

68th IFLA Council and General Conference
Social Science Libraries Section
Glasgow, Scotland
23 August 2002

Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting

Members Present: Jakob Andersen (Chair), Kari Gulbraar, Hans-Christoph Hobohm, Barbara Kemp, Agneta Olsson, Jean M. Porter, Margaret Robb, Myoung C. Wilson

Members Absent: Mireille Fomenko, Vera Grigorieva, Eeva-Liisa Lehtonen, Yvonne Abitbol-Touboul, Chirawan Bhakdibutr,

Visitors Present: Karen Muller, Gerd Paul, Abderrazak Amiri, Michel Fraysse, Sigrid Barbosa de Lima, Jean-Philippe Accart, Chedza Molepe, Paul Vermouth, Pham Bich Thuy, Jacques Hellemens, Stan Kalkos

Jakob Andersen opened the meeting by reporting that he has successfully negotiated a month's free access to the *World of Learning*. He will search for appropriate addresses and send letters to appropriate agencies to appeal for more entries for the IFLA Survey of National Libraries of Education.

The strategic plan was discussed. It was decided that there is no need to change the overall mission, strategic plan or general goals. The action plans will be updated, with those completed or in process being identified. Ms. Wilson suggested adding the proposed study discussed at the first meeting as part of the action plans for Goal 1.

Jean-Philippe Accart asked about coming elections to the Standing Committees. Mr. Andersen said that in general we would like more members from outside the U.S. and northern/western Europe.

Berlin

The Berlin Conference program was discussed next. More speakers were mentioned. Ms. Gulbraar said we should try to find speakers from other continents. Mr. Andersen agreed but noted that there is often difficulty in such individuals finding adequate funding to attend the conferences. Mr. Andersen said there will be a two-hour open session with no more than four speakers. Dr. Hans-Christoph Hobohm said that a workshop on serving our community is also being considered. There will at least be a study tour of the very prestigious Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung. It was suggested that the section might be able to hire a bus to take people to the off-site workshop as do many other sections. Ms. Wilson suggested that some of the political scientists and sociologists talk with us about their information needs and how they use information. Gerd Paul indicated that this is a new idea that needs some thought. Dr. Hobohm suggested that it might be better to talk with some down-to-earth researchers (not necessarily the "great names").

Ms. Gulbraar asked if we know the theme for the Buenos Aires conference. The general consensus is that it will focus on Education and Development Studies. It was suggested that

Development Studies might also attract economists and business experts. No one present knew of any business or economic libraries in Buenos Aires. Dr. Hobohm noted that the Secretary General of ICSSD is located in Buenos Aires and promised to contact him for more information. Everyone agreed that we would like to have at least one speaker from Latin America.

It was reported that the open session went well, with 90-95 people attending. Karen Muller reported that more than 80 attended the Knowledge Management Discussion Group meeting. There were good presentations and interesting discussions. Developing countries were well represented and a few of those representatives expressed interest in becoming involved. She also reported that the group will petition for section status. They also are considering instituting an electronic discussion list. Dr. Hobohm suggested that the attendance figures be reported to the IFLA Secretariat.

Ms. Muller said that the split conference reception seemed more efficient and pleasant than a large all-conference reception. Dr. Hobohm reported that there will be a reception in the State Library in Berlin, which is a smaller venue. There will be another reception nearer the conference center.

Dr. Hobohm asked for feedback of program content and facilities. Margaret Robb said that workshops are best for first-time attendees since they tend to be more focused on a topic. IFLA in general has focused too much on quantity and not enough on quality. Myoung Wilson suggested that programs with similar themes be coordinated since there is much repetition now. Ms. Gulbraar reported that she had heard that several rooms were not suitable for the type of meeting or workshop being held. Mr. Andersen reported that often workshops are longer than the open sessions. Dr. Hobohm noted that Berlin is a good place for off-site workshops since there are many universities and libraries as possible venues. Mr. Andersen said that coordinating programs might be difficult since disparate committees do the work, and IFLA Headquarters cannot force cooperation. Ms. Wilson suggested that IFLA Headquarters might focus on facilitating communication among committees.

Ms. Kemp asked if the black and white version of the *Newsletter* is adequate for the print version, with a color version being available online. There was agreement that this division is fine. Mr. Andersen indicated that if color print copies are necessary, his institution could provide them.

Chedza Molepe asked if we are interested in lesser-known speakers for our conferences. Mr. Andersen said that we definitely are since we really want to diversify. Dr. Hobohm emphasized that we are interested in the quality of presentations too. He again said that any ideas for speakers should be sent to him or to Mr. Andersen.

Dr. Hobohm offered a welcome to Berlin to all present and said that he looks forward to seeing everyone there.

Ms. Wilson closed the meeting by thanking Mr. Andersen for all of his work and led those present in a round of applause.