



Health and Biosciences Libraries Section Standing Committee

MINUTES OF THE MEETING 1st meeting held: 22/08/2004

Committee Members present: Bruce Madge (UK) chair; Rowena Cullen (NZ) secretary; Jo Anne Boorkman (USA); Christine Stotzenbach (Fra); Arne Jakobsson (Nor); Michael Homan (USA); Birgit Lange (Den).

Guests: Elenice de Castro (Bra); Tony McSean (UK); Oili Punkko (Fin); Michele Absolon (Fra); Mercedes Achard (Ur); Varvara Kontouzi (USA); Marta Castelli (Arg); Rika J Pozo (USA); Becky Lyon (USA); Rick Forsman (USA); Jane Lindley (Quatar); Heather Todd (Aus); Janine Schmidt (Aus).

Apologies: Paivi Pekkarinen (Fin); Ysabel Bertalucci (USA),

Introductions and welcomes

Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held in Berlin were circulated, and corrections noted. Correct minutes will be filed on the IFLA web site.

Report on Division II meeting the previous day. The secretary reported on the Div II meeting, noting that the Division requested a report on highlights of the Sections; business and Open meetings should be forwarded by the end of the week.

Sections were advised that in future officers for the Division's Coordinating Board would be elected from retiring SC members only.

Sections were encouraged to develop a succession plan for the committee, encourage members to join their section, and consider standing for the committee.

A procedure for making decisions on IFLA Congress Satellite meetings had been developed. All future satellite meetings from the Seoul Conference on would be decided by the professional committee., to ensure that decision were made by one body. The criteria to be applied would be that such meetings did not

conflict with IFLAS goals, or the main conference. Section strategic plans should include any proposals for satellite meetings.

Sections were warned that IFLA funds were very tight because of declining membership, and overdue subscriptions, and that a business plan would be presented by the new Secretary General to the Governing Board at the end of the Conference to boost membership.

The Professional Committee would in future be coordinating all IFLA projects, professional development programmes.

Financial report: The Chair announced that the Section had a current bank account of £400.00. It was agreed that this could be used to fund speakers at the Oslo meeting, if necessary.

Invitation to ICML9: Elenice invited all present to the 9th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, to be held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, September 20-23 2005. The theme of the congress would be Commitment to Equity, and it would include ten tracks as well as plenary sessions, totaling 210 papers; 1200 delegates were expected. The call for papers and posters sessions, and the exhibition, with space for 100 exhibitors, were already being advertised. A colourful cultural programme was planned to complement the congress.

Leaflets and CDs were given to those present to take home to publicise the congress in their own countries.

ICML 10. The section is charged with recommending a host organization, and location for each ICML to the IFLA Governing Board. Bids for the 10th ICML had been requested during the year, and two proposals received. Both contenders were invited to make a presentation to the meeting.

The two contenders were: The University of Qatar, and the University of Queensland, Brisbane. After consideration of the two proposals, the proposed programme, strength of local support and experience in managing a large conference, and the financial plans outlined, it was decided to recommend the University of Queensland as the venue for the 10th ICML.

2nd Meeting held: 28/08/2004

Committee Members present: Bruce Madge (UK) chair; Rowena Cullen (NZ) secretary; Christine Stotzenbach (Fra); Arne Jakobsson (Nor); Michael Homan (USA); Birgit Lange (Den).

Guests: Heather Todd (Aus); Janine Schmidt (Aus); Becky Lyon (USA); Raj Kumar (Ind).

Apologies: Jo Anne Boorkman (USA); Rick Forsman (USA); Tony McSean (UK)

Matters arising from the 1st meeting: Bruce reported that the IFLA Secretariat had been informed of the recommendation of the Section concerning the hosting of the 10th ICML, and he expected the Governing Board to confirm the decision at their meeting the following day.

A discussion was held with the representatives of the University of Queensland present to start planning for the meeting, to be held in Brisbane in 2009, if possible in early September. The hosts were asked to re-examine proposed cost structures to see if the conference fee could be lowered, and the possibility of one pre- or post-conference workshop being included in the conference fee was discussed. The availability of cheap accommodation in Brisbane, if it was required, was noted.

Themes for possible tracks at the conference were discussed, including evidence and critical appraisal, digitisation, new health informatics standards such as HL7 and OpenEHR, the impact of genetic research

on healthcare and information services, bioinformatics and the NIH databases, an update on NLM, knowledge management, animal health research, and access to knowledge sources (incl open access).

Suggestions for speakers at the Opening sessions were discussed, and the way conference programme would be managed, with tea and lunch breaks scheduled (and catered for), and plenary sessions at the beginning and end of each day. Each day would be organised around a theme.

The proposal was based on 1000 delegates, with 6-8 plenary sessions and 6-8 parallel sessions. Possibilities for the social programme were also discussed. As with the 8th ICML, an international committee would be set up, and a number of the members of the IFLA Health and Biosciences Section would be invited to join various conference committees.

IFLA World Congress – Oslo 2005

It was decided that the theme for the next Health and Biosciences Libraries Section Open Session in Oslo in 2005 would be Open Access. The session would be held off-site, combining a visit to the new National hospital and Library, with a workshop at which speakers offering perspectives from both the developing and developed world, would be invited to make presentations. It was likely this would be Thursday afternoon - the day scheduled for library visits in the programme.) The Open Session (on Tuesday or Wednesday could then be used for further papers on the topic (including the medical publishing community), and a reports from the WHO's INASP project. It was suggested that Elsevier be asked to provide some sponsorship for one or both sessions.

Seoul meeting – 2006

Bruce proposed that the section hold a satellite meeting at Seoul, a one day workshop on the Friday before the IFLA conference began, on traditional medicine. This was agreed and will be included in the strategic plan for 2005-6.

IFLA Publishing Relations Advisory Committee

Rick Forsman had attended the IFLA Publishing Relations Advisory Committee, chaired by Ann Okerson, on behalf of the section, and although he was unable to be present, would report to the section in the next few weeks. (This report is appended.)

Election of officers

Some members of the committee would need to stand down at the end of their term during the years. Papers would be circulated mid-year seeking nominations. Committee members could stand for two terms.

Projects for 2004

It was agreed that the section would try to develop a stronger online presence through the publication of online papers on topics of special interest to the section, including the quality of health information. While the IFLA web site was being redeveloped, the committee would draft a paper outlining standards for health information, for health consumers and professionals.

Projects completed during 2003/2004 were noted: opening the health section list to public discussion, monitoring of planning for ICML9, and the posting of a call for bids, and selection of a venue for ICML10.

Strategic goals

The strategic goals for the section were circulated, and changes made to the Mission statement, broadening the scope of the section slightly to include equity of access to health information. Two goals were removed, the section having been advised that these covered standard IFLA administrative requirements, and others revised. Where actions had been completed, goals were removed. The new Mission statement and goals will be posted on the Section's web pages on the IFLA web site shortly after the Conference concludes. further goals were revised.

Further business

The section officers were thanked for their work during the year, and for a successful Open Session.

Bruce Madge explained the Global review of Access to Health Information in Developing Countries, sponsored by IASP and WHO, which grew out of a conference on research in the health sciences in Mexico City. The project is led by Ian Pakenham-Walsh, and is exploring better models of providing access (members were referred to an article in the *Lancet* in July, by Fiona Godley, and an editorial in the *BMJ*). Bruce is leading a section of the review on partnerships with libraries. He commented that the review is hampered by lack of funds.

Discussion of the issue of Open Access centred around a recent report to the British parliament, obtainable from the UK parliamentary website, on open access to scientific, technical and medical information. Developments in Scandinavia (especially the adoption by Finland of a national policy of open access) were also discussed, and members interest in the Oslo meeting stimulated.

APPENDIX

Rick Forsman's report on: Publisher Relations Advisory Committee; 25 August 2004 meeting

PRAC is charged with advising IFLA officers and HQ staff about issues that pertain to interactions with the International Publishers Association. Convener Ann Okerson (Yale Univ., USA) welcomed 8 committee members and guests, distributed printed minutes from the 2003 meeting, and introduced Claudia Lux from the IFLA Governing Board and chair of the IFLA/IPA committee. The group spent two hours talking with Claudia about what issues were currently being discussed with IPA and offering advice or posing questions. Claudia was quite frank, and having someone from the Governing Board present made the meeting much more substantive and productive.

IFLA derives 20% of its income from donations, many of them from IPA members. Consequently, it must approach these companies diplomatically and look for mutual gain. IFLA avoids confronting them about undesirable practices. For example, it has issued a statement deploring U.S. embargoes of materials published in the Middle East, but will not take a hard line on unacceptable publishing practices.

Publishers are quite dismayed about the report on open access recently issued from the U.K. and the great surprise in the appropriations language introduced in the U.S. Congress regarding publication of government sponsored research. IPA greatly fears government regulation. PRAC members observed that there appears to be a growing popular belief that the publishing marketplace is 'broken,' at least for STM titles, and IPA now will have a difficult time changing the minds of those in government and those who urge open access as an essential remedial measure. It was suggested that IFLA inform publishers they must support open access and offer other market concessions if they truly wish to avoid government controls being imposed.

Claudia also commented that IFLA has repeatedly asked IPA for data showing an exact comparison of publishing costs in print and electronic format, but companies do not wish to disclose these. As a result, it is impossible to arrive at a mutual understanding of what costs are incurred and what profit may be reasonable. IFLA has also raised the question of different pricing for the same product in different markets, another topic IPA wishes to avoid. Without a foundation of information, however, it seems unlikely that mutual accord can be reached. The group raised the problem of licensing restrictions that preclude ubiquitous access to health information needed by patients and all members of the health care team, and Claudia agreed to take this to the IPA. It seems likely that publishers will sue SUBITO, the German ILL supplier, to gain greater ILL copyright royalties.

 **Health and Biosciences Libraries Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s28/index.htm>