



IFLA Section Library Services to People with Special Needs

Minutes of Library Services to People with Special Needs Business Meeting

Teleconference (Zoom), 4 March, 2022
14:00 -16:00 CET

Members present:

Maela Uvodic, Chair (Croatia)
Janet Lee, Secretary (The United States of America)
Aly Velji, Information Coordinator (Canada)
Clayton Copeland (The United States of America)
Laia Vidal (Spain)
Corinna Haas (Germany)
Jane Garner (Australia)
Miguel Rivera (Chile)
Sanjica Faletar Tanacković (Croatia)
Lisa Krolak (Germany)
Ingrid Källström (Sweden)
Bashiru Adamu (Nigeria)
Tilahun Shiferaw (Ethiopia)
Gerhard Peschers

Apologies (and no response)

Caroline Smith (The United States of America)
Samira Zahra (Germany)
Dolores Carungui (Philippines)
Diego Anthoons (Belgium)
Marie Engberg Eiriksson (Denmark)
María Isabel Abalo (Argentina)
Maria Isabel Gutiérrez Sánchez (Spain)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Section Chair, Maela Uvodic, welcomed the LSN Standing Committee Members to its fourth meeting of the 2021-2022 year.

At the recommendation of Gerhard Peschers, Maela asked for a moment of silence for peace and to express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine, which has directly affected committee member, Samira Zahra and her family who have evacuated.

2. Attendance and apologies (Maela)

Maela listed the members who apologized for not being able to attend. They are included in the above listing with members who did not respond.

3. Approval of Minutes of LSN SC Meeting, October 8, 2021

The minutes were included with the distribution of documents by the Chair. Corrina Haas moved to approve the minutes of October 22, 2021. It was approved by acclamation.

4. Approval of Agenda

Approved by acclamation.

5. Report Division D meeting (Janet)

Janet attended the Division D meeting on February 16, 2022. The scheduled Division D meetings will be staggered over various time zones, and officers (Maela, Janet, and Aly) will attend those that best correspond to their waking hours.

There was great discussion about WLIC 2022 in Dublin (July 26-29) design as an in-person conference only. This decision was made prior to the invasion of Ukraine. Patrick Danowski (chair) will bring all concerns expressed forward.

It will be a shortened conference (3.5 days). Business meetings will be held on the first day (Monday) if desired by the sections. The 2nd meeting can be held after WLIC and it can be virtual. At the time of this meeting, registration had not been opened, so it was not clear if the registration fee would be reduced because of the shortened schedule.

There was great discussion of the program proposal process. Committees suggest a program which, although not approved by the council, will be evaluated and recommendations suggested. At that point, committees can send a callout for speakers. Patrick assured there would be a quick turnaround.

There is still no plan for when IFLA will have new blogs on the website. There is a fee for external hosting. Existing blogs can still be used, but IFLA will not fund new blogs until the new web platform is developed.

Each committee needs to update their Action Plans and submit new budget requests. There is a limited amount of funds available.

6. Report on UNDESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) (Janet, Maela)

IFLA has been invited by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to launch a new data collection initiative for library services to people with special needs, following up on the 2017 survey that was conducted by LSN's former chair, Nancy Bolt, Stephen Wyber, Director of Policy and Advocacy, and committee member Dolores Carungui. Nancy was contacted and forwarded the request to LSN officers.

IFLA's Policy and Research Officers, Valensiya Dresvyannikova, organized a meeting on

March 2nd. In attendance were: Helen Mandl, Deputy Secretary General and Director responsible for all aspects of member services, IFLA publications, strategy and operations; Kristīne Pabērza-Ramiresa, Member Engagement Officer contact person for the IFLA Library Map of the World, including data, country profiles, and impact evaluation ; Megan Price, Professional Support Officer for standards, guidelines and tools like Zoom, Survey Gizmo and Basecamp; Nancy Bolt our former Chair and Janet and Maela.

In 2017. Nancy and Stephen conducted a survey that was a general open question survey and received extensive feedback. It was difficult to evaluate.

The deadlines for response are quickly approaching and will be difficult to meet.

Valensiya will contact UNDESA Social affairs Officer, Maria Martinho, for a meeting to better understand expectations and see if the deadlines can be extended. The group will review the 2017 survey. Since the Accessibility Guidelines are nearly completed, they could serve as a baseline for the survey. The survey needs to be reformatted to take advantage of online tools and applications to make interpretation of the survey easier to interpret.

Maela will send LSN the 2017 survey and the report after this meeting.

7. Action plan (Maela)

The LSN action plan was approved two months after submission due to illness. The submission form is cumbersome and does not lead easily to a brief printable format. Maela will extract important components for LSN needs and for the webpage. Deadline for the update is March 15th and Maela will incorporate the UNDESA survey and report.

a. Newsletter

i. Report on ILA Newsletter Author guidelines

HQ has asked for guidance on accessibility formatting for IFLA newsletters. Maela responded that it was not just newsletters that needed guidance, but the website as well. Maela edited a previously drafted guideline for accessibility and sent it to HQ.

ii. Articles

Maela would like to start planning for our newsletter after the Midterm meeting. We currently have ideas: homage to Gyda Skat Nielsen, Action Plan, and an article about the writing contest in German prisons.

b. Guidelines in progress

i. Prison (Lisa and Gerhard)

The guidelines are in their second draft and have been distributed widely. They have received some comments. Jane is reviewing.

They are waiting for IFLA's approve in April and they plan to share the final at WLIC in July. (Pleased for Hybrid attendance). Gerhard thanked Jane for her assistance as well as Sanjica.

ii. Guidelines was Guidelines for Library Service to Refugees, Immigrants, Migrants, and Asylum seekers. Current running title is: International Guidelines for Library Services to Displaced Populations

The Guidelines are completed and have undergone review. The final sticking point is the current working title (above). A suggestion given was "People on the Move: guidelines for Library Service to Refugees, Immigrants, Migrants, and Asylum Seekers.

iii. Other items

Maela is waiting for the final draft of the Accessibility Guidelines from Nancy or Misako.

c. Web page

IFLA recommended that all section information officers review the Libraries for Child and Young Adults section webpage as an excellent model for web page design. The IFLA handbook is still not completed. Aly and Janet will be keep up to date on the specifics.

8. LSN Midterm meeting in April

Maela will send a Doodle poll for April 7th or 8th. Please hold those dates and complete the poll.

9. WLIC 2022

Four or five members indicated that they will attended, depending on COVID, Conflict, and funding.

10. Other

Miguel inquired about recommendations for people who know about autism spectrum inside and outside librarianship who would be willing collaborate. Maela suggested that Ingrid directly connects him with someone from C&YA Section.

Gerhard announced that two of our members are recently published:

Bashiru Adamu. Escape from Prison. Mind2Mind Global Publishing, 2021.
Jane Gardner. Exploring the Roles and Practices of Libraries in Prisons. Emerald Publishing, 2021

Congratulations to both.