



Reference and Information Services Section
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s36/index.htm>

MINUTES

Standing Committee Midyear Meeting
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ USA

March 8, 2007

Members present: Annsofie Oscarsson, Marty Kessesman, Cathy Wojewodzki, Petra van den Born, Frank Kirkwood, Sarah Barbara Watstein, Amanda Duffy, Bodil Wöhnert, Franceen Gaudet

The meeting was preceded by a tour of Princeton University Libraries and Princeton Public Library on March 7. Most of the members attended the annual Columbia University Reference Symposium on March 9.

Topics for discussion: Commitments before Durban, website update, bookmark update, annual report, section membership, budget update, Durban and Quebec conferences, future mid-year meetings.

Nominations for next four year terms: Approximately 9 of us are continuing and if we are all re-elected, there will still be at least 11 openings. We are allowed to have up to 5 corresponding members. It was asked if we can co-opt members after the Durban meeting. The answer is that we only can if one of the elected members leaves the standing committee.

Information Coordinator: The information coordinator serves as the official liaison with IFLANET and serves as the newsletter editor. The newsletter is the principal tool on section activities for paying members of the section. But we should not duplicate what is already included elsewhere.

Newsletter: For the newsletter, it was decided to again do a "shortie." Sarah agreed to do the editing and Andrew Ruggiero from Rutgers University Libraries would do the layout to be charged to our administrative funding. Sarah also agreed to contact Ruby Bell-Gam to see if she can write something short on "How do you Say Reference" in South Africa.

Bookmark/Brochure: Cathy will delete the brochure from the website. Sarah will review the accuracy of the bookmark and Franceen will provide a French translation. Annsofie will ask Concha to do a Spanish version. Petra can have a colleague do it in Arabic, we can ask Jin Ye to do one in China and I will ask a colleague to translate it into German. Other languages such as Afrakans and Russian need volunteers. Once we have the bookmark translations, Andrew can arrange for the layout and printing.

Budget Update: Remaining funds for last year's administrative allotment were set aside for newsletter layout and will be paid to an individual doing the layout of last year's newsletter. So far, no other administrative expenses have been identified besides the layout work for the Shortie and bookmark and bookmark printing.

Annual Report: The missing data of 275 attendees for our open session in Seoul and 60 attendees for the preconference will be added and the annual report will be sent from Marty to Cathy to be posted on our website.

Listserv: Frank agreed to get our listserv up to date and will confer with Josche Ouwerkerk at IFLA HQ. Franceen's email address needs to be updated.

Evaluation of Sections: Sarah will ask Gary Strong who is on the Professional Committee, for information he might have on this before the Durban conference.

Open Session for Durban: Bodil reported that there were 20 proposals for the open session and 4 papers were selected. Bodil provided the names of the papers so that they can appear in the Shortie. The following four papers were selected:

Gitte Larsen, Royal School of Library and Information Science, Dept. of Continuing Education and Consultancy , Copenhagen. Denmark.

Preparing library staff for reference and information work in the hybrid

library - the need for skills and continuing professional development

Lawrence Olszewski & Paula Rumbaugh, OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. Dublin, OH, USA. *Are Librarians Missing A Continuing Education Opportunity? An International Comparison of Virtual Reference Services*

Leanne Brown & Mercy Mokgele, University of South Africa Library. Pretoria, South Africa. *Information literacy skills training of staff and students in the Unisa Library: challenges and opportunities.*

Grace Saw & Heather Todd, University of Queensland Library. Brisbane, Australia. *Library 3.0: where art our skills?*

Quebec Satellite Meeting/Open Session: Bodil and Amanda will coordinate the meeting with the Genealogy Section. The topic of *Genealogy and Local History for All* is planned for August 6-7, 2008 with an estimated attendance of 50 participants. Franceen will coordinate with the open session and think about coordination with the Multicultural Services Section.

Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2005-2007: This plan should be reviewed as well as our notes from the Paris Midyear Meeting related to our next strategic plan. One thought was a workshop on the assessment of library reference services in coordination with the DG on *Qualitative Issues in Library Services*. But, for now, our plate is full. Related to this topic, Sarah has information she will pass on regarding standards for paraprofessionals.

Virtual Reference Guidelines need to be brought up to date and Bodil will review.

Toolkit: Frank noted a conference in Addis Ababa that had a resolution to set up an African Network for Access to Government Information. There is also a group, Access to Information Network Africa (ATINA). Frank suggested that the toolkit include more information on Africa. We reviewed the toolkit (www2.scc.Rutgers.edu/referencetoolkit) and noted that the links need to be checked (all checked during the meeting were operational). Need to have a link from the toolkit back to the RISS website if the link for the toolkit stays in the same location.

Toolkit Future: There was some discussion on the continuing viability of the toolkit and what might be a better way to present the

information within. One suggestion was to take the content for the toolkit and create a review article from it with a focus on the needs of developing countries. It was suggested that there be a pop-up survey of some sort available on the toolkit page to assess its value. If we do a survey, it needs to be field tested.

Manifesto on Reference and Information Services: Another option, instead of continuing work on the toolkit, is to develop a Manifesto on Reference and Information Service, which as part of it, would advocate the need for information professionals. There may be opportunities to collaborate on this with FAIFE and the Information Literacy Section. There was no final decision regarding this, so more discussion might be needed in Durban

Deadlines:

March 19 – Minutes, April 1 – get Toolkit on IFLANET

April 15 – Shortie and Bookmark Content

May 1 – translation of shortie newsletter into French

June 1 – publish Shortie Newsletter to add to IFLANET

July 15 – print newsletter and bookmark to bring to IFLA.

Misc.

Frank noted a request for the section to participate in the **2008 Crimea Conference** and looked for volunteers. It was suggested that Frank develop a proposal for a section project that would include some funding for a few section members to attend and create a workshop for the conference. It was suggested also to find out if the organizing committee would also provide some support related to expenses on-site (registration fees, housing).

Sarah asked section members if any of them would be interested in participating on the editorial board for **Reference Services Review** for which she is the co-editor. Discussions on having a mid-year meeting next year will be put on the agenda for Durban.

Respectfully submitted, Marty Kesselman, Secretary/Treasurer