



## Public Libraries Section

### Standing Committee Mid-year Meeting in Odense, Denmark

Minutes of the Meetings held on Friday, 29 February and Saturday, 1 March 2008

Approved 9 August 2008 in Quebec City

<b>Time and Location:</b>	<b>Meeting 1: 09.00 – 17.30 Odense Music Library</b>	
<b>Time and Location:</b>	<b>Meeting 2: 09.00 – 17.50 Odense City Library, Railway Station Center</b>	
<b>Members attending meetings 1 &amp; 2</b>	Kent Skov (KS) Ian Stringer (IS) Magdalena Reyes (MR) Klaus-Peter Böttger (KPB) Libuse Nivnická (LN) Olga Ustinova (OU) Lorraine Jackson (LJ) Joyce Jelks (JJ)	Suzanne Payette (SP) Gloria Pérez-Salmerón (GPS) Torny Kjekstad (TK) Ruth Ørnholt (RO) Barbara Gubbin (BG) John Lake (JL)
<b>Members attending meeting 2 only.</b>	Gunilla Konradsson-Mortin (GKM)	
<b>Apologies</b>	Annick Guinery Karlien de Klerk Jingxia Li Marja Malminen	Mònica Medina Blanes Rahidah Bolhassan Yuk-Man Lee
<b>Members not attending</b>	Anna Torfadottir Victoria O. Okojie Gonzalo Oyarzun	

### **1. Greetings and apologies for absence (Lake)**

JL welcomed everyone and apologies were noted from members of the Committee who could not attend.

### **2. Opening, Announcements and Documents Check (Lake/Gubbin/Skov)**

KS reviewed the meeting places where the Committee's meetings would take place as well as the overall agenda for the Committee's visit to Odense. He passed out a packet of information on the city. Prior to the meeting, the Committee members had been hosted to breakfast and a tour of the Odense City Hall by the Mayor Jan Boye. JL thanked KS for arranging the meeting and asked him to convey the Committee's appreciation to the Mayor and his staff for this opportunity. The Committee had also been given a tour of the Odense Music Library by Charlotte Pedersen, the Head of the Music Library where today's meeting was taking place. JL thanked KS, Ms. Pedersen and her staff for an informative tour.

JL recommended setting up a timeframe for when papers are due for a conference so that those who are participating can be alerted if they have not received certain information by a certain date. Generally email is reliable but there have been instances when it has not proved to be so. He also indicated he wanted a discussion about setting up a social network and this was added to the New Business section of the agenda.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda (Lake)**

JL reviewed the Agenda: in addition to adding the topic Social Networking to item 18 Other Reports as noted above, JL added four other items to Other Reports – Sri Lanka Program; Brisbane Conference in 2010; IFLA Award for Public Libraries; and Mid-Year meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russia. A discussion of the film *Hollywood Librarian* was added to agenda number 7 as were Reading Program – a report from LJ; the launch of the publication Public Libraries, Archives and Museums: Trends in collaboration and cooperation; and a Poster Session at the 2008 conference. The agenda was approved as amended.

### **4. Approval and Follow-up on the minutes of the meetings held on Saturday 18, and Friday 24, August 2007 in Durban, South Africa as previously circulated. (Lake/Gubbin)**

The minutes were reviewed for accuracy. One spelling correction was made on page 4 under item 9; "representated" was changed to represented.

**Matters arising from the minutes:** Gunilla Konradsson Mortin has a new position as the information officer for the city of Malmö and is no longer the library director. She will be attending one day of the current Committee meeting but is then expected to resign. She has one more year to serve on the Committee. A decision needs to be made if she should be replaced.

Kent Skov will serve as mentor for new Committee member Anna Torfadottir; JL will contact her to let her know.

**Action: JL and KS.**

TK noted that the IFLA website still shows Mary Sherman as the leader of the Democracy Discussion Group. IS will notify IFLA to remove this as Mary is no longer a member of the Committee and the Discussion Group has been disbanded under the new organizational structure. TK reported that Sofia Felfoldi will be leaving IFLA and Josche Ouwerkerk will return to the office in April. IFLA expects to hire a new webmaster. TK also noted that there are five members of the Governing Board representing public libraries.

**Action: IS**

It was noted on page 6, that the papers on public libraries in Guangdong Province, China and Sarawak, Indonesia presented at the 2007 World Congress had been published in the most recent *IFLA Journal*. IS' report on the IFLA conference will be published in *Journal* vol.33 #4 2007. It is entitled *WLIC Durban, 2007: A personal view*. Karlien de Klerk also had the paper which she presented during the Social Inclusion program in Durban, published in the *Journal*.

Page 10 Item 14 i: the names of the sections sponsoring the program were corrected to read Marketing and Management and Services for Children and Young Adults.

Page 11 Item 16: It was decided that Special Interest Groups (SIG's) would be discussed as part of the discussion of the Strategic Plan.

JL reported (page 11 Item 16) that the Section's application for funding to train Sri Lankan librarians had been denied at this time so that the revised edition of The Public Library Service: IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development could be completed. Any training would be done in conjunction with the revised Guidelines and would be done over a 2-year period. It was also suggested that the Committee apply for funds from UNESCO for this purpose. This was added to the agenda under Item 18 Other Reports and Items.

The minutes were approved as amended.

## **5. Chair's Report – John Lake.**

JL reported that he had given the inaugural speech at the University in Barcelona on public libraries and the Internet in 2010. There were about 200 people in attendance including librarians and library science students. GPS said the event went very well. JL's paper will be published on the University's website and in a Spanish language library journal. During this event Eulalia Espinas, an associate of GPS had met with GPS and JL regarding hosting an IFLA preconference in 2009.

Other items: reviewed financing for the revision of the Guidelines; worked on the program for Quebec; is serving as Secretary for the Division which is meeting shortly in London. BG submitted the nomination of Saad Eskander, the Director of the National Library and Archives of Iraq, for the IFLA Medal, with much of the work for the nomination completed by IS.

## **6. Report on Membership of the Committee and Section.**

JL reported that the current membership is 307, up by 6 from Durban. He expressed concern that if the Section's membership falls below 300 the Committee would lose important funding. The issue of how to increase membership is an item on the Committee's meeting agenda.

Committee member Gonzalo Oyarzun has not attended any meetings nor notified the Chair of his intended absence. He is now regarded as having resigned according to IFLA bylaws. JL will notify him of this by letter. The candidate with the next highest number of votes in the most recent election is Ljijana Sabljak. The Committee voted with 10 in favour and none opposed that JL contact Ljijana Sabljak, Head of the City Library of Zagreb, Croatia to ask her if she would like to fill the position. The next highest vote-getter was Yaeko Kakiguchi who will be contacted if Ms. Sabljak declines.

**Action: JL**

The next election will be for new members who will take up their seats at the second meeting in August 2009. Those leaving the Committee are TK, MMB, KPB and JBL. RO, JJ and IS joined the Committee from the Mobile Section and their term will end. GPS, BG and SP will have completed their first term and would be eligible to run for office for a second term.

Corresponding Members: Brendan Teeling, Assistant Director, An Chomhairle Leabhorlanna (The Library Council of Ireland) in Dublin has asked to become a Corresponding Member. It was agreed and JL will notify him. There are currently 3 Corresponding Members. SP asked what the role of Corresponding Members was and JL indicated that they had no voting privileges but received all the correspondence of the Committee and could provide input. They are appointed for an **initial two-year term, renewable for one** further term of two years on the decision of the chair.

**Action: JL**

## **7. Programs for IFLA WLIC 2008 in Quebec, Canada.**

JL confirmed the dates of the conference as August 9-15, 2008. The first Committee meeting is scheduled for August 9, JL's birthday!

**Pre-Conference: *Navigating with Youth*.** SP reported that there will soon be a new URL for the pre-conference with the full program on the web within the next 2 weeks. Registrants include librarians from Singapore, the US, Canada and Scandinavia so far. Three hundred are expected at the conference; there is a limit on the number of Canadian registrants until international delegates have had a chance to register but in July it will be open for anyone to register. The President of Ibbly (International Board of Books for Young People) will give the opening speech. There will be ample opportunity for networking with a reception at the National Library on the first evening and a cultural evening the next night. Hotel rooms at three different price levels are available and the overall cost is being kept low by holding the conference at McGill University in downtown Montreal and the registration includes all meals. \$300,000 has been raised to support the pre-conference. The agenda was distributed to the Committee members and reviewed.

JL will chair the first session of the pre-conference and he expressed his appreciation of all SP's hard work with her team in planning the pre-conference. He asked if there were plans for the pre-conference to be evaluated as it would be useful in planning future such events; SP will follow up. IS asked for a brief outline of the pre-conference for the next newsletter.

**Action: SP**

**Conference Program on Advocacy:** BG reported on progress to date on the conference program for the WLIC in Quebec. It is a joint program with the Metropolitan Libraries Section and is entitled *Public Libraries and Advocacy in the Political Arena: Public library leadership and influence on the decision making process*. To date speakers from Spain, Singapore, Dubai, Canada and Australia have been identified and have agreed to be presenters. BG outlined who these people are and their general topics. LN asked how the speakers were selected. It had been agreed that this time the Committee would not put out a call for papers and so instead Committee members had been encouraged to identify qualified individuals. It is still possible to add speakers to the agenda and LN said she would contact Peter Duchon, former mayor of Brno and now a member of the EU Parliament to ask if he would speak. GSP suggested the mayor from Medellin, Colombia but no one knew how to contact him. JL said he planned to ask John Dolan, Director of Museums, Libraries and Archives in the UK and the former director of the Birmingham (UK) Public Library if he would speak and if he declines IS recommended Alan Moir from Yorkshire as an alternative. KPB and JL will also invite IFLA President Claudia Lux to introduce the session as it is focused on the theme she has selected for her presidency. SP will contact Louise Labory, the Director of the Montreal Public Library to be the moderator. SP has also asked for simultaneous translation of the program into French as it will be difficult to attract local librarians if the program is not available in French. Once the program has been completed with all speakers confirmed it will be sent out to all the Committee members.

**Action: LN/JL/SP**

**Hollywood Librarian:** No one had seen the film which is directed by an American and was shown at the ALA conference in 2007. The reaction to showing it was generally positive but as no one had seen it no further decision or action was taken.

**Poster Session:** JL has requested a time for the Committee during the poster session. Assuming that we will get this time, JL will need help with this on Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. The Professional Committee will decide who is assigned space at the poster session and TK will be one of the judges. KPB asked if we should make T-shirts saying Public Library Guidelines in multiple languages which we could sell. JL said he would look at the idea but needed SP to cost out production as they would have to be made in Canada.

**Action: SP/ALL**

**Public Libraries, Archives and Museums publication launch.** Barbara Clubb has said she will have the publication completed by February 2008. She still has Eu695 in her Canadian bank account for this purpose. It will be an IFLA green report. JL plans to contact BC about completing the report and having it translated into French and Spanish. SP will identify a location to hold a launch party; KPB confirmed that there are limited funds available for this purpose.

**Action: JL/SP**

**Reading Section Program:** Lorraine Jackson had volunteered to be the Public Libraries Committee member to evaluate proposals for the Reading Section's program on the theme of Literacy and Libraries. They received 15 proposals and will hold a "Literacy fair" where each speaker has 7 minutes to describe their project and then attendees can visit each table to get more information. Claudia Lux will open the fair and LR asked Committee members to attend and promote it in our public library communities.

SP made some general comments about the upcoming WLIC; she encouraged people to book their hotel reservations soon as they expect 5,000 attendees. The Committee will have its annual dinner together on Sunday evening and library tours will be on Wednesday and Thursday.

## **8. IFLA Professional Structure Review Update.**

TK provided the update. The Professional Committee held an extraordinary meeting on this topic and its recommendations will go to a postal ballot which will be sent out in March. If the new organizational structure is approved then changes in the bylaws and rules must be made in order for them to be in accordance with Dutch law. It is anticipated that the new structure will be implemented in the fall of 2008. JL asked if there had been discussion about merging the Public and Metropolitan Libraries Committees; BG, TK and SP were not sure that the Metropolitan Libraries group would be interested.

## **9. Annual Report 2007.**

BG distributed a draft of the 2007 Annual Report. It is not clear if there is a standard format in which the report should be submitted; she will find out. IS added some information about his activities for the report. These included a presentation he made in New Zealand at the Taupo Mobile Library Meeting in January 2007 and at the Barmagui Mobile Muster in New South Wales, Australia in July 2007. IFLANet has the announcement that funds are available as grants to fund new Caterpillar projects. Internet guidelines have been translated into both Catalan and Russian. The report should include JL's presentation in Barcelona noted earlier. The Committee provided input to the newly published Guidelines for Library Services to Babies. The report will be revised as per the input provided and submitted to IFLA.

**Action:BG**

## **10. Strategic Plan for 2008-2009.**

BG had updated the Strategic Plan and there was discussion of the draft.

Under Goal One on promoting the role of public libraries in society, the strategy regarding Meeting User Needs was recommended to be located under the second goal and that there be an effort to have the Public Library Manifesto translated into additional languages with GPS, KS and KPB responsible for this. It was decided to take out the proposal to consider a SIG on public libraries as democratic institutions.

Under Goal Two it was agreed that the Public Library Guidelines needed to be translated at least into the official IFLA languages; JL agreed to follow up on a Chinese translation which has been done but is not yet available on IFLANet and IS on a translation into Arabic. Poster sessions will be planned for the WLIC in both 2008 and 2009.

Under Goal Three, 3.5 was added to include the application for funds from UNESCO to support training librarians in Sri Lanka and 3.3 and 3.4 for a conference program and pre-conference at the WLIC in Milan in 2009.

Under Goal Four the strategies were expanded to develop criteria for the applications and to advertise the program and select projects to be funded (IS, RO and LJ); to provide a report for 2008

(IS) and apply for additional funds in 2009 (JL). LR is providing support to the Reading Section in support of their conference program in 2008.

Goal Five: The title of the publication was corrected and in addition to being translated into French it will be translated into Spanish and placed on the IFLA website. SP and Barbara Clubb, former chair of the Committee will be responsible for a launch party in Quebec during the WLIC. A SIG for public libraries, archives and museums will be considered after the publication is launched.

Goal Seven. Newsletter publications will include 2 e-newsletters and one electronic and print newsletter each year. IS will continue to be responsible for the newsletters. Promotional opportunities for IFLA and the Public Libraries Section planned by Committee members include poster sessions at the Norwegian Library Association and the Danish Library Association in March 2008, and members were asked to seek opportunities to provide an "IFLA Window" during their national library conferences. The 2008 Mid-Year meeting was taking place in Odense, Denmark and consideration is being given to the 2009 meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Goal Nine had 9.3 added as follows: Apply for project funding to maintain continuity and sustainability of projects.

BG will update the Plan as discussed and submit it to IFLA.

**Action: BG**

## **11. Financial Report.**

KPB gave the financial report. All administrative funds have been spent and it is important that the Section retain at least 300 members in order to receive the current level of administrative funding. There is Eu 1,464 to fund new Caterpillar projects but it has been a problem transferring funds to libraries outside Europe. In 2008 there is Eu 1,500 for Caterpillar projects and Eu 1,430 in administrative funds which will stay in The Hague but which the Committee can spend. Eu 3,150 has been approved as a carry-over to support the revision and publication of the Guidelines. JL thanked KPB for being a conscientious treasurer and noted that Barbara Clubb has Eu 1,000 to complete the publication on Public Libraries, Archives and Museums.

## **12. Report from the Governing Board.**

This item was tabled until the meeting of the Committee the next day.

## **13. Review of Ongoing Projects.**

- Meeting User Needs. MMB was not present to report.
- The Public Library Service: the IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development. JL reported that there are no additional translations. There are no remaining leaflets about the Guidelines in English but there are some in Spanish and French. JL will contact Sjoerd Koopman to see if K.G. Sauer will underwrite re-printing the pamphlets in English; we need US\$5,000. We will need the leaflet in Italian for the Milan conference. KS will contact a former Italian Committee member, Elena Boretti, to see if she can get it translated and find funding to print it.

**Action: JL/KS**

- The Public Library Service: the IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development revised edition. BG has approached a library school professor, Christie Koontz with Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida to take on the revision of the Guidelines. Dr. Koontz is known by a number of committee members as she is active with IFLA. She has asked for \$5,000 to revise and update the publication. The responsibility for providing input to the update of each chapter had been assigned to committee members at the Durban conference. RO and GSP provided an updated document for Chapter 1 and recommended that a brief abstract of each guideline should be included in this chapter. Comments for updates of chapters 3, 5 and 6 were given in writing to BG. KS said that he had reviewed Chapter 4 and saw no need for any changes. There was discussion as to whether there needed to be an open forum at the Quebec conference where Dr. Koontz or whoever was revising the Guidelines would hear comments. This was not determined.

**Action: BG**

The meeting was adjourned until the following day.

### **The meeting of the Public Libraries Standing Committee re-convened on Saturday, March 1 at the Odense City Library, Railway Station Centre.**

KS provided an overview of the Odense Public Library; they handled 2.5 million circulations in 2006 and 75,000 digital loans including music and documentary films.

JL welcomed Gunilla Konradsson Mortin. Gunilla has taken a new position in city government and will be resigning from the committee after this meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 13 continued.**

**Public Libraries, Archives and Museums Research Project.** JL said that this had been covered the previous day.

**Caterpillar Book Box Project.** IS reported that payment had been made to June Baetjes in South Africa for her projects. Four applications had been received for new grants, two of which appear to be genuine applications. He and RO still needed to develop criteria for awarding grants and need to receive and check references. IS had received an application from Burkina Faso but it is in French and while he had had SP translate it they both had misgivings. How can the Committee “verify” the applications? Should they be completed through an IFLA member library? TK noted that IFLA regards it as very important that we track the grants and how the money is spent, and wanted to know if this had been done with the grants to South Africa. IS confirmed that he had requested a report and photos from June Baetjes and that the funds had been paid. A Dutch journalist is doing an article including an interview with June Baetjes. LJ asked what had happened to the application she had forwarded to IS from Ghana. It had not been reviewed. IS did get an application from the Ivory Coast which would allow library service to be extended to a de-militarized zone. The Project has Eu 1,500 to be granted out in 2008 so it is important to get the grant guidelines finalized.

**Action: IS/RO**

**Public Library Manifesto Revision.** It was agreed that a leaflet about the Manifesto is needed with 10 good ideas for library customers and 10 good ideas for librarians. KS will work on this. The Committee returned to Item 12, which had been deferred the day before.

**Action: KS**

## **12. Report from the Governing Board and Professional Committee.**

- TK reported that Jennifer Nicholson, an Australian has been selected as the new Secretary General.
- The \$1M gift from the Gates Foundation to IFLA will be used to hire someone into a senior position to direct IFLA's advocacy efforts over the next 4 years. This position will also be responsible for updating IFLANet.
- 2008 is International Language Year and libraries are being encouraged to do exhibits with this theme.
- The Reading Section has a new name: Literacy and Reading Section.
- The theme of the 2010 conference in Brisbane is *Engaging, Embracing, Empowering*. The 2011 conference will take place in "continental Central America."
- The Multicultural Manifesto was approved by the IFLA Governing Board and sent to UNESCO, which did not accept it. Negotiations are now underway on the language. Assuming it will be accepted by UNESCO at its meeting in April, IFLA member libraries will be asked to promote it.

## **14. Website, Newsletter and Section Brochure.**

IS reported that the 2007 newsletter is on the website. He is developing a database of languages for the phrase "This library has books in ....." With a new website developer coming to IFLA we can expect some changes. IS asked for a Committee member to volunteer to write a report on the 2008 conference to be published in the newsletter. He expects to publish an e-newsletter in October and a print plus electronic version in April. He always wants news from Committee members' libraries. IS also plans to develop a section which lists awards given to public libraries in countries around the world.

## **15. Programs at the 2009 Conference in Milan, Italy.**

Under discussion is a pre-conference with 3 other sections, JL reported. It is currently planned to hold it in collaboration with COBDC and the University of Barcelona at the World Trade Center in Barcelona. This will accommodate 400 people. The other section partners are Library Theory and Research, Academic and Research Libraries, and Management and Marketing; the theme is *Libraries as Places and Spaces*. There will be 3 tracks: planning facilities for new services; virtual services – virtual spaces; new libraries for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. JL will be sending in the proposal for approval by IFLA.

**Action:JL**

Public Libraries Standing Committee program in 2009. The theme of the Milan conference is *Libraries Create Futures: Building on cultural heritage* and it will be held August 23-27, 2009. Topics recommended for consideration included: Professional development and training for staff

(RO); a program and report based on the new publication Libraries, Archives and Museums (LJ). It was also suggested that there should be a program to launch the publication of the new edition of the Guidelines if it was completed by the 2009 conference.

JL said he would solicit ideas from those not present at the committee meeting and he would also invite them to express interest in following through with the training program in Sri Lanka.

**Action: JL**

## **16. New projects for consideration of the Committee.**

GKM recommended that the mid-year meeting be planned for 3 rather than 2 days with time to visit local libraries built into the meeting.

IS reiterated his interest in listing public libraries which win awards and encouraged Committee members to send him this information as it becomes available.

## **17. Increasing membership in the Public Libraries Section.**

KPB pointed out that current membership represents 85 countries, which means there are 112 countries not represented; 2/3 of the members are libraries with the other third national or personal memberships. He posed the question: Do we want to add more libraries as members or individual memberships? KS, KPB and MR will form a small group to strategize further on how to build membership. TK wondered if it would attract more members if personal membership was less expensive. To lower the cost of a personal membership would require approval of the Professional Committee and the Governing Board. By consensus the group agreed that TK would take this forward. JL reminded everyone that there is a Membership Toolkit online to assist in recruiting new members.

**Action: KS/KPB/MR/TK**

## **18. Other Reports and Items:**

Social networking. RO will set up a Google group to facilitate communication by Committee members.

**Action: RO**

Special Interest Group: in the past the Committee has sponsored a discussion group on public libraries as democratic institutions. During the discussion of the Strategic Plan there was uncertainty as to whether this should translate into a SIG. This will be revisited at the next meeting in Quebec.

Conference in Brisbane: everyone agreed that it is too early to consider this but it would be on the agenda in August 2008.

Mid-year Meeting in 2009: OU invited everyone to come to St. Petersburg, Russia for the meeting to be hosted by her library. She told the Committee that it would give them an opportunity to visit some very different libraries, for example one of her libraries is on the first floor of an apartment

complex, as well as the National Library and many University Libraries. The Committee meetings would be held in the St. Petersburg Main Public Library. OU will be applying in May for a grant to support the meeting. April 2-4, 2009 were the dates tentatively set for the meeting.

**Action: OU**

JL thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara A. B. Gubbin  
Secretary

[www.ifla.org/VII/s8/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/index.htm)