



**International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions**

Approved Minutes

Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage

Wednesday 26 January 2022

Meeting 1: 10:30-12:00 CET

Meeting 2: 17:30-19:00 CET

Teleconference

In attendance: Carlos Alberto Della Paschoa, Cecilia Salvatore, Daryl Green, Dorothea Sommer, Helen Vincent, Huanwen Cheng, Liisa Savolainen, Rashidah Bolhassan, Ry Moran, Russell Lynch, Silvia Stasselova, Ramesh C Gaur, Claire McGuire (IFLA HQ)

Apologies: Mariia Kolpakova, Rana Abdulrahman, Stacy Allison-Cassin, Gerald Leitner

1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda: Ramesh C Gaur - Chair, ACCH

Committee members were welcomed. It was reiterated that this meeting was being offered at two different times, with identical agendas, in order to accommodate members in all time zones. The agenda was approved.

Note: these minutes provide a combined record of both meetings.

2. Approval of Minutes, December 2021: Ramesh C Gaur - Chair, ACCH

IFLA HQ offered an explanation of actions taken since the December 2021 meeting. A small group was convened on 15 December 2021 to discuss the action plan draft. The output of this discussion was circulated to all committee members in January 2022 (Action Plan Template v.3).

In meeting 2, there was a request to include a link to the example that was shared as a part of the discussion on agenda item 5 under the subheading "Cultural Tolerance".

With this addition, the minutes were approved.

ACTION: CMG to make change to December minutes as requested.

3. Updates from Committee Members

Trafficking

Helen Vincent shared an update as a liaison on the ICA (International Council on Archives) Expert Group against Theft, Trafficking and Tampering (EGATTT). A written update was shared with IFLA HQ and the ACCH chair, and it will be shared further with ACCH members for information.

In line with development from the EGATTT, the ACCH might choose to advise the Governing Board (GB) to join ICA in contacting INTERPOL to provide further advise on documentary heritage trafficking. This could be done via a paper provided to the GB. To be included for consideration in the February GB meeting, the ACCH should make a decision to offer this advice before 4 February.

This could also be postponed to a future GB meeting.

ACTION: Helen to share more information and invite comments on Basecamp.

IFLA HQ mentioned that this update was a good example of issues monitoring and invited other committee members to feel very welcome to share updates and suggestions of actions in their areas of a profession in a similar manner in future meetings.

Daryl Green raised an issue that was brought up in the meeting of IFLA's Rare Book and Special Collections Section. IFLA's RBSC Section is working with the American Library Association (ALA)'s Rare Books and Manuscripts Section's Security Committee. They have noted a movement within American Academic libraries calling for the abolishment of libraries from police control, in which libraries are denouncing their relationship with law enforcement. It is unclear if this is specific to the United States, or if similar ideas are taking hold elsewhere.

Post-Meeting Note: IFLA HQ suggests a link for more information on this movement:

<https://abolitionistlibraryassociation.org/>

This raises some alarm bells in terms of the fight against trafficking. He noted that many cases of theft are carried out by staff. Libraries need positive relationships with local, national, and international law enforcement bodies to counter theft and trafficking.

Memory of the World

Daryl also shared an update from the Memory of the World Register Sub-Committee, a subsequent body of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) on which Daryl acts as IFLA's liaison. Following the call for nominations deadline in November 2021, the committee has begun reviewing submissions. More updates on this process will be shared as they arise.

Ramesh has added that an event from Memory of the World is coming up - "Discover the Memory of the World Register on Google Arts and Culture" (27 January). He shared an invitation and more information by email following the meeting.

IFLA HQ noted that they have also shared the link to IFLA's cultural heritage mailing list.

Truth and Reconciliation

Ry Moran gave an update regarding the ongoing discovery of burial sites at Canadian residential schools. In this, he mentioned the importance of ensuring all documentation produced and is accessible in a national record of truth and reconciliation. There are also talks with the Vatican regarding working towards an official apology from the Pope.

This is an example of the importance of documentary records in addressing painful histories and working towards recognition and reconciliation.

4. Action Planning

The committee was invited to discuss each action included in the *Draft Action Plan Version 3*. This was circulated earlier in January 2022, following the small group action planning meeting in December 2021.

In this, the committee was encouraged to consider concrete outputs that can reasonably be accomplished, as well as committee members who are willing to take ownership of various activities. These should be the key factors in making decisions on the action plan.

*Post-Meeting Note: immediately following the meetings, CMG updated the draft action plan taking ideas from this discussion into account. Committee members were invited to refer to Draft Action Plan Version 4 to inform final discussions before confirming the Action Plan. A **deadline of 4 February** has been given for comments. Below are specific points raised within each action area for consideration.*

Action: Committee member should refer to the *Draft Action Plan Version 4*, and required decisions indicated on the Action Plan draft and in Basecamp. Committee members are asked to propose concrete output and come forward as committee leads within each topic.

Risk Register

Answers to questions around who the Risk Register is for, how submissions are collected, and other functions of the Register remain unclear. There is a need for more information to be shared on the Register, this could be done through the development of a communications plan. Within this, the PAC Centres might be a very helpful

However, there is first the need to inform the committee on the RR, it's function, and how the committee is involved in the RR process first. The primary action should be informing the committee itself on the Register as it functions now.

IFLA HQ suggested that the activities within this action could be lead by HQ itself, with processes by which the committee can share ideas and feedback being developed and shared by HQ. In this, the first action will be informing the committee on the Register as a primary action.

ACTION: CMG to inform committee on how the register works and set up process for the ACCH to review current process/communications and provide feedback

Climate Change:

The key question in the discussion on how the ACHH approaches climate change through their activities is consideration of what the committee can do that is not currently being done in other IFLA Sections.

Activities within this action area must be clearly defined

Action: CMG to make paper summarizing actions on climate action from across IFLA.

A possible activity within this action area could be an explainer clarifying what is meant by climate heritage for libraries – the role of cultural heritage in climate action. This could be a helpful piece of thought leadership and lay groundwork for future engagement.

Helen Vincent and Cecilia Salvatore expressed interest in leading on this topic.

Multiculturalism

This committee should seek to work with IFLA's sections and Regional Divisions. This topic could present an opportunity to do so. In this, the committee should consider what they can do that is not currently being done by others.

If there is no concrete activities and outputs put forward, it was suggested this action be moved to "issues monitoring".

This committee noted many different facets to this topic. Some suggestions offered for further exploration included:

- The importance of working with private collectors who can bring private collections to institutions
- The role of libraries in a globalized world, enabling multicultural societies
- The role of digital/digitized materials in promoting multiculturalism and multilingualism

An idea was proposed for a primary action to be a dialogue session, in which participants could explore areas of this topic and raise issues to monitor.

In Meeting 1, Rashida Bolhassan expressed interest in leading on this topic.

Action: concrete activities and outputs should be put forward. Otherwise, this topic can be moved to "issues monitoring".

Connection with Linguistic Diversity

The committee noted the intersection of this topic with issues relating to linguistic diversity and the access to and enjoyment of cultural rights for indigenous and marginalized peoples. This could be approached as one topic.

Ramesh c Gaur informed the committee that in next few months (February-April 2022), UNESCO will launch the Global Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032). This will be a rich topic, and therefore the committee might consider engaging with the IDIL to be a stand-alone action.

In meeting 2, it was stressed that the ACCH should seek to support the Indigenous Matters Section in their activities and endorse and amplify their outcomes. IFLA HQ noted that the Chair of the IM Section Standing Committee has an ex officio position on the ACCH, and therefore can input on the Section's activities and help create an open channel between the two committees.

IFLA HQ noted that IFLA's Indigenous Matters Section is already engaging with the IFIL, and we must discuss who will coordinate actions on the IDIL. This topic touches many areas of librarianship, so perhaps the Indigenous Matters Section would be best-placed to lead on actions, while the ACCH leads on identifying engagement with UNESCO and other international partners on projects and in upcoming events. The ACCH can take a global vision and help facilitate a broader approach to implementation of activities in line with it.

The ACCH could review UNESCO's Action Plan, identify and monitor where IFLA could work with UNESCO and other external partners, then relay advice to the GB and other IFLA Sections.

Action: The Indigenous Matters Section Chair is invited to share thoughts on how the ACCH can best approach this topic in cooperation with the Section. This Action needs concrete outputs for year 1 and 2 and a committee Lead.

Engagement with Regional Council and Divisions

The committee was asked to consider if this would be a stand-alone action area or embedded into other actions.

It could possibly be a stand-alone action in the first year, in which the committee establishes connections and explore possible activities. In this option, it would be reviewed in August 2022 and a decision would be made on how to go forward.

It was suggested that a possible concrete action could be the establishment of a joint meeting during WLIC 2022. Immediate activities could explore the function and format of such a meeting. This idea was well received, but it was also suggested that, in place of a closed-door meeting, this could be an opportunity to engage with the Regional Structure to offer public dialogues that could explore linkages between ACCH activities and regional priorities.

Action: a committee member who would like to lead this action invited to come forward.

Engagement with Global Processes

1. **Memory of the World:** it was agreed that it is very important to continue engaging with UNESCO through the Memory of the World Programme.

Action: a committee lead must be identified, and concrete activities should be proposed for year 1 (Jan-August 2022) and Year 2 (August 2022-August 2023).

2. **Theft and Trafficking of Cultural Property:** Helen Vincent will act as committee lead, as she is involved on other working groups regarding this topic.

Issues Monitoring

1. **Library Engagement in Repatriation of Cultural Property**

It was noted that this is a very important topic, but also that this perhaps differs between regions. This is an important topic for discussion in Europe, but it was asked if it is also important in other regions. Regionally approaches to this topic should be monitored.

There is also an important intersection with Indigenous Matters here, especially in North America and Oceania (Australia/New Zealand). It was asked if the Indigenous Matters Section is approaching this topic.

In Meeting 2, it was stressed that this is a major issue in Canada regarding the return of materials and records belonging to Indigenous people. In this context, this is an area of cooperation between libraries and archives. It was further stressed that this is an important issue to monitor and frame in regards to Human Rights.

It was noted that repatriation does not only relate to trafficked or stolen material, and that there are many different aspects. The context will change in regards to countries that have an imperialist past, and countries that have a past of settler colonialism.

Another angle was offered, that of bibliographical documents that have disappeared or been stolen. It was queried whether there is already action in the library field on this topic.

It was noted that there are multiple aspects to carrying out repatriation:

- 1: the actual return of objects
2. possibility of mutual cooperation between libraries to share material, including digitally.

It was further suggested that #1 is a political issue and will not be within the library's power, therefore it was suggested the ACCH focuses on #2.

However, this view was countered with the viewpoint that the ACCH should actually be helping institutions think about how they can be more involved in these issues. For example, some items in their collection could be of dubious provenance, and work on these issues could be very ground level.

Both Dorothea Sommer and Ry Moran have expressed interest in leading on monitoring this topic and exploring possible action areas and/or recommendations.

2. Digitisation/Digital Preservation

It was suggested that this be an area on which the committee might focus activities in future action plans. However, other members expressed that it is an important issue to monitor, which can perhaps inform future actions. Dorothea Sommer expressed interest in being the committee lead.

The following topics were suggested for future action plans, but deemed outside of the capacity of the current action plan:

- The role of Libraries in Preserving and Providing Access to Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Engagement and relationship-building with The International Centre on Documentary Heritage (this might be of interest in PAC Centres in the Asia- Oceania region)

Dialogue Sessions

An idea was proposed in Meeting 2 in which the Committee might consider organising a series of dialogue sessions, in which the public could be invited to join discussions on various important topics in cultural heritage and librarianship. Many of the topics suggested for the action plan could benefit from such dialogues.

Ry Moran leads a similar initiative in his professional work and expressed interest in working on organising these. IFLA HQ could provide the technical platform and assistance.

5. Scheduling Next Meeting

IFLA HQ will circulate a poll for upcoming meetings as soon as possible.

6. AOB and closing of the meeting

There was no other business. Committee members were thanked for their time and contributions and invited to share further ideas and feedback on the action plan by email and on Basecamp.