



## Minutes

### **RISS Midterm Meeting – March 2008**

#### **Participants:**

Amanda Duffy  
Franceen Gaudet  
Martin (Marty) Kesselman (chair)  
Francis T. (Frank) Kirkwood  
Conception Lois Cabello  
Annsofie Oscarsson  
Petra van den Born  
Bodil Wöhnert (secretary)

#### **Apology:**

Sara Gube-Josefsson

#### **Minutes:**

Amanda Duffy  
Bodil Wöhnert

#### March 13 *Focus on Current SC Activities*

##### **Welcome address by Martin Kesselman (Marty)**

As he was unable to participate in the Durban Conference this is his first meeting as new chair of the section.

##### **Review of Durban Conference and Assignments**

Outgoing chair Annsofie Oscarsson gave a review of the minutes from Durban.

Remaining assignments to be checked:

- Links from our Newsletter to Open Session Papers (Sarah Watstein)
- We have seen no response from Governing Board(GB) concerning the open meeting on IFLA Professional Structure (Marty will contact Nancy Gwinn)

- The paper Library 3.0: where are our skills? To go on our section website (Sara Gube-Josefsson, Bodil)
- No comments on eventually updating the bibliographical references in our reference guidelines.
- The annual report is not concluded – Marty takes action. Deadline April 15
- Rebuilding school libraries in Africa: Franceen has other obligations and will holdback for a while.

Other Points Arising from the Durban Minutes:

- Our listserv is working but no one is using it – SC will look at this in Quebec
- The links to the Toolkit were working when checked in September 2007
- The Guidelines are now available in Greek
- Petra is awaiting the Arabic translation of the Bookmark

A debate on corresponding members' participation in the Standing Committee's work was postponed to March 14 agenda – but not discussed.

### **Update on Quebec Open Session, Boston and Ottawa Pre-Conferences**

#### *Quebec*

23 proposals from 15 countries were received .

Four papers were selected and the proposers have accepted.

The themes are reference services in virtual worlds and how these relate to other reference services provided in the developed and the developing world.

Other ways of organizing sessions were discussed. Marty has ideas of more social and activating arrangements e.g. work shops or poster sessions combined with presentations. He will communicate his ideas in writing to all section members for discussion in Quebec.

Franceen agreed to investigate a possible half-day tour during Quebec Conference to Laval University and ask Ruth Hedegaard (GENLOC) how they organize their visits programme.

#### *Boston*

This pre-conference was arranged after all the venues in Canada were chosen.

Date: August 6-7. The Programme will appear on IFLANET soon.

Unfortunately the registration fee is high at ca. US\$300 (includes conference fee and all meals during the conference). A social event on August 5 is extra. Marty is not able to participate. As a member of the arranging committee Bodil will attend.

Bodil was asked to communicate RISS' concern about the price.  
(bw-march 17: the arranging committee finds the price OK. We have not so much funding as could be – the committee is working on that)

### *Ottawa*

Everything is going well. The arranging committee communicates via teleconferencing.

Date: August 6-7.

The programme web site will be up by the end of March.  
The registration fee for this conference is CAN\$ 175 (including a dinner and visits)

In addition Frank briefed on a GENLOC/FAIFE session in Quebec.

### **How do You Say Reference Project**

Marty and Sarah submitted a proposal to the GB in October 2007.  
According to Lyn Sipe and Nancy Gwinn (March 2008) the project has been accepted and will be supported financially for the first year and, if progress is satisfactory, for a second year.

It is an interview investigation carried out by students. Preferably by video podcast. Interviews will be with academic, public and special librarians from a range of countries.

The project has the potential to end up as basic material for a reference manifesto.

Project start will be in Quebec – combined with local interviews.

SC is asked to help identify individuals for the interviews.

Guidelines for identifying potential interviewees will be sent out.

Also there will be a questionnaire on IFLANET.

A draft of the questionnaire to SC for comments.

**Action:** Marty and Sarah

**Deadline:** end April 2008

### **Updates: Budget, Newsletter, Annual Report, Mailing List, Website**

#### Budget

Remaining money from the 2007 funds had been spent on pre-payment for technical support for the Newsletter.

There is 325 Euros for 2008.

Can be used for: administrative funds, facilitating the virtual communication in the section (Skype), logo – and/or co-sponsoring activities.

### Newsletter

There are frequent demands for the newsletter 2007. We decided to publish quickly

**Action:** Sarah

**Deadline:** April 15

From 2008 onwards RISS will publish a 'shorty' in May (including minutes from midterm meetings) and in November (including links to minutes from section meetings and conference sessions)

### Annual Report

The annual Report is a report of RISS' performance according to our Strategic Plan. The 2007 report is not completed yet.

**Action:** Marty

**Deadline:** now

### Mailing List

RISS has an internal mailing list to reach the SC members.

After the reorganizing of IFLANET we hope it will be more functional.

Frank is responsible for maintaining.

BUT: the list does not work if we do not have the correct addresses – this is the responsibility of every section member.

Until a new version of IFLANET (planned for November 2008), Bodil will maintain her secretary's mailing list.

**Action:** Frank and Bodil will correspond

### **Discussion on pre-conference activities prior to Milan in 2009**

This served also as a general discussion relating to future pre-conferences, work shops, tours etc.

Marty wanted arrangements to be participative for RISS members and others: study tours, study days on RISS-relevant topics.

RISS is interested in cooperation with other sections/local partners. We prefer the arrangements to take place within the conference area rather than at distant locations.

This not only due to travel costs etc. but also to attract local colleagues. Bodil will contact Valentina Comba for possible suggestions for visits, etc.

On the other hand RISS will be interested in co-sponsoring (but not participating in the organization of) distant pre/post conferences.

Possible topic for or session at the main conference could be 'Information Services for Business and Culture'.

A discussion on the midterm meetings was postponed to March 14.

### **Afternoon Library Tour:**

Visit to Biblioteca Universidad Complutense – Facultad de Ciencias Químicas:

<http://www.ucm.es/BUCM/>

Thanks to the colleagues for their great hospitality and sharing ideas and experiences with us!

## March 14      Focus on Communication, Strategic Initiatives and Directions

### **Ongoing Communication/collaboration for SC**

RISS Standing Committee needs a virtual space for working documents and as our archive.

#### Archive

Until IFLANET has been redesigned with new facilities, SAKAI might be a possibility.

The secretary (Bodil) will maintain RISS' archive

**Action:** Marty to test SAKAI to make sure it is suitable.

#### Teleconferencing

Experiences with teleconferencing are good. RISS Standing Committee will arrange meeting on a monthly basis.

**Action:** Marty find a time and date suitable for all SC members - Franceen will handle the telecommunications arrangements

**Deadline:** now

#### Midterm meetings

We maintain the principle of combining SC meetings with local library visits and if possible library conferences.

It is important that we have a local contact (SC member) to facilitate and organize.

We need 1½ days for the SC meetings.

Next venue will be discussed via mail/teleconferencing and will be decided at the SC meetings in Quebec.

### **Future Directions**

#### Strategic Plan Review

Headlines for the brainstorming were:

- Who are we?  
Where are we going?  
Why is it important?

For the meeting Frank had prepared a draft that served as inspiration for the discussion.

We need a Strategy with clearly defined and measurable goals and actions: SC members must be accountable for the actions.

A draft of the Strategic Plan with changes is attached these minutes.

**Action:** Marty checks deadline for submission to IFLA

Further discussion virtually and at SC meetings in Quebec

#### Member and SC Recruitment

Time did not allow a debate on the status of corresponding members

### **Review of Major Decisions and Assignments**

#### Crimea Conference

Agreed that Frank participates as a RISS ambassador and promote the work of the Section.

#### Reference Manifesto

Petra had investigated: it is a very big assignment that will include contact with other organizations and may require special conferences, workshops, etc.

However our ideas of a reference manifesto are connected to the project *How do We Say Reference* – and furthermore a manifesto will relate to the Strategic Plan's Goal I: *Promote excellence and collaboration in promoting user centered reference and information services.*

### **Presentation and Library Visit**

The ask a librarian service was introduced:

*Pregunte: las Bibliotecas Responden* - <http://www.pregunte.es/>

The Public Libraries' multilingual service in the official languages of Spain.

Visit to Biblioteca National de España - <http://www.bne.es/>

Thanks to all the colleagues for their interest in sharing with us – and their demonstration of the treasures of BNE.

Visit to Biblioteca Pública Manuel Alvar was cancelled due to lack of time.

#### **Last but not least:**

Thanks to Concha and her colleagues for their great hospitality and for excellent facilitating of our meeting!

March 29 2008  
Amanda Duffy  
Bodil Wöhnert