



**Minutes for Standing Committee
Library Theory and Research Section
Meetings 2007 Durban, South Africa**

Saturday 18th August 2007 Durban, South Africa

Present Ragnar Audunson – Chair, Marydee Ojala – Secretary/Treasurer, Marian Koren – Information Officer, Chu Jingli, Helen Partridge, Binny Fisher, Ann Curry,
Observers: Eileen Breen, Elisabeth Freyre, Wanda Dole, Automie Gale Fontane
Apologies: Terry Weech, Kerry Smith, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Beverly Lynch, 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 Durban conference. The Agenda as set in the LTR Newsletter July 2007 was adopted.

2. The Minutes of the SC meetings in Seoul on the 20th and 25th of August 2007 were accepted. Ragnar commented on the importance of the Journals section joining with LTR.

3. The Treasurer reported that there have been no expenses as yet during the year. However, it is anticipated that a new leaflet will incur printing costs before the end of 2007. The payment to Bob Usherwood has been sorted.

4. Ragnar Audunson was elected to a second term as Chair of the Section and Marydee Ojala was elected to a second term as Secretary/Treasurer of the Section.

5. IFLA business in Durban:

Ragnar reported on the Coordinating Board VII meeting held on the 17th of August in Durban. The Information Literacy SC is particularly impressive, particularly in pursuing outside funding. A hearing on the proposed new professional structure will be held on Sunday, the 19th of August. A new officers training session will be held on Monday, the 20th of August.

6. LTR session in Durban:

Ragnar presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Kerry Smith for her work in organizing the session. We have accepted five papers, one of which will be delivered in French. The countries represented by the speakers are Tunisia, Kenya, South Africa, Botswana, and Nigeria.

7. Project status

Bob Usherwood's project on the *Political perceptions of public libraries* is completed and is in publication stage as an IFLA professional report.

Ragnar's project on *IFLA's role in diffusing professional norms* is ongoing. Data collection is almost done. Papers reflecting research in specific countries was presented both at the IFLA conference in Oslo and in Seoul. A new survey was distributed this spring, based on the participant list from Seoul, corrected for an oversupply of names from Scandinavia and South Korea. The response from about 200 people has produced some interesting preliminary results. More participation is needed from some geographic regions, particularly Africa. Ragnar expects to finish the project by the end of 2007.

8. Programme planning for 2008 in Quebec City and 2009 in Milan

The main theme of the conference is *Libraries without borders: navigating towards global understanding*.

We should look into the possibilities of a satellite event in 2009, to be held in Italy, near Milan. Our topic for 2008 will be *Libraries as places*. This would start as a session in Quebec City, then move to Milan as a satellite event.

Our topic for 2009 will be *Open access*.

We will issue a call for papers for Quebec City.

We will investigate the possibility of a student competition focused on a literature review of open access for Milan.

9. IFLA's professional structure:

The proposal is an attempt to reduce bureaucracy within the association. It is proposed that there be four broad divisions, organized by library types; materials, function & services; support of the profession (which is where LTR would be placed); and geographical regions.

10. Other business

Ann Curry asked for suggestions regarding a project to establish a research agenda for a country.

11. Chair Ragnar Audunson closed the meeting at 16.35 hrs.

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Second business meeting Friday 24th August 2007, Durban, South Africa

Present: Ragnar Audunson, Marydee Ojala, Marian Koren, Terry Weech, Helen Partridge, Jingli Chu, Biddy Fisher, Michele Battisti

Observers: Kerry Smith, Sylvie Chevillotte, Eileen Breen, Wahid Gdoura

Apologies: Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Ann Curry, Lars Hoglund, Beverly Lynch

1. Opening: Ragnar welcomed all to the second meeting of the Standing Committee meeting. He congratulated Marian Koren, Information Officer, for her editorial work on the SC newsletter, which resulted in winning the runner-up prize for most improved newsletter.

2. IFLA business in Durban

Ragnar reported that the proposed restructuring has been under review throughout the conference. The major change in the proposal is that the number of divisions has been increased from four to five. Also, the minimum number of members for standing committees remains under review and is fluctuating.

3. Review of LTR sessions in Durban

The session was very successful, with about 80 attendees. The papers were of high quality and gave a good picture of challenges faced by African researchers, both regionally and nationally. Four of the five papers were delivered. The speaker from Nigeria was unable to attend, If funding is a problem for speakers from developing countries, they should be put in touch with ALP. Two of the papers have already been published in the *South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science*. LTR will propose Gdoura's paper on the history of research in francophone Africa to Division VII for publication in the IFLA journal.

4. Future conferences

Discussion continued on future conference session topics.

The Quebec City session on libraries as places should include public, academic, special, and virtual libraries. Papers should concentrate on the theoretical aspects of the topic. Ragnar has drafted a call for speakers. Eileen Breen volunteered to help distribute the call.

Biddy Fisher has a colleague who could coordinate logistics for Quebec City speakers.

Marketing and Management has expressed interest in cooperating on sessions in Quebec City. We could share with them, if they include the words "theory" or "research" in their title, which currently is *Managing in a changing environment*, but do not want to give up our session time.

The satellite event in Milan will move the topic from the theoretical to the empirical. Ragnar will investigate partnering with another SC. LTR will submit a request to hold a satellite event on its own in case the partnering does not transpire.

The Milan session on open access will be coordinated by Helen Partridge. Only one student submission from each university will be considered. We will investigate if there is sufficient technology to support distance presentations, in case a winning student would be unable to travel to Italy. The student could present the paper using some type of streaming media technology.

Another topic of interest for future conferences revolves around the research agendas of governments being an obstacle to research. Perhaps in Brisbane we could look at public policy regarding research agendas. Where are the research gaps where collaboration would be beneficial? What is the agenda for practitioners in regards to research. This theme could be related to the section of Management of Library Associations.

5. Strategic plan

LTR will revise its strategic plan to reflect its changing topic priorities, including library as place, stimulating research, open access to information, research agendas.

The plan will set out LTR's main priorities until 2010.

The research agenda will hopefully result in a book on research agendas, giving the "state of play" by region. Kerry Smith is interested in editing this book. Ann Curry, Bidy Fisher, and Helen Partridge will work with Kerry on the project.

Eileen Breen will review a draft version of the strategic plan from the perspective of the former Journals section.

6. Annual report

The annual report will be dated from conference to conference (August to August), but is to be filed mid-January.

It will summarize information from the minutes and the newsletter.

7. Leaflet

An updated leaflet is necessary to reflect changes in LTR priorities and strategic plan. Translations by SC members will be encouraged.

The goal of the leaflet is to encourage new members to the section.

It can be put on the Emerald website since Emerald is a corporate sponsor. It can be mentioned in Libris with a link to the LTR website.

8. Other business

Terry Weech distributed the BOBCATTS leaflet for its 16th Symposium.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 15.50 hrs.