

Minutes of the 16th Business Meeting held in Finland 4-5 June at the Hotel Seurahuone, Saronlinna on 4 June; and at the Helsinki University Library, Centre for Conservation, Mikkeli, on 5 June 2002

1. Introduction

Present: Harmut Walravens (Chair: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin); Edmund King (British Library Newspaper Library); Majlis Bremer-Laamanen (Helsinki University Library); Sandra Burrows (National Library of Canada); Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque nationale de France); John Dorr (ICON Project Centre for Research Libraries); Elze Erdelji (National Library of Croatia); Geoffrey Hamilton (formerly British Library Newspaper Library); Beti Jones (National Library of Wales); Lars Olsson (Royal Library, Sweden); Isabelle Rollet (Bibliothèque nationale de France)

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Hans Bohrmann (Institut für Zeitungsforschung, Dortmund); Jonny Edvardsen (National Library of Norway); Erling Hanssen (State University Library, Denmark); Bob Harriman (Library of Congress, USA); Galina Kislovskaya (Library of Foreign Literature, Moscow); Henry Snyder (University of California, Riverside); Mark Sweeney (Library of Congress, USA); Wilbert Ubbens (Staats-und-Universitätsbibliothek, Bremen); Mikhel Volt (National Library of Estonia).

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda for the 16th meeting was approved.

4. Minutes of Meetings/Matters Arising

4.1 The minutes of the 14th Business Meeting, San Francisco, were approved. There were no matters arising.

4.2 RTN 15th Business Meeting, held at IFLA General Conference, Boston, USA, 18 August 2001.

4.2.1 The Chairman reported that the meeting had received an update on ICON activities.

4.2.2 The RTN had received a number of requests in 2001 from companies in the field of newspaper digitisation (eg Cold North Wind), for information on RTN activities.

4.2.3 The Open Session held on 22 August 2001 on the theme "Newspapers of the Americas" had proceeded as planned at the Boston IFLA General Conference with a good attendance. Thanks were recorded to Henry Snyder for organising and chairing this Open Session. Three of the four papers are available on IFLANET. Links to these will be provided from the RTN portion of IFLANET. **Action: Edmund King**

4.2.4 The visit to the American Antiquarian Society had also proceeded as planned, with good attendance from RTN members and IFLA Conference delegates. Henry Snyder was thanked by RTN members for organising the visit.

4.3 **RTN Strategic Plan 2001-2003. RTN 2002/1**

- There was discussion of the actions in the plan.
- 4.3.1 RTN 2002/1, Action 2.1: a check is to be made that the Spanish translation of *Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming*. **Edmund King to check with Elena Garcia - Puente Lillo**. A paper copy of the Russian translation is to be sent to Edmund King **Action: Elze Erdelji**. The matter of a Slovakian translation will be pursued. **Action: Edmund King**. A German translation is also needed. **Action: Hartmut Walravens**. The possibility of translation into Chinese was also discussed. **Action: Edmund King to contact Dr Wu Jianzhong**. Cornell University Conservation Department is to be contacted to provide information on newspaper microfilming activities in Asian countries. **Action: Majlis Bremer-Laamanen**.
- 4.3.2 Action 3.1. Sandra Burrows is creating listings for electronic newspapers, and will send a copy to Edmund King. **Action: Sandra Burrows**.
- 4.3.3 Action 5.1 The IFLA Guidelines for Newspaper Cataloguing were now mounted on the IFLANET. Work on revision will now be considered. **See 6.3 below**.
- 4.3.4 Action 6.2 **Edmund King** is to explore the UK situation with regard to digital scanning of colour microfilm.
- 4.3.5 A new RTN Strategic Plan will be needed for 2004-06. This will be considered in 2003. It will also be translated into Spanish, to coincide with IFLA, Buenos Aires, 2004. **Action: Edmund King**.

5. IFLA Conference Programmes

5.1 IFLA Glasgow, 2002

- 5.1.1 Edmund King reported that the Open Session for the Conference on the theme: "Newspapers of the British Isles", will take place on Wednesday 21 August, 8:30-11:00am. There will be four speakers. The venue is to be finalised.
- 5.1.2 It was noted that some one hundred Scottish librarians are attending IFLA, under the auspices of the Scottish Executive. John Lauder is to be contacted, to draw attention via CILIP, Scotland, to the RTN Open Session. **Action: Edmund King**.
- 5.1.3 A visit to see the newspaper collections of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow is to be arranged. This may take place on 22 August. RTN members to be contacted once details are finalised. **Action: Edmund King**.

5.2 IFLA Berlin 2003

- 5.2.1 IFLA HQ had been notified of the intention of the RTN to hold a Satellite meeting. This will be held immediately after the IFLA General Conference in August 2003. The provisional title is: "Newspapers and the Media in Central and Eastern Europe; acquisition, preservation, and access". Ms Schillig, at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin until Dec. 31 2002, had agreed to organise this meeting, which will last 2-3 days. The organisation and administration of this meeting will be handled by a professional organisation used by the Staatsbibliothek. The venue for this meeting will be Berlin, with dates to be finalised, and speakers to be chosen by Autumn 2002. A brochure for this meeting will be prepared and publicised via the IFLANET. **Action: All RTN members to make suggestions to Edmund King regarding possible speakers, as soon as possible**.
- 5.2.2 Suggestions were made about the content of the meeting:
- hold a panel on preservation matters
 - invite a keynote speaker on preservation
 - have a Yiddish newspaper focus within the meeting
 - invite Norman Ross to speak about the company's microfilming activities in Eastern Europe

- look into the possibilities of securing sponsorship for further microfilming of newspapers in Eastern Europe. (eg from George Soros Foundation.)
- 5.2.3 Suggestions were made concerning other activities to take place:
- a visit by meeting delegates to other organisations; eg the Marxist/Leninist Institute in Berlin; or Springer Verlag; or the Centre for Preservation in Leipzig; or the Archives for Parties and Mass Organisations of the GDR
 - a possible meeting excursion by boat.
- Action: all RTN members to send further suggestions to Hartmut Walravens.**
- 5.2.4 RTN Open Session at IFLA Berlin 2003: after discussion, the theme selected for the Open Session was provisionally agreed as “Newspaper Copyright developments affecting access and preservation”. Up to six speakers will be invited to give papers. Suggestions include:
- collecting German ‘electronic newspapers’
 - free newspapers in German collections
 - copyright legislation in Germany, and its relationship to EU copyright.
 - the experience of Scandinavian countries with regard to copyright affecting newspapers
 - the USA experience on copyright and newspapers
- Actions: 1. All RTN members to send further suggestions for speakers to Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King. 2. Hartmut Walravens to contact Rosemary Scott at IFLA - CLM.**
- 5.3 **IFLA Buenos Aires, 2004** this is the year when the status of the new IFLA Section on Newspapers and its Committee members will be confirmed. As organisation for Buenos Aires may take time, it was agreed that communications should be in Spanish, wherever possible, and that contact names should be collected from now onwards.
- Actions: 1 RTN members to suggest contact names to Edmund King. 2. Mem Zahir in Brazil to be asked to nominate a colleague to collaborate with the RTN regarding its communications: Edmund King.**

6. Projects

- 6.1 **Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming. Supplement: Microfilming for Digitisation and OCR. RTN 2002/2.** On behalf of colleagues at the Centre for Conservation, Mikkeli, Majlis Bremer-Laamanen tabled an amended copy of RTN 2002/2, which was then discussed. It was agreed:
1. to convene a separate meeting of technical experts to discuss the amended paper, at IFLA Glasgow, 2002.
 2. to attach examples and references and a small glossary to the paper.
- Action: Majlis Bremer-Laamanen, Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King.**
- 6.2 **Topography of newspaper collections in Germany.** Hartmut Walravens reported that the final paper for this project will be distributed in July 2002. This will be mounted on the IFLANET in German and in English. The web address of the report will be circulated to RTN members. IFLA HQ will be informed of the Project results. The final questionnaire for German libraries, archives and newspaper publishers, of not more than one A4 sheet, will be devised. Edmund King is to supply the web address of the existing RTN survey form on the IFLANET. **Action: Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King.**
- 6.3 **Revision of IFLA Guidelines on Cataloguing Newspapers.** After discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- 6.3.1 All RTN members to look at the existing *Guidelines*... and to send comments to Edmund King.
- 6.3.2 A resolution is to be drafted by Edmund King for (national) agencies and bodies that deal with cataloguing standards; to ensure that the separate needs of newspaper collections and their bibliographic control are noted.
- 6.3.3 A small Working Party needs to be convened to consider revisions to the existing *Guidelines*...
- 6.3.4 The RTN is to organise a basic “Newspaper management handbook” as a Project of the RTN, to be released in 2003. **Edmund King to contact colleagues in the HE Sector in the UK to further this.**
- 6.3.5 An up-to-date *Introduction* is to be provided to the existing *Guidelines* ...: Elza Erdelji to write a draft.
- 6.3.6 It was proposed to prepare a guidance similar to the German Zeitungen und zeitungsaehnliche Periodika - ihre Beschreibung und Erfassung in der Zeitschriftendatenbank (by Marieluise Schillig). Munich: K. G. Saur, 1998. While this publication was done for the benefit of the participants of the German Union Catalogue of Serials, it is more a handbook of newspaper characteristics for people interested in newspapers. One third of the book consists of illustrations. RTN Colleagues are requested to have a look at the publication in order to form an opinion whether something along these lines might be a useful project for the RTN. **Action: RTN Members**
- 6.4 **Electronic newspapers.** RTN members reported the current national situation, and these reports form an Annex to these minutes, number RTN 2002/6. It was agreed to summarise the problems of electronic newspapers, and to write a draft suggesting how (national) libraries can move forward on the matter of including newspapers in their web collecting policies. **Action: Majlis Bremer-Laamanen, Jonny Edvardsen, Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King.**
- 6.5 **Free newspaper, national collection and access.** Consideration of this item was deferred until a later meeting.
- 6.6 **New projects:** four new RTN Projects were discussed:
- 6.6.1 The translation into French and Spanish of the document *Microfilming for Digitisation and OCR*.
- 6.6.2 The writing of the *Basic newspapers management handbook*.
- 6.6.3 Introduction in brief to the *Guidelines on Cataloguing Newspapers*.
- 6.6.4 Statistics collection of national newspaper production from national statistical offices.

It was **agreed** that nos. 6.6.1 and 6.6.2 would be proposed to the IFLA Co-ordinating Board in August 2002.

7. **IFLA Section on Newspapers. RTN 2002/3.**

- 7.1 It was agreed to continue the Spring Annual Business Meeting for the new Section.
- 7.2 The two communications from IFLA HQ were discussed. The following actions were agreed:
- alert existing IFLA members of the new section
 - place a new insert into the existing RTN Brochure, announcing the change, and circulate this to IFLA Glasgow delegates in August 2002
 - put a circular on the IFLANET
 - contact the UK CILIP (formerly the Library Association) regarding the change of status and the way forward for the Section on Newspapers in alerting other national library associations of the change

- prepare immediately a statement for the Conference of Directors of National Libraries.

Action: Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King.

8. ICON. RTN 2002/4

- 8.1 John Dorr introduced the paper. Progress on the first phase of the Project had been substantial with the website and database available at: <http://www.iconline.us>.
- 8.2 The award of funds for a further two years was welcomed by the RTN. The proposed activities of:
- a further 21 newspaper titles being microfilmed
 - the expansion of the ICON database of International Newspapers to include bibliographic and holdings information from 50 college and research libraries in the USA
 - a further survey to gather information on retention and reformatting policies of institutions listed in the RTN's Directory of Newspaper Collections
- these activities were endorsed.
- 8.3 Suggestions for other titles to be filmed between 2002-2004 were invited from RTN members. **Action: RTN members to send suggestions to Edmund King and John Dorr.**
- 8.4 African newspapers: RTN members were reminded that two useful websites existed to obtain further information about the African Newspapers Union List. These are <http://www.crl.edu/info/camp/africa.htm> and <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/curl/newspapers.html>

9. RTN Financial Report

- 9.1 Edmund King reported that RTN finances remained stable. The German newspaper project had been paid for. The RTN Newsletter, issue no.10, would be paid for during 2002. The account for 2002 will be prepared for submission to IFLA HQ by October.

- 10. RTN Newsletter.** Beti Jones tabled copies of the RTN Newsletter, issue no.10. Members thanked her for the work of editing this. As with issues nos 1-9, this issue will be loaded onto the IFLANET. As Beti Jones is due to retire in 2003, a new Newsletter editor will need to be appointed.

- 11. Next RTN Business Meeting** possible venues for the Spring 2003 RTN Business meeting were discussed: Sweden, Norway, Washington DC. Once the final choice was agreed RTN members will be informed.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 **Newspaper preservation and access** This item was deferred, and will be brought forward.
- 12.2 **Library of Congress, USA** A paper (RTN 2002/5) was tabled by John Dorr on behalf of Mark Sweeney. This was welcomed by RTN members in highlighting practical difficulties resulting from the events of 11 September 2001 terrorist attack; together with how the Library of Congress is tackling the ongoing deacidification problem. Members enquired whether the paper could be mounted on IFLANET. **Action: Edmund King to check with Mark Sweeney.**
- 12.3 **JIPFA** Else Delaunay agreed to summarise the results of recent work, for circulation to RTN members.

- 12.4 **Catalogue of Turkish newspapers, 1828-1928.** Photocopies of selected pages from Volume 1 were circulated by Hartmut Walravens. This full listing of newspapers was very well published, and RTN members were urged to check to see if their libraries would purchase a copy. [the details are:
Girgin, Atilla: Türk basın tarihi'nde yerel gazatecilik.
(Istanbul:) Inilâp, 2001. XVI,274 pp.
Baslangicindan harf devrimine kadar Osmanli-Türk süreli yayınlar ve gazeteler bibliografyasi ve toplu katalogu, 1828-1928. / A bibliography and union catalogue of Ottoman-Turkish serials and newspapers from beginning to the introduction of the modern Turkish alphabet, 1828-1928. By Hasan Duman. Cilt 1-3.
Ankara: Emnformasyon ve Dokumentasyon Hizmetleri Vakfi, 2000.
1. XII,654 pp.
2. 655-1199 pp.
3. Belgeler /Documents. XV, 857 pp.]
- 12.5 **Newspaper digital workshop: Mikkeli, June 2003.** The idea of holding a 5 day course for up to 20-30 people was discussed. The target audience is a) decision makers at a high level in library organisations, b) colleagues who are organising digitisation projects. A résumé of the workshop is to be prepared for IFLA Glasgow. **Action: Majlis Bremer-Laamanen).**
- 12.6 RTN Members warmly thanked Majlis Bremer-Laamanen for organising the Business meeting in Finland.

The meeting closed at 4:00pm on 6 June.

ANNEX (to Agenda item 6.4)

ELECTRONIC NEWSPAPERS IN RTN MEMBER COUNTRIES

1. **France** as yet there are few electronic newspapers; some 10-15 exist. There are up to 60 online versions of traditional newspapers or news agencies, where access is free. The Bibliotheque national de France is considering its next steps with regard to the acquisition of such online newspapers; so far links are provided to relevant newspaper websites. There is no formal legal deposit of electronic newspapers required by law, so voluntary deposit is a way forward.
2. **Canada** as for France there is no statutory provision of the legal deposit of electronic newspapers; proposals exist to go to the Canadian Treasury Board to achieve this. The National Library of Canada is to hold a 2 day national newspaper consultation meeting in October 2002 to promote awareness of digitisation issues, and to heighten collaboration between libraries, newspaper publishers, microfilm vendors and digitisation providers. The preservation of websites remains an outstanding matter, which requires further development.
3. **United Kingdom (including Wales)** there is no statutory provision as yet for the legal deposit of electronic materials; this is being sought by the British Library. Until the situation is formalised, reliance is placed upon newspaper publishers to pay for the archiving of their own products in digital form. Some limited harvesting of websites had been carried out via a small project run by the British Library - "Domain UK". The recently announced *Digital Preservation Co-operative* offered the prospect of archiving electronic publications, possibly including newspapers.
4. **Finland** the TIDEN project showed the value of co-operation to secure digitisation of the content of older newspapers. However, the preservation of digital data in the longer term had yet to be resolved. For current newspapers, publishers are likely to charge for access and downloading of pages from the web. Libraries are aware of the general need to agree with newspaper publisher's restrictions on access to electronic newspapers.
5. **Sweden** the KULTURA project continued to download Swedish websites for archiving; and this process included some Swedish newspaper content. As with other countries, there was legislation needed to ensure the legal deposit of electronic publications (including newspapers). Electronic newspapers were available in the Sweden National Library, often displaying the images as originally issued as printed publications.
6. **USA** no legal deposit of electronic publications. There was very varied provision of news information. The re-supply of printed current newspapers in electronic form is likely to grow quickly as software providers (eg Olive software) started to impact upon this market. The Library of Congress archived websites which were developed to publicise the terrorist attacks on the New York Trade Centre buildings in New York on 11 September 2001. Some of this material includes newspapers.

7. **Croatia** as yet, there is no web harvesting or archiving of digital data. Rights issues remain to be resolved. However ISSN records are created for serial online publications. At present, two electronic newspapers are available online.