



## Statistics & Evaluation Section

Minutes of the Standing Committee  
18 and 24 August 2007, Durban

### Attendees:

#### Members:

Colleen **Cook** (Texas A&M University, United States)  
J. Eric **Davies** (LISU Loughborough, U.K.)  
Brinley **Franklin** (University of Connecticut, United States)  
Michael **Heaney** (Chair, Oxford University, U.K.)  
Tord **Høivik** (Oslo University College, Norway)  
Markku **Laitinen** (National Library, Finland)  
Elizabeth **Lemau** (Université Rennes II, France)  
Pierre **Meunier** (Public Library of Montreal, Canada)  
Roswitha **Poll** (Secretary/Treasurer, Münster, Germany)  
Erland **Ra** (Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority, Norway)  
Sherrie **Schmidt** (Arizona State University, United States)  
Natalia **Verbina** (National Library, Russia)

#### Observers:

Joyce Gozo (Vaal University of Technology, South Africa)  
M. Shaparneva (Russian Library Association, Russia)

#### Apologies:

Michele Farrell (IMLS, United States)  
Susan Henczel (CAVAL, Australia)  
Christine Lindmark (National Library, Sweden)  
Christina Jönsson-Adrial (Kristianstad University, Sweden)

1. Michael Heaney welcomed the members and guests. Attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda**  
The agenda was approved with an addition at TOP 7 D: Project NUMERIC.
3. **Minutes**  
The minutes of the Seoul meetings were adopted.
4. **Report from Professional Board and Coordinating Board meetings:** Michael Heaney reported from Professional Board and Coordinating Board meetings, especially about the coming Professional Hearing in Durban for a revised organisational structure of IFLA.
5. **Report of treasurer**  
Roswitha Poll distributed a short report on income and expenditure 2006 and 2007. As the newsletters were produced without cost for the section, thanks to Colleen Cook, the remaining 350 € from the section's funding can be used for the project Global Statistics.  
As the section has now 86 members, the funding from IFLA should rise to 610 € next year.
6. **Election of officers**  
Colleen Cook was elected as chair, Michael Heaney as secretary and treasurer. As Christina Jönsson-Adrial leaves the section, Markku Laitinen was nominated as the new information coordinator.

## 7. Section events in Durban

- A. Quality Issues in Libraries Discussion Group:** The new entrance to the library: effectiveness and use of the library website  
The discussion group is sponsored by Academic and Research Libraries and co-sponsored by Statistics and Evaluation. The session in Durban was prepared by Christina Jönsson-Adrial (Statistics and Evaluation) and Klaus Ceynowa (Academic and Research Libraries).  
The discussion group can be revived as special interest group.
- B. Open Program:**
- a) “Developing a new assessment model for the new millennium: Is the South African experience extensible?” The program was prepared by Colleen Cook.
  - b) “Special libraries need special measures”, extra slot. As Sue Henczel cannot attend the conference, Michael Heaney will read her paper.
- C. Poster session:** Global statistics for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- D. Project NUMERIC:** Roswitha Poll reported about a new project sponsored by the European Commission that aims at finding a reliable set of data to be collected for digitisation activities in libraries, archives and museums.

## 8. Activities of the Standing Committee

### A. Projects

#### 1. Global statistics

The set of data was developed in cooperation of the section, ISO TC 46 SC 8 and UNESCO Institute for Statistics. The questionnaire is now tested in Latin America and the Caribbean.

For WLIC 2008 in Quebec, an IFLA satellite conference in Montreal has been approved, focussing on the results of the project and on evaluation issues. Pierre Meunier has already done much preparatory work for the conference. It was decided to send a letter of thanks to Pierre.

As ARL intends to have a conference on library assessment at the same time in Montreal, it was decided to amalgamate the two conferences. Colleen Cook and Pierre Meunier will join in the preparation.

#### 2. Library schools

As no further progress had been achieved for the project, it was decided to contact the Education and Training section to see whether the project should be taken up in a new form.

### B. Publications

**Newsletter:** Newsletters were published in December 2006 and July 2007.

Thanks were expressed to Colleen Cook for the production of the newspapers.

## 9. Review of strategic plan 2006-2007

In this meeting the section looked at the achievement of goals.

- 1.1 done, ongoing
- 1.2 done, but not carried on
- 1.3 done, ongoing
- 1.4 done, ongoing
- 1.5 done, ongoing
- 2.1 not done
- 2.2 should be taken up again
- 3.1 done, ongoing
- 4.1 done, ongoing
- 4.2 done, but input missing
- 4.3 not done
- 5.1 done, cooperate with National Libraries in 2008

5.2 done, ongoing

5.3 ??

5.4 done, no issues identified

6.1 done, ongoing

6.2 done, ongoing

6.3 done, ongoing

It was decided to change the wording in the mission scope from “use of performance indicators” to “the use of evaluation and assessment methods”.

## **IFLA Statistics and Evaluation Section Standing Committee Meeting, 24 August 2007, Durban**

Present: Colleen Cook (Chair), Michael Heaney (Secretary), J. Eric Davies, Brinley Franklin, Tord Høivik, Markku Laitinen (Information Co-ordinator), Pierre Meunier, Sherrie Schmidt, Natalia Verbina..  
Observers: Maya Shaparneva, Cristóbal Urbano.

Apologies: Sue Henczel, Elisabeth Lemau, Christine Lindmark, Roswitha Poll.

### **9. Strategic Plan 2008-2009**

Noted that the report on the plan for 2006-2007 would be prepared by the outgoing Chair and Secretary.

Agreed to amend the Plan as follows:

(a) Mission: replace ‘the collection and use of statistics and performance indicators’ by ‘the application of statistics, evaluation and assessment in libraries,’

(b) Goals:

1. Confirmed

2/3. Combine, and replace ‘promote’ by ‘and’.

4. Delete: the sense is incorporated in 1 and the objectives have been achieved. Add priority (i) to the assignment to IFLA priorities in 1.

5. Confirmed.

6. Delete ‘benchmark’.

(c) Objectives:

1.1. Add ‘and elsewhere’ after ‘IFLA conferences’.

1.2. Replace by ‘Maintain and develop the Section’s website on IFLANET and, where appropriate, elsewhere.’

1.3-1.6. Replace by ‘Improve communication with members and others through the development of the *Newsletter*, use of the discussion list and other appropriate measures’.

Add new 1.4. ‘Encourage participation in the work of the Section by members in all parts of the world.’

2.1. Replace by: ‘Improve the application of evaluation and assessment tools through instruction and continuing education, and through appropriate projects and advocacy.’

2.2. Delete

3.1. Renumber as 2.2.

4. Delete all.

5.1. Add ‘and application’ after ‘study’.

5.2. Confirmed.

5.3/5.4. Delete.

6.1. Move to new 2.3.

6.2. Replace ‘Liaise’ by ‘Develop working relationship’.

6.3. Replace ‘Initiate’ by ‘Continue’.

Agreed to allocate specific tasks under the Objectives by email discussion.

### **10. Performance Measurement Conference**

Noted that the conference had been a great success, with very positive feedback. Agreed to write to Simon Ellis (UIS), copied to Claudia Lux, thanking him for his contribution to the conference. Noted that MH had undertaken to seek funding to support continuing African involvement in the next conference.

Agreed to sponsor the nomination of the proposed eighth Performance Measurement Conference in Fiesole, Florence in August 2009 as an IFLA satellite pre-conference.

#### **11. Durban events**

There had been 150 participants at the session on the South African experience and approximately 90 at the Special Libraries session. Agreed to recommend Khomotso Pete's paper for publication in *IFLA Journal*. Agreed that the Chair should write thanking the speakers.

The Quality Issues in Libraries Discussion Group session attracted about 250 participants.

Agreed to recommend to the Co-ordinating Board more space for poster sessions and lighter rooms for programmes.

The hospitality and friendliness of our South African hosts was much appreciated but members felt that the perceived high levels of criminal activity and personal risk had detracted from enjoyment of the conference. Agreed to recommend to the Co-ordinating Board that ways should be sought to maintain an increased level of African involvement in IFLA activities.

#### **12. Quebec conference 2008.**

Agreed to combine with National Libraries Section in a 4-hour joint session, including the forthcoming ISO Technical Report on that topic. Agreed that Natalia Verbina should be the Section's liaison link with National Libraries (represented by Genevieve Clavel-Merrin).

Agreed to co-sponsor proposed sessions with Management & Marketing on 'Managing libraries in a changing environment: legal, technical and organisational aspects'.

Noted that a Working Group on Digital Libraries was proposed and agree to draw attention to the measurement and evaluation issues involved.

#### **13. Montréal post-conference 2008**

Noted that preparations were under way and that agreement had been reached with ARL to combine the satellite conference with the proposed ARL conference. Noted that ARL had secured the services of David Norton as a keynote speaker. Agreed that MH would write an update for the December *Newsletter*.

#### **14. Milan 2009**

Noted the possibility of a joint session with Information Literacy and Academic & Research Libraries on 'Evaluation and Assessment of Information Literacy'. Agreed that RP should be asked about updating the website on outcomes to incorporate Information Literacy.

Noted that the Global Statistics Project may have progressed enough by then to support a session on national statistics.

Noted that the theme of the conference would be 'Cultural Heritage' and suggested that evaluation of libraries as cultural centres could be a theme. Noted also the potential relevance of the Numeric project.

#### **15. A.O.B.**

(a) Agreed that an action plan under 1.3 would be to check accessibility of an online newsletter for all recipients, by a notice in the December issue; and that the promised IFLANET Content Management System would provide more possibilities for an enhanced newsletter. Agreed also that all members of the Committee should be asked specifically for contributions.

(b) Agreed to rewrite the brochure and to seek translations in all IFLA languages.

(c) Noted that all available copies of RP's book had been sold at the conference and congratulated her on its publication and immediate success.

RP/MH

31 August 2007