



## **WLIC: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council, Quebec, Canada**

### **Standing Committee of the Literacy and Reading Section**

#### **Minutes of the First meeting of the Standing Committee, Quebec Convention Centre, Saturday August 09 2008**

#### **Present: (plus Standing committee term if relevant)**

##### **SC members:**

Leikny Haga Indergaard	2005-2009	<a href="mailto:lhi@abm-utvikling.no">lhi@abm-utvikling.no</a>
Samia Kamarti	2007-2011	<a href="mailto:skamarti@yahoo.fr">skamarti@yahoo.fr</a>
Marina Novikova	2007-2011	<a href="mailto:mnovikova@pbl.ru">mnovikova@pbl.ru</a>
Rob Sarjant	2007-2011	<a href="mailto:robert.sarjant@bookaid.org">robert.sarjant@bookaid.org</a>
Ivanka Stricevic	2007-2011	<a href="mailto:ivanka.stricevic@zg.t-com.hr">ivanka.stricevic@zg.t-com.hr</a>
Virginia Walter	2007-2011	<a href="mailto:vwalter@ucla.e@pbl.rudu">vwalter@ucla.e@pbl.rudu</a>
John Y. Cole	Corresp. Memb.	<a href="mailto:jcole@loc.gov">jcole@loc.gov</a>

##### **Observers:**

Patricia Aldana	(President IBBY)	<a href="mailto:paldana@groundwoodbooks.com">paldana@groundwoodbooks.com</a>
Imke Behr		<a href="mailto:i.behr@unesco.org">i.behr@unesco.org</a>
Ratna Bandyopadhyay		<a href="mailto:ratnabandyopadhyay@yahoo.co.in">ratnabandyopadhyay@yahoo.co.in</a>
Mariétou Diongue Diop		<a href="mailto:mddiop@ucad.sn">mddiop@ucad.sn</a>
Gwynneth Evans		<a href="mailto:gwynnethedevans@sympatico.ca">gwynnethedevans@sympatico.ca</a>
Stig Elvis Furset		<a href="mailto:stig-elvis.furset@bfk.no">stig-elvis.furset@bfk.no</a>
Lorraine Jackson		<a href="mailto:lsanojackson@gmail.com">lsanojackson@gmail.com</a>
Ahmed Ksibi		<a href="mailto:hmedksibi@isd.rnu.tn">hmedksibi@isd.rnu.tn</a>
Ariel Lebowitz		<a href="mailto:lebowa@parl.gc.ca">lebowa@parl.gc.ca</a>
Felipe Martinez		<a href="mailto:felipe@cuib.unam.mx">felipe@cuib.unam.mx</a>
Maria Vedenyapina		<a href="mailto:mvedenyapina@osi.ru">mvedenyapina@osi.ru</a>

#### **Apologies for both meetings:**

Elke Dreisbach	2007-2011
Gayner Eyre	2007-2011
Lisa Krolak	Corresponding Member
Briony Birdi	2007-2011
Alec Williams	2005-2009

### **1. Approval of Agenda (possible additions and corrections).**

The agenda was discussed. It was agreed to modify the order as some issues needed to be discussed at the first meeting to allow for progress to be made during the week.

### **2. Approval of the Minutes from the Standing Committee meetings in Durban (see Section Newsletter, No June 2008).**

The minutes were approved.

### **3. Report from the Chair and financial report, Ivanka Stricevic**

#### **Literacy and Reading Fair**

Ivanka reported that much of the last year had been taken up planning the Reading and Literacy Fair for Quebec, which has been a big challenge, liaising with all the presenters, obtaining free registrations for special guests, a last minute replacement of the storyteller and so on. Many people have said how innovative and interesting the session looks - IFLA gave the section an extra free registration perhaps due to this.

#### **Name Change**

One successful outcome has been the name change from Reading to Literacy and Reading Section. Some other sections were not so successful. Thanks to Virginia Walter for suggesting the name change last year, which much better reflects the interests of the section.

#### **Newsletter and website**

There was only one issue of the newsletter (see below) but some new research was put up on the Section's website on IFLANET. New research should be sent to Briony Birdi, the section's information co-ordinator.

#### **Implementation of MOU with IBBY and IRA**

IFLA, IBBY and IRA signed a MOU in 2005 . Cooperation is working well with IBBY (e.g. Patsy Aldana participating in our fair) but less so with IRA. Ivanka and Rob will meet on Monday 11 with Patsy Aldana (IBBY), Ingrid Bon and Viviana Quinones, the Chair and Secretary of the IFLA children's section and Gwynneth Evans to discuss a possible joint project.

#### **Satellite Meeting in Rome**

Some preliminary discussions have taken place with the Children and Young Adults section for a pre-conference in Rome on National Reading Campaigns, to be organised locally. Ivanka and Rob will meet with representatives from the section and a local organising committee which has been set up.

#### **Financial Report**

The section has not spent any money as yet. We have 325 euros available to spend by the end of the year, which could be spent on office costs.

#### **4. Report from the Secretary, Robert Sarjant**

##### **Section Membership**

As at the beginning of July, the section had 64 members. A minimum of 40 is needed according to the new (draft) IFLA statutes. We are therefore fine for now but must not be complacent, and more members would be welcome. John suggested that the addition of literacy to the section name should be used to encourage greater membership, and that historically 64 members is not bad for the section and that the section benefits from a diverse and varied set of members.

##### **Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee has 11 full members and the maximum 5 corresponding members. The section can have between 10-20 SC members – the minimum is 10, however. Three terms come to an end in 2009, including two members that come to the end of their last and second term. Leikny Indergaard can stand again but Martine Jan and Alec Williams cannot. We need at least one more SC member, but several more would be better. We need to ensure that section members are engaged and participate in the section both to maintain membership but also to increase it, both in terms of the overall membership and the Standing Committee – we need to utilise IFLANET (a new Web 2.0 influenced IFLANET should be up and running in January which should facilitate this) and the newsletter better.

##### **Nominations for SC members**

Calls for new members go out in October – deadline for submission is February 2009. All observers, collaborators and others interested in literacy and reading are encouraged to get their institution to join the section and/or nominate members for the committee.

#### **5. Report from the Newsletter Editor, John Cole**

John had indicated last year that after many years he would like to stand down as newsletter editor, but had managed to get one out during the year. John thanked Gwynneth's contribution to the last issue on literacy initiatives in Canada. However, a new editor is now really needed to create a brighter newsletter utilising modern graphics technology. Ivanka thanked John for his 11 years as editor, and to Maureen White, and to John's employer, The Centre for the Book.

A discussion followed. We should continue to aim for 2 newsletters a year, one before the end of the year and one before the conference, and the editor does not necessarily need to be fixed. Both Gwynneth and Leikny offered to help but Leikny has more of an institutional base, so Leikny will take on the role.

Gwynneth suggested country reports based around the UNESCO Literacy Decade would form a good basis for some content, or just reports from different countries on what is going on in terms of literacy and reading promotion.

Virginia volunteered to write a report on the Literacy and Reading Fair for the next newsletter.

Mariétou Diongue Diop said that she could help with French translations (French language Centre)

#### **6. Report from the Information Co-ordinator Briony Birdi**

A report was received from Briony. Ivanka asked all members to check the sections site to keep it up-to-date and relevant, and to suggest new postings. This will be particularly important with the forthcoming re-launch of IFLANET.

#### **7. Report from the Coordinating Board meeting (held in Quebec prior to the SC meeting)**

Ivanka reported back on the CB meeting. The main discussion revolved around the new IFLA structure. Each section currently belongs to one of 8 divisions. In the future there will be just 5. The Literacy and Reading Section is currently in Division VII, Education and Research and most of this division will move into a new division called *Support for the Profession*. However, our section will move into *Library Services*. This was felt to be positive because it puts us in a division with those we are most likely to collaborate with.

#### **8. Quebec Conference schedule and discussion on session's organisation and members' duties.**

The outline schedule and responsibilities for the Literacy and Reading Fair was presented by Ivanka and clarified as it is a challenging session. Some refinements and suggestions were made to the plan for the morning.

For the Milan conference, the Information Literacy Section is interested in a joint session on lifelong literacies. After some discussion, Virginia and John volunteered to draft a proposal in time for the second meeting. Marina will join to this working group.

### **Minutes of the Second meeting of the Standing Committee, Quebec Convention Centre, Friday August 15 2008**

#### **Present: (plus Standing committee term if relevant)**

##### **SC members:**

Leikny Haga Indergaard	2005-2009	<a href="mailto:lhi@abm-utvikling.no">lhi@abm-utvikling.no</a>
Robert Sarjant	2007-2011	<a href="mailto:robert.sarjant@bookaid.org">robert.sarjant@bookaid.org</a>
Ivanka Stricevic	2007-2011	<a href="mailto:ivanka.stricevic@zg.t-com.hr">ivanka.stricevic@zg.t-com.hr</a>
Virginia Walter	2007-2011	<a href="mailto:vwalter@ucla.e@pbl.rudu">vwalter@ucla.e@pbl.rudu</a>
John Y. Cole	Corr. Member	<a href="mailto:jcole@loc.gov">jcole@loc.gov</a>
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##### **Observers:**

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## **9. Reports on projects**

### **Report on co-operation with IRA and IBBY (MoU)**

Following the meeting with IBBY and the Children's Section it was agreed that Patsy Aldana will draft a letter to the IRA to ascertain their willingness to participate and act as a partner within the terms of the MoU.

At the meeting, we also agreed to work together with IBBY (and IRA if they are willing) in a good practices in reading promotion database/directory/wiki. Gwynneth Evans will draft terms for a working group likely to contain 2 representatives each from IBBY, IRA and IFLA (one from each section). Rob was nominated to be the Literacy and Reading Section's representative on the group.

It was also suggested that the Regional Center for Book Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC) become involved. Whilst this is not appropriate in relation to the MoU, the section of course welcomes collaboration with such organisations.

### **Future projects**

It was agreed to proceed with a suggestion to work on an IFLA publication on reading promotion. The section now has a number of papers presented at past conferences which could form the basis but new papers could also be considered. Others may need revision to fit a standardised format. Papers would be 10-20 pages long. The publication should feature current, sustainable projects initiated by the community and meeting an expressed need. The IFLA publications unit (i.e. Sjoerd Koopman) is likely to be very interested.

There was much discussion about whether the publication should be organised regionally or thematically (e.g. prisons, babies) and in which languages. It was felt that we should stick to the 5 official IFLA languages. Translations could be put on the web or on an accompanying CD. It could be the first of a series. Papers should contain good visuals but this is not usual for an IFLA publication.

It was felt that initially this would be a two year project – the first year collecting/selecting papers; the second working with IFLA/Saur on publication. Briony Birdi has offered to help by utilising the talents (where available) of her library school students.

A working group will be set up. Gwynneth will be a member, John will advise. It was suggested that Briony Birdi and Samia Karti be invited to join the group, and that regional contacts (such as CERLALC) be identified and utilised.

### **Publicity matters**

The bookmark and literacy guidelines (both on IFLANET) leaflet need updating – the name change for example. Ivanka will look at them.

The new IFLANET might allow for more collaborative means of working through blog, wiki and other tools.

#### **10. Milan 2009 Conference planning and discussion on Pre- or Post-conference in Italy 2009**

John and Virginia's presented a draft proposal for the combined session with the Information Literacy Section. Following the success of this year's lively session there was concern that the session maintain some of its features – e.g. its interactivity and use of the banquet room, and that it not revert to the traditional 'boring' format. There was also some worry that it may lose focus and be less relevant to us as a section. The call for papers would need to be clear with an emphasis on *libraries promoting* different types of literacy – print, media, visual and so on; and should be evidence-based. Definitions should be avoided and an acceptance that there are multiple literacies. John, Virginia and Marina will continue on the working group with the addition of representatives from the information Literacy Section, and develop a call for papers to go out October 15<sup>th</sup>. Elsa offered to translate the call into Spanish, Ahmed into French.

For the pre-conference, much will depend on whether the City Council in Rome will offer support. The Goethe Institute has offered free space/room. There will be a lot to organise and it was felt that if the Section is not assured that all is in place, we should pull out earlier rather than later. We should decide by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Ivanka will keep in touch with the local committee.

Looking ahead to Brisbane, the Children and School Libraries sections are interested in combining with us.

#### **11. Strategic Plan updates and development of Section's Priorities, 2008-2009**

We looked at the 2007-08 plan, available on IFLANET, making revisions and updates. Some changes are obvious to reflect past and forthcoming conferences. Other changes and updates include:

Section 1.1 The Guidelines for Library-based Literacy Programmes need translating into Arabic and it would be good to have an Italian version before Milan, and Ratna is also interested in translating. They may need updating first.

Section 1.3 add description of good practices project to the end of the sentence

Section 1.4 should be removed as the project is complete

Section 2.1 Add CERLALC

Section 2.2 Gwynneth to look at the Reading Promotion Calendar of Events to see how out-of-date it is and check links, and will contact Maureen White who co-ordinated it. Jessica would be interested in helping out as a back-up.

Section 2.5 Encourage participation at the Tanzania 'Reading for All' Conference next August in conjunction with IBBY and IRA.

Section 2.6 2008 will be the last divisional programme

Section 2.7 John is to update with a description of the new publication project to replace the completed Reading Promotion Handbook – also Ivanka to prioritise this higher in the plan.

Section 3.1 Survey of reader-centred services in public libraries in Latin America now completed. Other countries would like their own survey such as Brazil and Uruguay. Seminar organised with IFLA ALP funding found that small libraries lacking knowledge and communication; reading promotion is very traditional and typically targeted at children only; only a few are doing outreach. Elsa will write an article to provide an update and to detail future plans.

Section 3.4 Phase one of the joint research project with IRA on literate environments is now complete. It will depend on IRA response to Patsy's letter as to any future developments.

Section 3.5 Finish sentence at projects to widen scope of potential project partners

Section 4.3 Add: 'and to nominate members for the standing Committee'.

Elsa offered to translate the plan into Spanish (will need to be approved by IFLA's Professional Committee first).

## **12. Quebec Conference evaluation: debriefing on Global Literacy and Reading Fair**

The Fair was widely acknowledged to be a success and went beyond expectations, though it would have been useful to ask participants at the fair to do a formal evaluation. However, the following report which appeared in the conference newsletter IFLA Express sums it up:

### **Literacy and Reading Fair: Report from IFLA Express No.5, August 12.**

This was held on Monday 11 August in a room set with round tables to allow different groups to give presentations of the projects. Comments included 'it looks like a party', 'mayhem', 'anarchy'.

Among the moving testimonies, was that of Patricia Aldana of IBBY. After disasters, such as the tsunami in East Asia and the landslides of Venezuela, volunteers would take books and read, wherever they could, to people who had nothing left. More and more people would come each evening. The emotions released by the books and the stories helped children and adults to heal.

In Senegal, much is achieved with small budgets. Classes can have 60 or 90 students. The teachers haven't time to look after the weaker students. Volunteers take a group of these weak students, out one big book on the ground and let the children look at the pictures and discuss them in their own language. Later the animator reads the story in French. After only 3 sessions the students have much more confidence and start to speak in French. The teachers are stunned by the children's increase in self-confidence and change in attitude.

20% of Austrians are not literate enough. The PowerPoint presentation was impressive – a time bomb. Later it came out that 30% of residents in Saskatchewan (province of Canada) fell into this category. The figure of 42% was used for Canada later.

There were beautiful children's books with African themes for sale at a table sponsored by Osu Children's Library Fund.

Quick quotes:

'You should leave with at least one idea for your library'

On publicising: 'it has to look good on TV. Look at politicians'

'We had a wake up call. We haven't been to sleep since' SilkAir of Singapore offers its passengers 'coffee, tea or a book'

'The work (for literacy) is joyful'

At the end, some library and information students were asked their reactions. One said he was inspired. One quoted the National Librarian of Canada – 'it's important to keep up the passion'.

Last quote: 'the energy in the room is as high at 12.30 as it was at 8.30'.

Rob Sarjant, 05/09/2008