



IFLA Reading Section

MINUTES

1st Standing Committee Meeting Buenos Aires 22nd August 2004

Present:

Standing Committee Members: John Cole, Jérémie Desjardins, Mariétou Diongue Diop, Gwynneth Evans, Ivar Haug, Martine Jan, Briony Train, Maria Vedenyapina, Maureen White, Alec Williams.

Associate Members: Siti Aishah Sheik Kadir.

Other visitors: Danielle Bouhajeb, Pensri Guaysuwan, Clemencia Montalvo, Marina Novikova, José Palacios, Barry Wiebenga.

1. Introduction of Members, and apologies for absence:

Gwynneth Evans welcomed all participants, who briefly introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from: Robert Sarjant (UK), Cynthia Lombardo (USA), Thomas Quigley (Canada), Elke Dreisbach (Germany), Valeria Stelmakh (Russia) and Catharina Stenberg (Sweden).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda, as printed in Newsletter No. 18 (August 2004), was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes (Berlin Conference, August 2003):

The minutes were approved (*Proposed:* John Cole, *Seconded:* Briony Train)

4. Review of the Strategic Plan (see Newsletter No. 18):

After some preliminary remarks (*below*), Gwynneth Evans gave a full and comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan, inviting contributions from other members in the process. This review included coverage of all subsequent agenda items such as 5, 6 and 7 (*Reports*), 8 (*Programme for Buenos Aires*), 9 (*Planning Session for International Research*), 10 (*UN Decade of Literacy*) and 11 (*Pre-Conference in Oslo*).

Initial remarks:

a) Gwynneth Evans reported from the CB Meeting that our section now has 79 members (*as at September 2003*). The section's funding is actually based on a notional 80 members, allowing us increased money that has assisted publication of the *Guidelines* in French.

b) Gwynneth noted Jesus Lau's coming workshop session (Session 114, Wednesday) on the Information Literacy Guidelines; she urged Reading Section members to attend.

c) Gwynneth also noted Session 72 (*Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning*), which she proposed to attend on behalf of the Reading Section.

d) Finally, Gwynneth noted the Reading Section's own programme - the Division VII Joint Meeting (No. 74), at which Briony Train would speak, the Open Session (No. 152), and the Research Meeting (No. 161).

Review of the Strategic Plan (numbered references are to paragraphs in the plan - see Newsletter 18):

e) (1.1) *Library-based Literacy Programs: some practical suggestions* is now available in the following languages, and those named are thanked for their assistance in translation: French (*Martine Jan*), Spanish (*Elsa Ramirez*), German (*Elke Dreisbach*), Malay (*National Library of Malaysia*). A Russian translation is completed, and on a Russian website; a copy is due to be transferred to our Reading Section site.

Gwynneth Evans noted the new Children's and Young Adults Section Guidelines, and asked members to consider how our guidelines could be integrated with these. She also asked members to 'test out' the value of our guidelines in their working situations.

f) (1.2) Gwynneth Evans thanked John Cole for continuing to highlight the Reading Section in his work with the Center for the Book, and with the International Reading Association - both of which assist the Section's contribution to the UNESCO Decade of Literacy (2003 - 2012).

g) (1.3) *Report on Russian Reading Centers by Maria Vadenyapina*

Reading Centers are now open in many different regions of Russia, supported by the Open Society Institute. 'Renaissance Money' has recently funded five new reading Centers. It is hoped that a further five more Centers will be opened next year, with a further five the following year. Further money has enabled an 'Out of School Reading' Project, through which 65 new children's book titles have been published. School libraries are co-operating with public libraries over this project, which also involves support from the British Council, and from local newspapers.

h) *Report on work in South Africa, by John Cole*

The Center for the Book organised a trip by US literacy workers to South Africa, to visit the three year old Center for the Book there, in Capetown. Its main role is to promote literacy, and eleven languages are involved. The trip also included visits to schools and libraries at all levels, and a visit to the National Library in Pretoria, to hear a presentation on 'The Digital Divide'. A visit to a large urban library in Johannesburg included a talk on its outreach programmes, and an opportunity to meet broadcasting agencies, who have an interest in promoting literacy (e.g. through a South African edition of *Sesame Street*). A representative from the South African Center for the Book will be visiting the USA in the near future.

i) *Report on work in Malaysia, by Siti Aishah*

The National Library of Malaysia now has a database - 'i baca' - about reading promotion activities (see <http://i-baca.pnm.my>). Siti also showed a children's annotated bibliography (included on the website above), and mentioned the Malaysian National Reading Month in July. A 'My Favourite Read' project has used many celebrities to promote reading, sharing their favourite books. There had also been a National Reading Summit (at which Gwynneth Evans had spoken), and a National Storytelling Conference. A Reading Promotion Committee oversees all these activities, and has set up book donation programmes to help prisoners, orphanages, drug addict centres, and other disadvantaged groups. Finally, Siti showed copies of a CD with a 'National Reading Song', recorded by well-known Malaysian singers.

j) *Report on the International Reading Association, by Jose Palacios*

Jose briefly mentioned the work of the IRA, and its website (www.ira.org). This represented a bank of resources and connections, and he encouraged liaison between projects such as the ones in Malaysia, to ensure the fullest coverage of worldwide reading activities.

k) *Report on work in Senegal, by Mariétou Diongue Diop*

Over the last three years, there has been a major drive to promote reading - especially in prisons and in hospitals. The main focus is to involve local writers, visiting children in hospital, for example, reading with them, and encouraging their own writing. Many librarians are helping on a volunteer basis. Donations from local francophone organisations have added to the initial donations collected locally.

The second part of the project relates specifically to women in prison (this is a key issue, due to problems arising from polygamy, for example). Female writers have visited women in prison, and their discussions have begun with reading but extended into more general areas of support. Collections of books are sent beforehand, and are available for the women to read afterwards. One of the earlier problems with this project is that different Government Ministers are involved; now, thanks to the intervention of the Minister for Culture, different strands are being brought together, and an important 're-structuring of responsibility' is taking place, which will clarify direction.

To sustain the project, four novels have been chosen - these will be recorded (in several national languages) and distributed to non-readers.

Marietou's post has recently changed - she is no longer Director of the Book Programme.

l) *Report on Latin America, by Clemencia Montalvo*

Clemencia Montalvo reported on her work at a Regional Centre for Reading Promotion, which involves 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries. A meeting of experts from the partner countries would take place in September 2004 to assess progress - this was especially needed as achievements had not always been recorded in the past. Clemencia was interested in learning about the Reading Policies of different countries, to avoid 're-inventing the wheel'. Next year, a new programme ('Eliminator'), would be looked at by all 21 countries, plus Spain and Portugal. UNESCO is very much 'the mother and father' of this Centre's programme, helping to encourage the infrastructure, and the outcomes of the WSIS summit will also be of importance. Clemencia asked any members who knew of appropriate websites, to pass them on to her.

m) *Report on Europe, by Barry Wiebenga*

Barry Wiebenga reported briefly on the European platform for reading promotion, 'Eu-read' (see www.eu-read.com/categories.html). Hosted in the Netherlands, this site includes partners from several European countries, sets out a manifesto for reading promotion, and collects news of initiatives.

n) (1.4) Briony Train reported on the Reading Section's website. The site had been re-organised, to display a lot more current information, with re-organisation of past information as archive material. There were many new links now, to other organisations' sites - but Briony welcomed more suggestions for links. Briony also invited feedback from members on the site - does it meet their needs? The text of the Guidelines document is on the website, now in seven languages; Briony requested that the Russian translation should reach her as a pdf file. Extra pages on the site now include past conference papers, though Briony noted that due to IFLA guidelines, there were limits on some features the site could have. Finally, Briony reported that the French language group was producing a CD-ROM of translated previous conference papers.

Gwynneth Evans thanked Briony for all her recent work on the website.

o) (2.1) Maureen White reported progress on the list of 'Reading Celebrations' - she showed a draft list, prepared with the help of a student, and asked for members to look through it and provide any additions. Briony Train suggested that Maureen White provide an explanatory note about the list, including what type of contributions were sought, and an email address for contributors; she would also seek a 'Word' format copy of the list. Briony would forward this copy, and accompanying text, to section members and others present at meetings, asking them to add any new events; *the deadline for this would be 1st November 2004.*

Finally, Briony would then put this augmented version on the section's website, and would email the IFLA-L listserv with this text and link, to ask for further contributions.

John Cole thanked Maureen for her work, and reinforced that celebrations for *all* ages should be included, and added to the many children's events on the list. This would change the title of the document.

Pensri Guaysuwan mentioned a Sri Lankan event for possible inclusion - to be held in Colombo from 3rd to 5th November 2004; she would be providing more information at a poster session. She also mentioned a UNESCO-supported project the development of information literacy in school libraries in Southeast Asian countries. The first workshop will take place in Bangkok from 18th to 20th October 2004 to develop the tools. Surveys will then be conducted by the 8 ASEAN countries and the results will be discussed in 2005.

p) (2.4) Gwynneth Evans reported on a meeting with Anne Clyde of the School Libraries Section, in connection with a joint proposal for the Pre-Conference at Oslo in 2005. The proposal would include use of IFLA approved literacy and information literacy documents and also involve the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section, which is meeting at the same time and place. The proposed theme was to be: *Literacies for the 21st Century*. Day 1 would have a general Literacy theme, involving a keynote speaker, examples of best practice and then group work. Day 2 would look at Information Literacy, with some examples of best practice and work on the IFLA Information Literacy document. Day 3 would involve working with the CPD & WL Section on training issues, looking at applying

the conclusions locally, and developing the competencies required. Gwynneth asked anyone who wanted to become involved in the Pre-Conference to get in touch with her.

q) (2.5) John Cole agreed to look into the status of the 'Reading Handbook' proposal.

r) (3) Briony would send out a template for contributions to the website.

s) (4) Gwynneth Evans had looked at other sections' brochures. She found them very 'generic' in character, and suggested that the Reading Section revise its brochure, offering it in various languages.

5. Close

There being no other business, the meeting closed, and members joined together in a nearby restaurant for an informal lunch.

2nd Standing Committee Meeting Buenos Aires 28th August 2004

Present:

Standing Committee Members: John Cole, Mariétou Diongue Diop, Gwynneth Evans, Ivar Haug, Martine Jan, Briony Train, Alec Williams.

Associate Members: Siti Aishah Sheik Kadir, Elsa Ramirez.

Other visitors: Corrado Di Tillio (Italy), Adele Fasick (USA), Annick Guinery (France), Grace Kempster (UK), Sibongiseni Mbongwe (South Africa), Jacob Moelenyane (Botswana), Clemencia Montalvo (Colombia), Genevieve Patte (France).

1. Introduction of Members, and apologies for absence:

Gwynneth Evans welcomed all participants, who briefly introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from: Robert Sarjant (UK), Maureen White (USA), Cynthia Lombardo (USA), Thomas Quigley (Canada), Elke Dreisbach (Germany), Valeria Stelmakh (Russia), Jérémie Desjardins (France) and Catharina Stenberg (Sweden).

2. Debriefings from Conference meetings:

a) Joint Division VII Session, 23rd August:

Briony Train reported on her contribution to this session. She felt the paper had been well received, but expressed concern that it was the only paper focussing purely on 'literacy'; most of the other papers had taken 'information literacy' as their theme. John Cole congratulated Briony on her paper; he felt that any information literacy emphasis had been coincidental rather than deliberate.

b) Reading Section Open Session, 27th August:

Siti Aishah, Genevieve Patte and Martine Jan all congratulated the section on its Open Session; Martine herself 'had heard nothing but good about it' from other delegates. Alec Williams commented on the useful summaries by the two panellists (Elsa Ramirez and Peggy Hill), and added that approximately 195 people had attended. Briony Train commented that the final line-up of only three speakers was fortunate; she recommended that a maximum of three speakers should be chosen in any future two-hour sessions. Comments were made about use of PowerPoint (e.g. too much text, at too small a size), and it was agreed to stress more interesting uses of Power Point in future briefs for speakers, especially if the Reading Section continues to benefit from simultaneous interpretation.

Gwynneth Evans thanked Briony Train, Elsa Ramirez and Jérémie Desjardins for their work in organising the session, including the difficult task of selecting from the initial 34 papers submitted.

There was discussion about which of the papers to suggest as an article in the IFLA Journal; after a vote amongst section members, it was agreed that Clemencia Montalvo's paper be suggested for publication.

c) *Research Session, 27th August:*

John Cole commented on the difficulties during the early part of the session, but agreed it had been a useful meeting. He mentioned again his proposal for a new brochure, to complement the existing Guidelines brochure, featuring a small number of reading promotion case studies. There was a brief discussion on the format of the existing Guidelines, which it was agreed were satisfactory. Grace Kempster suggested that the IFLA call for 'Success Stories' in connection with the WSIS summit may provide a possible format - and potential content.

There was discussion on the importance of evaluation, which members thought was a key point from the meeting. The IRA research proposal was once again noted, and the officers agreed to forward their comments to IRA and also apprise members of the Section about the next steps.

Gwynneth Evans's colleague, Ann Cooney, was thanked for her work in facilitating the early part of the session. Gwynneth has received the names of those who attended, as well as some information on national and international initiatives that she will share with those who attended.

3. Programme for Oslo, 2005:

a) *Pre-Conference*

Gwynneth reminded members of the provisional details for our joint Pre-Conference in Oslo. It would be from 12th to 14th August, would run for 2.5 days in all, and be held jointly with the School Libraries and Resource Centres Section (with additional input from the CPD & WL Section). The theme would be 'Literacies for the 21st Century', and the draft programme was as follows:

- Day 1 Theme: Literacy. Kay Raseroka has been approached as keynote speaker. There will also be a specialist in reading, some cases studies/best practice, and group work
- Day 2 Theme: Information Literacy. Speaker TBC, plus case studies and group work.
- Day 3 Theme: Training for Library Programmes. Involvement of CPD & WL Section.

The main contact in the partnership would be Anne Clyde, who would be the Programme Chair, and Gwynneth would be Logistics Chair. Gwynneth had agreed to work on links with IFLA, Norwegian colleagues, refreshments, cultural and social elements, etc.

Gwynneth Evans and Ann Clyde had met with Kay Raseroka and Alex Byrne, to ask:

- if our theme was appropriate (KR and AB had welcomed this)
- if Kay Raseroka would speak (she is currently considering this), *and*
- if there are any approved IFLA documents that could be used in the course of workshop sessions.

Gwynneth Evans asked for names of those who would take a role in planning the Pre-Conference. Ivar Haug, John Cole, and Alec Williams offered to be involved.

b) *Conference Sessions:*

Topics suggested for our section's sessions included: 'Reading Promotion Partnerships', and 'Looking to the Future'. Asked who would be willing to contribute to the planning of the sessions, Jérémie Desjardins, Elsa Ramirez, Clemencia Montalvo, Martine Jan and Briony Train offered to be involved. Corrado Di Tilio offered to provide input from Italy, and Grace Kempster offered contacts for German and Russian items.

John Cole suggested that if 'partnerships' were to be the theme (picking up on Alex Byrne's upcoming Presidential theme), it would be useful to target specific partners as speakers, in addition to any proposed call for papers.

Grace Kempster asked if the 2005 Gothenburg Book Fair could provide a potential sponsor for either the Conference sessions or the Pre-Conference event.

4. Development of Section Priorities, 2004 - 2005:

This had largely been covered by the survey of the Strategic Plan in the first meeting (22nd August), and by other discussion during the present meeting.

5. Possible links with other sections:

Gwynneth Evans asked members for suggestions of other organisations with whom the Reading Section could link. Suggestions included:

- CERLAC
- Joie par les Livres
- SADEC (South African Development Community)
- International Reading Association (IRA)
- International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)
- Book Aid International.

6. Section projects:

There was discussion on the development of a database of reading promotion case studies, that could contribute towards the proposed new brochure (see 2c, above). Gwynneth Evans asked if a template should be devised for entries, and after discussion it was agreed that the 'eight questions' structure of the first brochure would provide such a template in itself. Members of the sections agreed to seek potential projects from their own geographical areas.

7. Reports from members:

a) *Martine Jan*

Martine Jan commented on her work with the 'bibliobus' libraries, and was interested to hear more about the African experience of this.

b) *Mariétou Diongue Diop*

Mariétou outlined the difficult situation in which she finds herself. She wishes to continue to be involved in the field but is no longer Director of the Book Promotion Programme). Members expressed sympathy and support, and Gwynneth Evans confirmed that Mariétou would still be very welcome to stay as a reading section member.

c) *Gwynneth Evans*

Gwynneth mentioned and distributed brochures on the *Media Awareness Network*, a Canadian project in which she is involved, whose work included ensuring internet safety for young people, using suggestions from young people themselves. She distributed some brochures entitled *Web Awareness professional Development workshops for Libraries and Librarians* and mentioned the bilingual web site: www.media-awareness.ca

d) *Briony Train*

Briony gave a brief report from her attendance at the recent Information Co-ordinators meeting, and mentioned the following points:

- i) Our section's choice of paper for publication needs to be done within a week. (*Our choice - see 2b above - has since been submitted*)
- ii) Terry Kuny is now assisting Sophie Felfoldi with the IFLA website, so progress should be faster.
- iii) The IFLA website gets an average of 58,000 hits a month.
- iv) Could members look at the reading section site? Is the structure satisfactory? Is there anything on the site that now needs archiving?
- v) Unfortunately, the site guidelines preclude database files, so it may not be possible to incorporate Siti Aishah's database. Links however, are possible.

The Section officers encouraged members to have links from their sites (and those of their Associations, etc.) to the Reading Section.

8. Any other business

a) Clemencia asked whether the video made in connection with her reading promotion work could be put on the section website. Briony would check - if this was not possible, information on the video would be included.

b) Grace Kempster mentioned the British Council's new 'manifesto' on reader development, *Under theSkin*, written by Alec Williams. She asked for a British Council link from our site. Grace also mentioned a database of 120 reading projects, and two other British Council initiatives: *Words on Words*, an event in

Buenos Aires immediately following the IFLA conference, and *Africa @21*, which connected eight public library services in the UK with counterparts in Africa.

c) Sibongiseni Mbongwe outlined her work overseeing fourteen resource centres. Public Libraries in South Africa have a 'Storytelling Club' of librarians, who train each other; storytelling is done in English and in several local languages. Public Libraries also have reading clubs. The Education Department in South Africa runs a variety of projects, including 'Read for Yourself', 'Everyone Read', and 'Born to Read'; the last one is similar to the UK's *Bookstart* project, involving new parents and their babies.

All the members and visitors were thanked for their contribution. Members, and those interested in promoting literacy, reading and reading promotion programmes should contact Briony or Gwynneth.

Alec Williams
September 2004.

 **Reading Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/index.htm>