



World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

Draft minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday, 17 & Thursday, 18 August 2011 in Grand Salon A of the Puerto Rico Convention Center (PRCC) San Juan, Puerto Rico

1. Opening by the President, Ellen Tise

President Ellen Tise opened the meeting on Wednesday, 17 August and welcomed the delegates and thanked them for their attendance at the congress. She introduced those on stage: Treasurer Barbara Schleihaugen, Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson and Wilma Mossink, Parliamentarian.

The President especially welcomed two of our Honorary Fellows who do not often come to our Congress these days: Marianne Scott, from Canada, and Marta Terry from Cuba. Apologies received: Alex Byrne, Australia

2. Appointment of Tellers

At the request of the President the Secretary General proposed the following persons to serve as tellers for the General Assembly meeting

Victoria Okojie (Nigeria)
Ivanka Stricevic (Croatia)
Michael Dowling (USA)
Jan Bos (Netherlands)
Mijin Kim (Canada)
Kerry Smith (Australia)

with Michael Dowling being designated as head teller. The meeting **approved** the appointment of the tellers.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the time of the meeting IFLA had 110 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2011 and are not in arrears. 50% plus one is required for a quorum – being 56 national and international association members represented. A quorum was established.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda for the General Assembly meeting was sent to all members in good standing in June, as required by the Statutes.

The agenda was **adopted** by the meeting. It is attached as Annex 1.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting, held in Gothenburg, 14 and 15 August 2010

The minutes of the General Assembly meeting held in Gothenburg on 14 and 15 August 2010 were adopted.

6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year

The Assembly rose for a moment of silence to commemorate those colleagues who passed away since the Congress held in Gothenburg and of whose death IFLA had been informed:

Oneida Rivera de Ortiz, Puerto Rico
Bob McKee, United Kingdom
Maurice Line, United Kingdom
Norman Horrocks, Canada
Vladimir Zaitsev, Russia
Herman Liebaers, Belgium
Edward Swanson, United States of America
Tibor Horvath, Hungary
Jaffrey Musisi, Kenya

and also other colleagues who have died during the past year.

7. Presentation of the Report of the President

The President outlined her highlights for the year, including:

- A very active and productive Board which amongst many other things finalised the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan and began its implementation, together with a renewed focus on Statements and Policies.
- Signing of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities in November 2010.
- Progress at WIPO with two major landmarks in November at the 21st meeting of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) with a set of conclusions delivered by the Committee confirming that all issues concerning people with disabilities, libraries and archives, and education and research will be discussed by WIPO Member States as part of a work plan on copyright exceptions and limitations for 2011-2012; and a discussion on issues in the Treaty for Copyright Exceptions and Limitations at WIPO is timetabled for three full days' and formal consideration by Member States in November 2011.
- Tokyo Meeting –the international symposium “Enhancing the culture of reading and books in the Digital Age: Copyright as a means to foster creativity and access” which was held on 1-2 December in collaboration with the National Diet Library in Japan, IFLA, the IPA, WIPO and IFRRO. It is an initiative of importance to strengthen the role of libraries as important institutions in the digital world of today.
- Commencement of the Building Strong Library Associations Programme

- National Library Associations Celebrations - the 100th Anniversary of the Finnish Library Association and LIANZA, the Library and Information Association of New Zealand; the 100th anniversary of the annual German library [association] conference, the 100ter Bibliothekartag; the 50th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA); the 50th Anniversary of the Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- IFLA Presidential Meeting 2011 – in The Hague on 14 and 15 April 2011 in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, under the title “Libraries driving access to knowledge: Action for Europe” and organised in close cooperation with FOBID Netherlands Library Forum.

The President outlined her extensive representation schedule which contributed to raising awareness of IFLA internationally and supported members.

The President advised the Assembly that the IFLA Governing Board has re-appointed Jennefer Nicholson as IFLA Secretary General as from 1 June 2011 until August 2014. On behalf of the Governing Board, the President extended a word of thanks and appreciation to all our members, our officers, our Secretary General and every member of our staff for an exceptional year of dedicated and outstanding service, and remarkable commitment.

8. Presentation of the Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General highlighted:

- The implementation of our 2010–2015 Strategic Plan with its emphasis on capacity building across IFLA and the international library community, enabling equitable access to information for library user communities, and strengthening the global voice of libraries.
- The Strategic Plan’s five Key Initiatives for 2011–2012:
 1. Digital Content Programme: Driving access to content, and digital resources, for library users
 2. IFLA International Librarianship Leadership Development Programme: capacity building to raise the voice of the profession nationally, regionally and internationally
 3. Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession: connecting, collaborating, representing strategically
 4. Cultural Heritage Disaster Reconstruction Programme: Culture is a basic need, a culture thrives through its cultural heritage, it dies without it
 5. Multilingualism Programme: a multilingual IFLA website opens windows to the world
- The successful implementation of the new Congress planning and selection process, including setting up a new congress company structure in the Netherlands and selecting a new professional conference organiser for 2012–2014, and better financial arrangements for IFLA and our Foundation which supports grants and projects that benefit IFLA. This new Congress structure comes into effect fully for the WLIC 2012.
- Continuous improvement approach to the World Library and Information Congress;

- In 2010 we achieved a slight increase in Membership, even though in some countries there has been a decline due to the impact of the global economic crisis.
- Governing Board endorsed the IFLA Statistics Manifesto, IFLA Position statement on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, co-signatory status of the Copyright for Creativity (C4C) Declaration, and policies for IFLA's Risk Management, Interlending Voucher Programme, Use of General Reserves, Investment of IFLA funds, Member-only services and Access, and Data protection/privacy.

In association with the President's Meeting in The Hague in April the Governing Board endorsed the draft Treaty on Copyright Exceptions and Limitations and IFLA's position on Open Access and as part of Key Initiative One will set up an advisory group to carry on its work on Open Access.

The Building Strong Library Associations programme has exceeded our expectations in interest from participants, willingness of trainers and is already showing results in the participating countries.

The Secretary General thanked the IFLA Governing Board for the expansive agenda they have set and successfully carried out.

She also acknowledged that this year there was again strong support from our members for our various activities, both in financial support and representatives; and our external funding partners, particularly the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation, who make it possible to fund so much of what we are achieving.

The Secretary General noted the retirement from IFLA HQ of Sjoerd Koopman at the end of July. The meeting expressed its thanks to Sjoerd with applause.

The Secretary General's report for 2010 was accepted by the General Assembly as presented. There were no questions of the Secretary General regarding her report.

9. Presentation of the Annual Accounts by the Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts for the past year 2010. The audited financial statements for 2010 show a small surplus of **4,323 Euro** which is a very welcomed result given the originally budgeted deficit of **2,732 Euro**. The consolidated income in 2010 was **1,870,050 Euro**, the expenditure amounts to **1,865,727 Euro**. IFLA has general reserves of **767,721 Euro**. IFLA's reserves are currently higher than set under the reserves policy amounting to 600,000 Euro. The Treasurer was pleased to advise that the external auditor had issued an unqualified management letter to the Board.

The Treasurer emphasized that IFLA is overall in a position of sound and stable income and expenditure with no structural concerns. Compared to other associations, the effects of the financial crisis have not hit the organization as hard as many others to date. She also advised that the Board has taken action to implement a new congress financial model that will bring

greater certainty to congress income for IFLA and the Stichting IFLA Foundation. It is also investigating a cost-effective publishing programme that would include open access. The Treasurer foreshadowed that the combination of the impact of the global financial crisis on membership, publishing and core activity or other donation income, together with an expected deficit result for the WLIC 2011, will give IFLA an overall deficit result for 2011 though it is expected that this will still enable IFLA to remain within its reserves policy level.

The budgets for the World Library and Information Congress and for the Stichting IFLA Foundation (which receives the surplus of our congresses) are kept separately and were not included in this annual financial report.

The Annual Accounts for 2010 were accepted by the General Assembly as presented. There were no questions of the Treasurer regarding her report.

10. Formal announcement of the Results of the Postal Ballot for the Election of President-elect and for places on the Governing Board by the Secretary General

The Secretary General announced the result of the postal ballot for the election of President-elect 2011-2013. Sinikka Sipilä (Finland) is elected to serve as President-elect for the term 2011-2013 and to serve as President for the term 2013-2015. The votes received were as follows: Sinikka Sipilä 1017 votes and Jésus Lau 828 votes.

The Secretary General furthermore announced the results of the postal ballot for the election of the Governing Board 2011-2013:

	Votes
1. Inga Lundén (Sweden)	1107
2. Paul Whitney (Canada), 2 nd term	976
3. Barbara Lison (Germany)	965
4. Kent Skov Andreasen (Denmark)	909
5. Donna Scheeder (United States), 2 nd term	888
6. Frédéric Blin (France)	851
7. Buhle Mbambo Thata (South Africa), 2 nd term	842
8. Geneviève Clavel-Merrin (Switzerland)	821
9. Christine Mackenzie (Australia)	795
10. Ingrid Bon (Netherlands)	743

In the elections for the PC Chair and for the Chairs of the five Divisions, the following persons were elected for the period 2011-2013:

- Chair of the Professional Committee: Ann Okerson (United States) (2nd term)
- Division I: Lynne M. Rudasill (United States)
- Division II: Philippe Cantié (France)
- Division III: Tone Eli Moseid (Norway) (2nd term)
- Division IV: Anna Maria Tamaro (Italy)
- Division V: Filiberto Felipe Martínez-Arellano (Mexico)

The elected chair of the IFLA Management of Libraries Associations Section:
Gerald Leitner (Austria).

11. Motions and Resolutions

11.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2012 (Art 8.2 of the Statutes refers)

The Rules of Procedure relating to motions and resolutions at Assembly meetings are included in the IFLA Monitor.

Rationale – Members, the legislation of the Netherlands, as stated in the Dutch Civil Code, [Part 2, Sections 48 and 49], requires that the Governing Board must submit an annual report and annual financial statements to the General Assembly within six months of the end of the financial year, unless the General Assembly has extended this period. The period may be extended on account of special circumstances for no more than five months. This is reflected in Article 8.2 of the amended Statutes.

IFLA's financial year ends on 31 December, and its General Assembly meets during the Congress, normally in August, more than six months later. The General Assembly must therefore authorize the Governing Board to present the annual report and financial statements at the next Congress. IFLA's lawyers advise that this authorization has to be given every year.

On behalf of the Governing Board, the Secretary General presented the motion:

“That the General Assembly authorizes the Governing Board to convene the General Assembly to coincide with the next IFLA World Library and Information Congress which shall take place in August 2012. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2012.”

The motion was resolved unanimously in the affirmative.

12. Address by the President

Colleagues all: As I stand to present my final address to our beloved federation as your President, I do so with mixed feelings – glad to know that the federation will be in good hands as the process of handing over begins, and sad to know that this marks the end of yet another era for our federation. My years as President-elect and as your President have been exciting, challenging and fulfilling ones not only for me but also for the profession as a whole. Collectively, we have been able to buffet the winds of change and at the same time make some progress towards furthering our profession in many ways.

I have felt very blessed to have been able to make some contribution towards advancing our profession and that of the institutions we serve. My Presidential theme, **Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge** was coined as an all embracing concept to enable us to ensure that libraries remain at the heart of every thought, word and deed across, within and throughout

our societies and communities. In addition, my theme built on previous ones and concepts such as Libraries on the agenda. This has helped to provide a continuum in the work of the federation, its officers, divisions and sections. I am particularly pleased with how each of these sectors and you as individuals have actionized my theme to the benefit of our profession and the communities we serve. Indeed, libraries must continue to drive access to information for all on equal terms. Equitable access for all pivots on the fundamental belief that all people are equal, all are free. The unalienable right of access to information and knowledge is the only way to ensure the development of all. I truly believe that one of the most important ways of achieving this human right is for libraries and librarians to become fully engaged in their communities and societies. The activities and actions of the LIS sector are foundational to the existence of sustainable communities, economic growth and healthy societies. The result of our deeds, actions and services are vital to personal opportunities and well-being and they add value to both individuals and society in multiple ways. Not only must we advocate passionately and powerfully for equitable access for all but we must also seek opportunities which enable us to put libraries and library services at the forefront of all community and societal efforts. By this level of engagement we will be helping to make libraries drive access to knowledge. The role of the LIS sector in promoting democratic values and democratizing the search for knowledge cannot be underestimated.

As I stated in my opening address on Sunday, at its core, access to information ensures a just society for all. As a consequence, the creation of the Presidential Theme for 2009-2011 took these and other issues into account. So, whatever the final decision, my theme would not only be relevant to the personal goals of the President but also one which would assist libraries and librarians to contribute significantly to addressing world issues as well as capture one of the key activities of the profession and its members.

As IFLA President-elect I drew on ideas generated and gathered in Quebec City and beyond to drive my term in office. **Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge** was the benchmark for all my efforts and as President I saw the following to be among some of the most important issues:

- advancing IFLA's advocacy role at the international level;
- increasing advocacy training opportunities for librarians;
- continuing to position libraries within the Information Society as drivers of access to information and facilitators of knowledge generation;
- strengthening existing partnerships;
- creating new paradigms/partnerships within and related to the sector;

At the core of all of these was the leveraging of the emerging global movement of A2K to the benefit of the profession and for all. This movement beautifully dovetailed with my presidential theme – Libraries driving access to knowledge. I cannot be the judge or the jury as to how successful the federation or I have been in the last four years in achieving our stated intent that is for you and time to decide/determine. I can however share with you my thoughts on what IFLA and I as President have achieved during my time in office.

1. Our new vision statement boldly advances IFLA as the global voice for LIS;
2. The federation has unreservedly reaffirmed its commitment to being a driving force to enable equitable access to knowledge;

3. We have developed new partnerships with international bodies and private organizations and deepened those that were already in existence; and
4. We have initiated a new programme to strengthen library associations.

As we look to the future, I see librarianship remaining as central as it ever was. While our approach may be different, our strategies to achieve our aims may be new, our services will be extended and there will be new products within our practice, providing information remains our core business. Indeed, librarianship can be appropriately described as putting old wine into new bottles. Coming from Stellenbosch, a wine producing area of South Africa, that is a very appropriate metaphor.

Before closing I would like to express my heartfelt and sincere thanks to you all – individually and as a collective – for all of the support and encouragement that you have given me during my term in office. During my presidency, I have visited all of IFLA’s regions and many countries and on each occasion I have always been warmly welcomed, courteously received and encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment that pervades our profession. While we toil under different conditions and in contrasting circumstances, in no instance did I perceive that librarianship was not the best profession to be in and the level of dedication was nothing but superb.

At a personal level my term in office has been inspiring, rewarding, enriching and empowering. It has made me come to appreciate and recognize that though there may be differences, we are all committed to helping our fellowman, communities and societies by driving access to knowledge. I would also like to express my appreciation to the staff at the IFLA office, members of the governing board, heads and members of divisions and sections as well as individual members and others for the support in many ways that I have received over these last 4 years. I would also like to thank all of the federation’s past presidents for steering the course of our body in such a way that it was possible for me to lead a strong, vibrant and vital organization. Finally, I would also like to sincerely thank you all for the signal honour and privilege you have given me of being your President and I wish the federation a productive and prosperous future!

13. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16.15 on Thursday, 18 August 2011

The President asked to agree to the motion “**that this meeting adjourns to meet at 16.15 tomorrow (Thursday 18 August) in this same place for the Closing ceremony.**”

The motion was resolved in the affirmative.

14. Closing Session, 16.15-17.30, Thursday, 18 August 2011

- Presentation of Awards

The **IFLA Medal** is awarded to a person or organisation that has made a distinguished contribution either to IFLA or to international librarianship. The President presented the IFLA Medal to Paul Sturges, with the following citation:

“ Paul Sturges has made a tremendous contribution to our profession and to access to knowledge through his international work over many years in the area of intellectual freedom – particularly in advocating for tolerance and freedom of expression, and the value of access to information.

Paul was Chair of IFLA's Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Committee between 2003 and 2009. As Chair he moved FAIFE to a more proactive and far more encompassing position, with an emphasis on intercultural tolerance and the role of freedom of information in combating corruption.

Paul researches and writes on a wide range of topics across the field of information and library studies – including on the rationale for intellectual freedom, the role of transparency in combating corruption, and comedy as freedom of expression. He has undertaken consultancies, lectured, and participated in conferences in over 30 countries. For many years Paul has worked on African library and information-related issues. In his teaching, Paul has inspired many students to put the idea of intellectual freedom into action and to promote the role of libraries in modern and fair societies. His status in this field has led to him being invited to join many international committees and projects. “

The IFLA Scroll

The President presented to Luisa Vigo-Cepeda, Chair of the National Committee, the IFLA scroll “in grateful recognition to the National Committee of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly”.

An IFLA Scroll of Appreciation was presented to **Christie Koontz**.

“ Cristie Koontz is a true international library professional. Her passion for library marketing is well known throughout IFLA and beyond. She is a long term member of the Management and Marketing Section, and has made a major contribution to the work of the Section in a constructive and enthusiastic way. This commitment has also been carried through in her many publications and to all those students who have benefited from her teaching. ”

Other awards:

Patrice Landry, Chair of the Professional Committee, presented the PC awards for 2011.

IFLA Communicator of the year Award 2011

The inaugural award was presented to the New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) and accepted by Sebastian Wilke and Dierk Eichel.

Best IFLA POSTER Session 2011

The winner for 2011 was Number 82: Library as an open living lab environment user's eyes in developing Laurea Library, presented by Kaisa Puttonen and Satu Hyokki, Finland.

The runners up were: Number 30: Developing library leaders for the future. Presented by, Ujala Satgoor. and Number 95: Green library ? what environmental responsibility could mean for libraries. Presented by, Harri Sahavirta & Leila Sonkkänen

- Introduction of new Governing Board

The Secretary General invited the new Governing Board for 2011 – 2013 to the stage to be presented to the Assembly.

- Invitation to WLIC 2012 in Helsinki, Finland

The Secretary General invited Maija Berndtson, Chair of the National Committee for the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2012, in Helsinki, Finland, to issue the invitation to delegates to attend next year's Congress.

- Announcement of WLIC 2013 location

The President announced that in 2013 IFLA will be meeting in Singapore. She invited Elaine Ng, Chief Executive Officer of the National Library Board of Singapore and Chair of the WLIC 2013 National Committee to address the General Assembly.

- Vote of thanks

Jesus Lau presented the vote of thanks from IFLA, followed by a slide show of conference activity.

The Secretary General invited the **outgoing** members of the IFLA Governing Board to the stage and they received a certificate of appreciation from the President:

Helena R. Asamoah-Hassan (Ghana)
Judith J. Field (United States)
Michael Heaney (United Kingdom)
Janice Lachance (United States)
Patrice Landry (Switzerland)
Jésus Lau (Mexico)
Danielle Mincio (Switzerland)
Pascal Sanz (France)
Barbara Schleihagen (Germany)
Steve W. Witt (United States)
Qiang Zhu (China)

The Secretary General introduced a slide show tribute to the presidency of outgoing President Ellen Tise. President Ellen Tise then handed the Presidency over to Ingrid Parent, who will be IFLA President for the period 2011-2013.

- Address by incoming President Ingrid Parent

Distinguished guests, dear colleagues, chers amis,
Let me first of all thank our hosts here in Puerto Rico.

Al empezar, quisiera ofrecer mi más sincera felicitaciones (enhorabuena) a la Doctora Luisa Vigo-Cepeda, Presidenta del Comité Nacional del Congreso Mundial IFLA dos mil once 2011 en Puerto Rico y a todos los demás organizadores de este congreso memorable. Se ha necesitado mucho trabajo y organización para llevar a cabo un acontecimiento de tal envergadura. A todos ustedes quiero decirles que pueden sentirse muy orgullosos del fruto de su duro trabajo que ha culminado en un congreso de gran éxito. ¡Naturalmente, también entiendo que han de sentirse aliviados que llega a su fin y que pronto puedan descansar!

First, I would like to offer my congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Luisa Vigo-Cepeda, Chair of the 2011 WLIC National Committee, and to all the organizers of this momentous conference. It takes a tremendous amount of work and organization to pull off an event of this size and scope. To them I say, you can take great satisfaction in seeing how all your hard work has resulted in such a marvelous success. And I dare say, you are somewhat relieved it is all over and you can get a little rest!

Dear colleagues, what an amazing week it has been. We will return home a little tired perhaps, but also infused with enthusiasm and ideas inspired by the discussions we have had. This conference has been an admirable testament to just how important and useful our joint deliberations and sharing of ideas have become. At a time when libraries are under severe constraints in our respective national and local economies, and when freedom of expression is being challenged in many countries, the global collegiality and cooperation provided by our Association is more important than ever.

It is of course a tremendous honour and privilege to be taking over the role of the IFLA presidency. It has brought to mind a few words that Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic American to be named two years ago to the US Supreme Court said at her confirmation: “I am an ordinary person blessed with extraordinary opportunity. “ I thank you all with great humility for giving me this opportunity to lead our federation and to work with you over the next two years.

I will be the first to acknowledge that I have a daunting task in succeeding Ellen Tise. I have known and worked with Ellen for a number of years. That she has put her very clear vision and distinctive leadership stamp on our organization is somewhat of an understatement. She has taken her theme of “Libraries Driving Access To Knowledge” to all parts of the world with incredible energy, integrity and passion.

We also owe her our gratitude for taking the initiative to focus on human rights and her dedication to Open Access and copyright issues. I know these have been subjects near and dear to her heart throughout her tenure, and that she will continue to promote her values in the future.

As I think about Ellen’s theme, and Claudia Lux’s before her - Libraries on the Agenda - - what immediately comes to mind are the notions of continuity and forward movement.

I believe my own theme of Libraries – A Force For Change – encompassing and promoting the principles and practices of inclusion, transformation, innovation, and convergence - follows in that tradition.

In whatever language we say the theme, I truly believe that libraries can be – and be seen to be – a true force for change in a world where nations are increasingly facing social and economic challenges.

Over the past 17 years I have attended all the IFLA Annual Conferences, as well as participated in or chaired numerous section, division and governance committees. During that time I have been witness to an amazing evolution in the roles and influence of libraries at national and local levels the world over. And as we all know, over the past few years the speed of that evolution has been increasing at a tremendous rate.

I believe that libraries, perhaps as never before, are in a unique position to be at the center of the democratization of access to information. And in such a context – libraries of all types and sizes can indeed be a positive force for change and influence at local, national and international levels.

To reach that goal I see great merit in focusing our attention on a re-examination of our attitudes and assumptions about ourselves and our users that in turn will lead to new ideas about how we might better serve our users as institutions and as professionals - and how IFLA might better serve its own members.

It is clear that to realize their full potential libraries must provide inclusive and transformative services which are not only innovative in their own right, but forge new collaborative alliances within and beyond their walls.

To that end we must serve all, without judgement, prejudice or bias. By democratizing access to information, libraries can indeed empower individuals to freely learn, improve their lives and create new knowledge.

Libraries have the potential to innovate by harnessing the power and potential of today's rapidly changing technologies, and can play an essential role for people who wish to access information - irrespective of its format or how it is retrieved or sent out.

And finally we must take on, perhaps as never before, proactive convergence of resources and initiatives. Through collaboration and partnerships, we can reach across disciplines - uniting libraries, museums and archives, and others involved in managing documentary heritage across the world. This opportunity not only unites us across professions, but it makes us more relevant in an age where users want increased access to information from the most convenient and comprehensive sources possible.

Putting such principles into practice will always be a work in progress. But I believe they closely align with IFLA's Strategic Plan and the key initiatives that the Governing Board has identified as intrinsic to that Plan.

A case in point is our **Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Development of the Profession** to maximise opportunities for strategic advocacy at major events – both within and outside our profession. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the tremendously important work being carried out by our Association on copyright exceptions and limitations, particularly in our advocacy efforts with the World Intellectual Property Organization [WIPO]. A great deal of work is now being done in formulating the recommendations that we will be advancing at the WIPO meetings in November. It is exactly this sort of advocacy that promotes the role of libraries and their values on the international stage.

As important as it is to establish principles and plans for action, it is only when they play out at the local level that we are reminded how incredibly important libraries remain to our constituents – the people who walk in through our doors, or use our services. I would like to share a few stories to illustrate this importance.

I am a little hesitant to describe an incident from my hometown of Vancouver, British Columbia but I will. In mid-June our professional ice hockey team was playing a team from Boston in the final game for hockey supremacy in North America. For local citizens, and for all Canadians, it was a very big deal. And we lost the game!

To our great shame some of those same citizens decided the appropriate response was to riot – through burning and looting in the downtown city centre. Despite it all, there were a few upsides. Law abiding citizens, in some cases at the risk of their own personal safety, rushed in to defend people and property. One of those properties was our beautiful Vancouver Public Library, which is an architectural gem in the centre of the city, and unfortunately was almost at the geographic epicenter of the riot.

The overriding sentiment of those who rushed to defend the library from possible damage, and those who commented on Twitter during those few tense hours was basically “protect our library.” The end result was that the library only suffered a few broken windows, where regrettably some other buildings were badly damaged.

“Protect our library” became a rallying cry for how strongly citizens felt about preserving and keeping safe their local library. Similarly, the rallying cry of “This is our library. It belongs to our children” was in the minds of the people who protected the library in Alexandria Egypt during the revolution that took place there last January.

Un autre exemple de préservation et protection est le cas de Haïti qui a subi un tremblement de terre dévastateur au début de 2010. Quelques mois plus tard Ellen et moi avons visité Haïti et avons constaté les terribles dommages occasionnés par ce tremblement de terre. Mais ce qui m'a frappé fut la force de caractère indomptable de ce peuple. Malgré la dévastation qui les entourait, les enfants vêtus fièrement de leur uniforme scolaire se rendaient à l'école. Le besoin vital d'apprendre et de recevoir de l'instruction et de fréquenter des bibliothèques demeurait incroyablement forts et présents chez eux.

(Another story of preservation and protection, perhaps more familiar to many of you, regards Haiti, which as you know suffered a devastating earthquake in January of 2010. In

June of that year Ellen and I visited Haiti and we saw first hand the tremendous damage that the earthquake had visited upon the island.)

And of course, in the intervening 18 months, there have been other major natural and man-made disasters the world over, resulting in great damage to local infrastructures.

(From a personal witness perspective, of course, the human devastation as well as the destruction and impact on buildings and cultural artifacts that I saw in Haiti will never leave me. What struck me was the indomitable spirit of the people, and in spite of the devastation all around them, amid the mounds of concrete and earth cluttering the streets - children in school uniforms were going to their schools. The need to learn and be educated and wanting to use their libraries remained incredibly strong.)

What these examples tell us is that the preservation or restoration of libraries remains key to a community's, a city's, or a nation's cultural identity and survival. And of course, IFLA has a major role to play in preserving, protecting, and promoting libraries and their use around the world.

Whether we are talking about broad principles and practices or local stories – they all speak to the next steps on the journey we will take together over the next few years. With libraries all over the world under various degrees of stress of all sorts, it is more important than ever that we find strength in our numbers by supporting the work of our Association. By pulling together, I believe our visions and values will work to our collective and individual member advantage. And to the benefit of all people - where we can literally help change lives for the better.

As your President I will need your assistance and support as we pursue this adventure together. It will be a challenging and very exciting time.

I wish you all a speedy and safe trip home and I hope to see you all at next year's WLIC in beautiful Helsinki.

Thank you very much, Au revoir, Hasta luego.

And now I would like to declare the closing of the World Library and Information Congress for 2011.

- Close of the Assembly

IFLA President, Ingrid Parent, closed the General Assembly meeting at 17.30 hrs.

**CONVENING NOTICE FOR THE IFLA 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY at the
World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly
17 & 18 August 2011, San Juan, Puerto Rico**

To: Voting Members of IFLA

(National & International Associations, Institutional Members and Honorary Fellows)

Copies for information to:

Governing Board members
Directors of Core Activities
Regional Managers

Institutional & Individual Affiliates
Corporate Partners
Bodies with Consultative Status

Date: June 2011

The IFLA Governing Board has pleasure in submitting this Convening Notice for the General Assembly meeting of the Federation. The IFLA 2011 General Assembly will be held on Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 August, 2011 in Grand Salon A of the Puerto Rico Convention Center (PRCC), 100 Convention Boulevard, San Juan, PR 00907.

Please forward this document, including your IFLA Voting Form, to your voting delegate who will attend the IFLA General Assembly.

AGENDA

Wednesday, 17 August 2011, 16.15 – 18.00

1. Opening by the President, Ellen Tise
2. Appointment of Tellers
3. Establishment of a Quorum
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Minutes of the previous meeting, held in Gothenburg, 14 and 15 August 2010
6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year
7. Presentation of the Report of the President
8. Presentation of the Report of the Secretary General
9. Presentation of the Annual Accounts by the Treasurer
10. Formal announcement of the Results of the Postal Ballot for the Election of President-elect and for places on the Governing Board by the Secretary General
11. Motions and Resolutions
 - 11.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2012 (Art 8.2 of the Statutes refers)
12. Address by the President
13. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16.15 on Thursday, 18 August 2011

14. Closing Session, 16.15-17.30, **Thursday, 18 August 2011**

- Presentation of Awards
- Introduction of new Governing Board
- Invitation to WLIC 2012 in Helsinki, Finland
- Announcement of WLIC 2013 location
- Vote of thanks
- Address by incoming President Ingrid Parent
- Close of the Assembly

NOTES

1. Voting delegates should take their seats in the designated area in the front of the hall.
2. Voting may take place during General Assembly on any motions and resolutions submitted in accordance with the Statutes.
3. **National and International Association Members:** The attendance at General Assembly of a simple majority of eligible National or International Association members will constitute a **quorum**. If you are representing a National or International Association Member, you will receive, upon presenting your voting form, an envelope with a white slip together with the voting instructions and coloured voting slips (see also point 4). At the General Assembly meeting delegates representing National and International Association members directly or by proxy will be asked to produce their white slips to be counted by the tellers. Quorum will be reached if the number of National and International Association members present or represented by proxy is 50% +1 of the total number of National and International Association members who have paid their fees for the current year. It is therefore especially important for representatives of National and International Association members to obtain their voting slips from the IFLA Voting Office located in the Secretariat office in **Room 203**, Puerto Rico Convention Center.
4. **Voting Slips**

To be able to vote, voting delegates must obtain the necessary voting slips at the IFLA Voting Office located in the Secretariat office in **Room 203**, *open from Friday, 12 August 2011, 09.00 until Wednesday, 17 August 2011, 15.00*. Voting slips will be distributed only to those delegates who are in possession of the IFLA Voting Form 2011, duly signed by the appropriate authority.

The IFLA Voting Form has been sent to those whose membership fees for 2011 have been paid.

Please collect your voting slips as early as possible. **Please do not leave it until the last minute!**

FOR PROXY HOLDERS: Proxy holders should not forget to call at the Voting Office during the period set out above. Upon submission of the voting form(s) 2011 (see also point 3) they will receive, in addition to their own, the voting slips of the member they represent by proxy.

5. If you have **not paid your 2011 membership fees** at the time of distribution of this convening notice, your voting form will be sent to you upon receipt of payment. If your

payment is received after 15 July 2011, please confirm your payment at the Voting Office in San Juan so that you will be able to vote at General Assembly.

6. Representation

Each Member is entitled to be represented at any General Assembly by one or more representatives. One such person shall be designated by the Member to exercise the right to vote. Honorary Fellows are entitled to be present and have the right to vote.

Each Member may nominate another Member to exercise proxy votes on the Member's behalf at a General Assembly. Such Member must notify the Secretary General of the appointment of a proxy holder no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting and on the designated form.

7. Resolutions of an exceptional and urgent character proposed after the deadline specified in Article 9.5 of the Statutes, that is at least three months before the date of the meeting, must be submitted to the IFLA Secretariat office by the **deadline of 12.00 on Tuesday, 16 August 2011.**

In very exceptional circumstances, the President may accept a resolution from the floor of the General Assembly with the consent of the majority of the Members present or represented. It must, at the same time, be handed over in writing to the Chair.

All resolutions must be proposed and seconded by authorised representatives of Members whose names and affiliations must be included and must clearly express the action recommended to be taken by the Federation.

All resolutions must be brief, clear in intent and legible. Brief additional background or explanation may be attached if necessary. The Executive Committee may seek clarification or rephrasing to ensure that the meaning and intent of a proposed resolution are clear and may nominate a delegate or delegates to assist the proposer to revise a proposed resolution in order to conform with these Rules.

Professional resolutions may be drafted in sessions and meetings held during the World Library and Information Congress. Such resolutions shall not be tabled in the General Assembly, but shall be submitted to the Professional Committee.

The Governing Board shall take appropriate action on resolutions passed by the General Assembly.

- Encl. (to Members having paid their 2011 dues only)
- Voting Form 2011
 - Proxy Form