



National Libraries Section

Standing Committee

74th IFLA General Conference and Council, Quebec

Minutes of the meeting, 8.30am-11.00am, Saturday 9 August 2008

Members present:

Ingrid Parent, Canada (Chair/Financial Officer)
Jasmine Cameron, Australia (Secretary/Information Officer)
Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Switzerland
Antonia Ida Fontana, Italy
Magdalena Gram, Sweden
Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, Finland
Galina Kislovskaya, Russian Federation
Deanna Marcum, United States
Elisabeth Niggemann, Germany
Araceli Sanchez-Pinol de Anta, Spain
Lucien Scotti, France
John Tsebe, South Africa
Martyn Wade, Scotland
Vladimir Zaitsev, Russian Federation

Apologies:

Martin Bossenbroek, Netherlands
Zhan Furui, China
Colette O'Flaherty, Ireland

Absent:

Renee Herbouze, France
Vigdis Moe Skarstein, Norway
Tiiu Valm, Estonia

Observers:

Ingibjorg Sverrisdottir, Iceland
Andrew Green, Wales
Ngian Lek Choh, Singapore
Alan Smith, Australia
Nozha Ibn Lkhayah, Morocco
Irina Lynden, Russian Federation
Denyse Leger, Canada
Gunnar Sahlin, Sweden
Sania Kamarti, Tunisia

Invited speakers and guests:

Penny Carnaby, New Zealand

Pam Gatenby, Australia

Kelly Moore, Canada

Claudia Lux, President, IFLA

Tania Siglinde, Assistant to IFLA President

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members, observers and guests to the meeting and reminded those present that following consultation with Standing Committee members that the second meeting previously scheduled for Friday 15 August would not be held. The decision to hold only one meeting in non-election years would be evaluated after the conference.

The Chair welcomed in particular Penny Carnaby, Chair of CDNL to the meeting and offered congratulations to John Tsebe, South Africa on the completion of the new national library building in Pretoria. Members, observers and guests were invited to introduce themselves.

The Secretary noted three apologies received prior to the meeting: Martin Bossenbroek, Netherlands; Colette O’Flaherty, Ireland and Zhan Furui, China. No apologies were tabled at the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. The Chair invited members to indicate if they wished to speak under Item 13, News from members and observers. It was noted that John Tsebe would speak briefly about South Africa’s new national library building.

3. Approval of the minutes from SC1 and SC11, Durban, 2007

See <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/annual/s1-SCminutes2007-1.pdf> and <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/annual/s1-SCminutes2007-2.pdf> . The minutes were approved pending one typographical correction to be forwarded to the Secretary by John Tsebe.

4. Review of Section conference sessions and procedures for selecting papers for publication

The Secretary reminded members of the two joint conference sessions involving the Section: Monday 11 August, 1.45pm-6.00pm Audiovisual and Multimedia, Copyright and Other Legal Matters, National Libraries and Bibliography, *The legal deposit of audiovisual and multimedia materials: practice around the world* and Thursday 14 August, 8.30am-12.45pm National Libraries with Statistics and Evaluation, *Ensuring quality in national libraries: performance measures and quality evaluation supporting cultural heritage and research*. The Secretary asked that members send their evaluation of the main session on Thursday via email or the conference message board. It was proposed that the papers by the two keynote speakers, Roswitha Poll and Carol Tenopir be nominated for publication in the IFLA Journal pending discussion with the Secretary of the Statistics and Evaluation Standing Committee.

5. Discussion of Section conference session(s) for Milan 2009

The Chair outlined some possible themes for Milan but delayed discussion to the end of the meeting to allow members an opportunity to think about themes. It was noted that the Italian Government is sponsoring a meeting of international experts during IFLA in Milan to discuss digital issues but that details were not yet available.

6. Report from Chair on Professional Committee and Division Meetings

Several issues relating to the Quebec conference were discussed at the Professional Committee meeting, including the inability of some people to obtain visas, including the Arabic translator from Egypt; overbooking by hotels resulting in some people being placed in hotels distant from the conference venue; lower than expected registration including fewer participants from the United States. It was noted that parts of the opening ceremony would be in French and people requiring headphones should arrive early.

The proposed changes to the IFLA statutes had been overwhelmingly endorsed by postal ballot. The changes will need to be endorsed by the Governing Council on Thursday.

7. Report from the Chair on revised IFLA governance structure

The Chair outlined the key changes to the governance structure which includes the amalgamation of the eight existing divisions into five. The National Libraries Section will remain in Division 1 which will be called Library Types. Division 1 will expand from the current three sections to encompass thirteen sections. The other four divisions are Library Collections, Library Services, Support of the Profession and Region. Division 1 has no core activities, however it has two proposed special interest groups, Agricultural Libraries and International Relations in National Organizations.

Penny Carnaby noted that she would be co-chairing a session on behalf of Alex Byrne on Indigenous Knowledge with Lorie Roy. The session would encompass discussion of how to gain greater acceptance of Indigenous knowledge systems within IFLA and an alternative to the current management of Indigenous issues within the Multicultural Section. Committee members supported the idea of establishing a Special Interest Group for Indigenous Issues.

8. Update on Directory of National Libraries

The Chair invited Genevieve Clavel-Merrin to present an update on the Directory of National Libraries, noting the excellent work that the consultant, Pierre Clavel had done in researching options and subsequently developing a directory model using Wikipedia. It was noted that members had voted 7-4 in favour of using Wikipedia over TEL.

Genevieve Clavel-Merrin reported that although a list of national libraries already existed on Wikipedia it was incomplete. The Directory has been set up in English at this stage. As the Section has no infrastructure or resources to update a directory it has been designed so that each national library will maintain its own entry. The structure of the directory entries set up by Pierre Clavel was described in detail. A link to a sample entry will be circulated to members. It shows an 'info box' which needs to be

populated with certain elements such as the name of the library's director, legal mandate, collection size and so on. It will be important that entries retain their directory nature and do not become a vehicle for promoting the library at the expense of key facts and information. The Secretary will circulate a set of directions for developing directory entries after the conference. This will explain how to sign up to Wikipedia and how to create an entry. Pierre Clavel will be able to advise libraries on how to set up their entries if required.

In response to a query from Elisabeth Niggemann about the site maintained by Suzanne Gyeszly it was noted that while the site was a list of links rather than a directory it would be useful to link to it from the national libraries Wikipedia site. A note of the person responsible for updating each library's entry could be included within the Wikipedia template.

The issue of parallel directory entries in other languages was noted for future discussion.

9. Update from RDA Satellite Meeting, Quebec 7 August 2008

The Chair welcomed Pam Gatenby, Australia to the meeting and invited her to brief members on the satellite meeting on RDA. The meeting had been sponsored by the Cataloguing Section to give interested parties an overview of progress with RDA and allow an opportunity to raise issues or ask questions about implementation. Topics covered included the benefits of RDA, its structure and how to apply the new principles and rules and its compatibility with other rules, standards and systems. A demonstration of RDA was well received at the meeting.

RDA will be published online and institutions will be encouraged to develop and share workflows that can be stored within the online tool. The need for a print version will be assessed at a later date. RDA can link to other online cataloguing tools such as subject headings. Key dates are: 13 October 2008 full draft to be released for review and comment; 19 January 2009 comments close; March 2009 Committee of Principles and the Joint Steering Committee examine comments; third quarter 2009 RDA to be released for implementation. It is intended that RDA be tested for six months by the four contributing partners: Library of Congress; British Library; Library and Archives Canada and National Library of Australia. It is important to note that RDA is not format bound and has been designed for the digital age.

Deanna Marcum, United States reported that the Library of Congress has issued a joint statement with the National Library of Agriculture and the National Library of Medicine which indicates that during the six month testing phase they will be assessing the costs of training for and implementing RDA and looking at how well RDA meets their needs. Twenty other institutions in the United States have been invited to test RDA as well. The LoC methodology for testing will be put up on the LoC website and libraries invited to join in testing and commenting there to ensure that all results will be in one place.

A demonstration of the online tool will be available at the ALA booth. No print product is planned; the subscription model is still open.

10. Potential IFLA funded projects for 2009

The Chair noted that as the directory project had been awarded 5,000 Euros last year the Section would not be seeking funds for a project in 2009. Genevieve Clavel-Merrin noted that some work has been done on scoping an online national bibliography workshop for French speaking West African libraries but this has not involved the National Libraries Section as envisaged earlier. Funding of approximately 26,000 Euros was needed for a workshop to advance this project. Committee members expressed strong support for this project. John Tsebe noted this was one of two projects that required assistance, the other being the directory of African National Libraries which the National Library of South Africa was leading on. After a discussion of potential funding sources Genevieve Clavel –Merrin agreed to coordinate the preparation of a funding proposal with the Bibliography Section.

11. CDNL/National Libraries Section cooperation

Penny Carnaby, New Zealand spoke to this item and outlined her change agenda for CDNL which would be taken forward by small discussion groups at the CDNL meeting on 13 August. It was envisaged that CDNL would develop a high level strategic vision and that the National Libraries Section would be able to take some practical actions in line with this vision.

12. Update on new IFLA Special Interest Group: International Relations for National Organizations

The Chair invited Kelly Moore, Canada to speak about the proposed new SIG which is currently sponsored by the National Libraries Section. Kelly reported that the proposal had received a positive response so far and encouraged members to attend the meeting scheduled for 1.45pm on Tuesday afternoon which would determine if there was enough interest in the SIG. The idea of the SIG was to create a forum where best practice and ideas could be shared and to raise the profile of international relations work. It was noted that twenty five signatures of support are required to establish a SIG and interested members signed a form expressing their support at the meeting.

13. News from members and observers

The Chair noted that it was the last meeting for Vladimir Zaitsev, Russia, who had completed two four year terms on the committee and Lucien Scotti, France who takes up a new position after the conference. The Chair thanked both members for their contribution to the committee.

IFLA Headquarters will hold elections for Standing Committee members in October. The Secretary read out the names of members whose terms expire in 2009 but are eligible for re-election should they wish to nominate: Martin Bossenbroek, Netherlands; Renee Herbouze, France; Deanna Marcum, United States; Ingrid Parent, Canada; Araceli Sanchez-Pinol de Anta, Spain; Vigdis Moe Skarstein, Norway and Jasmine Cameron, Australia.

John Tsebe reported on the opening of the new national library building in Pretoria, South Africa on 1 August 2008. He acknowledged Peter Lor's initiation of the project and the generous donation from the Carnegie Hall of Trustees which was funding work on retrospective cataloguing, acquisition of works under legal deposit, training and other core activities.

14. Other Business

Discussion on possible themes for the Section's session in Milan was continued under other business. Members made a range of suggestions focussed around the idea of national workforce and other strategies to deal with the impact of digital activities on national libraries. The Chair noted that it would be possible to develop these ideas further through a working group. Deanna Marcum, USA; Antonia Ida Fontana, Italy; Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, Finland and Martyn Wade, Scotland volunteered to form a committee. Penny Carnaby agreed to provide input to the working group from CDNL as appropriate.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11.00am.

www.ifla.org/VII/s1/index.htm