



**IFLA READING SECTION
MINUTES
First Standing Committee Meeting, Oslo 13th August 2005**

Present:

Standing Committee Members: John Cole, Mariétou Diongue Diop, Elke Dreisbach, Gwynneth Evans, Ivar Haug, Martine Jan, Cindy Lombardo, Briony Train, Maureen White, Alec Williams (Secretary).

Associate Members: Elsa Ramirez, Rob Sarjant.

Other participants: Yvonne Appiah, Barbara Coombes, Maria Elizabeth Oliveira Costa, Corrado Di Tillio, Mercedes Falconi, Domi Kim, Lisa Krolak, Clemencia Montalvo.

1. Introduction of Members, and apologies for absence:

Gwynneth Evans welcomed all participants, who briefly introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Leikny Haga Indergaard.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda, as printed in Newsletter No. 20 (August 2005), was approved. (*Proposed:* Cindy Lombardo, *Seconded:* Briony Train)

3. Approval of the Minutes (Buenos Aires Conference, August 2004):

The minutes were approved (*Proposed:* John Cole, *Seconded:* Maureen White)

4. Election of Officers:

Gwynneth Evans was re-elected Chair/Treasurer of the Section (*Proposed:* Cindy Lombardo, *Seconded:* Briony Train).

Alec Williams was re-elected Secretary of the Section (*Proposed:* John Cole, *Seconded:* Maureen White)

Briony Train was confirmed as Information Officer for the Section.

John Cole offered to continue as Newsletter Editor, but asked for an 'apprentice', who could begin to take over the work. *Note: No name given at the time – please contact John if you can help in this way.* Clemencia Montalvo and Elsa Ramirez both promised contributions to the Newsletter.

5. Review of the Strategic Plan (see Newsletter No. 20, pages 9 - 10):

Gwynneth Evans gave an update on all the points of the Strategic Plan (*numbered references are to paragraphs in the plan – see Newsletter for full description*)

- a) (1.1) The German translation of our brochure *Library-based Literacy Programs: some practical suggestions* is now on the Reading Section website. Electronic copies of the Malay and Russian translations have still not been supplied. Rob Sarjant has been investigating a Swahili version.
- b) (1.2) Plans for marking the UN Decade of Literacy are still continuing. The Newsletter normally carries some information and references.
- c) (1.3) John Cole gave an update on the expansion of the *Centres for the Book* project. He had met with Russian colleagues in May, and there were now 36 centres in Russia. He suggested a joint report, together with Maria Vedenyapina, at our next meeting.
Gwynneth Evans reported on a meeting at Easter at the new *Centre for the Book* in Capetown, South Africa. Staff of the Centre exchanged views on reading practices and publishing for children with Gwynneth, and another Canadian, Kathy Knowles, Executive Director of OSU Children's Library Fund in Ghana (see www.osuchildrenslibraryfund.ca). Each party shared copies of books and training materials to stimulate local publishing and reading promotion.
Gwynneth also noted the topic of book donations, as reported on recently by UNESCO in their *Book Donations for Development* guide by Mauro Rosi (see www.codecan.org/english/donations.html), a publication to which she had contributed.
- d) (1.4) Website developments are noted as part of Briony Train's report, below.
- e) (2.1) The exciting partnership between IFLA, IBBY (the International Board on Books for Young People) and the IRA (International Reading Association) signed by IFLA President Kay Raseroka during an international reading conference in Croatia was noted; the Reading Section hopes to be further involved in the resulting work.
- f) (2.2) The Oslo Pre-Conference Event would be reported on later in the meeting.
- g) (2.3) There would be no Reading Section speaker in the Division VII programme this year (but note *Recruitment and Careers* Session (No. 89) on Monday 15th August)
- h) (2.4) The planning of this Pre-conference Event had been successfully completed.
- i) (2.5) An English and Russian bi-lingual handbook with good ideas for reading promotion had been recently planned in St Petersburg, John Cole reported. The British Council was now a partner in this venture. A meeting was due in December, and publication was planned for 2006.
- j) (3.1) Attempts have been made to extend the research methodology of our *Survey of Reader-Centred Services in Public Libraries* (see: www.ifla.org/VII/s33/project/irs.htm) to Spanish and Russian-speaking libraries. Elsa Ramirez is to talk with Briony Train and Gwynneth Evans about this matter, later in the present conference.
- k) (3.2) Gwynneth Evans called for all news of research to be submitted to Briony Train, so that it could be promoted on the website.
- l) (3.3) All the Reading Section's papers since 1993 are now together on IFLANET.
- m) (3.4) The proposed joint research project with the IRA (on identifying the hallmarks of literate societies) was discussed. Lisa Krolak mentioned a paper she had done on the evaluation of the impact of libraries on literacy. She is having problems tracing impact measurements for public library services, and in the ensuing discussion she was offered suggestions from Elsa Ramirez, Barbara Coombs, Yvonne Appiah, Briony Train, and Maureen White, about research in Ghana, Mozambique, Ireland and the USA. The exchange reinforced the importance of sending references to Briony Train (see k above).

6. Report from the Chair:

Additional comments from the Chair are contained within the Strategic Plan report, item 5 above.

7. Report from the Treasurer:

Funding had been obtained from the IRA for production of the Spanish language version of the brochure, so the Section has a small amount of money still in the bank.

Elsa Ramirez suggested that support from the IFLA ALP Core Programme, through the South American Section, may be available if the Reading Section does work relating to the survey of reader-centred services in public libraries.

8. Reports from the Secretary, the Information Officer and the Newsletter Editor:

From the Secretary:

Alec Williams reported on his contribution to planning the Pre-Conference Event; he had assisted with chairing discussion groups, and would be typing up the results of all groups.

Alec also reported on current membership of the Reading Section, and noted that Rustem Aygystov, Ivar Haug and Catharina Stenberg would reach the end of their terms of office this year. He welcomed Leikny Haga Indergaard from Norway to membership of the Section – she would be attending the second meeting on 19th August.

Thomas Quigley's term as Associate Member ended this year.

From the Information Officer:

a) Papers from the Open Session: Briony Train noted that in addition to English, the call had been translated into French, German, Russian, and Spanish this year. There was a good response to the call – more focussed than in previous years – and the quality of submissions was high. Only one French language paper had been submitted.

The final choice had been papers from Norway (Morten Haugen), Thailand (Supanee Varatorn), Barcelona (Maria Carme Galve Montore) and the UK (Robert Sarjant). Supanee Varatorn was unable to attend to present the Thailand paper, but this was now on the Section's website (see: www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/138e-Varatorn.pdf). All the papers are available in French translations.

b) Section Website: Briony reported that:

- the conference papers are now up on the website
- many new website links have been added
- all websites mentioned in the Pre-conference Event have been added
- new publications have been added – but more are needed.

Briony asked members to look at the website, and consider any additions or improvements. She stressed that if urgent items are to appear on the site, at least two weeks notice is needed. Clemencia Montalvo suggested a link with the CERLALC site (*this has been done*).

From the Newsletter Editor:

John Cole congratulated Briony on all her work on the website, and confirmed that all newsletter issues are now up on the site.

Alec Williams mentioned that he had taken photographs at the Pre-conference Event, which he would pass on to the Newsletter Editor. He asked for any further photographs taken by members to be similarly forwarded.

9. Report on the Pre-conference Invitational Event, on 12th August:

Gwynneth Evans had quickly examined the evaluation reports, and there had been very strong positive feedback.

John Cole thanked Gwynneth, adding that he thought it the most successful Pre-Conference Event the Section had done.

The event would be followed up by:

- a link being made from the IASL website (see: www.iasl-slo.org/ifla2005-papers.html) to the Reading Section site on IFLANET
- the discussion group reports being sent to participants, and the IASL website
- a report based on the papers, and the evaluation, being sent to the Professional Committee

10. Section Projects:

a) Maureen White reported on the *Reading Celebrations Calendar* project, describing the structure of the calendar, and recommending that members see it at the poster session. Mariétou asked about events she had reported from French-speaking Africa, and Gwynneth and Alec offered to check receipt of these (*later confirmed*). Lisa promised to send a link to the UNESCO 'Aladin' website (see: www.unesco.org/education/aladin), to Briony.

11. Programme for Oslo:

All the papers had been mounted on the website, and were on the CD-ROM version of the conference. Members were invited to attend the section's open session, *Libraries, Literacy and Partnerships: Voyages and Discoveries*, at 1.45pm on 16th August, at the Folketshus Kongressenter building.

12. UN Literacy Decade: Continuing involvement:

The section was continuing to play a part in this, and Gwynneth referred members to Gayner Eyre's paper from the Pre-Conference Event, outlining the state of Literacy today (see: www.iasl-slo.org/ifla2005-eyre.doc).

13. Any Other Business:

- a) Elsa Ramirez praised the Pre-Conference Event, which she had enjoyed. She also mentioned databases which she is presently compiling – one on reading and libraries as featured in movies, and one on reading and libraries as featured in literature.
- b) Martine Jan also added her congratulations for the Pre-Conference Event, and reported on new plans for reading in her médiathèque.
- c) Barbara Combes reported on a conference on School Libraries to be held in October, a Books for Babies programme at local libraries, and a doctoral student who was working on a thesis about reading.
- d) Yvonne Appiah reported on reading promotions around the world, including a Reading Week in Mali, Kenyan Donkey Libraries, and Boat Libraries in Central America. A Canadian video had recently spotlighted unusual rural library services.
- e) Elke Dreisbach promised to write a report on the Pre-Conference Event for a German journal.
- f) Mariétou Diongue Diop reported on a new library initiative in Senegal, for which volunteers would provide the staffing. She is currently training her students in the importance of reading, and is working to integrate libraries and reading in all sections of the library studies curriculum.
- g) Elizabeth Carvalho (from IFLA's *Latin American and the Caribbean* Section) attended briefly at the end of the meeting, and asked for further co-operation between her section and the Reading Section.

14. Close

There being no other business, the meeting closed, and members joined together in a nearby restaurant for an informal lunch. The Section wishes to thank Ivar Haug and his Library Service for their generous hospitality.



IFLA READING SECTION MINUTES

Second Standing Committee Meeting, Oslo 19th August 2005

Present:

Standing Committee Members: John Cole, Mariétou Diongue Diop, Jérémie Desjardins, Gwynneth Evans, Leikny Haga Indergaard, Cindy Lombardo, Martine Jan, Briony Train, Alec Williams (Secretary).

Associate Members: Elsa Ramirez, Lisa Krolak.

Other visitors: Corrado Di Tillio (Italy), Alim Garga (Cameroon), Martina Dragija Ivanovic (Croatia), Samia Kamarti (Tunisia), Ahmed Ksibi (Tunisia), Clemencia Montalvo (Colombia), Gertrude Kayaga Mulindwa (Uganda), Irina Romanova (Russia), Jofrid Karner Smidt (Norway), Valeria Stelmakh (Russia), Catharina Stenberg (Sweden), Dato Zawiyah Baba (Malaysia).

1. Introduction of Members, and Apologies for Absence:

Gwynneth Evans welcomed all participants, who briefly introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from: Ivar Haug, Elke Dreisbach, Robert Sarjant (UK), Maureen White (USA).

2. Debriefing on Open Session:

A total of 203 people attended the Section's Open Session on 16th August. Valeria Stelmakh had found it an excellent session, and other members added their congratulations.

All the papers are on the IFLA website (see: www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/Programme.htm, Session 118), and many are translated into two languages.

John Cole added that, in the event, he felt that three presentations had been enough.

Gwynneth Evans drew members' attention to other papers on reading that had been given during the conference - for example, the one by Linn Ullmann on 18th August.

3. Selection of Paper for possible publication in the *IFLA Journal*:

The Section Officers proposed that Morten Haugen's paper, *Reading and Non-Reading among male juvenile Norwegians*, should be put forward. This was *agreed*.

4. Discussion of programmes for future conferences:

Seoul, 2006:

Alec Williams outlined a draft proposal regarding Family Reading, which had arisen from a working group between the Reading and the Children's and Young Adults Sections. He circulated copies of the proposal, which suggested three main speakers (Young Sook Song from Korea, Jim Wile from the USA, and Briony Train from the UK), plus six short presentations on best practice from different continents.

Lisa Krolak supported the proposal, and offered material. Alim Garga also supported the theme.

Mariétou welcomed the theme, finding it very useful, but was concerned about the number of speakers required to cover every continent.

Leikny Indergaard was also concerned about the number of speakers.

Jérémie Desjardins asked if there would be a call for papers to provide speakers from different continents; he felt this would be useful, and was supported by Catharina Stenberg, Cindy Lombardo and Mariétou Diongue Diop.

Gwynneth Evans assured members that the organisers would ask for simultaneous translation; the Reading Section has had simultaneous interpretation at its previous sessions.

Finally, the following points were agreed (subject to liaison with the C&YA Section):

- The number of continents featured should be reduced to four, with the Reading Section doing Africa and Latin America, and the Children's and Young Adult Section doing Europe and Asia.

- *A call (or calls) for papers should be made (Mariétou offered to do this for the continent of Africa, but no action has yet been agreed on Latin America)*

- Briony Train, since she is proposed as a speaker, would not be involved in producing a call in 2006.

Alec Williams agreed to take these comments back to the Children's and Young Adult Section, and to enquire how the proposal had been received in their Section meeting.

Durban, 2007:

Gwynneth Evans reported on discussions with both the School Libraries Section and the Public Libraries Section. The possible theme of 'Library Materials and Initiatives to support the fight against HIV Aids' was suggested. The proposal would also involve colleagues from South Africa, along with publishers, the Centre for the Book, and others.

If all three sections were to bid for a session, it could comprise a total of six hours.

Cindy Lombardo asked if this proposal could form the subject of a Pre-Conference Event; Gwynneth Evans said she would enquire about this.

Elsa Ramirez asked about the involvement of the IFLA Section on Women's Issues, the future of which is currently being discussed.

Cindy Lombardo suggested broadening the theme to health issues in general.

Valeria suggested the inclusion of something on the oral and written traditions.

Quebec, 2008:

A proposal had been received from Allan Kleiman of the American Library Association, about co-operating with the Reading Section to explore the subject of Library Services to an Aging Population.

5. Development of Section Priorities, 2005-2006:

Gwynneth Evans conducted a discussion with members about possible priorities for the next year. Ideas that arose included:

- Different Literacies – libraries' role in these, and mapping them for the 21st Century.
- Conference planning
- Take action on the results of the Pre-Conference (Gwynneth agreed to ask Norwegian colleagues about a CD-ROM and pamphlet)
- Electronic Reading (supported by Valeria Stelmakh)
- A Reading society – what components comprise it? (This is the subject of the joint IRA/Reading Section research discussion)

6. Links with other sections:

Sections suggested for future links included National Libraries, Collection Acquisition and Development, Management of Library Associations, Libraries in Parliaments, Marketing and Management, and the African and Latin American Sections.

Gertrude Mulindwa asked about links to other organisations, such as the IRA, and Gwynneth Evans replied, reporting on the recent Memorandum of Understanding between IFLA, IRA and IBBY.

Contact with UNESCO was also suggested.

7. Section projects:

a) The *Reading Celebrations* project: Alec Williams reported in Maureen White's absence, and drew members' attention to the excellent way in which this has now been developed, including a CD-ROM version, and posters. He thanked Maureen and her colleagues for all their work on the project. For the

time being, the calendar will remain on the site of Maureen's University, with a link from the Reading Section site.

b) The *Best Practice in Reading Promotion* brochure: There was much discussion on this topic, with some speakers supporting a thematic approach (Cindy Lombardo, Irina Romanova), and others a regional one. The bi-lingual English-Russian publication (see first Section Meeting, point 5 i) in the minutes) could provide a model.

Ahmed Ksibi, and other speakers, argued that appropriate illustrations (preferably in colour) were very important. This point had been well illustrated at the Pre-conference Event.

Gwynneth Evans proposed that initially this project be started as a pdf file on the IFLA website, with printing and design considered later, when material had been collected.

8. Reports from members:

a) Gwynneth Evans presented certificates to Catharina Stenberg, Ivar Haug (given via Leikny Indergaard), and John Cole, for their service to the Reading Section.

b) Gwynneth also congratulated Valeria Stelmakh on her IFLA Honour, presented the day before, at the IFLA Council Meeting.

c) Gwynneth reported to members that she had been elected Chair of Division VII, and was congratulated by those present.

d) Valeria Stelmakh reported on further developments in Reading Centres in Russia, and on an International Festival on Children's Reading planned for October 2005. Irina Romanova added further details about this event, which would have Ludmilla Putina as its patron, and was expected to attract 10,000 people in total. The British Council was sending two speakers from the UK, Annie Everall (also on the IFLA Children's And Young Adult Section) and Miranda McKearney.

e) Catharina Stenberg reported on a reading network among library schools in Nordic countries.

f) Jofrid Smidt added his support to this, and emphasised the role of reading, given the rise of ICT in the curriculum.

g) Elsa Ramirez noted that reading was gaining in importance in the library education curriculum in Mexico.

h) Ahmed Ksibi reported on the coming Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (16th – 18th November 2005), including a meeting on Information Literacy (6th – 8th November), and a pre-summit conference in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in Alexandria (10th – 11th November).

i) Jérémie Desjardins reported on the National Authority on Public Libraries in Europe (NAPLE; see: www.naple.info/index.htm). Its second Conference "The Role of Public Libraries in National Policies of Developing a Knowledge Society" (Digitalization of Cultural Heritage and Implementation of Multiculturalism in Libraries), will be held in Supetar, Croatia, from 5th – 8th October 2005.

He also reported on the Federation of European Publishers (see: www.fep-fee.be/eframprinc.htm), a European-funded body with its origins in bookselling that is conducting a survey of reading promotion policies across Europe.

9. Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting closed.
