

Section on Library Theory and Research (LTR)

Minutes of the Standing Committee meetings during IFLA Conference in Jerusalem, Israel on Saturday, August 12th, 2000, 11.40-2.15p.m., and Friday, August 18th, 08.00 – 09.15 a.m.

Chair: Lis Byberg

Secretary: Kerry Smith

1 & 2. Attendance and Apologies

Participating:

12 August 2000

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

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Christine Girard (France)

Pascal Sanz (France)

Marian Koren (Netherlands)

Observers:

John Harvey (Cyprus),

Don Davis, Magnus Torstensson, Shahzad Yusuf

Apologies : Mirja Iivonen (Finland), Chutima Sacchanand (Thailand), Bob Usherwood (UK)

18 August 2000

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

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Christine Girard (France)

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Marian Koren (Netherlands)

Observers: Alisa Levy (Israel), Malebogo Haolebogwe (Botswana), John Harvey (Cyprus),

Apologies: Mirja Iivonen (Finland), Bob Usherwood (UK)

Lis Byberg (LB), chair, called the meeting to order.

3. Minutes of SC meeting. Bangkok Thailand, 21st and 27th August 1999 – accepted.

4. **Business arising from these minutes**

PB Issues: a number of issues had arisen from the restructure of IFLA .

- There had been a 27% return on the postal ballot regarding the statutes and all attendees, particularly voting members were encouraged to attend the session and use their voting right on Friday.
- There will be two sessions on the proposed disbanding of Division VIII at the conference.
- The evaluation of IFLA's core activities was under discussion and would be particularly mentioned at the National Libraries section meetings and at CDNL because members of these two bodies contribute significantly to the core programmes of IFLA.
- IFLA's *Professional Priorities* are to be adopted by PB and later by the IFLA Executive Board. LB tabled copies at the Friday LTR meeting.
- Ian Johnson's paper on the Quality of papers at IFLA conferences was being hotly discussed – CB VII decided that the conditions as set were too rigid. The paper will be discussed at the PB meeting in December 2000. LTR agreed with CR VII's comment.

5. **Jerusalem Conference**

Kerry Smith reported on the arrangements thus far: The workshop session was Monday 14th August 2000, 3 presenters: Maureen Kahlert (Australia), Chutima Sacchanand (Thailand), and Judith Segal (USA) on *Collaboration between theory and evidence-based practice*.

The Open session held on Tuesday 15th August 2000, 3 speakers: Dennis Ocholla (South Africa), Moshe Yitzhake (Israel) and Daniel Rios (Spain) on *Bibliometrics: still a useful measure*.

Most of the papers had been received in time and constant "harassing" did mean the section had a good representation of papers on IFLANET. Daniel Rios paper still to come – LB said she had an English translation and that copies would be handed out at the open session. Daniel would deliver his paper in Spanish.

LTR was also co-sponsoring a session on Ethics with FAIFE, which FAIFE was arranging.

18 August:

The Committee remarked that the meetings rooms for committee meetings were unsuitable. It was agreed that we did not need to hold two committee meetings and that short business meetings, perhaps before our sessions, would suffice.

Comments on the Jerusalem conference: needed a theme; IFLA should concentrate on key themes and arrange speakers and plenaries; vendor discontent at early closing times; few places for delegates to sit; poster sessions went well though the infrastructure was poor – comment made that Boston wants more poster sessions; too many sessions by all groups.

Does LTR need two sessions? Used to have just the one with broader coverage. Decided that we would keep with two sessions until we find they are not required. LTR workshop worked as a workshop, which was very good – we should aim for this in future and not have it as another talk fest. This would need preparation on our part when approaching/accepting papers for the workshop.

6. **Medium Term Programme and Action Plan**

The current document was tabled and discussed.

Action Plan: many of the actions had been achieved.

Item 1: Listserv was up and running. Wilda Newman (WN) would be attending the Listserv coordinators meeting at the conference to discuss some of the overly managerial approaches IFLA seemed to have. LTR agreed that it supported a non-moderated List, which currently operates in a “closed” environment.

LB reminded members that in order to be a member of the CB Listserv one had to request to join. LTR members thought that membership ought to be automatic for those who were members of CB and that this was unnecessary bureaucracy.

Items 2 and 3 have been done.

Item 4: translation of the section’s leaflet had been almost accomplished thanks to the supreme efforts of John Harvey in securing some of the more obscure translations. KS was now endeavouring to obtain assistance for formatting the new leaflets so that the meaning of the translation was not lost. KS apologized for the missing French version – she had forgotten to liaise with Christine Girard and would do this as soon as she could. The leaflet would need some amending after the revision of the Action Plan at IFLA 2001.

Item 5: LB commented that there had been little co-operation between CB VII regarding standards. KS remarked that E & T was holding a session on the education and training standards on Wednesday at the conference. KS and Beverly Lynch would attend to ensure that LIS research appeared in the documentation.

Items 6 and 7 has been accomplished.

Some minor changes to the Plan were suggested: Item 2: change “sponsor” to organize.

Add an item 8: That the section synthesise and report on research papers presented at the IFLA conference.

Medium Term Programme: to be revised at IFLA 2001 in Boston.

LB suggested we use the List to suggest changes and that in our discussions on this and the Action Plan we should remember the new IFLA Professional Priorities. Please send all of your suggestions to KS. It was suggested that the revised version for Boston be translated after it has been approved in Boston.

8. Section Newsletter

IFLA will be presenting a prize for the best section newsletter at this conference. PB are discussing the future direction of section newsletters.

WN reported that she had published two newsletters: December 1999 and July 2000 and they are on IFLANET. She tabled copies. The next issue would be before the end of 2000 and that all photos should be sent to her either in hard copy or electronic form (jpeg). She commented that she did not support standardization of Newsletters.

Section Leaflet

See comments above. It is now available in Spanish, Russian, English, German, though folded versions were needed. Daniel Rios offered to do a Portuguese version is necessary. Ailsa Levy’s offer to assist with Hebrew translation of leaflet was gratefully received.

9. Financial report

KS reported that the Section had AUD1150.25 in the bank account. WN tabled a request for reimbursement for USD186.97 for Newsletter costs.

10. Projects

LB reported that the Library History would be seeking money for their conference which they were holding with LTR. She also reported that E & T were considered the production of a new edition of the directory of library schools. Comment made that a web version would be preferred.

11. IFLA Boston 2001

LB reported that she and KS has considered some directions for this: the theme was *Libraries and Librarians: making a difference in the knowledge age*
Workshop:

- collaboration between LIS research and the work of the practitioner – making a difference in the knowledge age. KS had read a paper where research had NOT made a difference and it might be interesting to consider inviting the author;
- B. Lynch keen to follow up a theme of management and leadership – need to fit this in with the theme – researchers in the area? Practitioner evaluations and experiences?
Perhaps a paper to describe the programmes and then discussion on their relevance in a workshop with all nations?
- LB suggested a paper on literary tastes of librarians and collection development.

LB and KS to arrange Call for Papers if necessary.

Open session: 3 – 4 speakers:

- International cooperation in LIS research: making a difference in the knowledge age.
Ian Johnston had submitted an interest in giving a paper on this in Israel – perhaps Boston?
Christine Girard and Pascal Franz suggested International cooperation and the EU community;
Cooperation in Preservation: cooperation between France and African countries on conservation and preservation programmes?
Pascal and Christine to investigate this further as will Malebogo Haolebogwe from Botswana.

Glasgow 2002

Theme is: *Libraries for life: democracy, diversity, delivery.*

Perhaps only the one session? This might be a panel; - following the theme of the conference and the role of LIS research in it. All Committee to think about research which has made an impact on the theme issues. Section to discuss this over the List.

Berlin 2003:

No discussion

13. Other business

LB tabled Call for Papers on conference: Libraries in times of utopian thoughts and social protests – the libraries of the late 1960-ies and the 1970-ies.

WN reported on the Listserv co ordinators meeting: lists are moderated to prevent spamming. List managers are to try and turn off the moderated buttons. Closed Lists are to contain members of the particular committee only and are for administrative purposes only.

Our section acronym: LB confirmed that THEOR was no longer to be used. It would be LTR – as before. ILFA had moved from this for no particular reason.

Ian Johnson's paper received no support from PB although it has reminded all to do a more profession job with conference papers and organisation.

Prepared by Kerry Smith, 10 November 2000.