E. Jackson. Christine Lupovici, Jagtar Singh, Zhixiong Zhang Marko Tenkanen, Alenka Kavcic-Colic

Other Standing Committee members absent:
Mats Herder, Hilde Hoegaas, Wei Liu, Marko Tenkanen, Wynand van der Walt,. Takashi Nagatsuka

Guests:
 Marie Inês Cordeiro, Mary Adejoro, Christian Lupovici, Xiaolin Zhang, Leif Magne Iversland

Continuation of the August 19th session

14. Highlights and experiences of the 2006 Conference
All the sessions in which the ITS was involved went well. In session 97 ''New access technologies, Tomorrows retrieval", the ITS was pleased with the papers. The session was well attended. **Gill Hamilton will write a short report on sessions 91 and 97** for the newsletter.
Reinhard Altenhöner and Hanna de Vries attended the session on "Workings of the ubiquitous library". A number of ITS members attended the sessions 151 and 155 on Institutional repositories. **Gwen Zilm will write a short report on these sessions**.
The ITS is well pleased with the papers presented in Seoul. However, for the whole conference it is noted that there is still a definite Anglo-American over-representation. And too many papers deal with state of the art rather than really new developments

15. Plans for the Durban Conference 2006 (cont.).
Libraries for the Future: Progress, Development and Partnerships
      We discussed various themes.
- User driven / work flow driven library systems
- Unicode
- Disappearing technology: the technology disappears behind the functionality
- Semantic indexing /authority files: to do together with ICABS
- Integrated library systems: integration with course management systems; integration of information offers (of libraries) in their institutional background (towns, research institutions, universities etc.) becomes more and more evident

USER NEEDS – user driven library services in the widest sense emerges as the best topic.

There is a general feeling that in Africa we should not choose items that are mainly of interest to highly develop countries. It should be relevant to African librarians too. Good examples of best practices seem most suited for Durban, e.g the project Robin Fortelius is involved in.
Focus is important in the session papers.

- **Volunteers to prepare**: Hanna de Vries, Gwen Zilm. Sally McCallum, Jagtar Singh (? Not present, we will ask), Mary Jackson (? Not present, we will ask).

16. activities in Durban with other sections

A number of other sections have shown interest in doing something together with the IT section. The Knowledge Management section would like to do a session on sustainability of project results. This includes technical sustainability. This can be translated into advice for technical design which makes sustainability possible. Reinhard will tell the Knowledge Management section that this is an interesting subject. If they tackle this in their session, we will be happy to support.

Semantic indexing and authority files are also interesting and important subjects. If ICABS wants to do something in that direction, we are alss happy to support.

The same applies to digital preservation, technical developments, with the National Libraries Section.

For all these suggestions, it is decided that we will leave the initiative with the other section. We will not aim for a combined 4 hour session. We will concentrated on our own 2 hour session./

Reinhard will inform the other sections

17. Preconference Satellite meeting 2007 in Dakar

Reinhard Altenhöner, Nazha Hachad, and Elie Youmba are involved.
- Toolkit for developing countries' libraries
  Based on the Open Source Software Session in Oslo, the idea was to create a toolkit for libraries especially in developing countries. On a CD/DVD we will have a Linux-distribution (including basic networking software), office software and library management system(s). Additionally we could have a smart business tool for statistics in libraries. The ITS still likes this idea very much
  Action: Reinhard will initiate this. Gill Hamilton and Sally McCallum offer to help with the selection of software. Zhixiong Zhang will be asked to be involved. Hanna is willing to help with organisational matters.
- Reinhard has spoken with people from the Gates Foundation. They may be interested in financing some project. They mainly want to focues on ''middle'' counries: not really developed but also not really underdeveloped. Reinhard will keep in touch with them.

18. IFLA Strategic Plan

The ITS would like to see more well defined actions in the Strategic Plan. It is still too vague, too general. Otherwise, the ITS feels no need to comment.

19. IFLA professional organisation

The ideas for a new structure are discussed. The section feels that the success of a section depends more on active people; the actual number of members is less important. IFLA should may be have more mechanisms for dealing with members who never show up and do not partake in the section activities. Obviously it is difficult to function with very few (active) members, but is also hard to say how many are needed. Some of the suggestions for the new structure sound like the former Round Tables are coming back. SepcialSpecial interstinterest groups, connected to section, are thought as a good idea.

20. Selection of paper for the IFLA Journal

For publication in IFLA journal ITS nominates three papers

- Towards Constructing a Chinese Information Extraction System to Support Innovations in Library Services; Zhang Zhixiong, Li Sa, Wu Zhengxin, Lin Ying (first priority)

- Institutional repositories and open access
  JEAN-CLAUDE GUEDON (Montreal University, Montreal, Canada)

- Institutional repositories: a review of content recruitment strategies
  TIMOTHY MARK and KATHLEEN SHEARER (CARL, Ottawa, Canada)

Guedon's paper on Institutions repositories

Action: **Reinhard Altenhöner** will inform the IFLA journal editorial board of this choice..

21. other its activities

- The training course in Morocco will take place in the near future (in march 2007)
- Newsletter: As stated in the first meeting, Marko has agreed to become the information officer for the section. Hanna will help using her experience if this last year. Members will help with information for publication
- We discussed the maintenance of the ITS web site and the need to keep it updated. The Technology Watch and Conference Watch are both valuable aspects of the information we provide. However, the present information is out of date. We see no possibility to up date this and to keep it up to date, It is decided to move the information to the archive section of our website, until further action is seen possible. **Marko will be asked to do this**
- Alenka Kavcic-Colic has suggested to Reinhard that a workshop on the systematic evaluation of digital libraries might be useful. IT, organization and users could be evaluated. It is discussed that much is already evaluated through statistics. Reinhard will enquire what exactly is meant in this case by ''digital library''.

22. Projects.
- The Authorization and Authentication publication is nearing completion. Mary Jackson did a lot of work on this. There are now only some technical problems left to be solved concerning the different files. **Marie Inês Cordeiro** offers to do this work, to make the various articles into one presentable set of pdf files. This can than be published on the ITS website. We do not plan to make a print copy. Will be advertised via the IFLA list and our website

23. Any other business
- Section dinner in Durban: Reinhard will ask our South African member, Wynand van der Walt, to prepare this. We hope that there will be an evening available for this early in the conference. A lunch would also be an option.
- Reinhard asks all members to think about their membership: he would like to know who would like to be re-elected next year.
- For Durban the ITS should have a brochure or bookmark or leaflet on the wrokwork of the ITS. Something we can distribute easily at all our sessions. We will need a volunteer to prepare this.

Hanna de Vries, Secretary, IT section