



STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES

69th General Conference, Berlin

Minutes

1st MEETING, 2 August 2003

Members present:

Osvaldo Avallone, Italy
Zawiya Baba, Malaysia
Fernanda Campos, Portugal (Chair)
Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Switzerland (Secretary)
Kai Ekholm, Finland
Andrew Green, United Kingdom
Graham Jefcoate, Germany
Fariborz Khozravi, Iran
Zoran Krstulovic, Slovenia
Steen Bille Larsen, Denmark
Peter Lor, South Africa
Elisabeth Niggemann, Germany
R. Ramachandran, Singapore
George Zachos, Greece
Celia Zaher, Brazil
Vladimir Zaitsev, Russia

Apologies:

Alix Chevallier, Antonia Ida Fontana, Tomas Lidman.

Observers:

Hasna Askhita, Syria
Rookaya Bawa, USA
Krishna Chakraborty, India
Mariétou Dionge Diop, Senegal
Zogo Francis, Benin
Mohammed G. Ghandour, Egypt
Renée Herbouze, France
Winsome Hudson, Jamaica
Dikeledi J. Kunene, Swaziland
S. Majundar, India

Wan Ali Wan Mamat, Malaysia
Vinyet Panyella, Spain
Nthabiseng Ramokotjo, Lesotho
Araceli Sanchez-Pinol, Spain
Natalia Santucci, Italy
Rigmor Sjøvoll, Norway
Pascal Soubeiga, Burkina Faso
Gerard van Trier, The Netherlands (minutes)
Jagath Wedasinghe, Sri Lanka

1. Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Standing Committee as well as the observers. Apologies were received from Alix Chevallier, Tomas Lidman and Antonia Ida Fontana.

Alix Chevallier has retired and is therefore not able to complete her second term in the Standing Committee. All agreed to send her a message to thank her for her work as Secretary of the Section and to wish her all the best. Tomas Lidman will leave the Standing Committee because he had accepted an other position outside the national library.

2. Election of officers for the 2003-2005 period

Elections were held for the position of Chair and Secretary.

Fernanda Campos, who was the only nominee for the position of Chair, said that she was willing to continue as Chair of the Section for the remaining years of her second term (2003-2005). She was unanimously elected.

Gerard van Trier was the only nominee for the position of Secretary. He was unanimously elected. [After the Conference IFLA's Secretary General informed the Chair that another Secretary had to be elected because Gerard van Trier's request for re-election as a member of the Section had not arrived at IFLA's Headquarters before the deadline. After consultation of the Section members Genevieve Clavel was unanimously elected as Secretary of the Section 2003-2005.]

3. Adoption of agendas for SC I and II

It was decided to switch items 7 (Preparation of the Section's strategic plan 2003-2005) and 9 ('Round Robin' discussion of current activities or issues and concerns in national libraries) of the agenda for SC I.

The strategic plan would be discussed in two steps (SC I and SC II).

4. Approval of minutes from the Glasgow meeting

The minutes of the SC meetings in Glasgow (SC I on 17th August 2002, SC II on 23rd August 2002) were approved as tabled.

5. Officers' reports

Professional Board and Coordinating Board I

The Chair reported the following:

- IFLA has adopted a new title for its annual conference: "World Library and Information Congress".
- IFLA will regularly evaluate its programme and structure (also the sections will be evaluated)
- a more productive programme is needed: carry out projects and surveys, formulate guidelines, issue publications etc.
- all are requested to complete the evaluation form for this conference

Elisabeth Niggemann gave some background information on the organisation of the Conference.

Financial report

The Treasurer, Fernanda Campos, handed out the Financial Report 2003. There were no expenses for activities of the Section in the previous year. The production of a new brochure had been delayed until the new strategic plan would be ready. The total amount available on 22 July 2003 is € 903.20.

6. Review of programmes at the Berlin General Conference

The Chair said that the Section was co-sponsor of an IFLA meeting of experts on an International Cataloguing Code. The first of at least three meetings was held in Frankfurt, 28-30 July. A Draft Statement of Cataloguing Principles that is to replace the Paris Principles will be published on IFLAnet.

The Chair gave then an overview of the Section's programme for this conference:

- National Libraries & Statistics and Evaluation, open session in co-operation with the Statistics and Evaluation Section. Results of two surveys will be presented, carried out by the national libraries of Slovenia and Malaysia.
- National Libraries as access points: virtual libraries for virtual users. Workshop.

The procedure for attending workshops has changed: no registration is required, participants are admitted on a first come, first served basis.

The Chair said that two members of the Section (Zawiya Baba and Antonia Ida Fontana) had agreed to participate in the Discussion Group on Quality Issues in Libraries. A start-up meeting will be held on Sunday 3 August. Issues are Indicators for Staff Performance, Continuous Quality Improvement and Identification of National Quality Frameworks.

7. 'Round Robin' discussion of current activities or issues and concerns in national libraries

The members of the Standing Committee reported on the following activities and issues.

Zawiyah Baba reported on the restructuring of the National Library of Malaysia and the recruitment of new staff. A report on a new National Digital Library System had been received and a new strategic plan will be developed. The National Reading Month (July) was very successful with extensive media coverage.

R Ramachandran explained some activities of the National Library of Singapore, such as fund raising and constructing a new library building.

Steen Bille Larsen said that in Denmark a government report had been presented with a preservation plan for libraries, museums and archives, covering conventional and digital collections.

Peter Lor said that the National Library of South-Africa had completed its restructuring process. A formal structure is in place, which enables the library to request additional funds from the government. The construction of a new library building encountered some bureaucratic problems. The millennium system had been implemented with the support of the Mellon Foundation. Progress was made with draft interim legislation for the deposit of electronic publications. Peter Lor announced his retirement as national librarian at the end of October.

Graham Jefcoate, who recently left the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, reported on a major virtual rare books exhibition in co-operation with libraries, archives and museums. He made a desktop survey of cross-sectoral projects in Europe.

Vladimir Zaitsev said that a new building of the National Library of Russia had been inaugurated in the presence of the President of Russia. He also mentioned a co-operative project with the national library of Finland regarding the provision of 4 million microfilms.

George Zachos said that in Greece new legislation had been implemented and that the National Library is now an autonomous body. Problem is the lack of space, but preparations of a new building have started.

Osvaldo Avallone reported on activities of the National Library in Rome. A reorganisation of the Ministry of Culture is expected.

Fariborz Khosravi spoke about a new building of the National Library of Iran and the support of libraries in Afghanistan.

Kai Ekholm told about the central role of the National Library serving the entire library network in Finland. In 2004 a new law for the deposit of electronic publications was approved. He also mentioned a extensive digitisation programme for Finish cultural heritage and co-operation with the National Library of Russia. He stressed the importance of standardisation and the work of NISO (the national library joined NISO as a member).

Andrew Green reported on the difficult legislation process that resulted in a bill for the deposit of electronic publications in Britain. The National Library of Wales received a large number of visitors after the opening of a new visitor's centre and is actively involved in co-operation between archives, museums and libraries in the field of digitisation (input into Culture Net Wales).

Zoran Krstulovic reported on new library legislation in Slovenia. Additional funds are needed for the National Library to implement the new strategic plan.

Elisabeth Niggemann said that in Germany a new law for the deposit of electronic publications is being prepared. The preparation process is taking a long time. The production of printed publications is not slowing down and more space is needed for storage: a new annex to the building in Leipzig is planned. Elisabeth Niggemann also mentioned a pre-conference in Frankfurt about the migration of the German cataloguing rules to AACR2 and MARC 21.

Genevieve Clavel said that many of the issues mentioned (more space needed, legal deposit of electronic publications, e-archiving) were also important for the National Library of Switzerland. In addition, she reported on the active involvement of the National Library in the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which will be held in Geneva, 10-12 December 2003 and in Tunis, 2005. A pre-meeting will be held in Geneva, 3-4 November (Libraries @ the Heart of the Information Society) in order to bring together librarians with representatives of the national delegations to the World Summit itself. Major concern of the library world is that libraries are recognised as key players in the Information Society.

Celia Zaher reported on political changes in Brazil (election of a new president, a new minister). A reading and book programme had to be discontinued. A new idea is a centre for research on publications. Other issues are: closer relations of the National Library with the Copyright Office, ISBN, a web portal on Brazilian literature, digitisation and new legislation on the deposit of electronic publications.

Fernanda Campos said that it had been a difficult year for the National Library of Portugal. Following a change of government the budget was cut with 50% in the middle of 2002, which made a critical review of activities necessary. A new Director came into office, Diogo Pires Aurélio, replacing Carlos Reis. She mentioned also the launch of a web portal on preservation by ECPA (Gateway for Resources and Information on Preservation – Grip: www.know.nl/ecpa/grip) and the SEPIA conference in Helsinki, 18-20 September 2003, on the role of photographic collections in the digital age.

Fernanda Campos noted several themes of interest for coming IFLA conferences: national library buildings and equipment, new legal deposit legislation, long-term archiving of electronic publications and cross-sectoral co-operation in the digital world.

Also the observers reported on activities and issues, respectively in France, India, Jamaica, Lesotho, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Swaziland.

8. Preparation of the Section's strategic plan 2003-2005

The Chair said that the new strategic plan should be finished by October 1st. In this meeting of the SC the highlights of the plan could be discussed. The following material should be taken account of: guidelines for the format of strategic plans, the actual Strategic Plan, Ideas for the Strategic Plan 2003-2005 (by Peter Lor), recommendations from the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group. Moreover, IFLA recommended to incorporate the theme of the new President Kay Raseroka ("Life long literacy") in the strategic plan and/or in the Buenos Aires (2004) and Oslo (2005) conference programs and also to take account of the conference themes: "Libraries: Tools for Education and Development" (2004) and "Libraries: a Voyage of Discovery" (2005).

Al Kagan, chair of the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group, was present to explain how the SC could help to implement the Group's recommendations:

- a) to develop a research programme on rural library development and
- b) to develop policies conducive to the development of information structures for equitable, adequate and reliable communications for all.

Peter Lor underlined the importance of closer interaction between national libraries and library associations. It was decided to accept both recommendations for incorporation in the strategic plan.

In line with his paper 'Ideas for the Strategic Plan 2003-2005' Peter Lor said that the Section should pay attention to the challenge of bridging the digital divide. He considered the text of his paper (dated 2002-08-22) still valid at a general level, but he advised to formulate also practical activities. The discussion focussed on the role of the Section in relation to other organisations such as CDNL, ALP and funding bodies. Peter Lor said that the Section should identify priorities and then contact other parties. He considered also library associations as valuable partners, for instance in preparing workshops for library management.

Rookaya Bawa, Program Officer, The Carnegie Corporation, said that workshops should be attended by a wide range of library managers, not only by the top. She advised to formulate very focussed, concrete workshops, because most donor organisations have not much money

to spend. Graham Green added that the target group should be the new generation of managers.

The Chair said that the Section could support workshops in different parts of the world. It was recognised that the resources of the Section are limited and that no large project could be carried out. The section could, however, develop a format for workshops.

Zawiya Baba said that the National Library of Malaysia will host the 6th International Conference of Asian Digital Libraries (ICADL), in Kuala Lumpur, 8-12 December 2003. Also workshops for senior library staff could be organised.

The Chair thanked the attendants for their suggestions. The discussion will be continued at the second SC meeting on Friday 8 August.

9. Standing Committee representation at IFLA booth

Genevieve Clavel agreed to represent the Standing Committee at the IFLA booth.

10. Adjournment

Fernanda Campos thanked the members of the Standing Committee and the observers for their contribution and closed the meeting.