



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

Literacy and Reading Section

Standing Committee Meeting - Minutes Online Zoom Meeting 26 August 2020

Attendance

Jan Richards (Chair), Atlanta Meyer (Secretary), Annie Everall, Allison Kaplan, Nina Olsson, Lucy Green, Anette Mjoberg, Jenna Spiering, Elizabeth Jones, Linn T Sunne

Apologies

Adriaan Langendonk, Andrea Krieg, Franck Hurinville, Rashidah Bolhassan, Simonetta Pasqualis dell'Antonio, Sarah Harper, Shari Werb, Mireille Lamouroux

1. Welcome

Jan chaired the meeting on Adriaan's behalf and welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of previous minutes

Minutes moved by Allison and Annie

3. Business arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting

Most of our discussions will be in the *Action Plan*

4. Review of the *Action Plan* 2019-2020

Toolkit

The Toolkit is available on the website. Everyone agreed to put the Toolkit in a holding pattern at the moment as it isn't a priority with everything else that is going on during COVID-19.

SDG Stories

Rashidah agreed to collect stories, but the Library Map of the World isn't a priority at the moment. Good stories could come out of COVID-19. The committee will look at how we can collect and capture these.

Satellite Program – Oxford 2021

56 Expressions were received from 22 countries, including every continent.

Jan will go back to the other sections to find out what they suggest for this program. The other sections will discuss this at their business meetings.

Our committee's suggestion is to postpone the Satellite until 2022. For 2021 the committee suggested a program or session on COVID-19 from literacy and reading perspective. The question is do we want to do something COVID-19 related, or do we let the opportunity go and concentrate on another topic.

WLIC Conference Program 2021

Atlanta, Shari and Elizabeth were ready to ask for papers and presentations when COVID-19 started and delayed the process until IFLA make a decision on congress. The committee suggested our program should complement the satellite program.

Suggestions and comments about these two programs

- Many people are COVID fatigued and might not be interested in a program with this topic.
- No travel allowed for many people in the next year.
- Consider online presentations and webinars.
- Don't brand the program as COVID; rather brand it suitable for disasters.
- A program on Literacy and Reading wellbeing might be well received now.
- Learnings from COVID and how to go forward after COVID.
- Concentrate on the future and not so much about what happened during COVID, but what are going to be different in the future.
- Online webinar using the speakers that were selected for the Oxford Satellite.
- Too many online webinars and conferences wait until early 2021 to organise this.

Other discussions and questions raised not knowing what is happening with Congress in 2021

- What is our major responsibility and how will congress change?
- Not everyone will be able to travel in 2021 due to border closures, and the economic disaster where people don't have funds to travel.
- 2021 might have a strong online component due to the risks
- Regional based events as global are too dangerous.

Other discussions around Congress Program, current situation and moving forward

Elizabeth

We need something that will add value and not much effort. For example a series of virtual events built around our key subjects.

Use IFLA Journal for opportunities to publish.

Annie

July is *National Reading Day* in the UK. Other libraries connected with publishers and are making videos.

Reading in lockdown, positive partnerships should be the focus for 2021.

Working together to combat the dip in people's reading habits.

Lucy

Submissions for the Satellite program might be people that need to have these presentations at faculty level to be considered for promotion. This could impact people in a professional way. Do we use these in the future? We need to provide an answer to these submissions and an option to pull out from waiting for an opportunity to present their presentations and papers.

We could do an electronic newsletter in a format that is accessible to include these presentations as a different outlet.

Allison

Do we refocus our program theme on libraries and emergency recovery or do we create a virtual opportunity for the people who already submitted presentations for the Satellite program. Some people might only look at conference participation and not a written version of their presentation.

Atlanta

We can share good news stories, interviews on how people's lives changed and the impact libraries, books and reading had on their lives.

Jan

We can decide what we do, we park Oxford or do something else.

Find opportunities to share stories.

No one was told their submissions for Oxford has been selected; these papers were still with the selection committee. They all received an acknowledgement and was told that Oxford wasn't going ahead. They received no guarantee that anything would happen.

Other standing committees are doing a series of webinars.

Our discussion has been good, let's wait for the other committees for feedback.

5. Action Plan 2021

Jan

We can continue with the current actions or change direction.

Discussions around the desire to get stories out, share best practice information and how to progress from COVID. In Australia we have COVID fatigue on reporting. Leave the Toolkit for now?

Elizabeth

We have to do less surveys and something more interesting that isn't so overwhelming.

6. IFLA Governance

New Governance structure currently discussed during online meetings and webinars.

Not much discussion at standing committee level and not changes to the number of standing committees.

No decisions have been made, only discussions.

Certain committees might merge, but there has been such alarm about this, and this isn't happening now.

The sections within the Divisions are too random and there is no synergy between the sections.

Next step – report will be out and voted on at the General Assembly in November.

7. What is happening, how are you?

Round table discussion about how everyone is doing during COVID personally and professionally.

8. Closure

Jan closed the meeting.