



Minutes of IFLA LTR Section Business Meetings 2006

SATURDAY 20th August 2006 11.30 – 14.20 hrs.
Meeting Room 310, COEX, Seoul, Korea

Present: Ragnar Audunson – Chair, Marian Koren – Information Officer, Kerry Smith, Beverly Lynch, Jingli Chu, Biddy Fisher.

Observers: Peter Johan Lor, Gwynneth Evans, Olaf Eigenbrodt, Raju Buddharqaju, Elena Zhakko, Elisabeth Freyre, Trina Yayohur

Apologies: Marydee Ojala – Secretary/Treasurer, Ann Curry, Cindy Hill

1. Opening.

The Chair Ragnar Audunson welcomed all to the first Standing Committee meeting of Library Theory and Research Section at the IFLA Seoul conference. The Agenda as set in the LTR Newsletter July 2006 was adopted. In the absence of the LTR Secretary, Kerry Smith agreed to take the minutes of this meeting.

2. The **Minutes** of the SC meetings held in Oslo on 13 and 19 August 2005 were accepted.

3. IFLA Business at Seoul conference.

Gwynneth Evans as Chair of Coordinating Board (CB VII reported that the Board had met on Friday 19th August 2006:

- All delegates would need their passport, invitation and conference badge for the Opening Ceremony of the conference as there would be a heavy security presence.
- All SC members were invited to a special meeting called by the Professional Committee (PC) from 12.45 – 1.45 Sunday 20th August 2006 regarding the governance of the professional activities of IFLA and questions on the role, size and composition of sections and how IFLA might support these communities of interest. The Section reviews had been considered by a special committee of former chairs of the PC who audited the sections for strength and dynamism.

The meeting would address a series of questions including:

- how do we efficiently and effectively have sections which can work usefully for colleagues and for IFLA?
- Should there be a minimum of 50 persons to enable a section to be formed and 10 members for each SC?

- How might we best address the continuing interests of IFLA members not then represented at the Section level: special interest groups, virtual communities of interest with an increased role for IFLANET? These would be like roundtables without infrastructure and bureaucracy. Marian Koren commented that IFLA needs to give more thought regarding the different representations of the sections: types of libraries? Specialist interest? Biddy Fisher commented that it would be difficult to find one process that would suit all. There were strategic issues for the IFLA membership such as those represented by LTR section: the position of library theory and research in the future of the profession. How might this be managed?

- Members would also be invited to write to the PC expressing their views.

Each SC needs to put in their comments on the IFLA Strategic Plan.

The President elect will present her program: "Libraries on the agenda" in response to WSIS on Tuesday 23 August 2006 8.30 – 12.45. This will include a report on WSIS.

Instructions to session chairs had been handed out and were still available. They need to be reminded to adhere to them.

As we hear the papers in our sessions, we need to be mindful of articles to be included in the IFLA journal.

4. Seoul conference sessions.

LTR will be holding 3 sessions at the conference and unfortunately all are on Wednesday 22 August 2006.

There is an offsite session 9 – 10.30 a.m. at the Dept Library & Information Science Research at Sookmyung Womens' University.

The next session follows immediately after, from 10.45 – 12.45 this is to be at COEX. As it will be impossible for delegates to make the second session in time, it was decided that some LTR members

would remain at the first session until its conclusion and Ragnar would return to COEX and that the second LTR session could start later than scheduled, at 11.15 a.m. He will arrange that a sign be placed on the meeting room and Marian Koren will organize a notice in IFLA Express. LTR is hosting the CBVII session at COEX from 1600 – 1800 and Ragnar is to chair this. Ragnar will report to CBVII that the planning for LTR's sessions has been very poor for this conference.

5. LTR Strategic Plan

According to the current strategic plan there is to be an LTR satellite session in Durban. This request has been registered with IFLA HQ. After considerable discussion on the logistics of getting around the city and to the outer regions it was decided that this should be cancelled.

There is a need to include LISJ in the revised strategic plan. We need to ensure that we work together on areas of common interest.

6. Merger LTR-LISJ Section.

Peter Lor and Gwynneth Evans were present for this item in place of Steve O'Connor and Ludmilla Kozlova. Library Journals Section (LISJ) is to be closed and the Chair Steve O'Connor has conveyed his agreement to its merger with LTR. There will be a complication because of the ongoing review of Sections as an outcome of the special PC meeting mentioned in Item 2. In the interim, the two sections will be merged and the members of the LISJ SC will join those of the LTR SC. This will still adhere to the IFLA cut off for SC membership. The LISJ members will complete their terms of office as they currently stand.

It was therefore **moved** (Lynch/Koren) that the LTR section welcome the current members of LISJ Section and that the current members of the LISJ SC be invited to join the SC members of LTR.

Accepted unanimously

The Secretary of LTR is to contact the LISJ SC and the membership of LISJ to convey this decision and invitation. Gwynneth Evans agreed to convey the decision to the PC.

7. Communication

Marian Koren reported that two LTR Newsletters had been produced during the year: one in December 2005 and the latest in July 2006.

The Section's website was last updated in October/November 2005.

Jingli Chu offered to translate the Section's membership leaflet into the 6th IFLA Language: Chinese.

8. Financial Report.

This item was deferred until the next meeting when it was expected that the Treasurer would be present.

9. Partnership activities.

Beverly Lynch reported that there had been no activity from the Quality Issues in Libraries Discussion Group.

10. Projects.

Political perceptions of public libraries. The Chair Ragnar Audunson reported a request from the project leader Prof Bob Usherwood for more money to complete the project. The project has been in limbo for the past while and it seems apparent that it will now be finalized. IFLA has granted extra funds of 1200Euro for the completion. It seems that Bob has now finished the data collection and that a final report is to be prepared. Kerry Smith has offered to assist in this and will assess once the report is done if it will make an IFLA Professional Report or a book.

Kerry Smith reported that in the meantime, Bob Usherwood had found a bank draft for GBP921.37 which she had sent him at least 2 years ago. He was unable to cash it at his bank because it was too old. She is to investigate if it can be reissued from the bank of issue at Curtin University in Australia.

IFLA Norms project. Project leader Ragnar Audunson reported that this project was now entering its second phase. The fourth phase, a qualitative study and more general survey is also being developed and the survey instrument will be the topic of his talk in the LTR session on Wednesday. He has purchased an electronic questionnaire package. So far 8 countries have been covered: North Africa, Russia, Norway, Italy, Netherlands, Cuba, Italy, Australia and he is still hoping for coverage from the US. He plans to publish the results as an IFLA book with each country being a chapter.

New proposals. There are no new project proposals that the committee is aware of.

11. Future conference planning

Durban conference 2007. As earlier noted, it has been decided to cancel the section's plans for a satellite session at this conference. It was noted that Dr Dennis Ochalla is the contact for CBVII and Kerry Smith offered to make contact with him regarding the proposed LTR session as she knew him. There was wide discussion regarding the session content and it was decided that through the Seoul conference we consider the possibility of African researchers reporting on their research and how they publish it. This would blend the interests of LTR and LISJ. The current topic being pursued by LTR: hidden biases – cultural and linguistic differences in LIS research, was again suggested as a guiding theme.

Quebec City 2008.

There is interest in holding another offsite LIS research visit.

12. Other business

It was noted that nominations for Standing Committee would be coming up next year. This would also be important for former LIS- members

13. Chair Ragnar Audunson **closed** the meeting at 1.40 p.m.

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FRIDAY 25th August 2006 11.00 – 13.50
Room 321 COEX, Seoul, Korea

Present: Beverly Lynch, Kerry Smith, Jungli Chu, Marian Koren, Marydee Ojala

Observers: Maxi Kindling, Ben Kaden, Paige Fujisue, Ahman Kaibi

Apologies: Ragnar Audunson, Bidy Fisher, Ann Curry, Cindy Hill

1. Opening: Marian Koren, Information Coordinator for LTR, volunteered to chair the meeting. Introduced were the standing committee members present, Beverly Lynch, Kerry Smith, Jungli Chu, Marian Koren and Marydee Ojala. Apologies were received from Ragnar Audunson, Bidy Fisher, Ann Curry and Cindy Hill. Observers included Maxi Kindling and Ben Kaden from Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany; Paige Jujisue, San Jose State University, California, USA; and Ahmad Kaibi, Tunisia.

2. Review of LTR sessions in Seoul

Offsite: The offsite session was very good, with excellent speakers. Our hosts were extremely gracious, but it was embarrassing to have so few attendees, particularly when the hosts had spent so much time preparing. They were pleased that the offsite session attendees did not rush off, but stayed for a tour of the library and the embroidery museum. The secretary will write a thank you letter to our hosts.

Logistics was a major problem that needs to be brought to the attention of IFLA. Not only do venues look closer on a map than they actually are, it was unclear how people were to sign up to attend. Another problem was getting information about a schedule change into Express. One observer stated she didn't realize there was a roster to attend the offsite meeting. The German observers commented that, based on their experience working on Express, there was considerable dissatisfaction. They wanted to put more items of interest to Germans, for example, into the German version. This was impossible, since IFLA wants all versions to contain the same information, but in the individual languages. Beverly Lynch suggested that Express this year was more of a public relations device rather than an informational publication.

Onsite: The afternoon session on Wednesday was well attended. The speakers' papers were very varied. Jungli Chu comments that the Chinese interpretation was good, but only a few sessions had translation capabilities. More Chinese translators are needed. Chu also asked why more presentation can't be put on the Internet, particularly when the full text is not in the proceedings. Marian Koren explained that it is IFLA policy to publish only full text, not PowerPoint slides. Ragnar Audunson is recommending one of the papers from the afternoon session for publication in the IFLA Journal.

Overall conference: There were conflicting sessions on open access Thursday morning. This type of overlap should be avoided by IFLA program planners. Room size was another problem, with some rooms almost empty and others overfull.

3. Future conference planning

Durban: It was reiterated that the pre conference in Namibia has been cancelled. LTR will do just one 2-hour session for the Durban conference. Kerry Smith volunteered to write the call for papers. The papers should focus on research and how it is published in African countries and in African language journals. What issues are there with accessing materials, from the African perspective. The call for papers should be posted to African discussion lists as well as to IFLA lists. It should be disseminated to the African section. Papers need to be proper research papers. The call for papers will ask for an abstract that the committee will evaluate. Repeat speakers should be discouraged. If someone speaks one year, they should not also speak the next year.

Quebec City: The standing committee will attempt to plan a pre conference in Canada. For the LTR session, papers about Canadian research would be welcome. Ann Curry may be able to help identify research institutes.

4. Projects

Kerry Smith will sort out the payment problem with Bob Usherwood. Hopefully the Australian bank can issue a replacement cheque to him. It is essential that Underwood's report be written and submitted to the committee.

5. Elections

Elections will be held next year. It is important to involve the Journals members. LTR needs more members. The secretary will work on a leaflet to promote LTR. A target letter to LIS departments could spur interest in the committee. The newsletter is published twice a year and is another vehicle to get people's attention. One possibility for the newsletter would be to include vignettes on LIS research in various countries represented by LTR members. The name of the standing committee will not change with the inclusion of the Journals committee.

6. Strategic Plan

IFLA is rethinking the size of sections. It is the opinion of LTR that library research is the underlying foundation for the future of the profession.

7. WSIS

Alex Byrne and Swiss colleagues are to be congratulated for turning around the WSIS agenda so that it reflected the importance of libraries in the world information society.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to Marian Koren for chairing the meeting.