



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Management of Library Associations Section

www.ifla.org/VII/s40/index.htm

MLAS Standing Committee
Meeting I

Saturday 9 August 2008
Quebec City, Canada

Present:

Tore Andersen, Keith Michael Fiels, Janice Lachance, Hellen Niegaard, Alicia Ocaso Ferreira, Johnny Roj-Larsen, Barbara Schleihagen, Sinikka Sipila, Silvia Stasselova, Regine Horinstein, Jesus Lau (Corresponding Member), Maya Shaparneva, Sue Hutley

Observers:

Diop Amadou, Maria Cotera, Guy Daines, Michael Dowling, Robyn Ellard (minutes), Eulalia Espinas, Loida Garcia-Febo, A. Kadiz, Marian Koren, Jose A. Merlo-Vega, Doug Newcomb, Gloria Perez-Salmeron, Winnie Vitzansky, Elena Zhabco

1. Welcome

Sinikka Sipila, MLAS Chair, warmly welcomed standing committee members, ILFA Board members and staff, and observers to the MLAS Standing Committee meeting of the Quebec Conference.

The Chair welcomed the IFLA President, Claudia Lux and IFLA Secretary-General Designate, Jennefer Nicholson to the meeting and asked if they would both speak briefly to the meeting.

Claudia thanked the committees and the associations for their work. She wanted IFLA to empower library associations in advocacy and congratulated everyone for their work. Claudia noted that her presidential theme was inspired by IFLA members.

Her aims for “Libraries on the Agenda” includes:

- A toolkit
- A pack for use by members
- Reviewing work by other associations to develop resources for use in every country
- A section for librarians to advocate the power they have - 10 most important points for their communities, and 10 worst mistakes to improve on.

- An e-learning tool

Claudia requested that all Associations provide the resources that are currently being used so that they can be adopted, while not all the issues are the same, often the politicians are the same.

The OCLC's "Perception of librarians" report was also mentioned

Jennefer Nicholson commented on the current and future work of IFLA and that an advocacy framework is being developed. Jennefer hopes that increased communication between sections of IFLA will assist with resources, capacity and communicating priorities.

Jennefer also announced that the new website launch will be in January 2009 - the draft website design has been well received. The website is a highly important marketing and communication tool to international and other bodies. There will be briefings for Information Officers on the new website during the WLIC08.

Jennefer also stated that her priority is to make it easier for organizations / people to join IFLA

Sinikka asked how library associations can promote IFLA and the presidential theme. It was recommended that library associations contact Lidia at IFLA Headquarters for a pack of materials/promotional items at any time and she will post them to you for your local conferences.

Jennefer also highlighted IFLA's work at the international level with UNESCO, WSIS etc and partnering with museums. Stuart Hamilton is a new employee at IFLA and is able to attend international summits on IFLA's behalf

Sinikka volunteered to raise at the Governing Board the need for IFLA to utilise local library associations to represent IFLA

Winnie Vitzansky and Peter Lor will try to create more links with IFLA and UNESCO at the WSIS meeting

Jennefer also commented that communication is an important issue for IFLA and that IFLA has seconded a communications officer to develop a strategy for IFLA communications. This also links in with the website and content. An audit of international publications and review of communication tools e.g. newsletters etc will take place

2. Approval of the agenda

The committee approved the agenda for Meeting 1 and 2

3. Apologies

Loida Garcia-Febo

4. Approval of the minutes of the MLAS SC meeting in Granada Feb 2008

The MLAS committee approved the minutes of the Spain, 2008 Mid Term Meeting. Moved by Janice and seconded by Hellen.

5. Approval of the MLAS Annual Reports 2006 and 2007

Keith reported that the Annual Reports are still in preparation.

6. Financial report

Tore reported on the MLAS financial status. Tore reminded the committee that MLAS has no money because it's been given back to IFLA for membership fees to assist poor countries. No money is needed by MLAS from IFLA at this stage, but MLAS is can request money from IFLA for photocopying of the new leaflet/flyer and MLAS can receive donations from National Library Associations from time to time.

7. MLAS Chair report - Sinikka, Barbara and Jesus

Governing Board report

Sinikka and Barbara reported on the Governing Board meeting, including:

- future IFLA conferences including the 2011 conference
- financial outcomes of the conferences.

Revision of statutes 2008 will be discussed tomorrow at the Governing Board meeting and the chair of MLAS will be now a permanent member of the Governing Board.

8. Information Co-ordinator's report

Sue Hutley reported on the Information Co-ordinator's role.

Newsletter - Sue requested that people provide information on what they would like to see. Sue also requested that MLAS members:

- Comply with the newsletter deadlines.
- Listen out for conference stories for the newsletter, including pieces from the IFLA President and Director General.

The deadline for the next MLAS newsletter is the 30th September and will be produced in October 2008

MLAS brochures have been produced using software called "InDesign" by the ALIA Graphic Designer. Sue stated that she was pleased to have had volunteer translators. Regina has translated the French version. The Spanish version isn't ready yet and the Russian translation is still being done.

Sue recommended using the IFLA wiki when it's launched for a collaborative space for the brochure so everyone could access it and make the changes they need. She thanked SLA for offering collaborative space. Sue requested that everyone adds a date and version to the brochure.

After some discussion it was agreed that Sue will transfer the brochure from InDesign to Word so everyone can access it and will change it from a DL sized flyer to an A4 portrait. The name will also be changed from “Brochure” to FAQ or Fact Sheets or leaflet.

9. List Serv coordinator's report

The IFLA MLAS Listserv continues to be graciously hosted by the Special Libraries Association. There are currently 505 active members. During the past year, 171 new subscribers have been added to the listserv and 24 people unsubscribed. Most of these new subscribers came from sign-up sheets passed out at the MLAS sessions and meetings held during the IFLA Conference in Durban, South Africa.

10. Status reports - various.

Report from LAC (Latin America) meeting - Michael Dowling

Michael provided some background about LAC to the committee, including that there are 18 countries represented. MLAS discussed the funding options for these groups and recognized that other sources of funding may need to be found. Only about half of these groups are IFLA members and ALA provides assistance to some of them to help pay their IFLA membership. Michael requested that MLAS consider being an active part in the IFLA advocacy framework and that the goal for IFLA be to encourage all national library associations to get onto the UNESCO National Commission. Sinikka and Keith will look for a sample letter that other library associations can use. Michael will resend the report to the committee

Report from Forum of Young Librarians - Silvia Stasselova

Silvia reported on the Forum of Young Librarians' Forum in Kazakhstan. This was organized under the IFLA branding. There are two National Libraries in Kazakhstan which provided support for the forum. There was also a large interest in the forum from the local media and Silvia gave two interviews for local television. Government ministers were invited and also attended as well as 100 young librarians up to the age of 35. Most of them were female.

Report on GLAD program

Arlene reported on a partnership that supported a small school library in Ethiopia with some books and a single computer. Now the school will get 32 recycled computers because Arlene was able to find an organization which can supply recycled computers. The Finnish Library Association used 150 EUR for a recycled computer.

The GLAD program will be discussed in more detail in meeting II.

11. Status report on the New Professionals Discussion Group

This item will be reported on in meeting II.

12. Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group

Maria Cotera reported on the Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group. This group has a session on Monday on “Leadership and mentoring for women”. Maria invited all women and the

MLAS to help with the mentoring. She also stated that she is looking for more co-convenors for the discussion group. Maria also explained the “Big Sister - Little Sister” mentoring program where women are able to help other women from under-developed countries.

13. MLAS program session at Quebec WLIC

This will be held in collaboration with CPDWL on the Monday 11th August. Sinikka requested that everyone try to attend.

14. Quorum at the Council Meeting on Wed 13th August at 13.15

Sinikka has encouraged all association members of IFLA to attend the Council meeting, as there have been problems achieving a quorum in the past.

15. Planning the Milan 2009 MLAS program session

Sinikka reports that CPDWL and Management and Marketing sections have approached MLAS to collaborate on the session for 2009.

The program team for MLAS for Milan is Sinikka, Janice, Silvia and Tore. It was requested that Sinikka set out the procedure for planning IFLA events for sections. This can then be shared with other sections.

Suggested topics and titles:

“Librarians on the agenda” or Librarians on the catwalk”

Further discussion about this item in Meeting II

16. Planning the Brisbane 2010 MLAS program session

MLAS have had a few requests from sections to collaborate including the Library Theory and Research Section and Management and Marketing section. It was agreed that if MLAS collaborates with the Library Theory and Research Section, the theme of “Library theory and MLAS and research” should be investigated. Committee members discussed themes such as research related to National Library Associations and Strategic Planning. Helen Partridge and Marian Koren (members of the LTR section) and Hellen from MLAS have volunteered to be the program team.

17. MLAS SC Mid-Term meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia 12-14 February 2009.

Agenda items 15 and 16 to be included in agenda for the next meeting.

Elections of the SC Officers - Standing Committees don't need to elect Officer positions until 2011. The current members will stay in place until 2011. An agenda item will be needed for the officer positions at the next meeting.

18. Status reports - Winnie Vitzansky

IFAP (UNESCO Information For All Program)

Winnie reported on a number of issues and concerns about IFAP which MLAS members discussed, including:

IFAP was evaluated and has not made progress as hoped, despite the fact that many IFLA members worked to include libraries in the IFAP strategic plan. Winnie recommended that IFAP is continued with a stronger focus.

IFLA should be aware that there is a sunset clause for IFAP of 2013 because of WSIS. National Library Associations must be aware of WSIS and put pressure on their governments to continue IFAP and implementation of library recommendations arising from WSIS .

Winnie and Hellen are to develop a fact sheet and template letter for Library Associations so National Associations can get across the key messages.

IFLA is to produce publications representing all countries to be used by all countries and IFLA and MLAS to gather all the documents and case studies already developed on the impact of libraries.

Sinikka thanked Winnie on behalf of MLAS for all her hard work.

Other announcements:

The startup meeting of the “International relations in National Organizations” Discussion Group is on the 12th August, convened by Kelly Moore.

Meeting closed at 11.20am

Prepared by Robyn Ellard

Reviewed by Keith Michael Fiels, MLAS Secretary

MLAS Standing Committee
Meeting II

Friday 15 August 2008
Quebec City, Canada

Present:

Sinikka Sipila (Chair), Keith Michael Fiels, Regine Horinstein, Janice Lachance, Jesus Lau (Corresponding Member), Hellen Niegaard, Alicia Ocaso Ferreira, Johnny Roj-Larsen, Barbara Schleihagen, Silvia Stasselova, Sue Hutley

Observers:

Maria Cotera, Michael Dowling, Robyn Ellard (minutes), Eulalia Espinas, A. Kadiz, Marian Koren, Jose A. Merlo-Vega, Doug Newcomb, Gloria Perez-Salmeron, Winnie Vitzansky, Elena Zhabco, Ngian Lek Choh, Trine Kolderup Flaten, Loida Garcia-Febo, Stuart Hamilton, Nthabiserg Kotsolhoane, Angeles Massisimo, Ellen Tise, Jose A. Merlo-Vega,

This meeting continues discussions begun at Meeting I

Remarks from President-Designate Ellen Tise.

Ellen reported on the Brainstorming session held earlier in the Congress. She indicated that she was encouraged by support for her theme, "Libraries driving access to knowledge". She indicated that advocacy emerged as a strong theme, and encouraged all to become active not only on an organizational level, but on a personal level.

18. Status reports - continued from Meeting I

Stuart Hamilton provided a report on IFLA's advocacy work

Stuart is the Senior Policy Advisor at IFLA, which is a new position designed to increase global advocacy work. He is working on an advocacy framework for IFLA and plans to have it in place by the end of the year. He also explained that IFLA wishes to employ a policy officer as well.

MLAS explained to Stuart that MLAS is a section of National Library Association CEOs who are willing to assist Stuart if he is unable to attend an international meeting / gathering on IFLA's behalf.

Hellen updated Stuart about the GLAD program.

Sue Hutley indicated that she will contact Stuart about IFLA website for the MLAS pages.

Maria enquired about communication for discussion groups. It was explained that this needs to go through the section that sponsors the discussion group.

Stuart reported that IFLA will present their first session in Advocacy at Milan 2009.

Stuart stated that IFLA has been looking to the ALA Advocacy plan as a starting point for the IFLA Advocacy plan. Keith stated that the ALA Advocacy Plan is available for IFLA to use on the ALA website.

15. Planning the Milan 2009 MLAS program session - continued from Meeting I

Trine Kolderup Flaten and Angels Massísimo i Sanchez de Boado from the Management and Marketing Section attended the MLAS meeting to discuss a possible pre-conference with MLAS in Athens, Greece in 2009

It was suggested that the pre-conference theme could be “How Library Associations can empower Libraries in their services, strategy and Advocacy”.

The 19th August to 21st August (2.5 days) was suggested. If these dates were agreed on then by the 1st December 2008 a notice would go out about the pre-conference and that abstracts would be received by the 15th January 2009.

Trine and Angeles advised that the volunteers in Greece would organize everything at the local level and that only the program needed to be decided by both sections.

It was also agreed that abstracts can be presented in all IFLA languages, but papers in English.

MLAS voiced concern about the potential financial burden to attendees of having a pre-conference in a second location and suggested that MLAS only participate through presenting papers

MLAS session in the IFLA Milan program will be with CPDWL on the topic of successful advocacy programs with a working title of “Librarians on the catwalk”. This will enable MLAS and CPDWL to concentrate on the themes of the current IFLA President and the President-elect

MLAS SC focused on the future of partnering with other sections at IFLA Conferences. It was raised that the CPDWL section has suggested a curriculum for training sessions (within the GLAD Programme for example) for 3 years and would provide a certificate of attendance to its delegates.

Keith recommended that a small group is organized to review a curriculum with CPDWL for example in leadership. The curriculum should include the guidelines of the section. It was suggested that with collaboration and a program, project money could be applied from IFLA HQ for planning the curriculum and running the training.

Action: Michael to coordinate a GLAD training curriculum for Library Association Leadership according to the model of ALA in time for Brisbane 2010 (it may be possible for Milan 2009). Barbara will approach Stuart at IFLA. Michael will also call on others for assistance from the committee.

Sue raised the issue of funding delegates to attend IFLA. Sue suggested that MLAS target associations that have some funding available to assist with funding grants for attending IFLA.

It was decided to continue this discussion in February at Bratislava.

10. GLAD report - continued from Meeting I

Hellen and Keith provided a further report on the GLAD program and referred everyone to the GLAD report sent with the agenda.

It was reported that the GLAD program was being redesigned and that the Global Library Association Development had presented 3 scenarios (see handout). MLAS agreed on Scenario 2, which calls for an overall GLAD wiki that features:

- MLAS publications
- Material prepared by Associations such as advocacy campaigns, etc
- A list of “twinning” associations
- an association directory and profiles
- A chat forum

Keith (ALA) offered to provide support and funding (staffing) to assist with the upper level of the website and to develop the space and layout in various translations over the next 6 months (by February 2009 meeting).

11. Status report on the New Professionals Discussion Group

Loida Garcia-Febo reported on the New Professionals Discussion Group activities.

The event on the Tuesday of the Quebec Conference was very successful and had about 100 attendees.

NPDG have been in discussions with the CPDWL Section for a satellite event (18-20 August 2009) for Milan at the University of Bologna. The call for papers will be released in the next few weeks.

In 2010 at Brisbane, Australia, there will be a one day satellite event in conjunction with the ALIA New Generation Advisory Committee.

12. Status report on the Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group - continued from Meeting I

Maria Cotera reported on the Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group:

170 people attended the activity which included discussions on mentoring and what mentoring means to different people.

For Milan, this discussion group has decided to focus on how women are helping each other globally for its theme and is currently using the working title of a “Global Women's Fair”. Maria requested that all members think about possible presenters in their regions for this topic.

13. MLAS program session at Quebec WLIC - continued from Meeting I

Sinikka Sipila reported on the MLAS session on Monday:

207 attended the sessions and 77 attended the workshops. The feedback was excellent from 3 to 5s, with mostly 5s.

19. Forming a new Special Interest Group: Friends of the Libraries

Sinikka reported on a request from Dorothy Macnaughton (Friends of the Libraries Canada) for MLAS to support a new group "FOL". It is hoped to have this group in place by 2010 at Brisbane. It was suggested that an interested group meet in Milan for discussions and further plans. Sue Hutley offered to volunteer due to her work with Friends of Libraries Australia (FOLA).

20. Any other business

The MLAS Mid-Term meeting will be Bratislavia, Slovakia 12-14 February 2009.

The meeting concluded at 4.50pm

Prepared by Robyn Ellard

Reviewed by Keith Michael Fiels, MLAS Secretary