



## IFLA MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS SECTION

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Management of Library Associations Standing Committee

Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday, February 5, 2005  
Australian Library and Information Association Conference Room  
Canberra, Australia

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome

MLAS Chair Keith Michael Fiels called the meeting to order and welcomed those present to the 4<sup>th</sup> Management of Library Associations Section Standing Committee (MLAS SC) meeting.

Matilda House, an Elder from the Ngunnawal people, then gave those present a traditional welcome to Australia. Jennefer Nicholson also welcomed us to the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) offices and thanked the group for coming to Canberra.

Executive Committee members present were:

Edita Basic (Croatian Library Assoc.)  
Arlene Cohen (Pacific Islands Assoc. of Libraries and Archives, Guam), Secretary  
Keith Michael Fiels (American Library Assoc.)  
Britt Marie Häggström (DIK Association)  
Jennefer Nicholson (Australian Library and Information Assoc.), MLAS Information  
Coordinator  
Jan-Ewout van der Putten (Netherlands Public Library Assoc.)  
Sabine Stummeyer (Berufsverband Information Bibliothek e.V.)  
Winnie Vitzansky (The Danish Library Assoc.)

Observers present:

Alex Byrne (IFLA Vice-President, President-Elect)  
Imogen Garner (ALIA President)  
Gill Hallam (ALIA Vice-President)

Janice Lachance (SLA Executive Director)  
Alison O'Connor (ALIA New Graduates Group Convener)  
Marie Sexton (ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group Secretary/Newsletter editor)  
Kerry Smith (ALIA Past President, IFLA Library Theory and Research Section Chair)  
Deveni Temu (ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group Convener, ALIA International Relations Policy and Advisory Group)  
Eve Woodberry (IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters Member from Australia)

## **2. Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair asked that we add item 14(c) ALP and GLAD; item 14(d) IFLA 2006 Conference in Seoul Program Planning, and MLAS 2006 Mid-year meeting after item 18.

## **3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Norma Y. Amenu-Kpodo (Commonwealth Library Association)  
Carla J. Funk (Medical Library Assoc., USA)  
Jill Martin (CILIP: The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals)  
Alicia Ocaso (Uruguayan Library Assoc.)  
Andrea Paoli (Italian Library Assoc.)  
Tuula Ruhanen (Finnish Research Library Assoc.)  
Henriette Seydou (Association Nigérienne des Bibliothécaires de la Lecture Publique)  
Sinikka Sipilä (Finnish Library Assoc.)  
Gwenda Thomas (Library and Information Assoc. of South Africa)  
Duane Webster (Assoc. of Research Libraries, USA),

## **4. Approval of *Minutes from the MLAS Standing Committee meeting, August 22 and August 28, 2004, Buenos Aires, Argentina.***

The minutes were approved as presented

## **5. Financial Report**

The Financial Report was distributed indicating that the IFLA MLAS account has a balance of 5,328.77 EUR (\$ 6498.50 USD) as of December 31, 2004, in an interest bearing account at the Harris Bank, Chicago, Illinois. From January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004, the account earned 121.43 EUR (about \$ 148. USD) in interest. Since the last report in August 2004, 1,218.17 EUR (\$ 1,485.57 USD) was disbursed to ALIA for brochure translation and printing and the Netherlands Public Library Association remitted 266.50 EUR (\$ 325 USD) as reimbursement for Alicia Ocaso's registration for the IFLA 2004 Conference in Buenos Aires. It is also noted that Alicia Ocaso helped translate the MLAS guidelines and section brochure at no cost.

As in past years, the MLAS does not qualify for additional administrative funds, as the balance in our account is too high. There is a serious need to update translations of the *Guidelines* brochures and the group supported using the bulk of these funds for this purpose.

## **6. MLAS Chair Report from the Governing Board**

The MLAS Chair attended the last IFLA Governing Board meeting, continuing as a co-opted member for this year. He reported that one of the highlights of the meeting was the discussion about *IFLA's Three Pillars* document and the new directions and budget allocations that can flow from this reorganization of priorities.

## **7. IFLA's *Three Pillars* document**

The group discussed the document and agreed unanimously on the following recommendations:

1. The MLAS Section supports the *Three Pillars* document because it recognizes the importance of the “societal” functions of IFLA, such as advocacy and information policy work.
2. IFLA needs to reallocate resources within the current budget to more equitably support all three pillars, particularly the societal pillar.
3. IFLA needs to establish a position within the headquarters staff with responsibility for the “society” pillar functions (advocacy and policy issues). This position would assume the current responsibilities for FAIFE as well as other societal responsibilities such as WSIS and CLM.
4. The IFLA organizational structure needs to be modified to better support the three pillar structure and societal priorities in that:

The overall number of sections should be reduced, allowing for a more focused organization.

Less active sections or those with smaller memberships should be identified through a process of review and evaluation, conducted by IFLA HQ using information and reports already available. In some instances, these sections may be consolidated with other sections or may become discussion groups.

5. The MLAS supports establishing a method for association and individual members to provide additional support for specific projects and purposes, in addition to basic support provided through the IFLA budget.

The MLAS Chair conveyed these recommendations to Alex Byrne and will also send them to IFLA Headquarters and the Governing Board.

## **8. *MLAS Strategic Plan 2006-2007***

The group discussed the current *MLAS Strategic Plan* and the need to update it. Jennefer Nicholson, Sabine Stummeyer, Winnie Vitzansky and Alicia Ocaso will work on a proposed *MLAS Strategic Plan 2006-2007* and plan to have a draft ready for the MLAS Standing Committee meeting at IFLA 2005 in Oslo.

## 9. *MLAS Annual Report January 1, 2004 - December 31, 2004*

The Secretary announced the *MLAS Annual Report* for 2004 was on the IFLA MLAS WWW site <<http://ifla.org/VII/s40/annual/s40-AnnualReport04.pdf>>. The Chair thanked the Secretary for preparing an excellent report in a timely manner.

## 10. Information Coordinator's report

**a. MLAS Listserv status report** - The Secretary reported that she had looked at the possibility of moving the MLAS E-mail distribution list from hosting on the Special Libraries Association WWW server to the IFLA WWW server. One significant problem in using the IFLA listserv software is that it does not allow for archiving of postings. After discussion, the group agreed that archived messages are important and with the support of Janice La Chance, the list will stay on the Special Libraries Association server. The MLAS Chair was asked to suggest to IFLA HQ and the IFLA Governing Board that they consider using a software that allows for message archiving.

**b. IFLANET MLAS WWW site status report** - The new Spanish translations of the *Guidelines* brochures are now posted on the site. The brochures translated into French need to be redone, as well as some others, and there are still some brochures that need initial translating. Work will continue on this project with translations done in Australia, formatting done through ALIA and financial support from the MLAS bank account.

## 11. Reports on MLAS publications

**a. MLAS Newsletter** - MLAS Newsletters have not been published for several years and the group discussed the need for a printed newsletter. The consensus was that it would be better to have an electronic newsletter that could be frequently updated and used as a communication tool. The group was asked to give some thought to an electronic communications plan for the section. This will be discussed at the next MLAS Standing Committee meeting.

**Status of translations** - Jennefer Nicholson and her staff are translating the *Guidelines* brochures. For the Spanish translations made available at the IFLA 2004 Conference in Buenos Aires, a great thanks goes to the Uruguayan Library Association, and especially Mr. Hugo Valanzano and Alicia Ocaso who translated the following guidelines at no cost to the MLAS or IFLA: *The Organizational Structure of Associations*; *Guidelines for Financial Management of Library Associations*; *Guidelines for Governing and Leading Library Associations*; *Guidelines for Library Associations Operations* and the MLAS brochure.

The issue of having a glossary or dictionary of IFLA terms and definitions with translations into the IFLA languages to standardize usage was again discussed. It was to have been brought up to the IFLA Governing Board in August 2004 and the MLAS Chair was asked to follow up on the status of this project.

## **12. Status report on the Global Library Association Development (GLAD) program**

**a. Next implementation steps** - The group discussed the implementation of a viable GLAD program designed to provide leadership development to library associations, which would then flow into promoting the growth of IFLA association membership.

During the first year, the group agreed on the following tasks:

1. A twinning/mentoring program is implemented. Janice La Chance, Gillian Hallam, (ALIA VP/President Elect) and the MLAS Chair agreed to establish a Twinning/Mentoring Working Group. The MLAS Chair will also contact Alicia Ocaso and Sylvia Piggott to invite them to join the working group.

Unveiling of the GLAD twinning website at our IFLA 2005 MLAS Open Session in Oslo, providing instructions and mentor/mentee forms as part of the program. The MLAS Chair will work with the Twinning/Mentoring Working Group and American Library Association staff to develop the guidelines and forms for the www site. Jan Ewout van der Putten and Britt Marie Häggström agreed to send some information on the EBLIDA twinning program.

2. The development of a database of library associations for benchmarking and planning purposes to include statistical, as well as organizational information. The MLAS Chair will work with American Library Association staff and Kelly Moore to implement this. By the IFLA 2005 MLAS SC meeting in Oslo, a proposed template of information to be contained in the database will be presented for discussion and approval. Data gathering will begin after the Oslo meeting and Gilliam Hallam offered to provide the assistance of her graduate students.

3. Work with Kelly Moore to identify library associations that have dropped out of IFLA as potential twinning partners in order to encourage them to rejoin IFLA.

4. Work on a communications plan to get information out to library associations throughout the world. Also, work on a method for evaluation of the GLAD program.

### **b. Using the *Empowering Library Associations Workshop* as a resource**

The group discussed this workshop held in Kathmandu in October 2004 and felt it was a good model to use in implementing regional workshops.

### **c. ALP and GLAD**

Britt Marie Häggström offered to be the ALP liaison and meet with Birgitta Sandell and Gunilla Natvig in the APL office in Uppsala after this meeting to discuss ALP's participation in the GLAD program. Winnie Vitzansky offered to be a contact as well, as she is a member of ALP Advisory Board. They will look at setting up a meeting between the MLAS GLAD Working Group and ALP representatives, the Regional Section Officers and program directors, and people coming to the IFLA 2005 Conference in Oslo on scholarships to discuss

the GLAD program and gather information on library association needs. There was some discussion about regional workshops focused on library association development, using our *Guidelines* brochures as a syllabus for the training.

### **13. Report from Alex Byrne, IFLA Vice-President, President-Elect**

Alex Byrne's report began with a PowerPoint presentation discussing *IFLA's Three Pillars* document and the *IFLA Relief and Development Partnership* proposal. Alex's main points were that the IFLA's priorities are changing and much effort will be going into strategic planning, with a full day given over to strategic planning in the next IFLA Governing Board meeting. The "CORE" activities and the incorporation of FAIFE and CLM into IFLA operations will be addressed, as well as budget issues and streamlining the focus of IFLA.

The group discussed the *IFLA Relief and Development Partnership* and agreed to unanimously support the proposal.

### **14. Report on IFLA 2005 Oslo MLAS program planning**

**a. Open Session program - *Strong Associations = Strong Libraries*** will begin with an introduction by the MLAS Chair, asking what's the point of having an association. The GLAD program will then be introduced, followed by a presentation on specific regional strategies for library association development. Winnie Vitzansky will contact Dr. Susanne Ornager from UNESCO as a possible speaker for this part of the program, discussing the *Empowering Library Associations Workshop* in Kathmandu. The participants will then break out into small groups to discuss their challenges and what they see as needed to strengthen their library association, with recorders from the MLAS Standing Committee taking notes. The session will close with reports from the small groups and a wrap-up summary.

**b. MLAS supported venue for library association presidents or representatives to discuss mutual concerns and needs** - The group recommended that this be a business meeting with the IFLA President, Secretary General and Governing Board representatives, where sufficient time is provided for discussions. The agenda should include *IFLA's Three Pillars* document, the GLAD program, the possibility of an ex-officio position on the IFLA Governing Board and IFLA's Core Programs. This meeting should be planned before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting to also allow for discussion about resolutions coming up for a vote at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council.

Moreover, the group also wanted IFLA to formally recognize and acknowledge the importance of library associations. To this end, the MLAS Standing Committee strongly recommends that IFLA sponsor a formal social function at the IFLA 2005 Conference in Oslo where library association Presidents are invited to meet socially with IFLA officers, the Governing Board and the MLAS Standing Committee.

**d. IFLA 2006 Conference in Seoul MLAS Program** - The idea of holding a pre-conference satellite meeting before the IFLA Conference in Seoul was discussed and the group agreed not to do one. It is hoped that the MLAS program and other possible activities will grow out of the GLAD project and regional relationships that develop in this next year. There was also some discussion about organizing a regional meeting before the IFLA 2006 Conference in Seoul, but no commitments were made for planning.

## **15. Upcoming IFLA review of all sections**

The group discussed the upcoming review and felt that much of the information already appeared in our Annual Reports. Alex Byrne said that although there is information already there at IFLA HQ, there is not enough manpower available to compile it and many sections do not have thorough reports. The Secretary agreed to begin to work on the MLAS review.

## **16. Status report on World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

Winnie Vitzansky reported that it appears very little has been done since the *World Summit on the Information Society* Conference held in Geneva in December 2003. Alex Byrne reported that IFLA hired Tuula Haavisto as their professional lobbyist in preparation for the Tunis conference. At the moment, there is only funding from IFLA HQ for 2 months on a half-time basis. He requested contributions from library associations to support this position for a year, which would be approximately EU \$80,000.

Within WSIS, there are areas of overlap with the three sectors - government, civil society and business - and given the reorganization of IFLA's priorities, as evidenced in the *Three Pillars* document, decisions are being made as to our advocacy role and focus.

Concern was expressed to Alex Byrne as to the leadership role of IFLA with respect to helping national library associations promote libraries and information literacy to their WSIS delegations.

Winnie Vitzansky asked for implementation tools that could be used for work with national governments and Alex said Tuula Haavisto and IFLA HQ will produce a concise paper around the beginning of April 2005. Jan-Ewout van der Putten and Winnie Vitzansky offered to work with Alex and Tuula to help move things along. Alex also said that IFLA would be sending out a letter to all national library associations about WSIS after the WSIS planning meeting in Geneva in February 2005.

## **17. Status report on the IFLA New Librarians Discussion Group and the MLAS role in supporting them.**

Sabine Stummeyer reported that the IFLA New Librarians Discussion Group had a successful program at the IFLA 2005 Conference in Buenos Aires and is now planning a workshop, *New Professionals, New Experiences and New Ways of Thinking* for the IFLA 2005 Conference in Oslo. The MLAS SC unanimously agreed to provide US \$ 1,000. to help in the workshop planning and implementation. The MLAS SC also unanimously agreed to co-opt Stuart Hamilton and Loida Febo-Garcia of the New Librarians Discussion Group to be members of the MLAS Standing Committee. This will facilitate their work with IFLA HQ.

Observer Alison O'Connor, the ALIA New Graduates Group Convener then described their group in Australia. She told of establishing their E-mail newsletter and discussion list and within 2 weeks, 200 participants had signed up. She reported E-mail discussions ranging over many topics of interest to these new professionals.

## 18. Other business, reports and announcements

**Creative Commons** - Winnie Vitzansky brought up the issue of what is IFLA's role with respect to *Creative Commons*, a new nonprofit that offers a flexible copyright for creative work. She offered to ask Winston Tabb, Chair of the IFLA Copyright and Other Legal Matters Committee as to how library associations should respond to this. The MLAS Chair will write to the Association of College and Research Libraries for an opinion. Jennefer Nicholson reported that the ALIA Copyright and IT Committees are looking at what ALIA's position will be and are planning a two-day conference.

**ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG)** - Observers Deveni Temu and Marie Sexton, representing APSIG gave a short presentation about this ALIA supported special interest group. An APSIG information sheet and copies of their *APSIG Newsletter* were distributed. Information about the group and their newsletters appear online at their WWW site <<http://www.alia.org.au/groups/apsig>>.

Winnie Vitzansky announced that the Danish Library Association is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. There will be a celebration on November 25, 2005 and all are invited to attend.

## 19. MLAS 2006 Mid-term meeting

Edita Bacic from the Croatian Library Association warmly invited the MLAS Standing Committee to hold their next Mid-term meeting in Zagreb, Croatia the first week of February, 2006. It is hoped that Peter Lor, the new IFLA Secretary General will attend this meeting.

## 20. Adjournment

Chair Keith Fiels was unable to stay to the end of the meeting. Prior to leaving, he thanked Jennefer Nicholson, and her staff at ALIA for their superb hospitality. He also especially thanked Meredith Hinchliffe, ALIA Project Officer for all her help in coordinating the meeting.

The Chair passed the gavel over to the MLAS Secretary who adjourned the meeting after discussion on Item 14 (b). She too thanked everyone for coming and ALIA for their gracious hosting of the meeting.

Arlene Cohen, MLAS SC Secretary

March 17, 2005