

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
SECTION ON LIBRARY THEORY AND RESEARCH

**DRAFT Minutes 2nd meeting IFLA Conference in Boston,
Friday 24th August 2001**

Chair: Lis Byberg

Secretary: Kerry Smith

1. Call to Order

The Chair Lis Byberg opened the meeting at 8.05 a.m.

Present:

Lis Byberg

Chair

Kerry Smith

Secretary/Treasurer

Wilda Newman

Information Co ordinator

Marian Koren, Beverly Lynch, Wallace Koehler

SC members

Ragnar Audunson, Bob Usherwood, Daniel Rios,

Observers: John Harvey (Cyprus), Mirja Iivonen (Finland), Valentino Morales (Mexico), Marie Faulkner (UK), Maxine Rochester (Australia), Lampang Manmart (Thailand), Khalil Ismailov (Azerbaijan), Aliyusif Mommaduv (Azerbaijan).

2. Apologies: Pascal Sanz, Ilkka Makinen.

6. Boston conference

Evaluation of sessions:

The LTR workshop worked with the participation from the audience and the LTR committee who asked a number of questions to inform the panel and the audience and to test a number of assumptions made by the speakers. SC prefers having the workshop early in the conference. It is better to have audience participate in the workshop early on and not towards the end.

Open session: three very different papers on the topic of international collaboration - small audience, questions at the end made interesting comparisons and connections between the works presented. Session ended up being a workshop rather than a formal session. Room was far too large.

Other issue:

Conference venue has been very cold. There is no where to sit and chat. Some thought that the poster session area was too small, though most thought it was fine. Poster presenters need a chair to sit on.

9. Section electronic discussion list

W Newman reported that the LTR List is moderated by her and anyone who wants to go on the list can join. Members do get the Newsletter and may not need to join the list. We also need to have a special discussion facility for LTR SC members to discuss the business end of the section and that this was the current purpose of the LTR list.

IFLA are also trying to sort out the IFLANET issues and delays, urgently.

10 Leaflet

John Harvey very kindly offered translation services again for the new section leaflet. Marian Koren to revise once strategic plan is ready.

11. Financial Report:

K Smith presented a financial report which showed the section had AUD 251.81 (approx NLG 327.35) remaining in its account . The report was accepted.

12. Projects

2 presented in a form which could be worked up:

Ragnar Audunson: methods for studying the social side of libraries in society;

Bob Usherwood: A transnational evaluative survey of national policy makers attitudes to, and perceptions of, the role, value and impact of public library services.

Each spoke to their project and the SC found it difficult to decide one over the other as each had its merits. There were also similarities between them. If both projects were not acceptable to CB VII then Ragnar stated that he would prefer that Bob's went forward. Each project would involve the collaboration of some SC members and would be largely voluntary. Financial support would be needed for the international research component of each. Each speaker identified a commitment to a workshop at the Glasgow conference and a potential satellite meeting for the 2005 conference and each needed information on public libraries. It was decided that Bob Usherwood's would have the first preference of the Section as the projects continued their journey through the IFLA system.

13. Glasgow conference

Would probably have just the one workshop session around the project. Difficult to organise it until we know the project has IFLA approval and funding. Potential titles: *Getting a GRIPP* (getting research into opractice and policy) or *Libraries in 3D* - following the Glasgow themes of democracy, divewrsity and delivery.

Would look at the workshop as a catalyst to get the project underway - would need to liaise with Public Libraries section. Bob Usherwood expected to deliver a paper and then field questions and discussion from the workshop participants.

Marian Koren mentioned the possibility of a collaborative effort with the Northumbria performance measurement group who were organising their next workshop to tie in with the IFLA conference. K Smith to follow up.

14. Future Conferences

Berlin - depends on outcome of project submission and how the work progresses.

Buenos Aires: to discuss next year at Glasgow.

15. Other business

M Rochester reported that the work on the international bibliometric study was nearly ready. She has been unable to get a final OK from the second author. K Smith said that she would follow this up once the paper had been lodged with her. LTR keen to publish the work as an IFLA professional paper. M Rochester to email text and accompanying documents to K Smith.

16. Close of meeting

There being no further business, the outgoing Chair, Lis Byberg closed the meeting at 9.30 a.m. She was thanked for her efforts for the Section by all by acclamation.

K Smith,
Secretary.