



## Public Libraries Section

Standing Committee

**Annual Report January – December 2007**

### Scope Statement

The Section of Public Libraries provides an active information forum for the development and promotion of public libraries that serve the whole community in the context of the information society and ensure the free and equal access to information at the local level.

**Overview:** An agreement was reached for the final revision and publication of the Libraries, Archives and Museums Research Project as an IFLA publication to be issued in 2008. Some work was done on the Public Library Guidelines. IFLA indicated that it wanted the Committee to revise the Guidelines in both print and electronically with a goal of publishing a new edition in 2009. Lack of funds placed constraints on moving forward with an editor for this effort. The first phase of the Caterpillar Book Box Project was completed with Book Boxes in place in South Africa and members of the committee began work on establishing criteria to award grants and the blueprints to libraries to replicate the program elsewhere in Africa.

### Section Membership: 306

#### *Members leaving the Committee in August 2007:*

- Mary Sherman, USA
- Florence Ponce, France

#### *New Members Joining the Committee in August 2007:*

- Annick Guinery, France
- Lorraine Jackson, USA
- Magdalena Reyes, Uruguay
- Anna Torfadottir (Iceland)

**Mentor Program:** Every new member was assigned a Committee member to assist them in becoming familiar with the work of the Committee.

#### *Officers: January 2007-August 2007*

- Chair: Torny Kjekstad
- Secretary: John Lake
- Treasurer: Klaus-Peter Boettger
- Information Coordinator: Ian Stringer

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***Meetings held during the year:***

***Annual Meeting held in Durban, South Africa during the 2007 IFLA World Congress.***

Programs sponsored by the PLSC:

- Poster Session: Public Library Guidelines.
- Division III Program: Social inclusion: How can public libraries embrace the challenge of reaching out to serve all people in their community?
  - Democracy and social inclusion
  - Bridging the information gap – digital inclusion
  - The Right to Read.
  - Libraries for All.

***Mid-year Meeting held in Mülheim, Germany*** and hosted by Klaus-Peter Boettger and the Mülheim an der Ruhr Public Library

Key activities and actions:

- Discussion with Claudia Lux, incoming President of IFLA on her priorities for the organization, her theme “Libraries on the Agenda” and the role of public librarians in implementing these priorities.
- Preparation for the programs being co-sponsored by the Committee at the 2007 Conference in Durban, South Africa.
- Reports on ongoing projects including revisions to the Public Library Manifesto, a revised edition of the Public Library Guidelines, the online Meeting User Needs Best Practices and Checklist, and the Caterpillar Book Box Project.
- Identification of a subject (advocacy for public libraries in the political arena) for the 2008 conference and approval of a proposal for a pre-conference on serving teens in public libraries.

***Committee meetings held in Durban, South Africa in conjunction with the World Congress:***

Committee key activities and actions:

- Program
- Discussion of the IFLA Professional Structure Review Committee Report.
- Review of ongoing projects including the Caterpillar Book Box Project; revised edition of Public Library Guidelines; Public Libraries, Museums and Archives Report; Public Library Manifesto Revisions and Meeting User Needs Best Practices and Checklist.
- Chapters of the current edition of the Public Library Guidelines were assigned to members of the Committee to review and make recommendations for revisions.
- Committee members were assigned to develop criteria by which recipients of the blueprints and financial support would be selected to establish a local Caterpillar Book Box Project and to solicit applicants.
- Identified four papers presented during the 2007 PLSC conference program to be recommended for publication in the IFLA journal.
- Agreed that a Committee member should be replaced since he has not attended any meetings since being elected nor communicated his situation to the Chair of the Committee.
- Approved a motion to produce two newsletters each year, one electronic and the other a print version to be mailed.
- Continued to refine the program on advocacy to be held at the 2008 World Congress and agreed to seek co-sponsorship from the Metropolitan Libraries Section. Heard reports of the pre-conference on services to teens.

***Other activities:***

- On-going exploration of a pre-conference to the 2009 World Congress in Milan to be held in collaboration with a number of other Divisions/Committees. The pre-conference would be held in Barcelona and would focus on library facilities.
- Committee member Suzanne Payette served on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation selection committee for the Access to Learning Award.
- Newsletter: E-newsletter issued in March 2007 and print newsletter issued and mailed in September 2007.
- Annual Report 2006 posted on IFLA website and Strategic Plan updated.
- An announcement is posted on the IFLA website regarding grants available for additional Caterpillar projects.
- List of Standing Committee Members kept updated throughout the year.

- Activities of Standing Committee members representing IFLA: John Lake, Chair was the keynote speaker on the topic of public libraries and the Internet at a conference at the University of Barcelona in October 2007. Ian Stringer made presentations at the Taupo Mobile Library Meeting in January 2007 and at the Barmagui Mobile Muster in New South Wales, Australia in July 2007.
- The Public Libraries Standing Committee provided input to Guidelines for Library Services to Babies.

February 29, 2008