



IFLA MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS SECTION

8th Meeting of the
Management of Library Associations Standing Committee

Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Chicago, Illinois
15-17 February 2007

Minutes

1. Welcome

IFLA Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS) Chair Keith Michael Fiels called the 8th MLAS Standing Committee meeting to order.

After a warm welcome from its joint-hosts Keith Fiels and Carla Funk, the Standing Committee (SC) expressed its gratitude for the generous invitation and the great hospitality. Barbara Ford, former American Library Association President and current member of IFLA Governing Board (GB) also welcomed the SC. She was pleased to attend the meetings and address the SC with an overview of the themes she has worked on lately.

Standing Committee members present were:

Keith Michael Fiels (American Library Assoc.)
Carla J. Funk (Medical Library Assoc., USA)
Britt Marie Häggström (DIK Association)
Jan-Ewout van der Putten (Netherlands Public Library Assoc.)
Sinikka Sipilä (Finnish Library Assoc.)
Sabine Stummeyer (Berufsverband Information Bibliothek e.V.)
Winnie Vitzansky (The Danish Library Assoc.)
Duane Webster (Assoc. of Research Libraries, USA)

Observers present were Kelly Moore (IFLA Headquarters), Barbara Ford (IFLA Governing Board member) Janice Lachance (Special Libraries Association) and Michael Dowling (American Library Association).

2. Approval of the Agenda

The MLAS Standing Committee approved the agenda.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Edita Bacic, Jill Martin, Alicia Ocaso and Arlene Cohen.

4. Approval of *Minutes* from the 7th MLAS Standing Committee meeting, August 2006, Seoul, Korea.

Jill Martin sent an E-mail indicating that her workload and the recent changes within CILIP made proper participation in MLAS impossible. She was not able to deliver the minutes of the Seoul meetings in time, but hoped to produce them at the IFLA Durban meeting in August 2007.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten volunteered to take the minutes of this 8th MLAS SC meeting.

5. Financial Report

Carla Funk gave the Financial Report. As of January 31, 2007, the MLAS had 1406.47 EUROS in its treasury. The SC accepts the accounts for 2006.

The SC continues its support for the *New Professional Discussion* Group and plans to reimburse them several hundred dollars for the costs incurred for their IFLA 2007 work. The SC is grateful for the work treasurer Carla Funk puts in to its finances.

6. MLAS Chair report from the Governing Board (GB)

Keith Fiels reported on the topics discussed at the meeting, which were the advocacy component, the integration of FAIFE in IFLA-HQ, and fundraising on WSIS. Winnie Vitzansky stressed the necessity to involve the national associations on a national level. We have to push our politicians into the discussion on the information-knowledge society. Barbara Ford added comments on the importance of branding the IFLA name and logo. The IFLA Governing Board decided on a set of guidelines in December 2006. They are available at <http://www.ifla.org/V/cdoc/Guidelines-branding.htm>.

7. Report on IFLA 2007 Durban MLAS Program Planning

The MLAS jointly with the *Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section* will present a full day session in Durban. Carla Funk is organizing the session together with Sylvia Piggott. There will be simultaneous translation. Papers will be presented in the morning. In the afternoon, roundtable discussions will be held, chaired by members of the SC.

Many possible topics were discussed, with marketing for membership coming out as an important issue. The American Library Association has done considerable work in this area and will be a good resource. There are no MLAS guidelines on this topic and

creating a new guideline on this topic would be a good idea. It was also noted that cooperation with ALP in this area is very important.

8. Report from IFLA Staff Liaison

Kelly More reported on ongoing business at IFLA Headquarters. It is interesting to see where the debate about the professional structure is going and possible changes.

9. Standing Committee Elections

MLAS elections will not be held as 21 persons were nominated. Keith Fiels will not ask for a second term. It is important to assure the presence of the MLAS SC Chair as a co-opted member in the GB. The IFLA-rules make a longer than 2-year term for a co-opted Governing Board impossible, so he decided not to stand for re-election as MLAS Chair as he could not serve another term as a co-opted GB member.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten remarked that it will be hard to get professional managers of library associations to do much more than exchanging ideas and experiences and giving sound and practical advice to the Federation from an association's point of view. They are experienced policy/advocacy makers and should be used as such. In general, specific projects should be avoided unless some Associations contribute substantial staff time and money. He still regrets what he saw as the forced transformation from a very open and suitable Round Table into a regulated and restricted Section.

The SC discussed this concern that the current rotation system (of a section) does not reflect the need and benefits of a well established contact between the professionals in the Associations and the IFLA governing structures. The suggestion of creating a special interest group of professional managers of Library Associations to address this was discussed.

10. MLAS Newsletter

MLAS newsletter was discussed in Seoul and Sue Hutley offered to work on it. To date, there has been no status report.

11. MLAS Listserv

Keith Fiels expressed his gratitude for all the efforts Arlene Cohen – former and as such deeply missed – MLAS Secretary puts into the MLAS Listserv. We have currently 404 active members of which 104 new ones. It was noted that the Special Library Association, who hosts the list, did a most welcome upgrade of the software.

12. 2006 Annual Report, MLAS Strategic Plan and Preliminary 2007 Action Plan

Keith Fiels offered to write the (bi)annual report (2005/2006). For the *MLAS Strategic Plan*, no drastic changes are foreseen. Carla Funk suggested we integrate a link to ALP because of our familiar projects -- something the new SC might want to address.

13. Report on IFLA 2006 Seoul MLAS Program

The MLAS session in Seoul was well attended (100 people) even if the hall was so big that we seemed to drown in the space available. The *Call for Papers* had a good response. Strange phenomenon is that a person who goes through all the trouble to get a paper accepted, seems to disappear into thin air just before the conference begins. Thanks to Duane Webster, who made a presentation on the US Library Copyright Alliance and Dato'Zawwiyah Binti Baba, who made a presentation on the Tsunami relief efforts for Indonesian Libraries led by the Malaysian Library Association, we had quite a good program in the end.

14. Status Report on GLAD Program

The GLAD program is still a challenge. Even though our beginning expectations were not high, little activity has occurred. Janice Lachance talked about already existing institution-to-institution contacts within the Special Library Association. It is a totally decentralized activity and very successful. Other members related their own experiences.

Kelly Moore, Sinikka Sipila, Winnie Vitzansky and Keith Fiels will work on a new approach. The new goals are:

- Changes to be made in the program
- Revisions of technology used
- Renewing of communication efforts
- Relations to other programs (ALP)
- Focus on Africa and South America.

The work on the online database of library associations should be executed soon. A good start can be found in the Saur handbook, *World Guide to Library, Archive and Information Science Associations 2nd completely revised and expanded edition*. (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Munchen: Saur, 2005, 510 p. 21 cm, IFLA Publications; 112-114 ISBN 3-598-21840-0

It would also be helpful to have a collection of successful stories about library associations on line. It is important to know the circumstances under which associations have to work. We should also bring contributions of our members to conferences and workshops they attend as such, on the web, although this can be very time consuming. It was suggested that perhaps blogging during a conference could be a feasible alternative.

Keith Fiels announced that ALA will increase its efforts in support of GLAD , and hoped to add staff to the International relations Office who could also work on it. He also sees

a more interactive website as a necessity. SC welcomes his initiative and suggested that ALP should also be involved.

15. ALP Status Report

The SC discussed the position of ALP and its relevance to the work of MLAS. Sinikka Sipila provided the ALP self review. ALP gets its funding from the Nordic countries; however, financing is in danger because the governments do not want to finance intermediary organizations anymore. The SC is grateful for the insight the ALP self review gives and is impressed by all the work ALP does. Winnie Vitzansky is a member of the ALP advisory board. It was noted that only one and one half professionals do all the work. MLAS should be a strong supporter of ALP.

ALP should know that they could draw upon us also in combination with the regional offices and Division VIII.

The suggestion was made to see ALP as a consultant, an organization that helps to get funding, rather than as a channel of money. That makes ALP perhaps in the end more successful. Many MLAS SC members advocate to make ALP a core activity on the same level as FAIFE and CLM. IFLA must package things to get funding from the outside. In general SC concluded that better communications with ALP would be very useful.

16. Regional Association Development

a. Report from PIALA Workshop on Advocacy, Palau, November 2006

Keith reported that the MLAS donated \$2,000 USD to support the workshop and that Michael Dowling and Keith presented the workshop in Palau.

b. Follow up to SCECSAL Preconference in Tanzania, July 2006

Keith and Winnie Vitzansky represented MLAS in the preconference and they gave a short report at the MLAS meeting. They promised to send the presentations from the meeting, which included information on success stories from associations.

17. Status Report on New Librarians Discussion Group and Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group

Keith reported that the co-conveners of New Librarians Discussion Group were planning their the plans were underway for their program in Durban. He also reported that he had agreed, at the request of IFLA HQ, that the MLAS Section would agree to serve as the “home” for the new Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group. This group had been a Section, but has now become a discussion group as a result of the IFLA-wide section review. As a discussion group, they need a “parent” section with whom they are associated.

18. Adjournment

Keith Fiels closed the meeting after being thanked by all for the marvelous time in his and Carla's Chicago. They did a wonderful job.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten
Acting MLAS Secretary