



**Minutes of the First meeting of the Standing Committee on Reading
Durban, S.A. ICC, Saturday, August 18, 2007**

Present:

Patricia Aldana	paldana@groundwoodbooks.com	Pres. IBBY
Glen Arendse	garendse@uwc.ac.za	ALADIN Rep
John Y. Cole	jcole@loc.gov	1997-2005
Mariëtou Diongue Diop	mddiop@ucad.sn	2003-2007
Gwynneth Evans (chair)	gwynneth.evans@sympatico.ca	1999-2007
Leikny Haga Indergaard	lhi@abm-utvikling.no	2005-2009
Ahmed Ksibi	hmedksibi@isd.rnu.tn	
Rob Sarjant	robert.sarjant@bookaid.org	2007-2011
Ivanka Stricevic	ivanka.stricevic@zg.t-com.hr	2007-2011
Virginia Walter	vwalter@ucla.edu	2007-2011

Regrets from SC Members:

Elke Dreisbach (both meetings)
Gayner Eyre (first meeting)
Martine Jan (first meeting)
Samia Kamarti (first meeting)
Elsa Ramirez Levya (both meetings)
Lisa Krolak (both meetings)
Marina Novikova (both meetings)
Briony Train, now Briony Birdi (both meetings)
Maria Vedenyapina (both meetings)
Maureen White (both meetings)
Alec Williams (both meetings)

Introductions

All introduced themselves and gave their affiliations.

Agenda

The agenda, found on page 3 of the Newsletter (no. 24, august 2007) was approved.

Minutes of last year's Meetings

Leikny Indergaard and Gwynneth Evans voted the approval of last year's minutes taken in Seoul and found in the December 2007 issue of the newsletter.

Sessions at the Congress

The Section's session with School Libraries and Public Libraries was highlighted, as was the presentation of the Multicultural Library Manifesto to be given on Thursday morning.

Highlights from the Strategic Plan

Using the strategic plan printed on pages 11 to 13 of the Newsletter, Gwynneth Evans highlighted some of the achievements and encouraged others to add examples and to take part in the discussion.

1. The Implementation of the IFLA/IRA/IBBY Agreement

Patsy Aldana, President of IBBY, gave a brief summary of the work and priorities of IBBY. There are 72 national sections of IBBY and the international Board and secretariat in Switzerland. IBBY works with authors, illustrators, publishers, librarians and reading promoters and centres. The Board administers awards and honour lists and is focusing on: lifelong readership, quality publishing in local languages, reading promotion and bibliotherapy, especially for children in crisis as a result of natural or human war and disaster. IBBY emphasizes the importance of training for the publishing sector as well as the reading promotion sector and provides training workshops for both.

In Columbia, 1000 children have been put into reading clubs and this project will be evaluated to test whether it stands as a model for troubled children. Similar kinds of bibliotherapy is beginning in Afghanistan with the help of the Lebanon Section of IBBY, where theatre is important. There is also work in Gaza at two centres.

IBBY is hopeful that IFLA and IRA will work in Latin America and other parts (Asia and the Middle East) to consolidate and strengthen the efforts of group and make greater collective impact. Africa is obviously an area where the groups could cooperate as well.

2. Reading Promotion.

John Cole presented the collective work of the Pushkin Library Foundation, Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the British Council on reading promotion. A bilingual illustrated hardcover monograph has been published giving the history of reading promotion and examples of good practice. Copies may be received by writing John Cole at: jcole@loc.gov. (See short article on p. 10 of the current newsletter).

John Cole noted that Mrs. Putin was hosting a book Festival in Russia in October and Patsy Aldana mentioned that IBBY's mid-year Board meeting would be in Moscow at the end of September.

Continuing on the theme of partnership and possible cooperation

3. International Presentations,

Ivanka Stricevic noted that she had spoken at an international conference in Hong Kong. She had other English-language speakers realized that 'reading for pleasure' was being translated in a negative sense – not serious and related just to having fun but not learning. They had to have the import of their remarks revised in light of a more accurate and positive image of this type of reading beyond information or educational purposes. This discussion raised the importance of taking into account the cultural context of reading. A discussion on some of the Asian IBBY programmes ensued (China, where the last international conference was held), Korea and Japan.

Members are encouraged to visit the IBBY website at: www.ibby.org

4. Pre-conference in Pretoria

The Reading, Library Services to Children and Young Adults joined the Services to Multicultural Populations to hold a satellite conference in Pretoria on Innovative Multicultural Services for All.

Ivanka Stricevic and Patsy Aldana had attended the pre-conference. They both spoke highly of the organization of the conference by the Local Committee, the communication about the conference through the chair and the website, the interconnection of the sub-themes on literacy, learning and linguistic diversity within the broader theme of multicultural library services, and the lessons learned from the keynote and individual papers. The papers were in English and some parts of the world were not represented. The proceedings may be read at: <http://lib.tut.ac.za/ifla>. A preliminary report on the conference was sent by Dr. Adriaan Swanepoel to Ivanka Stricevic and Gwynneth Evans.

5. The Multicultural Library Manifesto

It was announced that the manifesto would be presented by Kirsten Leth Nielsen at the IFLA Congress on Thursday, August 23. members of the Standing Committee were encouraged to attend because it could drive initiatives and also needs promotion when it is taken for approval to UNESCO at the General Conference in October 2007.

Virginia Walters noted that ALA had had success in developing partnerships with publishers to increase the amount and types and topics of publications on multiculturalism for children and young people. This partnership has increased the variety and incentives like prizes for materials in this area, as the publishers see the economic advantages.

John Cole emphasized the importance of partnerships in 'bringing authors and readers together'. The Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and in the states link publishers, printers, distributors and libraries. The public interest in literacy and books and reading and libraries seems to be high.

Patsy Aldana raised the issue of finding an inexpensive way to promote local publishing at the IFLA Exhibits.

6. General Discussion on the UN Decade of Literacy, Reading Promotion and the Visibility of the Reading Section within and beyond IFLA.

It would appear that reading promotion is not necessarily linked to the UN Literacy Decade within nations.

A number of persons spoke on developments in their countries. Mariètou Diongue Diop spoke of the work being supported by the library school and university students at the Université in Dakar. Adults are being encouraged to learn to read and to apply their skills in many villages in Senegal. A simple, well-illustrated book on water has been published and distributed in Woloff and this tool has acted as an incentive for reading but also for learning about the importance of water.

Glen Arendse said that the popular format of a tabloid newspaper was being published in local dialects in South Africa. Captains and team leaders of soccer clubs are promoting reading and the involvement of local readers is submitted to the soccer club website. The combination of the accessible format and the motivation of sports leaders is having an impact.

Ahmed Ksibi gave a report on a survey of 1000 Tunisian young people of 10-14 years on the evaluation of their participation and reading at the public library. His report is attached as part of the minutes.

The review of the strategic plan and the developments reported by members took all the time available. Members and friends went out for lunch together to continue the exchange and to get to know each other.

Conference Theme for 2008 in Quebec City

Originally suggested as a satellite meeting was the possibility of organizing a marketplace/fair on great examples of service to support the UN Literacy Decade and to increase the link between the practice of literacy and the roles of the school and public libraries for citizens, the group discussed the possibility of such a programme within the Congress regular sessions. There was general discussion about what experience sections had with programmes other than the usual formal presentations and the pros and cons of a different approach.

It was agreed that more multi-media individual presentations could be a good way of transferring knowledge and experience as the poster sessions are very crowded and difficult to manage from logistical and learning perspectives. The discussion will be continued at the second meeting, when people have had an opportunity to consider this idea and perhaps talk with other sections about it. Some of the members and participants were very enthusiastic, others a little more cautious.

*Drafted by Gwynneth Evans
September 2007*



IFLA Reading Section Second Standing Committee Meeting, Durban, 24th August 2007
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Present:

Standing Committee Members: Ivanka Stricevic, Gwynneth Evans, Martine Jan, Rob Sarjant, Virginia Walter, Leikny Indergaard, Gayner Eyre, Samia Kamarti

Associate member and newsletter editor: John Cole

Visitors: Ahmed Ksibi, Karlien de Klerk, Ratna Bandyopadhyay, Loriene Roy

1. Introduction of Members

Ivanka Stricevic welcomed all participants, who briefly introduced themselves.

2. Debriefings from Pre-Conference in Pretoria and Open Session:

a) *Pre-Conference in Pretoria*

Ivanka Stricevic reported the conference on *Innovative Multicultural Library Services for All* was attended by 115 people, about half from South Africa and the others from 19 different countries. There were excellent key note addresses from speakers from IBBY and the ALA, and good discussions during the conference, especially regarding best practices. For future conferences it was noted that there is a need for a strong local team of organisers, and that attendance would be improved if the pre-conference is in the same city as the main conference. The papers are available from the conference web-site <http://lib.tut.ac.za/ifla>. An interim report on the conference has been sent by the chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Adriaan Swanepoel, to Ivanka and Gwynneth

b) *Reading Section Open Session, 27th August:*

Gwynneth Evans, chair of the session, summarized the situation. Two or three speakers failed to arrive in Durban for the conference for financial reasons, but this did have the benefit of allowing more time for each presentation and questions, limiting the number of speakers to three per session. Apart from a few technical issues, the session achieved its purpose extremely well. The papers are available through the Reading Section page on IFLANET as are papers from previous conferences (as well as links to other publications, current reading research, and various websites). Some of the papers over the years have been translated into French and Spanish – and demonstrate a wide variety of best practices. All members are encouraged to contribute to the web page with further examples of good practices and to use it as a promotion tool.

3. Selection of paper for possible publication in the *IFLA Journal*:

After a vote amongst section members, Ratna Bandyopadhyay's paper, [Health-related services for women through library services in West Bengal](#), was selected to put forward for possible publication. The editor of the Journal will be informed.

4. Discussion of Programme for Quebec City, 2008:

Discussion followed on from the first SC meeting where the idea for a literacy fair/souk/marketplace in Quebec was suggested. There was general enthusiasm for this but some reservations were raised – particularly regarding the need for good organisation, planning and timetabling. Success factors might include: buy-in from other sections, getting the right room at the conference, and a mechanism for making sure participants can attend.

The fair would be tied into the UN Decade of Literacy and would showcase various projects/services, and include storytelling interludes. Gwynneth Evans took note of some preliminary suggestions for who might attend – other suggestions welcome. However, there should be a balanced representation of projects from across the world. Just a table would be provided but participants would be encouraged to bring literature, props, video etc – whatever they can to make it lively and demonstrate practice.

To make the most of the opportunity, joining up with other sections should be explored as the reading Section itself only has a guarantee of a two hour space in the programme – e.g. *Library Services to Multicultural Populations*. Subsequent to the meeting, Gwynneth and Rob attended the beginning of their section meeting – they had organised a swapping shop (mini-poster sessions) in Oslo but only three of the seven participants attended, so they had some reservations, and again emphasized the need for good organisation. However, there was also some enthusiasm for the idea and they said they would discuss later in the meeting.

5. Development of Section Priorities, 2007 - 2008:

Ivanka began by saying what a privilege it is to become Chair of such an active section, and mentioned the need for the section to stay strong in light of the changes coming into force in 2009 (sections will need to have a minimum 10 Standing Committee Members, and an overall minimum membership of perhaps 50 members – the latter to be confirmed by the decision of the Governing Board). Therefore the section will have two main aims:

1. the continuation of professional work
2. Formal/structural work to firstly increase the overall membership of the section, and secondly to increase the number of standing committee members (next nominations in 2009).

Ivanka will contact section members to establish the interests etc. and introduce herself as chair.

Virginia Walters suggested that we change the name of the Section to Reading and Literacy Section to better reflect the nature and scope of the Section's work. Those present thought this to be a good idea. Virginia will draft a justification for the name change which will be circulated to members. The proposal would need to go to the Chair of Division VII in time

for the meeting in early December, and then for final approval to IFLA's professional committee.

Gwynneth Evans suggested 3 professional priorities for the section:

1. the need to strengthen the role of libraries in the UN Decade of Literacy, and to make sure that basic literacy, as well as information literacy, remains prominent within their mandates and services. Gwynneth offered to pull together existing work and circulate to members.
2. Continuation of work with IBBY and IRA
3. development of tools for promoting reading, especially for pleasure.

6. Any other Business or Reports:

Draft Statement on Internet and Children's Library Services

A draft of this document was circulated. Discussion focussed on balancing the rights of the child with the need to protect children from harmful comment – an issue of filtering content. It would be useful to contact Paul Sturges, the Chair of IFLA FAIFE. He has relevant experience within the EU context and would be willing and able to assist. Ivanka commented that there was no mention of reading in the statement and that there was a need for a clear statement on the professional responsibilities of librarians regarding what occurs in their libraries. She also wanted to know what the final status of the document would be. Gaynor Eyre mentioned that there are many existing statements on filtering which she would be happy to look at. The Statement will be circulated by Leikny Ingergaard to members for comment by Oct 15th.

Rob Sarjant
September 2007.