

**IFLA Section of Public Libraries
Newsletter
Issue no 26, July 2002**



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Editorial

Dear reader,

This issue of our six monthly newsletter is almost entirely dedicated to our upcoming IFLA anniversary in Glasgow. Thanks to our hosts in the UK, a very convenient pathway for the huge conference (more than 3.000 librarians have already subscribed) has been provided for public librarians. We also report on our Spring meeting 2002 in Singapore. A new feature are the biographies, in which this time you can read about the lives of Barbara Clubb, who also contributed to this issue with her chair's column, Borge Sondergard and Jan-Ewout van der Putten. Any comments on the contents of this newsletter and the electronic version are still very welcome. You can also find information about the sections activities, publications, past and present on www.ifla.org/VII/s8

If you're attending the conference, we wish you a very nice, informative stay in Glasgow! If not, we hope you'll be able to come next year to Berlin. In the meantime, we wish you success with all the activities in your part of the world and in keeping up with the momentous developments in the current information society. If there's anything you'd like to share about these developments in your own country, please don't hesitate to mail your contribution to us.



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An anniversary in Glasgow

Libraries for life: democracy, diversity, delivery, is the theme of the 68th general conference in Glasgow and the 75th anniversary. From August 18th until August 24th. more than 3.000 librarians and archivists will be attending IFLA's anniversary. The section's activities take place on Sunday 22 August and Thursday 24 August, but of course the conference has lots more to offer, so much more that including the complete program would request an extra newsletter. IFLA has dedicated numerous webpages to the ins and outs of the conference, also available in Spanish and French, on <http://www.ifla.org>.

Alison Minns of the IFLA 2002 National Organising Committee has been so kind to set a route through the Glasgow programme for public librarians.

IFLA 2002: A guided pathway for public librarians

IFLA 2002 in Glasgow represents the major international professional event of the year. Delegates from throughout the world, representing the broadest diversity of professional interests will gather in Glasgow for the conference.

Finding one's way through the programme can be a challenge for even the most dedicated of IFLA delegates. The choice of parallel sessions, workshops, visits, exhibitions and social gatherings is immense, as can be seen in IFLA Express 1 and 2. Here is a "pathway" through the programme for those interested in public libraries, although the choice is, of course, virtually unlimited.

Sunday 18 August

- 08.30-10.20 | Performance Measurement in Public Libraries Discussion Group Public Library Statistics: Prospects ahead**
John Sumsion will make a presentation to start the discussion.
Other speakers are encouraged.
- 10.00-12.30 | Public Libraries Democracy, Delivery and Diversity**
Public Library Section Funded Projects - Updates
Kerstin Hassner (Ljusdal Public Library, Ljusdal, Sweden)
Creating a public library role in the lifelong learning process
Britt Mary Häggstrom (DIK, Sweden) and

Torny Kjerkestad (Barum Public Library, Bekestua, Norway)

Marketing the new Public Library Guidelines - update

Barbara Clubb (Ottawa Public Library, Ottawa, Canada)

Public Libraries in the United Kingdom
Jaqui Campbell (CILIP, Public Libraries Group, UK)

The impact of the new technology on public library staff and services - two case studies:

- The PULMAN digital guidelines manuals for innovative public libraries and other cultural services
Rob Davies (MDR Partners, London, UK)
- Riding the wild beast: using technology to transform public library service in Singapore

Ngian Lek Choh (National Library Board of Singapore, Singapore)

13.00-14.20 | Introduction to IFLA for Newcomers

15.30 | Mobile Meet 'Councours d'Elegance'

Announcement of the Winner
Mike Brook (Chair, CILIP Branch & Mobile Libraries Group)

Product Presentation Theatre 1 in the Exhibition

17.30-20.00 | Opening of the Exhibition including model children's library

20.00 | Ceilidh Learn the traditional Scottish Dance!

Monday 19 August

09.30-11.10 | Opening Session

Keynote speaker: *Seamus Heaney* Stiles and Stacks, Old and New

12.00-14.30 | Libraries for Children and Young Adults

Children and Young Adults involved in Libraries for Life

Children's librarianship in the UK

Karen Usher (South Hunsley School, East Riding of Yorkshire, UK)

Public libraries and youth development
Virginia Walter (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)

The role of libraries in a developing society - a Zimbabwean experience

Uno Nilsson (County Library of Halland, Halmstad, Sweden)

Las bibliotecas de Comfenalco en Medellín y su compromiso con la formación de lectores
Gloria Rodríguez (Comfenalco Public Library, Medellín, Colombia)
My kind of library: service and programme with a difference for kids and teens
Kiang-Koh Lai Lin (National Library Board of Singapore, Singapore)

14.45-17.15 | Information Technology

Technologies for extending the reach of Library Solutions

Mobile access to libraries: librarians and users experience for i-mode applications in libraries

Masamitsu Negishi (National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo, Japan)

Reaching the unreached, or how we can use ICT intelligence and innovatively to empower the rural poor through enhanced access to information.

Subbiah Arunachalam (M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India)

Critical technological and architectural choices for access and preservation in a digital library environment

Svein Arne Solbakk (Norwegian National Library, Moirana, Norway)

XML and bibliographic data: the T-V-S (Transport-Validation-Services) model

Joaquim De Carvalho

(BookMARC/University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal) and *Maria Inês*

Cordeiro (Art Library, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal)

19.30-23.00 | Opening Reception Glasgow Science Centre

By invitation of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Alex Mosson.

Tuesday 20 August

08.30-11.00 | Libraries Serving the General Public (Division III) - SI

Libraries for life: learning and living

An overview of the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public and highlights of the work of each of the Division's Sections.

12.00-14.00 | Poster Sessions

14.00-16.30 | Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons

Library Services to the Elderly: An Obligation for Your Library Library

Services to the homebound elderly in Denmark

www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/016-121e.pdf

Gyda Skat Nielsen (Søllerød Public Libraries, Søllerød, Denmark)

Library Services to Institutions for the elderly in Sweden

www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/015-121e.pdf

Brigitta Irvall (Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille, Enskede, Sweden)

TBA

19.45-21.15 | Cultural Evening Concert at Royal Concert Hall

Wednesday 21 August

08.30-11.00 | Mobile Libraries

Advancing Mobile Libraries Services for the enrichment of our Diverse Multi-Communities

Toward the development of guidelines for non-motorized mobile libraries: using surveys and assessments to improve library services

Thelma Tate (Rutgers University Libraries, New Brunswick, USA)

Organising a mobilemeet

www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/010-130e.pdf

Ian Stringer (Barnsley Libraries, Barnsley, United Kingdom)

TBA

Elspeth Broen (United Kingdom)

Transition from a Round Table to Section
Stanley K. Ng'ang'a (Kenya)

The challenge of public library systems to meet information needs for diverse multi-cultural communities: a case of mobile library service in Kenya

www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/033-130e.pdf

Richard Masaranga Atuti (Librarian, Kenya National Library Service, Headquarters Nairobi, Kenya)

12.00-14.00 | Poster Sessions

13.00-17.00 | Reading Workshop

Reading Promotion: Practical Approaches Promoting reading through community partnerships: the US-Russian Reading Promotion Project

John Y. Cole (Library of Congress,

Washington D.C., USA) and *Maria A.*

Vedenyapina (Open Society Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation)

What shall I read next? Developing tools

for reader support.

J. Eric Davies (Library and Information
Statistics Unit, Loughborough, UK)

Preliminary findings: the International
Reading Promotion Survey

Briony Train (University of Sheffield,
Sheffield, UK)

OR

13.00-17.00 | Library Theory and Research Workshop

Political Perceptions of the Public Library
- An international study

Preliminary report on the research

Bob Usherwood (Dept. Information Studies,
Sheffield University, Sheffield, UK)

Politicians on the other side of the world
Kerry Smith (Curtin University, Perth,
Australia)

Brief reports from other national
representatives

TBA

Plenary session on Group Discussions

Thursday 22 August

09.00-16.00 | Public Libraries Workshop

Promoting Computer Literacy @ your
library

Cybercentres in Dumfries and Galloway
Janice Goldie and Lindsay Mason (Dumfries
and Galloway Libraries, Dumfries and
Galloway, UK)

Learning IT-basics in Web Bus Netti-Nysse

Elina Harju (Tampere City Library,
Tampere, Finland)

Training programmes on IT in small
libraries

Victoria Courtois (Bibliothèque
départementale du Val d'Oise, Val d'Oise,
France)

Information highway North America -
how to get everybody on IT!

Mary Sherman (Pioneer Library System,
Norman, USA)

Central and Eastern Europe Struggling for
Computer Literacy - a Czech experience

Jarmila Burgetová (Association of Library
and Information Professionals of Czech
Republic, Prague, Czech Republic)

Implementing the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation Grant for Public Access to
Computers and Internet in public libraries
throughout Chile

Clara Budnik (Dirección de Bibliotecas,

Archivos y Museos de Chile (DIBAM),
Santiago, Chile)

Information literacy for the masses: the
Singapore experience

Ngian Lek Choh (National Library Board,
Singapore)

OR

A Library tour in Glasgow or Edinburgh

**Evening: Edinburgh National Museums
of Scotland Reception**

Military Tattoo performance

Friday 23 August

09.30-12.30 | Book Event

Author talks and signings including
Geraldine McCaughrean, Michael Morpurgo,
Terence Black, Jim Crace and Bernard
Maclaverty.

12.30-13.30 | Plenary Session *Anne Fine*

Anne Fine has over 40 books to her credit.
She has won the Carnegie Medal, the
Guardian Children's Literature Award,
The Whitbread Children's Novel Award
(twice) and the Smarties Prize.

14.15-15.30 | Closing Session

Saturday August 24 - Post Conference Tours

Standing committee meetings

Agenda

Time Meeting 1: Saturday, 17.8.2002,
08.30-11.20 (meeting room: Morar)
Meeting 2: Friday, 23.8.2002,
08.00-10.00 (meeting room: Carron 1)

Location: Scottish Exhibition and Conference
Centre (SECC)

**1. Opening, Announcements and Documents Check
(Clubb)**

- Introductions of new members
- Booth Duty for IFLA Glasgow

2. Approval of the Agenda (Clubb & Sondergard)

3. The Chair's Report (Clubb)

**4. Approval and Follow-up of the Minutes form the
Singapore Meeting, March 2002**

Minutes have been circulated by email,
but can also be found at:

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/news/min02.pdf>

Clara Budnik, Florence Poncé, Mary Sherman and Borge Sondergard (can serve a 2nd term).

5. Reports from Coordinating Board, Division III (Sondergard)

Minutes from the March 2002 Meeting have been circulated and there will be reports from the CB Meeting of August 16th 2002.

6. Reports from Professional Committee (Clubb & Sondergard)

Minutes have been circulated by email, but can also be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/III/pb/pcm0302.htm>

7. Report on Membership (Sondergard)

- Promotion leaflet aimed specifically to public libraries (draft from GB)

8. Finances (Clubb)

Financial Report to be distributed by email (Clubb)

9. IFLA Internet Manifesto (Burgetová)

The Manifesto was prepared by FAIFE and approved by the Governing Board 27 March 2002. You will find it in English, French, German and Spanish in IFLA Journal, Vol. 28 (2002) No 2., page 81-84. You can also find it at <http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/im-e.htm>. The Committee will have a thorough discussion on how to use and disseminate the Manifesto.

10. Putting the Library Question on top of the Agenda for the Local Politicians (Hassner)

The committee will have discussion on this vital issue. Kerstin Hassner, Sweden will give an introduction.

11. Third Pan African Conference on Reading for All (Clubb)

The Conference will take place in Kampala, Uganda, 18 to 22 August 2003. The Section has been invited to give a paper or just to participate. Material has been circulated.

12. Elections of Vacancies in the Committee for 2003-2007 (Sondergard)

The closing date for nomination will be set for February 2003, so the Committee will have to deal with the issue now. There will be five vacancies, which are:
Assumpta Bailac (leaving permanently)

13. Country Reports (all)

14. Review of Strategic Plan 2002-2003

The plan has been circulated, but can also be found at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/annual/sp08.htm>. The Strategic Plan has not yet been approved by Professional Committee(!). Be prepared to give an account for the items, which you are responsible for and which are not dealt with under Agenda #15.

15. Review of Ongoing Projects

- a) Life Long Learning (Kjekstad)
- b) Computer Literacy (Poncé & Sondergard)
- c) UNET evaluation (Hassner)
- d) Meeting User Needs (Bailac & Lake) - a scoping document has been circulated
- e) Marketing Guidelines (Clubb & Lake)
 - A follow-up on plans in your own country
 - Achievements since last meeting
 - Plans for the next year

16. Website, Newsletter and Brochure (van der Putten)

17. Programme for IFLA 2002 in Glasgow
Plans, agreements and arrangements

18. Programme for IFLA 2003 in Berlin (all)

- Joint Satellite Meeting on Library Buildings with IFLA Section on Buildings and Equipment is approved by PC
- Open Forum
- Workshops on Life Long Learning and Meeting User Needs
- Joint Workshop with RT on Women Issues
Please be well prepared for this, as we have to decide on most of the plans now - it cant wait until Spring Meeting.

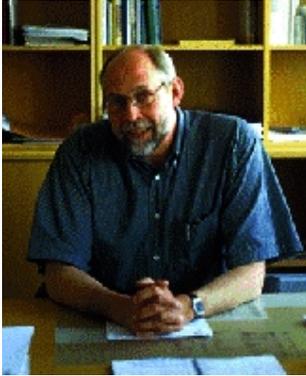
19. Preliminary Programme for IFLA 2004 Buenos Aires and 2005 Oslo (all)

20. Other Reports and Items

- Spring Meeting 2003
- Items to Coordinating Board, Div. III
- et al

21. Closing

In the spotlight – Børge Søndergård



Børge Søndergård
Library Director of Horsens City Library,
Vice-president of the Danish Library Association.

For the last 28 years Børge Søndergård has been engaged in active professional work in Danish public libraries. In the 70'th he picked up the basics of library work in one of the smallest communities in Denmark. In the 80'th he served as librarian, Head of a branch library and in the late 80'th as Head of a regional library with 6 connected branch libraries in the second largest community in Denmark. In 1992 Børge Søndergård became Library Director of Horsens City Library, the 13'th largest community in Denmark. Along with his professional work he engaged himself through all the years in different library associations. For many years through the 70'th and 80'th in the Union of Danish Librarians, once a member of Executive Board, otherwise through training activities, negotiating wages and professional work. Since 1994 Børge Søndergård has been the Vice-President of the Danish Library Association and among other activities member of it's International Board and the Danish Copyright Forum.

In 1995 he was the originator of the "Manifesto for Public Libraries in the Information Society". The Manifesto was adapted by the Association of Danish Library Managers and the Danish Library Association and has had a major impact on the rapid development in the Danish public libraries concerning the use of new media and the Internet.

In late 1997 Børge Søndergård was elected as Danish member of IFLA's Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM), and he was very much engaged in the battle against the European Copyright Directive and along with that, the work with the new Danish Library Act. In 1999 he was appointed to the Standing Committee for IFLA's Section for Public Libraries and worked for two years as Information Coordinator to the Committee. In 2001 he was appointed Secretary to the Committee. Right now he is running for the election for his third four-year term as Vice-President of the Danish Library Association. Through the years Børge Søndergård has contributed with articles in periodicals, leaflets and books, and he is often used as lecturer in Denmark, occasionally in Scandinavia and once in Moscow.

Personal:

Børge Søndergård is born in 1950. He is married to Bodil Have, who is the library director of Randers City Library, the fifth largest public library system in Denmark. Bodil is also the Vice-President of the Association of Danish Library Managers. They have two sons, who have left home years ago, and they have the privilege of being grandparents to two wonderful and very lively girls, age 2 1/2 years and 5 months.

In the spotlight: Barbara Clubb

Barbara Clubb City Librarian, Ottawa Public Library

Barbara Clubb assumed the duties of City Librarian of the amalgamated Ottawa Public Library on January 1, 2001. From August 1, 1995 to December 31, 2000, she was Chief Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the former Ottawa Public Library (1906-2000). She has broad experience in leading and managing public libraries and provincial government library development agencies through rapid change and budget reductions and is a passionate and articulate advocate for libraries and their role in literacy, life-long learning and the democratic life of the community. The Ottawa Public Library is the fourth largest library system in Canada and the largest bilingual (English/French) public library on the continent. The thirty-three-branch system serves the City of Ottawa's population of 800,000 with a staff of 440 full time equivalent employees and a collection of over two million items. The Library has more than 400,000 registered members.

Ms. Clubb is champion and leader of the SmartLibrary Initiative, part of the Smart Capital Demonstration Project for Industry Canada from 1999 to the present. She is past Chair of the National Library of Canada's Core Statistics Committee, and is a founding member of the National Capital Region Library Consortium. Ms. Clubb served as a member of the Ontario Government's Telecommunications Access Partnership (TAP) External Expert Review Panel, which recommends projects applying for support from a \$50 million dollar fund. She also represented the Chief Librarians of Large Public Libraries in Ontario on the Ontario Gates Library Initiative Advisory Group. She has served as a committee chair and as a member of the board of Rotary Club of Ottawa. Ms. Clubb is an elected member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) as the only Canadian member, and currently chair of, IFLA's Public Library Section Standing Committee. Ms. Clubb is past president of the Manitoba Library Association and the Canadian Association of Public Libraries. In 1990 she was awarded its Outstanding Public Library Service Award. She is a former councillor of the Canadian Library Association. Ms. Clubb is a frequent presenter at conferences and association meetings on the topics of public access technology, advocacy, library amalgamation, fundraising, early childhood literacy, partnership development and women as library leaders. She appears each month on a book review panel for CBC Ottawa's afternoon radio show, All In A Day.

On January 31, 2001, the Ontario Library Association awarded Ms. Clubb the W.J. Robertson Medallion as Librarian of the Year in recognition of her dynamic and innovative leadership in the advancement of public library service. She was a 2001 Nominee for the YM- YWCA Woman of Distinction Award. She received a Certificate of Distinction from the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association in 2000. She was awarded the 1997 University of British Columbia Distinguished Alumna Award for outstanding contributions to library and information services in Canada.

Before arriving at the Ottawa Public Library, Ms. Clubb was director of the Libraries and Community Information Branch for the then Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation for five years, where she was responsible for provincial development of public libraries and community information centres. Prior to her work in Ontario, Ms. Clubb held similar positions with the Government of Alberta Library Services Branch and she worked as a staff consultant with the Manitoba Public Library Services. She began her career as a youth and adult services librarian in her hometown with the Winnipeg Public Library. She received her undergraduate training at the University of Manitoba, followed by formal library science education at the University of British Columbia and University of Alberta.

Chair's Column

Libraries, Literacy and Life-Long Learning

One of the presentations at the IFLA 2002 Glasgow conference is entitled *Libraries For Life*. It will focus on how libraries are tools for life-long learning and democracy. It fits in very well with several programs being presented by our section including *Promoting Computer Literacy at Your Library* and a special meeting on *Libraries and Democracy*.

Free and democratic societies depend on citizens who are able to read. In Canada for instance, recent OECD/ Statistics Canada studies have revealed that 22% of Canadians have extremely low literacy levels and half of Canadians have trouble handling common reading tasks. Illiteracy and low literacy affects us all but particularly in some specific areas: health-low literacy has a negative effect on all aspects of health, including overall levels of life expectancy, accidents and a wide range of diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer; employment-people with higher literacy skills are less likely to be employed; justice-in Canada offenders experience literacy problems that are three times higher than the general population; citizenship-poor literacy skills effectively prevent citizens from engaging in civic life, especially in the electoral process; relationships-low literacy can drastically affect the quality of family and personal relationship (for instance what happens when parents can't read to their children). Unfortunately studies show that adult literacy initiatives fail to reach the majority of their target audiences. That means that it's extremely important for public libraries to initiate and sustain pre-natal and infant literacy programs so that children (from the time they emerge from the womb) and their parents are surrounded with books and reading experiences in a warm, loving and supportive atmosphere. Public libraries are uniquely positioned to support the learning experiences of the very youngest members of the community and by doing so support the development of the democratic society.

Barbara Clubb

Chair, IFLA Public Libraries Section Standing Committee



Photo: Bruno Schlumberger and The Ottawa Citizen

Singapore stories

The Singapore experience of Jan-Ewout van der Putten, the minutes by secretary Borge Sondergard and the story that was released to the Singapore press by Ms. Ngian Lek Choh

Singapore experience

The minutes of our Singapore meeting are on the net. In the spring, our members got already an impression of the standing committee's stay in south east Asia. So everything officially worth knowing is already known, but nothing has been said about the special experience we all had in that very hot and very modern island city.

Everybody has their own favourite. Some of us were impressed by the high standard of technology applied in the system. Some saw with awe the smooth and efficient way in which the library board works for the library community and the public. Others observed how high tech, which seems so often a goal in itself, a way of showing off how modern libraries are and how they belong to this day and age, in the Singapore public libraries is hidden in the lining of the building. The Singapore public library has passed this stage of development. Now it concentrates on the marketing and the way you best serve the public. Everything you could possibly wish for is available, but the face of the library as such has not been changed by a display of computer screens but by intelligent, creative thinking from the point of user needs and wishes.

In a high rise shopping mall, you will find a extremely attractive library for the yuppies. In the community centres, children's libraries find their place and public. In my country, we work mainly with well equipped central libraries and dependent, often less equipped branch libraries. The goal is to serve the public from the very young to very old in the same, sometimes departmentalised establishments. Efficient for the library organisation, but in the meantime perhaps an obstacle if you want to attract a new public to our libraries. Perhaps a multi-layered, customised system of library services is more effective.

In Singapore they have done a lot of research into clients wishes and that research and their experience can be of great value to us all. Of course, Singapore is not without problems. Who of us is? The Singapore experience was of great interest. The most friendly and welcoming atmosphere in which our well organised visit took place, made it possible to absorb all we saw

to the limit of our abilities.

Thank you, dear colleagues, we had a marvellous time.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten



Minutes of the Spring Meeting in Singapore (7 and 8 of March 2002)

Present: Assumpta Bailac Puigdellivol, Klaus-Peter Boettger, Barbara H. Clubb (Chair), Kerstin Hassner, Torny Kjekstad, Gunilla Konradsson-Mortin, John Lake, Ngian Lek Choh, Bernard Margolis, Tuula Martikainen, Florence Poncé, Mary Sherman, Borge Sondergard (Secretary), Jan-Ewout van der Putten (IC).

Apologies: Elena Boretti, Clara Budnik Sinay, Jarmila Burgetová, and Vladimir Firsov.

Absentees: Georgeta Clinca

1. Opening and announcements (Barbara)

The Chair expressed the warmest thanks to Ngian and her staffs for their very hard work of arranging this Spring Meeting and for planning such splendid library visits and introduction to Singapore that was in store for the Committee in the days to come. Barbara Clubb was very happy for the multitude of members attending this meeting – fourteen out of nineteen possible – and she believed it to be the biggest Spring Meeting in her time with the Section.

2. Welcome to Singapore (Ngian)

Before the beginning of the meeting Ngian had a most interesting and thorough PowerPoint Presentation of libraries in Singapore. This has been passed on to the members, and the Information Coordinator is kindly requested to put it on the Section's website under "Country Reports". Ngian passed out presents and made

a library introduction to the members, and on behalf of the National Library Board heartily welcomed everybody to Singapore.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair went through the Agenda and checked up on the related documents. She particularly pointed out to the members to consider items for Borge Sondergard to bring to the CB-Meeting on March 14th and 15th, and bring any suggestions up under item 7 and 16 on the Agenda. The Agenda was approved.

4. The Chairs Report (Barbara)

The Chair was most pleased with the 15,000 NGL that the Section had received from IFLA Professional Committee to the project of disseminating the Guidelines worldwide. She asked the members to be aware of the conference report from the Rabat-meeting in Morocco, and especially note the recommendations listed in the report. "Let's think of a proper strategy related to the results of the Rabat Conference – we have a lot of work to do", she stated. She regretted that she was not able to attend the Rabat Conference due to the circumstances and irregular flights right after the September 11th-tragedy. Philip Gill, former member of the Standing Committee and Chair of the Guidelines Revision-group, attended the meeting on the Section's behalf and wrote a most useful report on the meeting.

5. Approval and Follow-up of the Minutes from the Boston meeting, August 2001

The Secretary informed that IFLA General Secretary Ross Shimmom had made some objections to the Minutes' description of the problems with placing ROTNAC into the new structure. He wanted to make clear, that he was not in a dispute with ROTNAC, but only trying to find the best solutions. The Minutes were approved. There was no follow-up as the matter was solved through the items on the Agenda.

6. Extension of the Standing Committee to 20 Members?

According to IFLA Rules of Procedures (12.25-12.27) the Committee is allowed to appoint new members in case of casual vacancies. IFLA HQ has accepted to replace Georgeta Clinca, Rumania and Robert Pestell, Australia. The Committee decided to replace Ms. Clinca and Mr. Pestell accordingly and to extend the Committee to 20. The Secretary will ask IFLA HQ to appoint the two unsuccessful candidates with the highest votes in the postal ballot last year Mr. Fernando Platero Ferrando, Spain and Mr. Nerses Hayrapetyan,

Armenia to the Committee ASAP.

7. Report from Coordination Board, Division III (Barbara and Borge)

There was nothing to report, as the meeting was to take place later in March. Nor was any Agenda received up until the Section's meeting in Singapore. Barbara expressed that it was often hard to arrange good meetings in CB, but it was a powerful board, as it makes decisions concerning money and projects. The Section will always attend the meetings either by the Chair or the Secretary.

Bernie Margolis drew the Committee's attention to the fact that a major surplus from the Boston Conference should have been allocated. He suggested to the Committee that this money should go into a fund to support active working members of Section Committees from poorer and developing countries. The Committee had a long discussion about this with many different aspects and diversities of opinion. The Nordic Countries representatives agreed that it was important to bring active working librarians from public libraries into the sections' steering committees and not people from e.g. National library Boards/Authorities and so on. It was stressed that it was also very important to break the Western hemisphere's dominant position in the IFLA work. Especially Spain and France representatives found it was hard to find ordinary librarians who could afford to join IFLA and its sections and committees, but everybody agreed, that it would be a good thing, if it were possible to support committee members from poorer countries. It was decided, that the Secretary should bring this matter to CB and ask them to discuss it as well. If support here, CB could go on investigating the matter of money from Boston and the possibility of setting up a fund. John Lake argued, that there should be very strict rules for spending the money, in order that only the most needing ones were supported.

8. Report from Professional Committee

The Minutes from PC's meeting in December 2001 had been distributed to the members. The Secretary highlighted a few things. As it was the first real meeting in PC a great deal of introduction to division and PC-work had been conducted. PC also dealt with the strategic plans, and were planning and deciding contents, Open Forums, Workshops and Discussion Groups in Glasgow. There was no debate in the Committee on the Minutes.

9. Report on Membership (Borge)

As of March 1st the Section has 321 registered members

(286 in good standing). The deadline for counting members in order to calculate next years administrative money is August 1st. We should be able to keep above the 300 needed registered members.

There was a major discussion on the subject of getting more members. We need a new brochure before Glasgow and we should try to translate it into the official IFLA-languages. It was decided that the Information Coordinator should come up with a revised brochure ASAP. We should also consider developing and marketing special benefits, which you can only obtain by being a member e.g. on-line conferences and list-serves. Kerstin Hassner brought up the question and the importance of raising awareness in ones own country to become an institutional member, or if you are already an IFLA-member to choose Public Libraries Section as a first choice. When your country is organising the annual IFLA conference it is a good opportunity to campaign among public libraries to become institutional members. Denmark did so in 1997 and still today Denmark has more than 40 members of this Section – far the biggest number of all countries. Another idea was to bring in “IFLA-people” from other countries to conferences in your own country – spread the word and put faces on the whole IFLA-thing. Bernie Margolis raised the question whether it was an issue for the Committee to get new members for IFLA – or should we concentrate on campaigning within IFLA to get members to join our section. Why don't we see an IFLA-marketing letter from Kay Raseroka?

Borge, Gunilla and Klaus-Peter argued that it is of the utmost importance to get new members. The aim should be to become the biggest section within IFLA. Only by being this would we get the attention and the position, that public libraries should have within IFLA, which is heavily dominated by national and scientific libraries. Should we use the new guidelines as means of promotion and should we argue for a low entry fee to IFLA? It is very important to built network and to show best practises. It was agreed that every member of the Standing Committee would have the goal of getting at least 3 new institutional members before next year.

We decided to institute a new on-line newsletter to be published more regularly than the printed one.

The Chair concluded that: a new pamphlet should be made before Glasgow (van der Putten), that we should get more attention within IFLA and that we should try to promote our section in our own countries.

Borge was asked to take up the matter of IFLA promotion at the CB meeting later in March. He will try to get answers to the questions: What exactly do IFLA

HQ, GB and PC do to promote IFLA?

10. Finances (Barbara)

Barbara went through the budget, which had been sent out in advance. There seems to be a good balance, and we should be able to fund the things we want. She strongly urged the members to use all their allocated project money every year, so we don't have to have so much carryover. Sometimes IFLA HQ deducts the carryovers before new money is approved. “This is bad for business”! A question concerning a split of surplus from the sale of the guidelines between SAUR and the Section was not regarded as possible. SAUR has many other expenditures and provides the text for free to go on the website. The Budget was accepted.

11. Strategic Plan 2002-2003

Draft 3 of the Strategic Plan had been sent to the members and to PC. It was decided in PC, that the chair Winston Tabb together with Josche Neven from IFLA HQ should try to arrange and rewrite all the strategic plans into the same common IFLA frame. We have received Winston's version of our own plan, and there were only smaller revisions. We could go along with most of them, but wanted to stand firm on goal 1, that Winston had changed. We insist on our own phrasing.

The whole plan was very thoroughly worked through and many things were dropped and other rephrased. Florence Poncé declared that she feels we are concentrating on too much, we must focus on fewer goals or we will loose energy. Hellen Niegard (former member of the standing committee), had informed Borge, that she is sure, that IFLA HQ has gotten money from UNESCO to work more with Information Policies. This needs to be looked into. Hellen has written to Sjoerd Koopman.

Borge was asked to raise the question on registration fees for speakers on e.g. Open Forums at the CB Meeting. The Committee feels that it is most embarrassing, that speakers on a one-day basis should have to be smuggled into the Conference, or that they (or the group, that have made the invitation) have to pay a registration fee. This must be a part of the whole budget for IFLA Conferences.

Conclusions: Barbara will revise the Strategic Plan as quickly as possible according to the decisions in the Committee. She will also make the necessary changes in Winston's frame for the Strategic Plan. The aim is, that it can go out attached to these Minutes and very soon can go on the Website.

12. Review of Ongoing Projects

a. Life Long Learning

Britt Marie Häggström has promised to lead this project until the end although she has left the Committee. She had provided the Committee with a first draft of a major report on Life Long Learning. The plan is to give a small presentation in Glasgow (was later under item 14 diminished even further) and to have a workshop in Berlin. Assumpta Bailac has left the project, which she had announced already in Boston. Torny Kjekstad had replaced her and she will act as the Committee's liaison to Britt Marie.

b. Computer Literacy

The project is led by Florence Poncé and Borge Sondergard and it will come to an end in Glasgow. In spite of the project being only a small project (very little project-money, and none since 2000) it has developed beautifully. The great finale will be a whole day workshop in Glasgow in conjunction with the Scottish Library Association named "Computer Literacy @ Your Library". Seven speakers from around the world have promised to give presentations on how they deal with computer literacy. The aim is through the workshop and the presentations to collect a great number of best practises and to put them on the website. Also it is planned to form a network amongst the workshop participants in order to carry on the discussion through an IFLA mailing list.

c. UNET-evaluation

Kerstin Hassner, the lead of the whole UNET-project, reported that the evaluation group, which consist of herself, Barbro Thomas, Sweden and Hellen Niegaard, Denmark, has finally after some delaying problems started to work and is in good progress. They plan to have a final report for the Committee meeting in spring 2003. Kay Raseroka has agreed to write an introduction to the report. There will be a small presentation in Glasgow. The Chair concluded that the UNET-project had been one of great success and one that the Section could be very proud of.

d. Marketing Guidelines

The Section has received 15.000 NLG project money over the next three years to develop marketing strategies for and to disseminate the Guidelines. The Chair wanted a discussion within the group on how to attack this project the best way possible. IFLA HQ (Sjoerd Koopman) is also very keen on working closely with the Section in order to help as best he can, and Sjoerd has asked for a contact within the Committee on this

subject. The committee formed a working group: Barbara Clubb (lead), John Lake (co-lead), Borge Sondergard (contact to IFLA HQ), Bernie Margolis and Kerstin Hassner. Jan-Ewout van der Putten will promote the Guidelines via the website. Borge reported on the translations of the guidelines, which reach the total figure of 18 languages at this moment (some have not yet been published). Assumpta suggested that we put together panels of well-esteemed regional colleagues in Asia, South America and Africa to promote and talk about the Guidelines on conferences in these parts of the world. We should go into contact with our corresponding members. This will be very expensive, so we must look for more money.

13. Website and Newsletter

The Information Coordinator Jan-Ewout van der Putten reported that a newsletter, Issue no 25, had been published in February 2002. Being his first newsletter, he was not quite happy with it, as he found it a little too traditional and with fairly uninteresting contents. He was sure, that the next, which is planned just before Glasgow, would be much better. He had set up an organization at home with Anne Hottenhuis (hottenhuis@nblc.nl) as daily manager of the website and newsletter. He calculated on yet another newsletter at the end of the year. The Website should be up-to-date.

The IC wanted to discuss the possibility of going electronic with the newsletter. It was stated, that it was very hard to get updated email lists of the members, and that a great many members may still not have email at all. It was decided, that the IC should consult with Kelly Moore of IFLA HQ on the matter. The Committee concluded that there would be one more printed version of the newsletter just before Glasgow. In the newsletter it will be heavily stated, that members, who still want a printed version must actively indicate so directly to the editor. In all other cases the members will receive an electronic newsletter through e-mail. It was also decided that there should be two major newsletters and three minor (with only hard and relevant facts/links etc.) pr. year. This is a major extension of issues compared to earlier. An editorial help group for the IC was set up to work with Jan E. van der Putten: Ngian Lek Choh, Gunilla Konradsson-Mortin, Barbara Clubb and Borge Sondergard. Major headline on next issue of the Newsletter (no 26) "We are going electronic!". The Committee acknowledged that the task of being IC was very crucial to the success of the section, as our website and Newsletter are the prime offers to the members, and the best way of

getting new members to the Section.

14. Programme for IFLA 2002 Glasgow.

The Chair had produced a list of all the ideas and offers of presentations, which the Committee had already received. The workshop on Computer Literacy was presented and supported by the Committee. As to the Open Forum there were many ideas and a heavy discussion. It seemed to most members, that we tend to tread on well known paths, and this is getting maybe slightly boring and old-fashioned. We wanted to put new energy into the Open Forum and get rid of all the presentation of project reports. And we wanted to give more time for discussions. We decided on the following:

- 15 minutes update on projects and section work (Q&A)
- 15 minutes presentation of trend setting public libraries in the UK by Jacqui Campbell, LA (Q&A)
- 75 minutes Panel discussion under the theme "The Impact of the new Technology on Public Library Staff and Services" with two or three case studies as inspiration for a major debate. PULMAN-project, Singapore and Malmoe (Sweden) were mentioned.

John will look into the matter of ways to arrange the tables in the conference room. Usually 150-250 people attend our Open Forums. It is also important to promote our Open Forum well among the Conference goers.

Discussion groups: after some discussions it was decided to continue the discussion group on Libraries and Democracy und the following Theme "Libraries in the democratic process", Mary will deal with that. It was also important to market this event.

Looking over the many related events and meetings of the Division III and others, it was interesting to notice, that a great many had public library aspects involved, but the organizers had never bothered to ask for our participation or partnership!

Borge and Barbara will notify the people, who wanted to give presentations on the Open Forum on the decisions of the Committee.

15. Preliminary Programme for IFLA Berlin and Buenos Aires

We have an invitation to partner up with the Section for Library Buildings and Equipments in arranging a Satellite Conference prior to the IFLA Berlin Conference. This meeting is scheduled to take place in Paris. We would very much like this if the meeting will focus substantially on public library buildings. Borge will let the Building Section know of our decision

(before March 15'th 2002) and Florence Poncé will act as liaison on this event. In Berlin we will go for a workshop on the Life Long Learning project, and the Open Forum will probably focus on "training, retraining and recruiting staff". The Open Forum in Berlin must reflect the experiences we get from the new form in Glasgow, but it is crucial, that we will be able to make final decisions for the Berlin meeting already in Glasgow and not wait until spring meeting 2003. Finally we have been asked to partner a workshop with IFLA Section of Women Issues. We decided to proceed and the chair will respond to the Women's Issues representative.

In 2004 we very much want to focus on public libraries in South America. We decided to rely on our South American contacts: Clara Budnik, Gloria Rodriguez, Elisabeth (Brazil) and off course Assumpta, who has good contacts in SA. Assumpta agreed to get in contact with the people mentioned above and ask them if they will form an organising group for Buenos Aires.

16. Other Reports and Items

a. There is a strong wish from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to establish close contacts with the Committee in terms of the Access to Learning Award 2002 and in other matters. They strongly encourage us to use every listserv we know of to tell our colleagues about the Award. This year the Foundation will not make the decisions on the Award receiver themselves, but will rely on nominations from the library communities (not USA). We take it as a good sign, that the Foundation wants more close contact with the Section

b. The Chair urged the members, who have not send her their CV's/biographies to do so. We plan to make a small presentation in the Newsletter or on the website.

17. Closing

The Chair heartily thanked Ngian and her staff members for all their work and effort to make this meeting a success. They have certainly accomplished this. The Committee was very grateful for the warm and graceful hospitality of the Singapore National Library Board and its many institutions. She made a wish and a prediction that someday the yearly IFLA Conference would go to Singapore.

Minutes taken by: Borge Sondergard, Secretary

NLB Hosts Successful SPL IFLA Meeting

(This is how host Ngian Lek Choh proudly brought the Spring Meeting to the attention of the Singapore press)

"I'm very impressed with libraries under the management of the National Library Board, Singapore (NLB). Obviously, a lot of thought has been put into the design work, making them a very good use of public space."

Hearing such words of praise being heaped upon NLB libraries can be flattering indeed, more so when they are being uttered by the Chair of the Section of Public Libraries, IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), Ms. Barbara H. Clubb.

NLB played host to Ms. Clubb and 13 other committee members, one of whom is Ms. Ngian Lek Choh, Senior Director, Library Services, NLB, when they held their Spring Meeting in Singapore from 7 to 8 March 2002 – the first time they are holding such an event in our country.

The Section held a one and a half-day meeting in the Marine Parade Community Library, and spent the rest of their time visiting NLB libraries, including the venue of their meeting, Marine Parade Community Library, Mountbatten Community Children's Library, library@orchard and Woodlands Regional Library.

Ms Clubb, who is also City Librarian of the Ottawa Public Library, Canada, was all praises for "the welcome of the Singapore library community", which she credits for setting the ideal environment for her members to interact better and accomplish "some heavy duty discussing and future planning".

"We've never had such a lively discussion in the last five years...the meetings have been really good and I think we've set the standard for the future," echoed the Committee Secretary, Mr. Borge Sondergard, who is also

the Director of Horsens City Library, Denmark.

Trading Knowledge With The Experts

NLB staff also had the chance to tap on the knowledge and expertise of the IFLA librarians when the Chair, Secretary and two other committee members presented on their projects at Woodlands Regional Library on 11 March.

Ms. Clubb spoke about the objectives IFLA and the work of Public Libraries Section. She also gave an interesting overview of the digitisation programmes in the Canadian libraries. Mr. Borge Sondergard, on the other hand, shared the highlights of the National Library Authority strategies, gave an overview of the Danish Public Library System and showcased examples of the electronic resources built by Danish librarians.

The other two speakers were French librarian Ms. Florence Ponce, General Manager of the Book and Reading Department in her country's Ministry of Culture and Communication and Mrs. Torny Kjekstad, Library Director from Bodrum Public Library, Norway.

Ms. Ponce's presentation featured an exciting "virtual" library tour of France, and a discussion of the challenges faced by the French librarian community while Mrs. Kjekstad touched on Norway's library services for the elderly and disabled.

The short visit has definitely ignited Ms. Clubb's interest in NLB's work in Singapore. "I would like to come back...I don't think we've truly understood all the elements that make things happen in Singapore's libraries. We've got so much more to learn because we have only scratched the surface in this visit."

Ms. Ngian Lek Choh, Senior Director, Library Services at NLB, represents Singapore as Standing Committee Member of the SPL

In the spotlight: Jan-Ewout van der Putten



Jan-Ewout van der Putten
Secretary General of the Dutch Association of Public Libraries (NBLC)

According to modern standards of job mobility and flexibility, Jan-Ewout van der Putten is with his four year career, already a veteran on the Dutch public library scene. In reality he is fairly new to the profession, but is a fast learner not afraid to commit himself and to participate fully in the common struggle to maintain the public library as an essential ingredient of modern society.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten is a lawyer by profession. He began his professional career as assistant, later on deputy Clark to the Dutch Senate (Eerste Kamer der Staten Generaal). As such he assisted amongst others, committees on Education, Culture, Development Aid and Dutch Antillean and Aruban Affairs.

In 1990 he was elected as a councillor to the city council of the Dutch seat of national government, The Hague. After two years he left the Senate to become alderman for the environment i.e. a member of the executive of the Council. From then on, he became a full time politician for six years. He lost his seat after the elections of 1998 and left politics. After a short break he was appointed as Secretary General by the board of the Dutch Association of Public Libraries. In this capacity, he is director of the professional staff within the organisation and because the organisation is heavily subsidised by the Dutch national government, with relations with the national authorities.

With a mainly national and local focus, as a national association should have, he nevertheless regards international exchange of ideas and cooperation as an important, indispensable part of the work his association and he himself must undertake. Therefore he serves as a member of the Executive Committee of EBLIDA, the European library association hosted by NBLC in the Netherlands and is a member of IFLA's Round Table of Library Associations, soon to become an IFLA section. In 2001 he was appointed to the Standing Committee for Public Libraries and was caught by surprise to become the new information coordinator. With the great help of his loyal assistant, Anne Hottenhuis, he is quickly learning the ropes but still regards with awe his predecessor, Borge, for all the work he has done. In addition, Jan-Ewout van der Putten is President of FOBID, the Dutch umbrella organisation representing libraries, librarians and documentalists.

Personal:

Jan-Ewout van der Putten was born in 1948. He is married to a fellow lawyer who works for the Dutch ministry of health. In his spare time, he is an omnivorous reader and before his political career was an enthusiastic amateur actor. Last acting part: the elephant man himself. He and his partner are avid art collectors, mainly young Dutch artists. He is a board member of a local theatre and a theatre company, a foundation concerned with art and gender and a local welfare organisation.

Miscellaneous

Keeping up-to-date

Fortunately Glasgow isn't the only place where things are happening, that's the whole point of gathering together over there: exchanging experiences with everything that's involved with working in or running a library in the 21st century. To keep up-to-date with everything that's going on, it might be a good idea to subscribe to one of IFLA's numerous mailing lists. One of the lists that can be interesting for public librarians is ifla-l@infoserv.inist.fr. You can subscribe at <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/ifla-l>.

Russian libraries want juridical independence

Members of the Russian Library Association accepted a resolution on their annual meeting in May this year to draw the attention of their Ministry of Culture toward the lack of juridical independence of libraries. The lack of normative-legal documents recording the library activities was one of the items they discussed. There are also preparing a Russian Library Association Manifesto of Public Libraries. Theme of their meeting was Information for Everyone and 744 members took part.

Satellite story

Across two states in Australia, a progressive library service is now using satellite technology to provide much improved services and Internet access to regional customers throughout the rural areas of the Upper Murray Valley region in the states of Victoria and New South Wales. The Upper Murray Regional Library (UMRL) provides two mobile libraries to service its patrons who are not in the vicinity of one of its 13 fixed branches. However, because the 28,000 square kilometre region is situated in rugged mountainous country it is a difficult environment for mobile communications, allowing until recently for the provision of only the very basic of library services. Thanks to a satellite-delivered mobile Global Area Network (GAN) service, the mobile libraries now offer access to online services and the central library. Funding assistance was provided to the Library Service through the Federal Government's "Networking the Nation" and is currently a pilot for library Services throughout the country.

Call for country reports

On our website www.ifla.org/VII/s8 you can find the new country report of Italy. A Dutch one will appear in a few weeks. We'd like to request everyone to have a look at their country reports, and decide whether it needs an update. The current amount of country reports, considering the number of members, is quite saddening, as is the fact that there are hardly any available of African or Asian countries. So please help us make 'Country reports' into the huge and inspiring part of our website it should be!