

IFLA ROUND TABLE ON NEWSPAPERS

10th Business Meeting, 9.00 am in the Small Conference Room, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Potsdamer Strasse 33, Berlin on 23rd April 1998

AGENDA

1. Introductions

2. Apologies for absence

3. Approval of agenda

4. Minutes of meetings / Matters arising

- a) 9th Business Meeting, Washington, May 1997 (RTN 98/1)
- b) IFLA Conference, Copenhagen, September 1997 (RTN 98/2)

5. Report on IFLA Conference, Copenhagen 1997

6. Membership (RTN 98/3) + situation in different countries represented

7. Medium Term Programme (RTN (98/4)

8. IFLA Conference Programmes

- a) Amsterdam 1998 (RTN 98/5)
- b) Bangkok 1999
- c) Jerusalem 2000

9. Projects

- a) 'Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming'. Supplement on best practice for microfilming of newspapers in preparation for possible future digitisation
- b) Survey of newspaper collection policies and procedures

10. Round Table Newsletter

11. Communications / IFLANET

12. Financial report (RTN 98/6)

13. Next business meeting

14. Any other business

There will also be visits to the State Library, including the newspaper department, and to Springer Verlag on 23rd and 24th April.

IFLA ROUND TABLE ON NEWSPAPERS

Minutes of the 10th Business Meeting held at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, 23rd April 1998

Present: Hartmut Walravens (Chairman, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin); Geoff Smith (Secretary, British Library); Hans Bohrmann (Institut für Zeitungsforschung, Dortmund); Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque Nationale de France); Elza Erdelii (National and University Library, Zagreb); Beti Jones (National Library of Wales); Galina Kislovskaya (Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow); Lars Olsson (National Library of Sweden); Isabelle Rollet (Bibliothèque Nationale de France); Dora Secic (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts); Henry Snyder (University of California, Riverside); Wilbert Ubbens (Staats-und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen)

1. Introductions

The Round Table was welcomed by the Deputy Director of the Staatsbibliothek, who outlined the history and nature of the library's newspaper collections, to which a visit had been organised the following day. HW described the rest of the programme, which included visits to the Springer and Berliner Zeitung newspaper publishers.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Elena Garcia Puente; Bob Harriman; Majken Bremer-Laamanen; Svend Larsen; Mary Jane Starr; Geoffrey Hamilton

3. Approval of agenda

The draft agenda was approved.

4. Minutes of Meetings / Matters arising

a) 9th Business Meeting, Washington, May 1997

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

b) Copenhagen, August 1997.

GS had produced a note of the meeting held at the start of the Copenhagen conference. These were agreed as an accurate summary.

GS agreed to send Else Delaunay a further copy of the Microfilming Guidelines. He would also send a copy of the British Library Annual report to Galina Kislovskaya.

5. Report on IFLA Conference, Copenhagen 1997

There had been concern during the conference about the future of Round Tables, following discussion at the Professional Board. GS and Hazel Woodward, Chair of the Serials Section, had written to Marjorie Bloss to emphasise the value of the work of the Round Table on Newspapers and the view that continuing round table status was preferable to either section or discussion group status. The matter would be looked at further by an IFLA working group on structure which had been set up.

The Round Table had held an open meeting jointly with the Rare Books section on early newspapers; it was well attended and the papers were of high quality. It was suggested that it would be worthwhile to bring out the papers as a publication. GS had master copies of three of the four papers; HS said that his paper was available via the Internet. HW thought that he might be able to organise the printing via the Staatsbibliothek. It would be necessary to get permissions from the speakers and from IFLA HQ. GS would write to them, and would send master copies to HW. It was suggested similar consideration be given to publishing the papers from Amsterdam.

RTN members had visited the newspaper collections of the Statsbiblioteket at Aarhus. The day had been very enjoyable, and the thanks of the RTN to Svend Larsen and the Statsbiblioteket should be recorded.

6. Membership

A proposal of membership for Svend Larsen had been received from the Statsbiblioteket in Denmark and accepted.

Isabelle Rollet would replace Else Delaunay as representative of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France on her retirement.

Elza Erdelii of the National and University Library in Zagreb would replace Dora Secic as representative from Croatia.

There was discussion of the need to try to increase the membership of the Round Table further, particularly beyond Europe and North America. It was wished to have a network of contacts worldwide, and it was desirable there should be representatives from Latin America, the Far East, Africa, and Australasia.

Relevant and interested areas might include Denmark, Eastern Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The possibility of setting up a listserv for newspapers was suggested. This would be discussed with Mary Jane Starr.

7. Members' reports

France. The move of the collections of the Bibliothèque National de France to the new building at Tolbiac had begun. The public reading rooms were already open, and included a 'Salle de la presse'. The main research library reading rooms were due to open in October. The Library was considering buying a paper splitting machine for its preservation programme.

Germany. Wilbert Ubbens outlined the newspaper collections of the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen. They had suffered funding cuts. Hans Bohrmann described the Institut für Zeitungsforschung; this was a small research institute with a specialist newspaper collection. They too had suffered funding cuts, although they would be moving to a new building next year. He described developments in the German newspaper industry. Newsprint still appeared to be more profitable to publisher than electronic developments. There had been changes after reunification, although publishers from former West German publishers had not made significant inroads into the market in former East German Länder. Overall newspaper readership was down significantly, from 40 million some 10 years ago to

30 million at present. Hartmut Walravens reported on the cataloguing of the collection of the Institut für Marxismus Leninismus which was now 50% complete. The newspaper content of the Serials Database continued to grow. KG Saur were publishing a major press bibliography, and also the rules and format for the cataloguing of newspapers in the Serials Database which HW had prepared.

Croatia. There were continuing difficulties; there had been fragmentation of the press during the war period. The National Library had tried to collect as fully as possible. Refugee papers were of particular interest and importance. The media scene was now complex following the end of Communism and the war. There was also significant press activity relating to the large Croatian diaspora worldwide. Elza Erdelii reported that the National Library was now in a new building in Zagreb. The newspaper collections were being moved into it. They had just started the formal cataloguing of the newspapers, and at present were dealing only with Croatian titles. A Croatian national catalogue of serials was being produced; this would eventually cover newspapers also. The Library had its own microfilming operation.

Russia. A meeting had been held on newspaper preservation at the Library for Foreign Literature, attended by 50 delegates. This was the fourth annual meeting. The Russian version of the RTN's microfilming guidelines had been distributed to participants. Topics discussed included a regional programme of newspaper preservation, a comparison of microfilming and digitisation, electronic newspapers on the World Wide Web, and cooperation on acquisition of foreign newspapers. It had been reaffirmed that preservation microfilming remained the only dependable surrogate medium for the preservation of newspaper content. The LFL's programme of microfilming in collaboration with the Library of Congress continued, though progress was slow. Records for LFL microfilming were being submitted to EROMM, the European Register of Microform Masters. There was an issue to be resolved as to whether notes fields should be transliterated or translated.

Sweden. The Royal Library had a new building. The newspaper collections had moved back to the main building. They were concentrating on the collection of Swedish newspapers through legal deposit, and on the microfilming of the Swedish press. Filming was done through a bureau. An update had been agreed to the main Swedish periodicals bibliography, which covered 1650 to 1900. The supplement would contain details of newspapers from 1900 to 1994. Details of the Library's collections were available through its website (www.kb.se). Some experiments had been done on archiving material from the Web.

United States. Henry Snyder reported that Bob Harriman had transferred to the Preservation directorate within Library of Congress. He retained his responsibility for the US Newspaper Project. USNP was slowly winding down as more of the states completed their work. There remained to be finished a number of smaller states, plus several of the large states whose projects had been under way for several years. 3 states, New York, Illinois and California each had over 10000 titles. California had received funding for a further two years. The total number of titles covered by USNP would be over 160,000. The data was maintained in CONSER.

United Kingdom. A major bid had been prepared and submitted to the national lottery heritage fund for funding for a large scale microfilming project under the auspices of NEWSPLAN; it would be a joint project between the British Library, the other national libraries in the UK and public libraries, covering 18th, 19th and 20th century local newspapers. It was expected to take at least 5 years, at a cost of some £15 million. Beti Jones described the participation of the National Library of Wales in the feasibility study and preparation of the bid.

8. Medium Term Programme

The version of the programme circulated had been submitted to IFLA Headquarters. The scope and goals sections appeared in the published version of the IFLA Medium Term Programme, 1998-2001.

The proposed action plan was intended to meet these agreed goals.

Goal 1. Gather and disseminate information on international newspaper collections, procedures and practices, and develop mechanisms for communication and interchange of knowledge between major newspaper collections of the world

Action 1: Carry out revised world-wide survey of national newspaper collections in preparation for production of directory listing of such collections. GS had not been able to undertake any further work on this. There was a possibility that Geoffrey Hamilton might be able to provide some assistance. There was still funding in the budget to help with the project

Action 2: Develop methodology for identification and listing of newspaper collections in individual countries. HW would take this forward; again there was some project funding to support this.

Action 3: Hold Open Meeting the 1998 IFLA Amsterdam Conference on newspapers in Central and Eastern Europe. This had been organised by HW (see 9 below)

Goal 2. Encourage the development and adoption of international standards in newspaper preservation, microfilming, and digitisation programmes

Action 1: Prepare and arrange for publication of French and Spanish translations of the Round Table's "Guidelines for the preservation microfilming of newspapers" (published by IFLA in 1996). ED would prepare the French translation. Elena Garcia Puente would translate into Spanish. GK would arrange for a Russian version to be prepared. An article on the Guidelines would appear in the main Croatian library journal.

Action 2: Prepare a supplement to the above Guidelines on the best practice for microfilming of newspapers in preparation for possible future digitisation. Majken Bremer Laamanen had agreed to lead this.

Goal 3. Monitor technological developments arising from and affecting newspaper production, distribution, archiving and access, and assess their implications for library practices

Action: Hold workshop at the 1998 IFLA Amsterdam Conference on newspapers on the Internet and other developments in electronic access to newspapers. A joint workshop was being organised with the Government Information and Official Publications Section

Goal 4. Explore opportunities for cooperative approaches to the provision of newspapers in libraries and archives

Action: Provide input to the US task force on the cooperative acquisition of and access to global newspapers. GS and Bob Harriman had been invited to join ICON (International

Coalition on Newspapers), a task force being organised in the United States by CRL to look at ways of improving the collecting and preservation of, and access to, global newspapers. Funding for the initial feasibility stage in 1998 had been provided by the Mellon Foundation.

Goal 5. Evaluate existing guidelines for bibliographic control of newspapers and explore complementary and / or alternative means of intellectual access

Action: Plan revision of IFLA Guidelines for Newspaper Cataloguing. This would be looked at in the second half of the MTP period. The German guidelines prepared by HW would be relevant.

Goal 6. Explore opportunities for communication and exchange of information with organisations engaged in the production and preservation of newspapers.

Action: Arrange visits to and meetings with newspaper publishers and organisations in conjunction with annual Business Meetings of Round Table. There would be visits to Springer Verlag and the Berliner Zeitung as part of the Berlin programme.

9. IFLA Conferences

Amsterdam 1998. GS had circulated provisional details of the RTN meetings in Amsterdam. The Open Meeting would be on the theme of 'Newspapers in eastern Europe'. It would be chaired by HW. Ms Pronina's paper would be in Russian. An English translation would be prepared for distribution at the meeting. GS would edit the English text of Dr Andreesen's paper.

The workshop was being organised jointly with the Government Information and Official Publications Section. GS asked for agreement to use RTN funds to pay half the cost of the room hire - this was agreed. Presenters for the three proposed newspaper sessions were required. Mark Sweeney of Library of Congress would be invited to present the session on major Western Internet newspaper sites. GK would suggest someone to present the session on East European papers. DS would ask a Croatian colleague whether she could do a session on Official Gazettes.

It was thought it would be useful during the conference to make contact with Dutch colleagues responsible for the national newspaper collections. GS would invite the Royal Library to send someone the RTN committee meeting.

Bangkok 1999. It was suggested that the theme of the Open Meeting should be the problems of collecting, preserving and accessing Asian newspapers. The aim should be to have two western speakers (perhaps Library of Congress and National Library of Australia) and two from Asia (including one from Thailand).

Jerusalem 2000. A suggested theme was "cooperation to create the global library of the future". A workshop was suggested on developments in methods of intellectual access to newspapers and their contents.

e) Subsequent conferences would be Boston in 2001 and Glasgow in 2002.

10. Projects

These had been dealt with under the Medium Term Programme agenda item 8.

11. Round Table Newsletter

BJ hoped to produce the next issue before the Amsterdam conference. Contributions from members were requested.

12. Financial report

Geoff Smith had circulated the financial statement for 1997. This was approved. The Round Table's financial position remained healthy.

13. Next business meeting

Mary Jane Starr had confirmed the invitation from the National Library of Canada for the 1999 business meeting to be held in Ottawa. It was suggested that if a European venue was preferred it might be held in Moscow. There was also an invitation from the Librarian of the National Library of Wales to hold a future meeting in Aberystwyth. It was recognised that with main conference taking place in Bangkok members might have difficulty with travel budgets. GS agreed to write to all members to find their preference for the location of the 1999 meeting.