



IFLA READING SECTION MINUTES

First Standing Committee Meeting, Seoul 19th August 2006

Present:

Standing Committee Members: Gwynneth Evans, Leikny Haga Indergaard, Alec Williams.

Associate Members: John Cole, Briony Train

Other participants: Nafisah Ahmad (Malaysia), Alim Garga (Cameroon), Samia Kamarti (Tunisia), Ahmed Ksibi (Tunisia), Adolfo Rodriguez (Mexico), Eric Weber (France).

1. Introduction of Members, and apologies for absence:

Gwynneth Evans welcomed all participants, who briefly introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Elke Dreisbach, Lisa Krolak, Mariétou Diongue Diop, Gertrude Mulindwa, Martine Jan, Jérémie Desjardins, Valeria Stelmakh, Maureen White and Jofrid Karner Smidt. Cindy Lombardo had resigned from the Reading Section in last year for personal reasons.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda, as printed in Newsletter No. 22 (August 2006), was approved. (*Proposed* by Leikny Haga Indergaard, and *Agreed*)

3. Approval of the Minutes (Oslo Conference, August 2005):

The minutes were approved (*Proposed* by Alec Williams, and *Agreed*)

(The original agenda order of items 4 and 5 were reversed in the meeting)

4. Report from Chair:

Gwynneth Evans reminded delegates about security at the Conference Opening Ceremony (Sunday 20th August), and brought to their attention the 'Hearing' session on Sunday 20th August that related to proposed changes in sections. The main changes proposed were:

- That sections should comprise at least 50 members
- There should be 10 members on Standing Committees
- Sections not meeting these criteria could form Special Interest Groups

Gwynneth appealed for as many members as possible to attend the Hearing, and stressed its importance to the Reading Section

Gwynneth Evans also drew members' attention to the meeting with UNESCO, and to our own section's Open Session, held in conjunction with the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section, at which Briony Train and Eric Weber would be speakers. An English translation of Eric's paper would be available. The other joint session would be on 23rd August at 2pm, and would comprise a visit to the National Library for Children and Young Adults, with some storytelling.

Other items about which Gwynneth reminded members included:

- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Access to Learning Award event on Monday 21st August

- The joint meeting with IBBY and IRA representatives, to progress the Zagreb Memorandum of Understanding about literacy projects.
- IFLA's overall Strategic Plan (draft emailed to sections 7th July, and on IFLA website at: www.ifla.org/V/pr/IFLA-Strategic-Plan_Draft-June2006.pdf)

5. Review of the Section's Strategic Plan 2006-7 (see Newsletter No. 22, pages 12 - 13):

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 brochure *Library-based Literacy Programs: some practical suggestions* continues to prove useful to many libraries. It is on the Reading Section website in French, German, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese and Farsi.
 - b) (1.2) Plans for marking the UN Decade of Literacy continue, via the IFLA/IBBY/IRA Memorandum of Understanding – see also paragraph 1.3 of the plan.
 - c) (1.4) John Cole gave an update on the expansion of the *Centres for the Book* project. The 36 centres in Russia are continuing their work, with support from the Pushkin Foundation.
 - d) (1.5) Website developments are noted as part of Briony Train's report, below.
 - e) (2.1, 2.2) The Reading Events and Celebrations work is continuing.
 - f) (2.3) The Open Session was scheduled for Monday morning 21st August, and a good audience was expected.
 - g) (2.5) The publication of last year's Pre-conference Event had been delayed following the sad news of Anne Clyde's death. Details of the proceedings are on the IASL site, and a link to the page is already included in the Reading Section's own site (see under '2005' at www.ifla.org/VII/s33/papers.htm)
 - i) (2.6) John Cole reported. The English and Russian bilingual handbook with good ideas for reading promotion is now scheduled for publication in December 2006. Well illustrated, it includes examples from Russia, the USA, and the UK. Funding has been obtained from the Library of Congress, the Pushkin Foundation, and the British Council. It will be entitled: *Building Nations of Readers*. He also reported that there had been an exchange of nationals between Russia and the USA in connection with book festivals. Mrs. Putin, like Mrs. Bush, is very interested in authors, readings, book festivals and reading.
- Alec Williams expressed a wish to see some of the more innovative rural promotion projects reported on in future, and Gwynneth Evans mentioned a Canadian-produced DVD on isolated or remote libraries and two books on reading. ***The information promised at the meeting is found at the end of the minutes.
- j) (3.1) Elsa Ramirez is working on a census of good practice on the promotion of reading in Latin America.

Items 3.2 – 3.3 of the plan are covered in the Information Officer's Report, below.

- k) (3.4) The proposed joint research project with the IRA (on identifying the hallmarks of literate societies) was discussed. Gwynneth Evans reported on progress, noting that email conversations had been ongoing about this topic, and comments would be welcome. These can be submitted via the Global Learning Portal, at www.glp.net, using 'IRA-IFLA' as an activation code. If Reading Section members are interested in joining the discussion, they should e-mail gwynneth.evans@sympatico.ca and also follow the instructions on www.glp.net and join the Culture of Literacy Discussion Group.

6. Report from the Treasurer:

Gwynneth gave a summary of the section's financial position, and also brought up the topic of increasing the section's membership, suggesting a bookmark, in different languages. Funding is

available for an initiative such as this. Members endorsed the idea of a bookmark and Gwynneth will design something before the end of the year.

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

From the Secretary:

Alec Williams reported on his contribution to planning the Joint Open Session; he had been asked to chair the second half of this session.

Alec also reported on current membership of the Reading Section, noting that Cindy Lombardo had now left the committee.

From the Information Officer:

Briony Train reported on activity in connection with the section's website. She had added regularly to the site throughout the year, including:

- Conference Papers from the 2005 Oslo Conference
- Minutes from meetings
- The Annual Report
- The Strategic Plan, 2006-7
- Newsletters
- A Russian translation of the section's *Library-based Literacy Programs: some practical suggestions* publication.

In addition, she had removed out of date links, and added a number of new ones.

Briony asked members to look for any gaps, and to let her know any content that could be added. In particular, she asked for any news of research on reading, in two types:

- Publications (any journal articles or books that can be recommended)
- Reading Research Reports

Items in languages other than English are especially welcome.

From the Newsletter Editor:

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

8. Section Projects:

Gwynneth Evans had referred earlier to the *International Reading Celebrations* project, and the IRA/IFLA research on 'Cultures of Literacy' (see 5k, above), so she opened a discussion on the proposed open session for the 2007 Durban conference. This would be a session arranged between three sections – Reading, School Libraries, and Public Libraries – and would focus on health, particularly HIV/Aids. Contributions from those at the meeting included the following:

Eric Weber: Eric had visited a lot of African countries, and the book provision contrasted starkly with developed countries – 3,000 books per reader in France, for example, compared with less than 10 books per reader in French-speaking African countries. This is the essential issue – the sheer lack of numbers of books. Eric felt that HIV/Aids alone was too narrow a focus for the session.

Ahmed Ksibi: Why are we talking about Aids? We need a more positive spin to this session – local publishing successes, for example.

Samia Kamarti: There is a huge shadow between statistics and actual practice. Africa is an immense continent, and no one reality is correct.

Adolfo Rodriguez: Reality certainly differs a great deal between different regions of Africa and even parts of one country, as he knows from his own nation, Mexico.

Eric Weber: One measure to use in making comparisons is the amount of funding each country's government gives to reading promotion, because every country in sub-Saharan Africa has a different approach.

Alec Williams: Figures on books in libraries and schools, if available, may also be a measure.

Samia Kamarti: As well as simply funding, it's important to have commitment, inspiration, and training.

Alim Garga: Inclusion could be a possible theme for Durban.

Gwynneth Evans: Since three sections combining would make a generous time allocation, HIV/Aids could become a sub-theme, in the context of the other points mentioned, bringing in local publishing, school/public library partnerships, and families. Development, progress and partnerships (the general theme of the Durban Congress) could be a way of structuring the session.

This conversation was useful for those meeting with the other sections to plan the Durban session.

9. Programme for Seoul:

The 'Family Reading' joint open session, together with Libraries for Children and Young Adults (see earlier mention in Item 4 above), had come together well. General papers would begin the session, followed by a break for storytelling, arranged by Young Sook Song. The second half would be devoted to shorter case studies, and Ingrid Bon, from the Children Section, would chair the final question session.

10. UN Literacy Decade: Continuing involvement:

The section was continuing to play a part in this, mainly through the IFLA/IBBY/IRA Memorandum of Understanding, and Gwynneth Evans once again reminded members of the meeting on 22nd August, when she would chair a discussion on how to move this initiative forward.

11. Section Membership

Gwynneth Evans reported that the Section's membership currently stood at around 70, but that there was a great need to recruit more, both to the section and the Standing Committee itself.

Leikny Haga Indergaard offered to recruit within Scandinavian countries, and Nafisa Ahmad offered to ask her organisation (the National Library of Malaysia) to sponsor her as a Standing Committee member.

Alim Garga spoke enthusiastically about how the Reading Section could help his own and other African countries.

Letters will go out from HQ to those associations and institutions eligible to nominate persons to Standing Committees and the present officers will concentrate on increasing the numbers of Standing Committee members over the next months.

12. Any Other Business: Sharing Good Ideas: A conversation among all the participants

a) John Cole mentioned the idea of a 'Reading train' in Russia, that pulled into different stations and people could come onto the train to read and use books.

b) Nafisa Ahmad reported on a booklet produced by the National Library of Malaysia, about promoting reading in the family. This had been done as part of their National Reading Campaign, a campaign which also included pressure to create libraries in rural areas. This 'Rural Area and Reading Programme' involved libraries getting two PCs, and children keeping a record of books they read, with a competition for those who read the most. More information about this is available through the reading portal of their website (see <http://www.pnm.my>)

c) Gwynneth reported on a school at Rankin Inlet, Hudson Bay, Canada, which was acting as a dual-use library. A professional storyteller and writer had taken the lead in an interesting storytelling project and other events had been organized. See http://www.worldlit.ca/kamac2c_rankin2004.html

d) Leikny Haga Indergaard reported on a 'Sport and reading' project to enthuse boys, who were proving difficult to motivate (as elsewhere!). Footballers were involved, as role models, and visits to stadiums had been arranged.

e) Alim Garga reported on a project in which students were given prizes at the end of the school year, to the best students. These prizes were all books, in an attempt to encourage children to keep reading for pleasure.

f) John Cole reported on the 'Letters about Literature' initiative, where young students write letters to authors (both living and dead), saying which of their books influenced them most, and how. Last year, over 40,000 letters were sent from schools; each state chooses a winner, who is then considered for the national winner. Commercial sponsorship has been secured, so that the seven short-listed winners can be brought to the Book Festival. See: <http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html>

g) Gwynneth Evans reported on a Canadian Summer Reading Programme, which has received financial support from a large banking group, Toronto-Dominion Bank Financial Group. The partners are Toronto Public Library for the content (then translated into French). Libraries across the country are free to join the Summer Reading Club, receive the materials and manual with ideas and tailor the programme to local needs. The website is: www.td-club-td.ca

13. Close

The time being finished and there being no other business, the meeting closed, with thanks to all participants.

Alec Williams
October 2006.

Information from Gwynneth Evans;

Ruurs, Margriet. *My Librarian is a Camel: How Books are Brought to Children around the World*. Honesdale, Penn.: Boyds Mills Press, 2005. 32 pages.

Winter, Jeanette. *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*. New York: Harcourt Books, 2004. (unpaged)

Francescutti, Paul. 'Remote Access: Distant Libraries of the World'. See: www.remoteaccess.ca.



IFLA READING SECTION MINUTES

Second Standing Committee Meeting, Seoul 27th August 2006

Present:

Standing Committee Members: Gwynneth Evans, Maria Vedenyapina, Leikny Haga Indergaard

Associates: John Cole

Visitors: Samia Kamarti (Tunisia), Ahmed Ksibi (Tunisia), Nafisah Ahmad (Malaysia).

Apologies: Those from the first meeting (noted in the minutes of August 19) plus Briony Train and Alec Williams who had left Seoul on Thursday evening.

1. Introduction of Members and Visitors

Gwynneth Evans welcomed all participants, who introduced themselves.

2. Debriefing on the Open Session:

A total of 319 people attended the Section's Open Session on 21st August. The papers given from the Reading Section were on a broad level of research and practice, and there were 4 case studies. We have many translations of most papers. Asia was very well represented in the session – and there was a surprise: storytelling and some red bean soup, supplied by our hosts. .

All the papers are on the IFLA website (see: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm> [Session 81](#)).

3. Debriefing on the Storytelling Session

Story Showcase and Korean Picture Book Exhibition: the Historical Review - a Storytelling Programme accompanied by the Exhibition of Korean Picture Books.

A total of 84 people participated at this session in the National Library for Children and Young Adults. It was a new, hi-tech and very bright library, with nice exhibitions.

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

The Section Officers proposed that the paper from Eric Weber: “ Ameliorer l'intégration de la lecture publique dans les politiques culturelles des pays francophones en développement “, should be put forward. This was *agreed*. Gwynneth Evans will notify Ivanka Stricevic from the Services to Children and Young Adults Section and the editor of the IFLA Journal

5. Discussion of programmes for Durban 2007:

Pre-Conference Pretoria, 2007:

Gwynneth Evans informed the group about the Reading Section's (RS) plans for a Pre-Conference in Pretoria together with the Multicultural Section (MS) and the Children and Young Adult Section (CS). The theme for the Pre-Conference is: *Innovative Multicultural Services for Children, Young Adults and Adults with Special Reference on Literacy, Learning, Linguistic Diversity and Reading*. CS and RS will make links with IRA and IBBY to encourage people from our sections and our partner organisations to propose papers on the theme. Gwynneth will send us updates of the conference plans.

Conference, Durban 2007

The Open Session in Durban will be together with the Public Libraries Section, The Section of School Libraries and the Reading Section – and will be a 4 hours session. The theme will be: “Libraries and good health: programmes to support community building and outreach”. The conversation in the first SC meeting assisted Gwynneth and Alec in contributing to the programme planning. We will invite NGOs, IRA and IBBY to participate. The members of the Committee will learn more as the Call for Papers is issued.

The meeting on the IFLA/IRA/IBBY Agreement allowed many IFLA members to become aware of what was happening to implement the partnership especially as we planned for Durban.

Conference Quebec 2008

The WLIC in 2008 will be in both French and English. There will be a pre-conference in Montreal with the Public Libraries Section and this may give Reading an opportunity to do something related on the promotion of reading.

6. Development of Section Priorities, 2006-2007:

Gwynneth Evans conducted a discussion of priorities for the persons present:

- Cooperation with NGOs like “Friends of the book”. Most of the nations in Africa have such organizations
- National Reading campaigns in Malaysia, U.K, Russia and Norway
- 2007 – National Year of Reading in Russia.
- The Reading Section's Guidelines for Literacy Programmes is translated to Russian.
- An internet portal “Reading 21” combines the interests of the professionals and young readers
- The Library of Congress cooperates with Pushkin Library in Russia (and the British Council) – a Best Practice in Reading Promotion book will be published in Russian and English in autumn 2006. This is a result from cooperation within the Reading Section.
- On the IFLANET - on the Reading Section's site there is some articles which study the factors that influence reading within a society. <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/sr.htm>

7. Section Reviews and Status on the Process

The Reading Section has about 70 members, but not enough members of the Standing Committee. The date for new elections is in February 2007. The members will make contact with their own countries and other countries, where they are known, to get new SC members. We are very happy that Samia Kamarti will join the section. Leikny will take contact with the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Nafisah Ahmad will talk to her colleagues in Malaysia and Indonesia, Gwynneth and John will talk contact with Latin America, USA and Canada.

Maria will promote the Section to Russia and the Eastern part of Europe. And we all will encourage outgoing members from the Children's Section to go to the Reading Section.

8. Follow-up to the IFLA/IBBY/IRA Agreement Meeting

IFLA signed a Memorandum of Understanding between IFLA, IRA and IBBY on promoting reading, producing children's books of good quality and encouraging production and distribution of books in different local languages. The Reading Section will invite IRA and IBBY to our next meeting in Durban and to the pre-conference that we are joining with Children's Section and Services to Multicultural Populations. The members are encouraged to make contact with the local representatives of IRA and IBBY in their own country for cooperation (see the notes from the special meeting on the IFLA/IRA/IBBY meeting in Seoul).

9. Any other business and close

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Leikny Haga Indergaard
September 2006.