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1 Meetings in Durban

IFLA STATISTICS & EVALUATION SECTION STANDING COMMITTEE

The First Standing Committee meeting will be held 14:30-17:20 on Saturday, 18 August 2007, Session 45. The Second Standing Committee meeting will be held 14:00-16:50 on Friday, 24 August 2007, Session 201.

AGENDA (draft)
This draft agenda covers both meetings; we expect to cover items 1-9 at the first meeting and 9(again)-15 at the second meeting, but this arrangement is flexible.

1. Welcome & introductions

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Standing Committee meetings in Seoul (published in the December 2006 Newsletter)

4. Report from Professional Board and Co-ordinating Board Meetings

5. Report of Treasurer

6. Election of Officers
(a) Election of Chair
(b) Election of Secretary
(c) Appointment of Treasurer and Information co-ordinator

7. Statistics and Evaluation Section events at the Oslo Conference
A. Quality Issues in Libraries Discussion Group:

8. Activities of the Standing Committee
A. Projects
1. Global statistics
2. Library schools

B. Publications
1. Newsletter


11. Review of Durban conference

12. Quebec WLIC 2008


15. Member activities

16. Any other business

The new entrance to the library: effectiveness and use of the library website 13:45-15:45 on Sunday 19 August, Session 74

B. Open Program:
(a) Developing a new assessment model for the new millennium: is the South African experience extensible?, 08:30-10:30 on Wednesday 22 August, Session 131

(b) Special libraries need special measures, 08:30-10:30 on Thursday 23 August, Session 152

C. Poster Session
Global statistics for the 21st century
The project group for the Global Statistics Project met with Simon Ellis of UNESCO Institute for Statistics in Oxford, UK in January 2007. The proposed questions were reviewed, and plans were made for the presentation of initial results at the IFLA satellite post-conference planned for August 2008 in Montreal (see below). At the same time Tatiana White was gathering information for the worldwide contacts database for library statistical information. This was supplied to UNESCO Institute for Statistics in May 2007. UNESCO Institute for Statistics has now produced the questionnaire and it has been translated into Spanish for the pilot in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pierre Meunier has been working very hard in Montreal to organise the follow-on conference and has in addition secured the co-operation of the School in Library Science of the University of Montreal (EBSI) and the Graduate School in Library Science of McGill University in the analysis of the results.

We are very grateful to Simon Ellis and his colleague Subramaniyam Venkatraman and Claude Akpabie at UNESCO Institute of Statistics for their work in drafting and designing the questionnaire and to our colleagues in ISO TC 8 for their continuing input into the development of the statistics.

We are continuing to collect data on contacts for library statistics and welcome any further information from any country, worldwide.

The questionnaire

3 Satellite Conference Montreal 2008

The Satellite Conference on Library statistics for the 21st century world: an initiative of UIS (UNESCO Institute of statistics), IFLA and ISO will be held at Montréal (Quebec) on 18-19 August 2008.

This Satellite conference is sponsored by IFLA Section on Statistics and Evaluation, with the collaboration of UNESCO Institute for Statistics and of ISO/TC48/SC8 and will be one of the outcomes from the Section’s Global Statistics project.

The local organizing Committee is coordinated by the Direction of Montréal Public Libraries System with the collaboration of the Administration of Concordia University Libraries System. The Conference will be held at the
campus of Concordia University in
downtown Montreal.

The Conference programme will provide
a presentation of the first phase of the
project on Global statistics, with data on
academic and public libraries located in
Latin America and the Caribbean. The
analysis of results by an Expert
Committee will be presented by UIS and
researchers from the School in Library
Science of the University of Montreal
(EBSI) and the Graduate School in
Library Science of McGill University,
together with delegates of some
countries located in the region. Also,
recent developments in benchmark
studies, standardization and improved
experience in terms of comparative
analysis of performance evaluation will
be presented by experts from Canada,
USA, Europe, Australia and countries in
development. This will facilitate
discussions and decisions concerning
new orientations to be developed for the
next phase of this project on and the
development of new international
standards for statistical indicators.

Pre-registration with the opportunity to
participate in a pre-conference cultural
and sightseeing tour of Montreal will be
offered.
A special dinner and cultural
presentation on the Mont-Royal
belvedere will also be provided as an
invitation to a magical summer evening
in Montreal.

Delegates will be accommodated close
to Concordia University.
The annual statistics of Finnish scientific libraries have been collected into a public database for the past five years. The database is open to all interested parties through the Internet. The database is maintained by the National Library of Finland.

The statistics are collected according to the standard ISO 2789. The statistics of the scientific libraries give a general view of the resources, collections and services of Finnish scientific libraries. The statistics contain information about the national library, university libraries, polytechnic libraries and about several special libraries.

So we already have a statistical time series of half a decade available to everyone. The statistics contain a large body of uniformly reported information about the operation of Finnish scientific libraries from the years 2002–2006.

The database was brought into use as early as 2003 but since then it has been strongly developed and now the database is better and more reliable than ever in its capabilities and data content.

Reliable statistics are of vital importance in collecting information as the basis of decision-making and planning in libraries. So we have paid more attention to education, and the readiness of those in charge of producing the statistics in their libraries is now much better than before.

Further, more attention than before is paid to checking the information before the publication of the annual statistics. Even though the statistics can never be perfect, they are now, however, as good as the libraries are able to deliver thanks to the hard work that has been put into them.

So we can trust the fact that in spite of their possible shortcomings we have statistics which have been delivered well enough to give uniformly delivered comparable facts about the operation of our libraries.

So it is the time now to begin to use our common tool. The estimating and measurement of the social effectiveness of library activity are ever more important, and libraries, as the basic service units of their parent organizations, must be able to show the effectiveness of their operations. This will be an important theme in the further development of the statistics.

New indicators will be developed in addition to the present ones, and a functional statistical tool is necessary to produce reliable facts (e.g. investment in library materials, staff, facilities etc.).

In the future professional education of librarians there will be more weight than before in the utilizing and developing of statistical data to meet the demands of measuring of functions.

So development continues; the final objective is to establish the statistics database as a routine tool used in libraries, from which they can easily and reliably obtain the central indicators corresponding to their needs and describing their operations.

The address of the database is https://yhteistilasto.lib.helsinki.fi/
The language choice (English, Finnish or Swedish) is found in the central part of the upper bar and there is no need to
log in the database: it can be freely browsed.

Markku Laitinen
Planning officer, The National Library of Finland
markku.laitinen@helsinki.fi

Technical information about the database

The database was performed in cooperation with Onesta Solutions Ltd and the solution was based on the use of Middleware software, Enterprise Java and Orion and XML standards. Enterprise Java offers the standardised programming interfaces to other systems to guarantee compatibility. An Orion application server which is based on the J2EE standard was chosen as an application server.

Many publication tools of printed matter support data input in XML format directly. Later it will be possible to carry out the function which converts the statistics data of the database in XML format from which its conversion to the different formats to be printed succeeds for example with the help of XSLT techniques.

The database solution is Oracle 8i relation database software which also is used in the Voyager library system. This solution answers well the demands for the long time storage of the information and for the need for further development.

5 ISO meeting

ISO Technical Committee 46 SubCommittee 8 (for Library statistics) recently met in Santiago de Compostela:


* Working group 7 (Quality meassures for National Libraries) discussed the drafts for indicators in the projected Technical Report. The Project is already well on its way, though it started only in January 2007.

* The standard ISO 9230: Determination of price indexes for print and electronic media purchased by libraries was published recently, in April 2007

Roswitha Poll, Muenster

6 Future meetings

It is not too early to start thinking about the themes for the Section's programme at the next meetings of the World Library and Information Congress:


Milan 2009 the theme will be announced shortly,

Education is the great engine of personal development – Nelson Mandela
7th Northumbria International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries and Information Services

an IFLA Satellite conference

13-16th August 2007,
Spier Wine Estate, between Cape Town and Stellenbosch, South Africa

- Invited Speakers
- Papers
- Posters
- Workshops

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS include:

- Professor Peter Brophy, Director of the Centre for Research in Library & Information Management (CERLIM) at the Manchester Metropolitan University
- Professor Saleem Badat, Vice Chancellor, Rhodes University, South Africa
- Simon Ellis, UNESCO Institute for Statistics

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Measuring library performance
- Organisational effectiveness
- Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement
- Leadership, quality and management development
- Effectiveness of staff development and training
- Outcomes and value of library and information services
- Management of change
- Meeting the changing needs of users
- Evaluation of the Digital Library
- Evaluating Performance Measurement
- Role of research in library and information services
- Research into practice
- Methodologies
- Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis
- Research Projects
- Benchmarking studies

http://www.lib.sun.ac.za/Northumbria7/Index.htm

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