

**IFLA Section
Information Technology**

**Minutes of Information Technology
Business Meeting 2
Teleconference (Zoom), 20 August 2021
14:00-15:45 CEST**

Present:

1. Edmund Balnaves , Australia, Chair
2. Elena Sánchez Nogales, Spain, co-Chair
3. Cory Lampert , United States, Secretary
4. François-Xavier Boffy, France, Information Coordinator
5. Sylvain Bélanger , Canada
6. Leda Bultrini , Italy
7. May Chang, United States (outgoing member)
8. Alenka Kavčič Čolić , Slovenia
9. Maria Kadesjö, Sweden
10. Lynn Kleinveldt , South Africa
11. Wouter Klapwijk, South Africa
12. Nthabiseng Kotsokoane, South Africa (outgoing member)
13. Yeon-Soo Lee, Republic of Korea
14. Peter Leinen, Germany
15. Maria Loretto Puga, Chile
16. Ray Uzwyshyn, United States
17. Kate Zwaard, United States

Excused :

Qiang Xie, China

Declined:

Anna Tereza Barbosa da Silva, Norway
Almudena Caballos Villar, Spain
Souleymane Sogoba, Mali
Ngozi Blessing Ukachi , Nigeria

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of BM 1 minutes & agenda
3. Report on WLIC2021 Sessions
4. AI SIG - review and next steps
5. Communication and website updates
6. Action Plan 2022-24 – review current and new projects and formulate
7. WLIC2022 Satellite Meetings, SIG, Webinars and Sessions proposals
8. Other Business

1. Welcome [Co-chairs Edmund Balnaves & Elena Sanchez Nogales]

New Section members were welcome and introductions were made for those new to the group.

Chair invited discussion / debrief on the WLIC 2021 experience, noting it was an intense three-day period and that there were some issues using the platform (search, lack of statistics). Participation in IT Section sessions was very high and the section was highly visible during the Congress in sessions and live tweeting via social media.

2. Approval of agenda

- Vote was yes to approve agenda
- Vote was yes to approve BM 1 draft minutes

3. Report on WLIC 2021 Sessions

In General - feedback

- More exhausting than regular conference
- Lively exchanges and good experience overall Lively exchanges and good experience overall

IT Section main session: “Open Educational Resources: Where ICT meets education and scholarship”

[Sánchez Nogales]

- Session had three speakers and very active participation. There were interesting points made in chat and these were expanded upon in the Q & A. Two speakers attended the live Q & A session where more than 40 attendees joined. Key topics discussed: sustainability of projects, discoverability and platform for these resources; big data issue; importance of collaboration. Overall the session raised interest and triggered good conversation about open education librarianship.
- ACTION: Due to high response it was suggested that the Section add this to the webinar series in upcoming year; there was support from Kleinfeldt who shared the webinar Google Doc and asked for additional participants.

Joint session with Knowledge Management Section: “Outsourcing, cloud and new technology in libraries, during and after the pandemic. Afraid of the risks or seduced by the opportunities?”[Balnaves]

- Session covered topics such as: single sign on, systems, SEO, outsourcing. There was high interest and many questions on privacy as this is a challenge for librarians and resulted in discussion/debate. It was noted that it would be nice to have some statistics from the WLIC session and see how these accumulate over time.

- ACTION: It was noted that in these sessions sometimes the attendees are not IT professionals yet they are attending to learn a baseline of the topic or approaches to dealing with technical issues. In this session there were many non-IT librarians wanting to learn more (70 people present in Q & A but only a few actively commenting). Should there be a follow-up meeting to answer non-expert questions / discuss main issues and how to approach them? Without the technical skills to understand the technical solution, we may need to work with the professional development section and build skills. It was also suggested that the skills inventory and checklist projects could work on a privacy checklist.
- There was a comment that the sessions could have been more creatively designed with more interactivity.

Big Data SIG session: "Better together: Creating solutions to the challenges of data use, reuse, and sharing". Lampert reported that the session showed a broad picture of data across types of libraries, geographic region, and types of data work [Lampert]

- The session was pre-recorded and did not have a Q & A meeting, so not a lot of feedback was gathered. The chat was active with many countries represented and it was noted that it is nice to have the platform as a way to follow up with speakers, though we are not sure the platform always worked as intended (profiles did not always update). Noted lack of any statistics shared (yet) such as how many were online for live streaming. Speakers were happy with the session though time zones were challenging on the tight timeline preparing the content for the congress. It was generally hard to schedule via Delegate Connect and speakers struggled to understand format requirements and stick to time. There was also little guidance to moderators on preparing content (bios, etc.) for uploading / editing session information.

Individual presentations from section: Public/Private partnerships [Chang]

- Session highlighted an excellent example of the unique partnerships that exemplify IFLA collaboration. The session was part of the Africa Section session that got cancelled 2020. In the interim, much progress occurred aligned with the theme "working together for a sustainable information society". There were four presentations showcasing international collaborations with African libraries/organizations and two themes: 1) promotion of digital services/technical services via a north/south collaboration and 2) the open agenda in Africa. It was noted that the IT Section could be really involved in these types of projects including with the digital skills checklist and via separate webinars for each speaker later on to cover more content.
- Chang's presentation was highlighting the technology-focused approach of workforce development (high school through university to workforce) by creating an innovation hub and tech stack and connecting to what local companies want/need. Botswana has their version of public/private partnerships supporting their initiatives and are developing the region around the university. Some challenges include, scaling up and working during the pandemic but there is major potential for us to add value to these projects.
- Some comments on the platform and technology: pre-recording was fine but there was no break in editing. The live captioning was, at times, problematic and inaccurate. Often, it displayed over the slides.

- Chang encouraged Section members to pursue individual IFLA projects as well Section work.
Overall a fascinating session reflecting on challenges and opportunities present across the globe.

Other Sessions:

- Equity session algorithms
 - ACTION: seek / follow up on potential collaboration with this group
- Library Carpentry session STL / CDPWL
 - Went very well, lively Q & A session.

4. AI SIG - review and next steps [Balnaves]

- The Section discussed the formation of an AI SIG in the open discussion meeting and there was clear consensus to move ahead on this. The IT Section has a lively interest in creating a platform for discussing this topic and potentially writing a position paper on ethical aspects. Vote was “yes” to proceed with the creation of the SIG - proposal (15 votes yes)
- There was discussion on retaining Chang’s skills in joining the SIG if it is approved, but Chang is also interested in being a mentor for the Section Standing Committee. The Chair can nominate up to three “mentors” - who are members of SC but not in an official capacity.
- ACTION: Chang agreed to start the SIG creation process and when ground work is done will consider being approved as a Convenor. It was noted that the SIGs in the Section are a great way to get involved and learn about IFLA. Chang would like to encourage this and can set up/mentor both the person/Convenor and the team/SIG working on alignment of the SIGs across Big Data and AI. There was some discussion about how the new SIG would be placed in the Division, as it would not necessarily be added in our Division and could be outside. The Professional Council decides. Balnaves to submit the proposal.

5. Communication and website updates [Boffy]

- Would like to recruit new members to the Communication Team as they need more participation to build more action items.
- ACTION: Depending on participant interest, Boffy will set the next meeting date and decide on capacity for proposed action items.
- Mentioned in report from BM 1 - the team asks for feedback on actions
 - Starting a new social media channel would require additional participants
 - Uzwyshyn expressed interest in joining team assist with editing services
 - Alireza Tayarani pending response on continuing TILT newsletter duties
 - Klapwijk interested in moving into IC role with Big Data SIG if no other nominees; this would add him to Communication Team
- Section voted “yes” to approve communication plan (10 yes)

- Boffy noted that the Twitter campaigns this past year have successfully connected us with many other colleagues.

6. Action Plan 2022-24 – review current and new projects and formulate

- Annual Report due October 1, Action Plan is due in November
- Action Plan - past projects:
 - ACTION: Agreed on an amendment to plan - Sunset the research data project and take off Action Plan to turn into a webinar or more concrete project in the future pending interest.
 - ACTION: Revised action plan to be prepared incorporating new project after task owners for each item are determined from within the section.

7. WLIC2022 Satellite Meetings, SIG, Webinars and Sessions proposals

- Action Plan - new projects
 - Next congress meeting
 - Section discussed the topic for next year's session at WLIC 2022 noting we need to align with the theme when determined. We could select AI as the topic since this is the year we will work to propose the new SIG (could also be a pre/post-conference). There is a possibility of partnering with the National Libraries standing committee to do a one-hour session. This could be a good opportunity to talk about AI: what it is, what are the concepts?
 - Ideas for webinars
 - ACTION: Webinar on AI was proposed to take place before the next congress as a method to obtain the required documentation of 25 interested attendees for the establishment of the new SIG. Following the webinar then the on-site session could be framed based on feedback from the webinar and could touch on the need to reach out to non-technical audiences as part of what we do in IT (raising issues beyond selecting technology and implementing it). Section will seek an inspirational / provocative set of potential speakers.
 - Timeline: Q: Could we do the webinar in October? The Webinar team can organize if speakers are identified. In December, WLIC sessions are proposed and approved by HQ Professional Council so Section should aim for December to have approval of SIG finished.
 - Big Data due for review in two years (June/July)
 - Satellite sessions

- Idea was shared to look into project management as potential satellite session on agile technologies in IT - and outside of it in other library functional areas
 - Focus could be on ways that IT project management expertise and tools may be applicable to other types of libraries/library workers and could highlight where the Section adds value and addresses the role of IT
 - Another suggestion was to pick up the cancelled joint session planned in 2020 with the Reference and Information Section. Work was already completed confirming a host organization in Galway, Ireland for satellite and they would be an on-site option if we have a 2022 pre-conference. It was noted that the original August 2020 session with focus on AI and Discovery may be replaced with AI and Ethics. Balnaves to follow up with NUI Galway.
- Position statements
 - On AI - should we create a discussion paper to drive conversation within IFLA?
 - Anyone interested in this?
 - Zwaard interested - limited capacity; Lampert interested
- Invitation and call for new members who want to be part of the Webinar work team
 - Kleinveldt shared the working document on planning the series and volunteers can add their names to the form
- Other possible topics: IT supporting special needs
 - Balnaves raised the role of libraries in Prisons and other special needs communities and IT systems in this context

8. Other business

- Mid-term meeting planned for Spring (February) on a Friday (tentatively, February 11th)
 - Some sections have a mid-term meeting in-person satellite meeting
 - Table for now and then decide later in year on in-person or virtual and type of meeting

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 15.30 CEST.