

Section on Library Theory and Research

Minutes of the Standing Committee meetings during IFLA Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, on Saturday, August 21, 1999, 12.10-14.50, and Friday, August 27, 8:30-10.20

Chair: Lis Byberg

Secretary: Mirja Iivonen

Participating:

8/21/1999

Chair: Lis Byberg (Norway) - lis.byberg@jbi.hioslo.no

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Maxine Rochester (Australia) - gordon.barlin@anu.edu.au

Observers: Don Davis, Cheng Huanwen M., Magnus Torstensson, Shahzad Yusuf

Apologies Chirstine Girard, Beverly Lynch, Steffen Ruckl, Pascal Sanz

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Secretary: Mirja Iivonen (Finland) - mirja.iivonen@oulu.fi

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Observers: Chaveelok Boonyokonehome, Don Davis, John F. Harvey, Ross Harvey, Cheng Huanwen, Esther Kamau, Marian Koren, Yori Miyabe, Surithomg Sri-sa-ad, Magnus Torstensson, Haddas Woldeab, M. Shahzad Yusuf

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1. **Opening.** Lis Byberg, chair, called the meeting to order.
2. **Review and approval of the minutes of the Standing Committee meetings in Amsterdam 1998.** The minutes were accepted with the following addition to the paragraph 11.2. "Kerry Smith promised to give a presentation about information policy research."
3. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising.
4. **Bangkok Conference.**
 - 4.1. Lis Byberg informed that according the organizers there would be about 2100 registrated participants in the conference. She also reported that the Council Meeting on Sunday 22nd of August will be open to all participants and that in the conference there will be two meetings to newcomers.
 - 4.2. Section's Open Session will take place on Wednesday, August 25, 12.30 – 15.00. The theme of the Open Session is *Library Research in South East Asia*. Two presentations will be given:

- 1) Nongyao Premkamolnetr (Thailand), *Doing Research Overseas without Tears: Adventures of an Innocent Abroad*
- 2) Prapavadee Suebson (Thailand), *Overview about Library and Information Studies in Thailand.*

There will be 25-30 minutes for each presentation. Lis Byberg will chair the Open Session.

4.3. Section's Workshop will take place on Monday, August 25, 12:30-15:00. The theme of the workshop is "*Core Research Areas of LIS: Research Questions and Methodology.*" There will be five presentations:

- 1) Bob Usherwood (United Kingdom) Value and Impact Research – A Qualitative Approach
- 2) Lars Høglund (Sweden) Information Seeking and Communication Research
- 3) Lis Byberg (Norway), Library History Revisited: Research Areas and Methodology
- 4) Kerry Smith (Australia), Using Information Research Techniques to Track the Effects of Recent Changes in Australian Science Policy;
- 5) Wilda B. Newman (USA), Knowledge Management Research and End User Work Environments 2010

Christine Girard from France cancelled her coming. There will be 15 minutes for each presentation and a lot of time for discussion. Mirja Iivonen will chair the workshop.

4.4. Chutima Sacchanad promised to encourage students working as volunteers in the conference to participate both the workshop and Open Session. Standing Committee decided to ask the Coordinated Board to recommend to the Professional Board and Headquarter that in the future conferences it would be possible for students to participate the conference with a generous discount fee.

4.5. It was noticed that unfortunately the Section's time at IFLA Booth is at the same time as Section's Open Session. The members of SC will participate Open Session but Section's leaflet and newsletter will be available at IFLA Booth.

4.6. Conference Evaluation Form. Lis Byberg reminded that it is important to fill conference evaluation form. The evaluation of simultaneous interpretation will be paid a special attention in the conference.

4.7. Standing Committee discussed (27/8/1999) about the success of the Bangkok conference.

- Open Session went well. There were about 30 participants in the Open Session. Nongyao Premkamolnetr's presentation was successful and very personal. The audience loved it. Unfortunately Prapavadee Suebson did not come to give her presentation, and she did not either inform about that beforehand. More students were accepted to participate Open Session than what it happened.
- In the workshop there was a big audience, about 130 participants. The presentations were interesting and the time-management worked well. The workshop worked as a real workshop. There was a lot of discussion after every presentation. The format of the workshop will be used also in future conferences.
- Section wanted to congratulate Thai-organizing committee. The conference site was very good and everything was very close and easy to find. Food court was very good with good food and good prices. Volunteers in the conference were very helpful and friendly.

5. Medium Term Program and Action Plan. Medium Term Program is for four years. Action Plan for the years 2000-2001 was accepted as follows:
Action Plan 2000-2001

1. To establish a closed Listserv using IFLANET for the Section's Standing Committee;
2. To sponsor at least two research papers on a topic of importance to library and information science at the Section's open meeting at each IFLA conference. At least one of these papers should be presented by a researcher from the region in which the conference is located;
3. To publish and distribute two issues of the Section's newsletter each year;

4. To translate the Section's revised leaflet into all IFLA official languages and to distribute it widely;
5. To co-operate with Division VII and also with other relevant sections in establishing standards for library and information education, placing a special emphasis on education and training for research;
6. To sponsor annually a workshop on a particular topic, paying particular attention to collaboration with practitioners;
7. To cooperate with the Round Table of Library History in organizing the conference in Borås, Sweden, in 2001 about libraries in the 60's and 70's.

Daniel R. Rios promised to take a responsibility for translating Section's leaflet into Spanish language. John F. Harvey promised to take responsibility for translating Section's leaflet into French, German, Russian, and if possible into Arabic and Hebrew for Jerusalem conference. Kerry Smith will send a revised leaflet to Daniel R. Rios and John F. Harvey. Action Plan will be published in the Section's Newsletter 2/1999, and it will be sent to the members of the Standing Committee with the minutes of SC meetings in Bangkok.

6. Election of the officers

- 6.1. Lis Byberg was elected to be Section's chair.
- 6.2. Kerry Smith was elected to be Section's secretary.
- 6.3. Wilda Newman was elected to be Section's Information Coordinator and the Editor of Newsletter.
- 6.4. Kerry Smith was elected to be Section's treasurer.

7. Section's Newsletter. Wilda Newman introduced Section's Newsletter issue 1/1999 that was sent before Bangkok conference about to 150 members of the Section. The issue 2/1999 will be published at the end of 1999, and it will include e.g. the abstracts and web-addresses of the papers presented in Section's Open Session and Workshop in Bangkok. Information about Bangkok conference and also future conferences will be also included to the Newsletter's next issue. In addition Section's new Action Plan will be published in the Newsletter 2/1999. Wilda Newman asked the members of SC to send to her rather soon information they want to be published in the Newsletter.

8. Financial Report. Mirja Iivonen informed on Section's financial situation. There will be enough money left to be used to publish the second issue of Section's newsletter and produce a revised version of Section's leaflet.

9. Projects

- Maxine Rochester reported the progress of her and Pertti Vakkari's book about the bibliometric analysis of LIS research. It has been accepted by IFLA's Publication Committee to be published in the Professional Report –serie as an on demand publication. SC thanked Maxine and Pertti for the work they have done. Maxine informed that there are no guidelines for IFLA Professional Report –serie. SC decided to ask CB to recommend to PB to produce guidelines also for Professional report –serie.
- Maxine Rochester also reported that MCB University Press has launched Internet research registers on the Internet (http://www.mcb.co.uk/literati/research_registers)
- No new project proposal was presented. Lis Byberg asked the members of SC to think about good project proposals for the next IFLA conference.
- It was discussed about the role of IFLA projects. SC's opinion is that some money is needed for bigger projects but also some money is still needed for small projects. SC also pointed out that

there is too much bureaucracy related to small projects compared to the amount of money that is available for them. Fewer formalities should be used for small projects.

10. Israel Conference 1999.

- Lis Byberg reported that she has received some letters from the persons who want to present their papers in the Section's Open Session or Workshop in Jerusalem. Kerry Smith promised to take a look at those letters and find out if the persons who have contacted Lis could be used as speakers.
- Lis Byberg reported that Islamic Library Community plans to organize their own conference in Beirut almost at the same time when IFLA conference will take place in Jerusalem. IFLA HQ is negotiating with the Islamic Library Community.
- SC planned to organize in Jerusalem Open Session with one speaker from Israel and another speaker from one of Arab countries. They should present papers related LIS research done in their countries. Perhaps more speakers than two are needed. Lis Byberg and Kerry Smith will contact library schools in the area. If it is difficult to find a speaker coming from an Arab country the speaker with an Arab background will be looked e.g. from the U.S. The discussion about the program of Open Session will be started on Section's listserv.
- Section decided to organize a half-day workshop in Jerusalem. The theme of the workshop will be "Collaboration between theory and evidence-based practice." Also the sub-title for the workshop is needed to tell more about the theme of the workshop. The program of the workshop was discussed. Kerry Smith promised to take a responsibility for the workshop. Suggestions of the papers should be sent to Kerry. The presentations in the workshop should be short ones, about 15 minutes, so that there will be a lot of time for discussion. It was emphasized that it is important that speakers will come from different countries. The discussion about the Workshop's program will be also started on the Section's listserv.

11. Future Conferences.

- 11.1. Boston 2001. Wilda Newman reported that the arrangements of Boston conference are going well. Section decided to organize in Boston a workshop about research funding issues where different kind of options will be covered. It was also discussed about the possibility to gather links to available funding resources on the IFLANET.
- 11.2. Glasgow 2002. Bob Usherwood reported that the arrangements of Glasgow are going well.
- 11.3. It was reported that IFLA conference 2004 will take place in Argentina.

12. Other business.

There was no other business.

13. Close of Meeting. Lis Byberg closed the meeting.

Prepared by Mirja Iivonen (mirja.iivonen@oulu.fi) September 6, 1999.