

IFLA
ROUND TABLE ON USER EDUCATION
Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Boston, MA, August 18, 2001

Officers: Jesus Lau, Chair (Mexico), and Martha Castro, Financial Officer (Mexico)

EC Participants: Marina Zaluzhshaya (Russia), Sinikka Koskiala (Finland), and Teodora Oker-Blom (Finland).

Observers: Benno Homann (Germany), Ingrid Kjellqvist (Sweden), Gutherie Boylan(USA), Mary Rachel (USA), Ramachandran (India), Rashidah Begum (Malaysia), and Siti Salriah Radlian (Malaysia).

Apologies: Doriana Loof , Secretary (Sweden); Marty Kesselman (USA) and Oili Kokkonen (USA).

Business carried out during the meeting:

1. The agenda, the minutes, and the treasurer balance were presented and approved.
2. An email will be sent to current EC members to check if they are willing to stand in the committee.
3. Ingrid Kjellqvist (Sweden), and Benno Homann (Germany) were elected to the EC.
4. Siti Salriah Radlian; Rashidah Begum (Malaysia) were accepted as correspondence members.
5. Jesus Lau was re-elected as chair as well as Martha Castro as Financial Officer. Ingrid Kjellqvist was nominated and elected as a secretary. The officer's term is for 2001-2004.
6. Participants were invited to attend the RTUE Boston program:
 - Open Session – Tuesday, August 21, Hynes Convention Center. Theme: International Guidelines for User Education Across Continents. Five papers will be presented.
 - Workshop – A joint activity with University Libraries. Thursday, 23 August, an off site workshop, hosted by Simmons College. It includes a tour of the library. There will be no sponsored transportation. People will get to Simmons by themselves.

Strategic Plan. Instructions on how to write the strategic plan were distributed to the audience. The former scope, goals and action plan of the RT were used as starting point for the discussion. According to these guidelines, a draft of the mission, priorities and the action plan were elaborated. The document will be sent back to the EC members for their comments, and sent to IFLA HQ by September 30. The strategic plan should reflect the relevant new professional priorities of IFLA, agreeing in adopting the following three priorities:

- a) Promoting literacy reading and life long learning
- b) Developing library professionals
- c) Promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices.

The terms information literacy, user education, and information competencies were discussed. The committee recommended the adoption of the first phrase “Information Literacy” as the best term to name the work of the round table, because it reflects more learning-oriented information education.

The first draft of the RT strategic plan and was prepared with the audience’s input. It reads as follows:

Mission

The primary purpose of the User Education Roundtable is to foster international cooperation in information literacy in all types of libraries.

Priorities

1. To focus on all aspects of information literacy, including user education, library instruction, bibliographic instruction, etc.
2. Promote the role of information literacy in different sectors of society (students, parents, educators, decision makers, education administrators)
3. To monitor the development of library user education in libraries worldwide.
4. To promote membership among user education librarians.

Action Plan

1. Organize an open session and a workshop during the Glasgow Annual IFLA Conference.
2. Prepare a new leaflet to promote the Round Table.
3. Promote the attendance to the Berlin RT Program by teachers from Germany.
4. To translate the standards on user education into German.
5. To set up a committee to work a first draft of international guidelines on information literacy.
6. To transform the RT into an IFLA section.

Goals

1. To create a link with librarians from developing countries to promote information literacy and the adoption of best practices in this field.
2. To promote and monitor the development of education and training for librarians in *information literacy*.
3. To focus on all types of user education including information literacy, learning styles, the use of computers, networked resources, and media in the development of instructional materials.

Plans for Glasgow 2002. The theme for the open session and the workshop for the 2002 conference is “Preparing librarians to be effective educators”. Suggestions for speakers were requested. Mary Rachel, president of ACRL, proposed inviting an instructor of the ACRL Immersion Institute for Teaching Information Literacy. The contact is Cruise Oberman, State University of New York at Plattsburgh. Deb Gilchrist, Pierce College; and Mary Ellen Davis of ACRL can provide more information at mdavis@ala.org.

Teodora Oker-Blom (Finland) will be the convenor for the open session. A volunteer to organize the workshop is needed.

Berlin conference. “Information literacy as an educational goal” was proposed for the Berlin Conference.

CB Report. A summary of the Coordinating Board Meeting was given to the participants. The main topics were: Carol Henry will retire. Deadlines for satellite meetings (March 15); Round Tables are strongly advised to transform into sections or discussion groups; election of Division officers; etc.

Respectfully submitted by: Jesus Lau, Chair, RTUE. The first minutes’ draft were written by Martha Castro, Financial Officer