

**11th Business Meeting, National Library of Canada, Ottawa, 3rd May 1999**

**AGENDA**

1. Introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of agenda
4. Minutes of meetings / Matters arising
  - a) 10th Business Meeting, Berlin, April 1998 (RTN 99/1)
  - b) IFLA Conference, Amsterdam, September 1998 (RTN 99/2)
5. Report on IFLA Conference, Amsterdam, 1998 (Hartmut Walravens)
6. Membership (RTN 99/3)
7. Medium Term Programme (RTN (99/4)
8. IFLA Conference Programmes
  - a) Bangkok 1999 (RTN 99/5)
  - b) Jerusalem 2000
  - c) Boston 2001
9. Projects
  - a) 'Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming'. Supplement on best practice for microfilming of newspapers in preparation for possible future digitisation (Majken Bremer- Lammanen)
  - b) Survey of newspaper collection policies and procedures (Geoffrey Hamilton)
10. ICON (The International Coalition on Newspapers) Report by Milton Wolf and Bob Harriman
11. Round Table Newsletter (Beti Jones)
12. Communications/ IFLANET (Mary Jane Starr)
13. Financial report (RTN 99/6)
14. Next business meeting
15. Any other business

**IFLA ROUND TABLE ON NEWSPAPERS**

**Minutes of the 11th Business Meeting held at the National Library of Canada,  
Ottawa, May 3, 1999**

**1. Introductions**

Present: Hartmut Walravens (Chair: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin); Majken Bremer-Laamanen (Finland); Robert Harriman (Library of Congress); Beti Jones (National Library of Wales); Isabelle Rollet (Bibliothèque nationale de France); Henry Snyder (University of California, Riverside); Lars Olsson (National Library of Sweden); Mary Jane Starr (National Library of Canada); Geoffrey Hamilton, (formerly of the British Library) and Milton Wolf (Center for Research Libraries, Chicago, IL).

Observers from the National Library of Canada: Ralph Manning (National and International Programmes), Sandra Burrows (Newspaper Specialist), and Emilie Lowenberg (Union Catalogue Division).

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Geoff Smith, RT Secretary/Treasurer (British Library), Wilbert Ubbens (Staats-und Universitätsbibliothek, Bremen); Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque nationale de France); Hans Bohrmann (Institut für Zeitungsforschung, Dortmund); Khalifa Chater (Bibliothèque nationale de la Tunisie); Svend Larsen (Statsbiblioteket, Denmark) and Galina Kislovskaya (Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow).

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**4. Minutes of Meetings/Matters arising**

- a) 10th Business Meeting, Berlin, April 23, 1998 (RTN 99/1)
- b) IFLA Conference, Amsterdam, August 15, 1998 (RTN 99/2)

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

The Chair thanked Geoff Smith for his efficient Minute-taking. In Mr. Smith's absence, M.J. Starr offered to record the Minutes of the 11th Business Meeting.

**5. Report on IFLA Conference, Amsterdam, 1998**

The Chair presented a report on the two Round Table events which took place at the Amsterdam conference: a session on newspapers in Eastern Europe; and a workshop

convened with the Round Table on Government Publications. He observed that the quality of the presentations was uneven. It was agreed that more direction be given to prospective speakers. The Open Sessions, in particular, are an opportunity to address ourselves to a broad audience, as well as an audience from the host country who is not committed to any particular agenda. Henry Snyder suggested that the Chair or Secretary of the RT send out general instructions to speakers highlighting the issues of a broad audience and wide appeal.

The papers from the preceding IFLA Conference in Copenhagen are now available on IFLANET (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla63/63cp.htm>). Henry Snyder indicated that it would be worthwhile to publish the conference papers from both Copenhagen and Amsterdam in other vehicles. A new journal, *Serials from Eastern Europe* (from the editor of *Serials Librarian*) is seeking articles for its inaugural issue. The deadline is May 31st.

The RT's parent body, the Serials Section, has undergone some serious rethinking. Hartmut Walravens had been asked to take over the Standing Section on Serials in December 1998. He reported that some progress has been made in defining goals and in increasing membership.

## 6. Membership (RTN 99/3)

The nominations for membership are as follows:

Milton Wolf (Center for Research Libraries, Chicago)  
Wu Jianzhong (Deputy Director, Shanghai Library)  
Silvi Metsar (National Library of Estonia)  
Jonny Edvardsen (National Library of Norway)

Action: RT members approved all nominees for membership.

Isabelle Rollet is the official representative of La Bibliothèque nationale de France. Upon her retirement, Else Delaunay becomes a corresponding member, and will continue to receive communications.

Geoff Smith will be tendering his resignation at the IFLA Conference in Bangkok. The function of Secretary/Treasurer has long been associated with the British Library. For continuity purposes, the RT members agreed that it would be efficacious for the new head of the Newspaper Library, Edmund King, to assume the role.

Action: Henry Snyder to contact Geoff Smith regarding the official view within the British Library to maintaining the function of Secretary/Treasurer of the RT.

## 7. Medium Term Programme (RTN 99/4)

It was decided that the Medium Term Programme, 1998-2001, would be updated with the Action Plan 2000-2001. The latter discussion will take place in Bangkok.

**Goal 1: Action 1:** *Carry out revised world-wide survey of national newspaper collections in preparation for production of a directory listing of such collections.* The term "carry out" was changed to "plan". Further discussion was deferred to Item 9b of the agenda. Henry Snyder offered to take the first pages of information from the survey (which would be provided to him by Geoffrey Hamilton) and have these put into machine-readable form for the Internet by late summer 1999. This would constitute the first phase in using the survey information to establish a directory of useful information available on the Internet. Additionally, he will arrange for a form and guidelines for submissions to be added to these pages so that contributors could update information and add to the description of collections (any new contributors who may not have received, or replied to, the survey).

**Action 2:** *Develop methodology for identification and listing of newspaper collections in individual countries.* Hartmut Walravens proposed a concrete project involving newspapers in German repositories. At the current time, there is no centralized collection, no directory of titles and holdings, and no co-ordination among repositories. He proposed taking Germany as an example and offered to prepare a background document and a methodology for a survey which, if successful, could be used as a model for other countries. The results of the initiative would include the survey methodology (a set of guidelines, forms for reporting, etc.) and the directory of newspaper collections in German repositories. This proposed project bears some similarity to the work of the Serials Section regarding a directory of union catalogues.

The ultimate goal is the capability of identifying and locating all the world's newspapers. The RT's survey work to date was a first pass, identifying appropriate agencies and institutions within each country. The second and more detailed step is the determination of the character and content of the newspaper collections held by those agencies. By mounting the data collected in the first survey, interest in the project may be generated, and libraries may be encouraged to participate and see their own collections represented.

**Action 3:** *Hold Open Meeting at the 1998 IFLA Amsterdam Conference on newspapers in Central and Eastern Europe.* The plans for Jerusalem 2000 will be substituted for this Action item, and will be discussed under Agenda Item 8b.

**Goal 2. 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).* Isabelle Rollet reported that Else Delaunay considers the French version an ongoing commitment, although it is unlikely to appear before the end of the year. No news was reported on the progress of the Spanish version.

**Action:** The Chair will contact those responsible and request a status report for the Bangkok meeting. At that time, if the members are unable to proceed as previously planned, a decision will be taken on next steps.

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 will address this issue under Agenda item 9a.

Goal 3. Action: *Hold workshop at the 1998 IFLA Amsterdam Conference on newspapers on the Internet and other developments in electronic access to newspapers.* The workshop was held and may be repeated in the future to reflect contemporary developments and interests with respect to the availability and use of newspapers in electronic form.

Goal 4. Action: *Provide input to the U.S. Task Force on the cooperative acquisition of and access to global newspapers.* This issue will be discussed under Agenda item 10.

Goal 5. Action: *Plan revision of the IFLA Guidelines on Cataloguing Newspapers.* No action was specified at this time pending the revision of the AACR Serials rules and formats. This will be monitored, especially the reports of the Serials Section at IFLA 1999 and the Bibliographic Control workshop. As well, ICON will be revising the codes for the National Union List of non-US Titles. Hartmut Walravens agreed to copy the German guidelines for members of the RT.

Goal 6. Action: *Arrange visits to and meeting with newspaper publishers and organisations in conjunction with the annual Business Meetings of the Round Table (visit to Springer Verlag in Berlin 1998).* Hosts of upcoming meetings are instructed to arrange visits, when possible.

## **8. IFLA Conference Programmes**

### **a) Bangkok 1999 (RTN 99/5)**

The RT meeting is scheduled for Saturday August 21st at 15:00. The Open Meeting is on the 25th of August at 12:30 and the theme is Southeast Asian Newspapers. There are two confirmed papers and a possible third paper. There is no workshop scheduled for the Bangkok conference. Ralph Manning reported on a satellite meeting which is scheduled for August 22nd and 23rd on preservation microfilming in the region.

Action: Geoff Smith is to write to the speakers to indicate the RT's expectations with the length of, and audience for, the papers.

### **b) Jerusalem 2000**

There was a lengthy discussion on two possible themes for the Jerusalem conference: newspapers of the Diaspora; and newspapers of the region. It was agreed to adopt the

latter theme and speakers will be sought on topics related to four regions: Sub Saharan Africa, Northern Africa, the Arab countries, and Israel.

Action: RT members should submit names of potential speakers to the Chair, as soon as possible.

The theme of digitization was suggested for a half-day workshop. There are a number of initiatives related to newspapers from the region, as well as elsewhere, to warrant a workshop.

Action: RT members are to pursue potential speakers. A final selection will be made at the meeting in Bangkok.

Action: Hartmut Walravens will approach the organizing committee of the Jerusalem conference about a visit to a local newspaper repository or newspaper publisher.

Ralph Manning described the satellite conference, "Symposium 2000 - Managing Preservation of Periodicals and Serials", to take place at the BNF in Paris, August 21st to 24th, 2000. The conference is being sponsored by the IFLA Preservation Core Programme, the Serials Section and the Newspapers RT. The conference programme is ambitious in scope, covering 'past-present-future' preservation activity.

### c) Boston 2001

It was agreed that the theme of the Boston conference will be Newspapers of the Americas. In lieu of a workshop, a one-day excursion to the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester, Massachusetts was proposed.

Action: Henry Snyder will contact the AAS about the proposed visit.

## 9. Projects

a) '*Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming*'. Supplement on best practice for microfilming of newspapers in preparation for possible future digitisation.

Majken Bremer-Laamanem described the TIDEN project, the digitization of Nordic newspapers from 1650 to 1850. In the course of the TIDEN project, the project team is identifying the technical criteria for microfilming so that microfilm can be used as a basis of digitization using OCR technology, in order to maximize output and minimize costs. A number of issues have been identified relating to the following: OCR and fraktura text and antique fonts; multiple languages and the impact on searching; bibliographical standards (FinnMARC to UNIMARC); the identification of the digital and microform versions; and the number and location of targets.

The project has demonstrated the need for a supplement to the *Guidelines* which would describe best practices for microfilming in light of the current interest in creating a digitized version from microfilm. Majken Bremer-Laamanen recommended that the ISO standards be reviewed with respect to the standards for film density which affect digitisation.

Action: Majken Bremer-Laamanen will prepare the supplement in draft form for circulation to members for their comments.

#### b) Survey of Newspapers

Geoffrey Hamilton provided a status report on the survey: responses have been received from 108 libraries in 73 countries, representing a range of collections from modest holdings to those that are immense and global in scope. In completing the open-ended survey questions, respondents listed a number of concerns including: sharing information on standards and best practices; an evaluative world press directory; guidelines for preparing applications for funding of preservation microfilm; Internet list serve for newspapers; retention policy; training and professional development for librarians; union catalogues; indexing; acquisition of microfilming equipment; stability and cost of colour microfilm; and copyright. As a result of the responses, the RT has a better idea where the major collections are held, but insufficient information to compile a complete directory.

Action: Using the survey responses, Henry Snyder agreed to compile a list of institutions reporting newspaper collections, in a text file, for mounting on IFLAnet, with an accompanying form to enable institutions to report changes or additions. M.J. Starr will gather information from the IFLANET office on the usage of the site.

#### 10. ICON (The International Coalition on Newspapers)

Milton Wolf described the ICON initiative. The Center for Research Libraries received funding from the Mellon Foundation to examine preservation of, and access to, international newspapers. The final report, available on the CRL Web site, recommended a permanent infrastructure to pursue, *inter alia*, the development of a union list on OCLC and microfilming projects with the financial assistance of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). NEH has indicated that it will consider funding American institutions only, so in the first instance, projects are being considered which meet this criterion.

Action: Hartmut Walravens will write a letter to ICON indicating the RT's interest in and support of the ICON initiative.

#### 11. Round Table Newsletter

Beti Jones, Editor, sought the views of the RT on the frequency of the Newsletter. It was agreed that the Newsletter should appear semi-annually.

Action: Beti Jones will contact RT members for submissions for the Summer 1999 issue.

## **12. Communication / IFLANET**

M.J. Starr reported that there has been no change to the RT pages on IFLANET since the last meeting. Once the Minutes of the 11th Business Meeting are approved, the changes to the Medium Term programme will be communicated to the IFLANET Co-ordinator at the National Library of Canada.

## **13. Financial report (RTN 99/6)**

The financial report was circulated and will be discussed further at the Bangkok meeting.

## **14. Next Business Meeting**

The invitation from the Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow is still outstanding. Alternative suggestions were California, England and Wales, and Croatia.

Action: Hartmut Walravens will contact Galina Kislovskaya regarding the Moscow invitation.

## **15. Any other business**

There was none.

The Chair thanked the National Librarian and the staff of the National Library of Canada for hosting the meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned.