IFLA IT SECTION BUSINESS MEETING 2
August 19, 2022
Online via Zoom
10pm AUSTRALIAN AEST, 2pm CEST, 8am EDT,

Present:
1. Edmund Balnaves, Chair
2. Elena Sánchez Nogales, Coordinator
3. Cory Lampert , Secretary
4. François-Xavier Boffy, Information Coordinator
5. May Chang, Mentor
6. Patrick Cher (Big Data SIG, Convenor)
7. Andrew Cox (Artificial Intelligence SIG, Convenor)
8. Yeon-Soo Lee
9. Sylvain Bélanger
10. Leda Bultrini
11. Alenka Kavčič Čolić
12. Wouter Klapwijk
13. Maria Loretto Puga
14. Ray Uzwyshyn
15. Lynn Kleinveldt
16. Maria Kadesjö
17. Kate Zwaard
18. Souleymane Sogoba

Declined:
1. Almudena Caballos Villar (with regrets)
2. Ngozi Blessing Ukachi (with regrets)
3. Peter Leinen (with regrets)
4. Anna Tereza Barbosa da Silva
5. Qiang Xie

Observers:
n/a

Agenda:

1. Welcome
Welcome greeting from Edmund to the Section

2. Attendance & Quorum
Attendance was recorded and regrets noted

3. Approval of the Agenda
Approved

4. Approval of SC1 minutes
Approved

5. Professional Committee & Division updates
Edmund mentioned the Governance Meeting that took place at the Congress. If you were not able to attend there is a [recording](#) you may view online. Have a look at the session to hear perspective and issues, including the role of Provisional Secretary General. The situation is still developing with an active, ongoing legal dispute about the Secretary General position playing out in Dutch courts. Helen Mandl is taking over the position from Halo Lochner who was in a temporary role through the Congress.

6. Standing Committee matters
To do items:
Need to update action plan
Need to provide annual report
Need to report on satellite

7. Reports & feedback from the conference
The Section got good feedback on the satellite meeting and the next step is to deposit a report on the satellite to the IFLA repository. HQ requires a post-satellite report noting numbers such as costs, actual budget expenditures, total attendee numbers, etc. These we will gather with help from the host institution. We have received instructions from Megan. Speakers who wish to share their authored presentations and papers can submit for the repository. Deposits can be done by the Information Coordinator and papers and presentations are both accepted.

The focus on AI for the satellite was timely and the meeting was excellent (over 50 attendees). We had some very dynamic discussions and this has resulted in a proposal for a publication based on content from the satellite meeting plus the TILT special issue on AI. Edmund has drafted a proposal which is now at Division H. A call for editors has gone out and an editorial team has been formed. Next the proposal moves to DeGruyer with a tentative timeline established that the publication be ready prior to next year (August 2023).

Alenka and Megan attended the Congress session on the 75 year-celebration of IFLA/UNESCO collaboration. The session featured talk about Ukraine and preservation of cultural heritage and this could also provide an area to engage with the AI SIG and BD SIG.

Our section's Agile Open Session had very high interest and attendance and according to organizers the issue was inspiring spirited conversation among attendees new to the topic. Coordinators were asked to do more on the topic, possibly with a session designed to go deeper and more specific/hands-on and a next action could be to delve into specific tools, a skills checklists, or

creating an Agile guide.

This more detailed look could also apply to AI sub themes on a practical level as a follow up to all the discussion at the Congress. Another idea was to build the AI practical aspects out a bit; for instance talking about: the idea of AI ethical review committees, data science and data services, how to create a data lab (infrastructure, management, technology, legal issues, and the suggestions to share an open toolkit. Overall, people were very interested and sometimes rooms were too small to accommodate high interest. People are looking for leadership in AI and our section has an opportunity to shape that in IFLA. We will be looking at a Mid-term meeting. Possible topics shared below.

The satellite gives participants more time to engage on the topics and talk with each other though we always have limited time. It was beneficial to have handson workshops for instance to unpack the ethical scenarios, but we couldn't get through all of them and could expand more. Perhaps we could hold a webinar session. There is a lot of interest in recommender systems as well as how libraries are integrating/employing/collaborating with data scholars. Also interest in smart buildings/technology in library buildings and AI.

Open Badge FX proposal taking forward this platform in IT Section and within IFLA
Technology and library buildings; AI in the building

8. Forthcoming IT Section activities
   a. Mid-term satellite – partner, location and theme
      Timing: March/April. It was noted our AI satellite in Galway had good attendance, so would it be better to do this near the WLIC?

      Possible locations: Singapore; IFLA has been in Europe and the next one is in Europe, but the non-European region helps with diversity of participation. We will need/depend on local organizers (we had Maria in Chile volunteer). Perhaps gain some success with mid-term this year in Singapore and South America next year? This is a chance to gather people from a region. There are often mid-term satellites in Mexico, but there can be travel restrictions in some countries. South Africa was also mentioned. Chipa is working on an AI symposium at the university in Pretoria which will be a joint event with IFLA (AI SIG). It was noted that we have been there for the very successful Robotics satellite and that IFLA has a regional office in South Africa which serves as a strong local support to planning. Singapore has a regional office as well.

      Format: Lots of freedom in how we do this as it is not governed by the WLIC satellite guidelines. The committee members noted strong interest in a hybrid option to improve reach of conference.

      Topic: Doesn't have to be AI, but there is a lot of interest and the AI SIG is just getting off the ground. Other ideas from first AI SIG meeting and committee brainstorming:
         ● How to develop migration paths for systems/digital repositories
         ● Requirements of AI for compatibility with governance and metadata
         ● preservation aspects in these systems, especially in a world of metadata evolution

- The promise and challenge of AI; crystalize this even more; examine what bias looks like in practice by examining the anthropology of the data and how decisions taken in digitization/metadata/systems affect the data.
- Important to merge the two streams ethics/technology tools and pragmatics

Volunteers for organizing: Patrick, Kate, May, Sylvain, Alenka, Cory, Elena, Andrew, Maria

Decision: First two weeks of March in Singapore with an AI theme. Local partnership with National Library

b. Main conference satellite – partner, location, theme
Timing: TBD

Possible locations: We will have a list of organizations to select for the satellite given to us by IFLA, so it is not our choice. Wouter suggested we could try Kuleuven in Belgium. We could ask if they have an interest.

Format: Hybrid

Topic: Agile project management techniques with a dual stream of digital humanities. Could touch on: big data, preservation, digital humanities tools/workflows, AI approaches to text mining and digital libraries. We may want to contact a partner for this and it was suggested that Elena could approach Knowledge Management for possible collaboration. Might also have success reaching out to Professional Development, Management sections in IFLA. It was also mentioned that a possible presenter could be the National Library of Finland and/or some representatives from the UNESCO session.

Volunteers for multiple streams: (agile and DH): Alenka, May, Peter, Wouter, Patrick, Elena, FX

Decision: proceed with this topic

c. Main session topic for IT section in Amsterdam
Topic ideas:
- Ethics in data from catalog records all the way to algorithms (Cory, Edmund, Alenka), the SAA section may be interested - Caroline Saccucci. It would be nice to build on interest from the Subject Access and Analysis Section and include automated indexing, linked data. Volunteers: Cory/Elena/Edmund/Alenka
- Metaverse and libraries - This is timely and could work well with a hybrid conference. Question that arose was whether there would be enough material? Some thought that this could work well in the IFLA Provocation format of sessions and that we might be able to find a joint partner (Media Section, Education). Volunteers: May will lead, Leda helping
- Digital Transformation is another possible topic, universities and Educause

d. Joint proposals from other sections for theme/topic in Amsterdam

- Library buildings were suggested by Peter. We could involve ENSLIB, Wouter and May volunteered and we may want to reach out to the IFLA architectural preservation group as they had an excellent speaker, the University Librarian at Trinity in Dublin who spoke about the technology in the Book of Kells exhibit.

e. SIG sessions/satellites/activities
- AI SIG meeting soon and will share ideas, previously mentioned the Pretoria symposium
- BD SIG meeting for Business Meeting 2 and will report, could come on with the midterm meeting

f. Webinar proposals

Lynn provided the link to the webinar planning document. We will continue to offer the webinar series and committee members may add topics any time.

Francois-Xavier introduced the topic of Open Badge as an area of interest in IFLA. This is similar to a public skills registry and could be used on the IFLA website or Basecamp to let members show their skills and expertise. IFLA HQ would like to start analyzing opportunities and systems used in open badge programs. This was in last year's action plan and now it seems to be re-launching this year with a pilot program and team. IFLA would like a webinar so they can see the practical application of it in their context. They would like to start with limited groups, such as the IT Section's membership to pilot a potential system, types of skills, and workflow for registering skills. It was noted that the taxonomy has an important role in that it forms a framework for the system. A challenge is developing this taxonomy or adapting an existing one. The project team would research and get feedback on the idea via a webinar. It was mentioned that this was similar to when there was an idea with blockchain/ILL and several partners joined to work on this. It was noted that the IFLA HQ process can be challenging to work within. It was decided that it is too early for a main session, but a webinar might be appropriate.

Possibly Library Carpentry follow up, presenters that did not make WLIC

9. Updates from the team

a. Secretary

Keep reporting dates in mind
- [Action Plan](#) updates due to Division Chairs on September 15
- Action Plan updates due to IFLA on October 1
- [Annual Report](#) due October 1
- Satellite report instructions sent to Section Chairs
- Minutes for SC Business meeting 1 will be posted to Basecamp
- Minutes for SC Business meeting 2 will be circulated for comments/corrections

b. Coordinator
- It is important for us to build and maintain expectations for this AI work and translate discussion to practical outcomes
- Elena suggested creation of a Prize/Award for innovation in information technology transformation in libraries. There was strong support for the idea. We could invite

nominees/winners to a panel at the main session or satellite. Could be possible to get sponsors.

   c. Communications
- Communication team working on TILT issue (mixed topic issue, not only Africa theme)
- Maybe next year we will present our section for the Dynamic Section award?

   d. Publications
- Book proposal in progress
- Ray - two submissions are pending for TILT. Challenge in the newsletter is to solicit content and get papers on time, possibly take sessions on Agile and Big Data and transfer those into a mixed issue or two thematic issues

   e. Big Data SIG
- Calling meeting for action planning
- Approached by Megan for a small article for IFLA's Oct newsletter. The article is to mention about the SIG's work e.g., data literacy
- Convenor will post SIG meeting details in Basecamp

   f. AI SIG
- Had first meeting, still in early days working on key areas/topics and action plan for year.

10. Other business

- Next conference will be 5 days in length, which may impact our planning as we understand more about the congress.

Adjourned at: 12am AUSTRALIAN AEST