



Science & Technology Section

Standing Committee meetings in August 2008, Quebec, Canada

www.ifla.org/VII/s7/index.htm

SC I - August 9, 2008

Present: Jill Mayer, Janet Webster, James Andrews, Marcel Brannemann, Liu Xiwen, Ray Schwartz, Josee Saint-Marseille, Olga Lavrik, Irma Pasanen, Billie Reinhart, Christine Stotzenbach

Guests: Hasna Askhita

Regrets: Deva Reddy, Christina Birdie, Ruvini Champa Kodikara, Sriyani Ileperuma, B.S. Kademani, Anne Powell, Caroline Wiegandt

Welcome and introductions were made.

The minutes from Durban were approved by the committee.

Jill Mayer - Report of the Coordinating Board Meeting.

The meeting outlined the forthcoming changes in IFLA's organization. IFLA Sections are to be organized by library type (Sci-Tech will be in Division I - Library Types), regions, collections, services, and support of the profession (five instead of eight categories). This change will take place after the Milan meeting. Our committee can then add more members under the new rules. We can start taking nominations in October for new members-set in Feb and elections on April 1st. In addition, we will elect a new chair in Milan.

Irma Pasanen - Montreal Preconference report.

The preconference was a success. There were 40 attendees. Of the 23 evaluation forms returned, 14 were science librarians, two from government libraries, 10 from Canada, four from the USA, five from Europe, three from Asia and the Middle East. All evaluations stated that the preconference met expectations and was useful. Half of the respondents did not plan to attend the IFLA conference in Quebec City. Most of the respondents found out about the preconference through their colleagues. After the preconference, the attendees and the speakers attended a reception at the library of the Polytechnique.

Jill Mayer - Study Tours

Jill stated that there will not be a study tour for this conference. And that for next year in Milan, Valentina Comba (comba@cib.unibo.it) from the University of Bologna, Italy is recommending a tour near Milan. It is an hour to hour and a half trip, and it is an ICSTI facility. There was concern amongst the committee that the tour may take too much time, and we should ask Ms Comba for an alternative closer to or in Milan. Ray Schwartz and Janet Webster suggested that we should open the Study Tour to all IFLA attendees and reserve a certain number of spaces for Sci-Tech people (since that has been a concern in the past). Opening up the Study Tour to the whole conference would better market the Section's work.

Janet Webster - Monday Dinner Announcement

There is a dinner with STL committee members at the Cafe du Monde (next to Cruise Terminal) at 8:30pm.

Discussion of Strategic Plan Draft

Janet Webster, Marcel Brannemann, and Julia Gelfand drafted a new section strategy, and was presented to the committee by both Janet and Marcel. The draft put forth many strategic options, so the committee discussed which we should focus on. In looking for examples, the question was asked: What does IFLA do in the area of science policies? Irma mentioned the example of ICSTI and IFLA cooperation as a model for a possible strategy. Jane Wu is coming out with a book on information policy. IFLA has worked with WIPO. Maybe the focus could be on open access. Open access can be examined by a variety of perspectives - technical, political, legal, and scholarly. Dr Ho Nam Choi had some observations on the state of OA. The committee decided to discuss this topic further.

Jill Mayer - Other Agenda Items.

Lack of African and South Asian members on Committee. It seems to be that funding is the issue for African and South Asian. Ray Schwartz mentioned that the Carnegie Foundation supported a group of African librarians to be at the IFLA 2003 conference. Perhaps, the committee could find funding. The topic was tabled for the next meeting.

The New Members Reception usually has between 145 to 345 attendees. Jill Mayer recommended that committee members should attend the Reception.

Jill Mayer reviewed the list of speakers for the open session, and thanked James Andrews, Ray Schwartz, and Josee Saint-Marseille for reviewing the abstracts for the open session. She also reviewed duties for the open session and the satellite meeting. Ray Schwartz will write a piece for the Express announcing the open session. Deva E. Reddy will write a piece summing up the open session for the Express. Ray Schwartz will write the evaluation form, and Jill Mayer will photocopy the evaluations, handouts, and fliers. Ray Schwartz will send the copies of the satellite meeting presentations to Irma Pasanen.

James Andrews reported that he has not heard back from Dr. Kaniki about his paper for the IFLA journal.

Irma Pasanen, Treasurer: Budget Report

The section receives 610 Euro a year per annum and has used 100 for the preconference. The credit of the account is at present 830.53 euros. However, Polytechnique will pay the expenses for the preconference and charge us later. After we pay back the Polytechnique, our balance is expected to be around 150 euros.

Sincerely Ray Schwartz
September 3, 2008



Science & Technology Section

Standing Committee Business Meeting II

Attendees:

James Andrews, Marcel Brannemann, Olga Lavrik, Xiwen Liu, Jill Mayer, Irma Pasanen, Deva E. Reddy, Billie Joy Reinhart, Josee Saint-Marseille, Ray Schwartz, Christine Stotzenbach, Janet Webster

Regrets:

Christina Birdie, Ruvini Champa Kodikara, Sriyani Ileperuma, B.S. Kademani, Anne Powell, Caroline Wiegandt

Open Session– Review:

The committee reviewed the open session “*Science across libraries: provision of science and technology information resources and services in diverse settings*” and felt that the program was a success. The session was well attended with over 190 delegates. Billie Joy Reinhart made an analysis of the evaluations and felt that the feedback was positive. Deva E. Reddy mentioned that the report on the session has appeared in *IFLA Express* # 7, August 14, 2008 and has been published in all the IFLA official languages.

Agricultural Libraries Special Interest Group

Jill Mayer stated that according to new statutes and rules of procedure, the current IFLA discussion groups will cease to exist after 2009. The S&T Libraries Section has sponsored „Agricultural Libraries Discussion Group” ever since it was formed in 2005. The proposal to form a special interest group (SIG), in place of current discussion group under the aegis of S&T Section be considered by the committee. Janet Webster pointed out that as per the scope of the section, the areas of activities are confined to physical sciences, engineering and technology. She said that the Health and Biological Sciences Libraries Section would cover agriculture also. Deva Reddy expressed that agriculture being the science and technology of crop and livestock production, STL section would be the right place for agriculture. He mentioned that if need be the scope of STL section can be expanded by adding the words „other applied or allied subjects” to the strategic plan.

Ms Reinhart made a motion to adopt the Agriculture SIG, Ms. Pasanen seconded, all agreed.

New IFLA Professional Structure

Jill Mayer briefed the members about the new professional structure of IFLA and said that there will be five divisions instead of present seven divisions. They are:

Division I – Library Types; Division II – Library Collections; Division III – Library Services;

Division IV – Support of the Profession; Division V – Region.

Accordingly, the Science & Technology Libraries Section would fall under the purview of Division I – Library Types. Deva Reddy said that he would communicate the details of the new structure and the sections under each of the Division to the SC members.

Copy Right Rules

Janet Webster presented a draft statement directed to the IFLA Governing Council encouraging the Council to comment on the Green paper entitled "Copyright in the Knowledge Economy" issued by the Commission on European Communities in July 2008. Irma Pasanen and Marcel Branneman had contacted their country representatives on the Copyright and Legal Matters who encouraged the STC to express our concerns. The Committee passed the draft resolution unanimously and directed Jill Mayer to carry it forward as appropriate.

Strategic plan review

The members were of the opinion that the strategic plan as discussed in SC I meeting on August 9, 2008 be further reviewed and changes if any be brought to next SC meeting for consideration. The group discussed potential projects such as promoting quality science books for children. Jim Andrews volunteered to ask his graduate assistant to investigate open access issues. James Andrews, Ray Schwartz, Liu Xiwen, Janet Webster, Deva E.Reddy, and Olga Lavrik volunteered to work on the proposed project. Deva E. Reddy mentioned that the existing literature, books and articles, be first reviewed to work out the project proposal.

Topics for S&T Section open session at Milan, Italy:

The committee discussed various ideas for a topic for the open session. It was also mentioned that there can be a keynote speaker. It was felt that as per IFLA guidelines there should be an open call for papers. Deva E. Reddy was of the opinion that while choosing papers due consideration for papers from developing countries be given. James Andrews mentioned that the selection of the papers for the current conference was based on the quality and content of the abstracts received. Jill Mayer said that no paper was ignored on the basis of region or country. It was agreed to have „Open access in science and technology worldwide“ or „Open Access: a new stage/step in the culture of library information services“ as the topic for our open session in Milan.

Review of papers and planning for the session at Milan:

Deva E.Reddy, James Andrews, Josee Saint-Marseille and Xiwen Liu volunteered to review the papers and plan for the session at Milan in 2009.

Study Tour:

The discussion on the study tour started at the SC first meeting on August 9 continued. Jill Mayer said that she would correspond with Valentina Comba of University of Bologna, Italy who will help in identifying a site. The members agreed that the tour should be confined to half a day only.

Reports from Other Associations:

Jill Mayer gave a brief report for the Medical Library Association.

No reports were made on any other associations except mentioning about a couple of forthcoming conferences: 12th World Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists at Tokyo, Japan, 24 - 27 August, 2008 and 10th International Congress on Medical Librarianship to be held in Brisbane, Australia, 31 August–4 September, 2009.

Brain Storming Session by Ellen Tise, President Elect, IFLA:

Deva E.Reddy attended the session by Ellen Tise, President Elect IFLA, briefly mentioned the salient features of the discussion paper “Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge”. He said that the president elect has focused her views on the rationale for libraries, access to information, threats and barriers to access to libraries, the role of internet, and the means and methods of overcoming these barriers in providing access to haves and have-nots worldwide. Reddy said that he would send a copy of the discussion paper to the SC members.

Vote of Thanks:

The meeting was concluded with grateful thanks to Jill Mayer, the chair of the section and to Ray Schwartz for recording the minutes of the SC first meeting on August 9 as Deva E.Reddy could not make the meeting as his flights flight delayed.

Sincerely,
Deva Eswara Reddy
September 8, 2008