

Minutes of the 14th Business Meeting held at the Doe Library, University of California, Berkeley, San Francisco, 30 April 2001

1. Introduction:

Present: Hartmut Walravens (Chair: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin); Edmund King (Secretary: British Library); Majlis Bremer-Laamanen (Helsinki University Library); Beti Jones (National Library of Wales); Elze Erdejli (National Library of Croatia); Jonny Edvardsen (National Library of Norway); John Dorr (ICON Project); Mark Sweeney (Library of Congress); Sandra Burrows (National Library of Canada); Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque Nationale de France); Isabelle Rollet (Bibliothèque Nationale de France); Henry Snyder (University of California, Riverside).

The Chairman welcomed John Dorr and Mark Sweeney to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from: Geoffrey Hamilton (formerly British Library Newspaper Library); Galina Kislovskaya (Library of Foreign Literature, Moscow); Mary Jane Starr (National Library of Canada); Erling Hanssen and Svend Larsen (State University Library, Denmark); Lars Olsen (Royal Library, Sweden); Gabriel Alegbeleye (University of Ibadan, Nigeria); Hans Bohrmann (Institut für Zeitungsforschung, Dortmund); Maria Louisa Cabral (National Library of Portugal); Bob Harriman (Library of Congress); Olga Yadykina (Russia State Library, Moscow); Wilbert Ubbens (Staats-und-Universitätsbibliothek, Bremen).

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved

4. Minutes of Meetings/ Matters Arising

4.1 The minutes of the 13th Business Meeting (RTN 2000/10) of 22 August 2000 were approved.

4.2 The Chairman stated how good the Paris Conference, *Managing the Preservation of Periodicals and Newspapers*, was. Else Delaunay said that six papers given at the conference will also be published. The availability of the papers will be publicised in the next RTN newsletter. **Action: Beti Jones**

4.3 Jonny Edvardsen had sent Edmund King a paper on Newspapers at the National Library of Norway. It was agreed to circulate the report to RTN members and to publish it in the Newsletter. **Action: Edmund King and Beti Jones.**

4.4 RTN Medium Term Programme 2001 – 03. RTN 2001/1

4.4.1 Action Plan. Goal 1. Action 1.

- a) Edmund King reported that the Directory of Newspaper Collections and a survey form had been mounted on the IFLANET. RTN members have also received a paper copy of the Directory. It was agreed that all RTN members would draw attention to the Directory and the survey form in libraries in their country, asking for updating information, and to request that libraries send updates and completed survey forms to the Secretary. **Action: All RTN members.**
- b) Henry Snyder offered to hand copies of the Directory survey form to National Libraries in Latin America, asking that completed forms be returned to the Secretary. **Action: Henry Snyder.**
- c) Copies of the Directory survey form are to be available at the RTN Open Session on the 22 August. **Action: Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King.**

- d) Directory survey form to be circulated to Library of Congress Field Directors in Africa and in India. **Action: Mark Sweeney.**
- e) A new sentence to be added to Action1, Goal 1:
 “Update and expand the information available in the Directory” **Action: Edmund King.**
- 4.4.2 Goal 1, Action 2: Hartmut Walravens reported that a large part of the project to make a method for listing newspapers in Germany, and for issuing a Directory had been carried out. A final report would be available for the IFLA General Conference at Boston. **Action: Hartmut Walravens.**
- 4.4.3 Goal 1, Action 3: The open session for the IFLA 2001 Conference had been organised by Henry Snyder for the 22 August 2001. There will be four speakers on the theme: “Newspapers of the Americas”. Edmund King is to go ahead with invitations to speakers for the IFLA Glasgow 2002 Conference on the theme: “Newspapers of the British Isles”.
- 4.4.4 Goal 2, Action 1: *Guidelines for the Preservation Microfilming of Newspapers.* Else Delaunay was thanked for providing a French translation. The English and French versions will be mounted on the Internet. A Spanish translation is still needed, and, if possible, a Russian translation. **Action: Edmund King is to contact Elena Garcia-Puente Lillo and Galina Kivlovskaya.** Henry Snyder offered to cost the making of a Spanish translation by one of the colleagues at Riverside. **Action: Henry Snyder.**
- 4.4.5 Goal 2, Action 2: The *Supplement...* is prepared in draft form
- 4.4.6 Goal 3, Action: Edmund King had provided an outline list (RTN 2001/4) as part of this Agenda. The subject would form the basis for a future workshop at an IFLA General Conference. **Action:**
 1) All Members to send Edmund King details of their national newspaper web access sites. 2) Edmund King to collate returns and mount the result on the IFLANET. 3) Edmund King and Mark Sweeney to prepare and mount on the IFLANET a statement regarding searching catalogue files by field 876.
- 4.4.7 Goal 4: this action is ongoing.
- 4.4.8 Goal 5: Action: Revision of *IFLA Guidelines for Newspaper cataloguing.* It was agreed that Edmund King is to circulate the text to RTN members and ask for their comments.
- 4.4.9 Goal 6: It was agreed that:
 1) Hartmut Walravens is to obtain details of the Jerusalem Post digitisation project.
 2) Hartmut Walravens and Majlis Bremer-Laamanen will contact Preservation Resources to discuss the scanning of colour microfilm.
 3) A second Action is to be added to Goal 6: “To explore the potential use of digital scanners for the colour microfilm of newspapers.”
- 4.4.10 Goal 6.
 1) After discussion about the storage of master negative microfilm, it was agreed that the RTN needed to promote a debate about a) how adequately libraries and commercial companies store master negative microfilm b) to restate the ISO and national standards for the storage of master negative microfilm. The RTN would agree a second action for Goal 6 as soon as possible. The Draft is:
 “The RTN urges all national and other public libraries to monitor the whereabouts and to monitor the storage conditions of all master negative microfilm that has been a) produced directly by themselves or b) produced by commercial companies for them. Libraries are urged to take an active role in acquiring and in storing master negative film if it cannot be stored properly elsewhere.”
Action: all RTN members to send comments on this draft.
 2) This topic to be raised at the Conference of the Directors of National Libraries in August by Helmut Walravens.
 3) The agreed statement will be sent to the Directors of National Libraries.

5. IFLA Conference Programmes

5.1 Boston 2001.

5.1.1 The 15th RTN Business Meeting will take place on Saturday 18 August at 2.30pm. The venue will be circulated.

5.1.2 On the 23 August 2001, a visit to the Antiquarian Society of America is to take place. The maximum number of visitors is 25. **Action: RTN members to let Henry Snyder or Edmund King know if they wish to attend.**

5.2 Glasgow 2002

5.2.1 Edmund King to arrange the Open Session. The matter of also holding a workshop was discussed, on the subject of Internet developments and of the automated indexing of newspapers. **Action: RTN members to provide Ed King with comments on these themes.**

5.3 Berlin 2003

Discussion took place on the theme of an open session on "Newspapers in Central and Eastern Europe". Mikhel Volt and Galina Kislovskaya would be asked to provide further suggestions on this. **Action: Edmund King to contact them.**

6. New Projects

6.1.1 *Guidelines for Newspaper Preservation Microfilming. Supplement...* Majlis Bremer-Laamanen had provided a draft (RTN 2001/2). Geoffrey Hamilton was thanked for his comments.

6.1.2 Majlis Bremer-Laamanen stated that the *Supplement... to the Guidelines for Newspaper Preservation Microfilming* were in part based on the activities of the TIDEN project. The presentation she gave to the US Newspaper Program meeting in Washington on the 26 April 2001 would be circulated and RTN members will provide comments on the *Supplement to... Guidelines for Newspaper Preservation Microfilming* to Edmund King by the end of May 2001. **Action: all RTN members.**

6.2 Topography of newspaper collections in Germany

6.2.1 7,500 survey forms have been sent out: 2,500 to archives, 2,500 to newspaper publishers and 2,500 to libraries. The results data on the returns has been keyed onto an Access database, and analysis will be undertaken very shortly. Report to be prepared and circulated. **Action: Hartmut Walravens.**

6.3 Revision of *IFLA Guidelines on Cataloguing Newspapers*. See no. 4.4.8.

6.4 "Newspapers in Africa..." RTN 2001/3. This item was deferred until the 15th RTN Business Meeting, 18 August 2001.

6.5 *Electronic Newspapers* Discussion on this item was deferred.

6.6 *Newspaper resources on the Internet*. RTN 2001/4. Further discussion on this item was deferred. See item 4.4.6.

6.7 Free newspapers. National Collection and Access.

As a preliminary step, the Chairman asked RTN members to let Edmund King have details of their current practices. **Action: All RTN members to notify Edmund King.**

7. ICON (International Collection on Newspapers) RTN 2001/5

7.1 John Dorr introduced the report. He said that 18,000 records of foreign newspapers had been taken out of the CONSER database; some 6,000 of these records now had CRL holdings data attached.

7.2 The aim is to provide rapid access to these records via searching by place, date, title and language. Work is being done to find ways of expanding the database to include holdings outside the USA, and also to extend co-operative microfilming arrangements. Further developments are expected to the Programme, once a new President of C.R.L is appointed. RTN members were asked to consider how

records of holdings of African newspaper titles in their countries could be added to the ICON database. **Action: all members of RTN.**

8. RTN Financial report. RTN 2001/6

The report was accepted as the preliminary position for 2001. Further adjustments would be made as expenditure on RTN projects progressed.

9. **RTN Newsletter.** The Chairman thanked Beti Jones for the production of Newsletter no.9 and looked forward to Newsletter no.10.

10. **Next Business Meeting.** RTN Members accepted an invitation from Majlis Bremer-Laamanen to hold the Spring 2002 RTN Business Meeting in Finland. The provisional date agreed is for Monday 27 May 2002.

11. Any other business

11.1 Presentations made by RTN members on the Latest developments on newspaper preservation and access. These presentations have been written as a separate RTN paper (RTN 2001/8) and will be circulated separately.

11.2 RTN Draft Resolution re. The future of IFLA Round Table. It was agreed that this matter would be dealt with separately. **Action: Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King.**

11.3 RTN members thanked Henry Snyder for organising the meeting in California.

11.4 Members thanked Beti Jones for circulating the previous IFLA General Conference papers relating to newspapers. It was agreed to publicise these further, with the allocation of an SBN, a short introduction, and a small cover charge of £5.00 or £10.00 to those who ordered copies. The publication could have the imprint of the National Library of Wales, with any revenue being held to cover Newsletter costs. **Action: Beti Jones.**

The meeting closed at 5.45pm.