



Approved Minutes
Professional Council Meeting
Friday, 25 November 2022, 20:00 – 22:00 CET
Teleconference

Present: Leslie Weir (Chair, Division Committee A), Anoja Fernando (Chair, Division Committee B), Patrick Danowski (Chair, Division Committee D), Jan Richards (Chair, Division Committee E), Man Yi Helen Chan (Chair, Division Committee F), Te Paea Paringatai (Chair, Division Committee G) Camille Callison (Chair, Division Committee H), Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (Chair, Regional Council), Winston Roberts (Chair, Asia-Oceania Regional Division Committee), Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa (Chair, Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Division Committee), Julius C. Jefferson Jr. (Chair, North America Regional Division Committee), Sarah Kaddu (Chair, Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee), Victoria Owen (Chair, IFLA Advisory Committee on Standards).

Apologies: Dilara Begum (Chair, Division Committee C)

Staff: Helen Mandl (Acting Secretary General), Stephen Wyber (Director, IFLA Policy and Advocacy), Megan Price (Professional Support Officer)

Observers: 3 observers were present

Welcome and Apologies

The Professional Council Vice Chair, Jan Richards, opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which she lives and works, the Nuenonne people of Bruny Island /lutrawita/Tasmania.

She welcomed the members of the IFLA Regional Council who were present and the observers in the audience and thanked them for their interest in the work of the Professional Council.

1.0 Approval of agenda

Resolution: The Council approved the agenda, an item related to the Governing Board's Open Action working group was added.

1.1 Approval of Minutes from September meeting

The minutes were approved.

2.0 Intra-IFLA Discussion

2.1 Regional and Professional Council 2023 discussion – elections

The Regional Council was invited to participate in a preliminary discussion of how regional diversity on IFLA Committees might be improved through coordinated action by the Professional and Regional Councils. This discussion is considered only a starting point. Highlights included:

- To be considered is not only promoting the opportunity to people in different regions, but within the regions themselves, for better diversity and representation. Elections should be viewed as a starting point, and not as the only option to improve diversity. If there are more regional-based opportunities, then they are more likely to have greater regional representation present.
- Collaboration between the Regional and Professional Councils to create opportunities throughout the year and at WLIC. Leverage WLIC to create regional connections and collaborations to in turn create regional-based opportunities. This will support what is happening in the regions and influence other parts of IFLA so the programming of WLIC becomes much more dynamic.
- Looking at the names of the Sections and their descriptions so that a more diverse understanding of their work can be communicated. Also, to be considered are roles for people in Units who are not going to be able to attend WLIC. Clarifying opportunities for participation should be part of the election strategy for all branches.
- Thinking differently about how we approach IFLA's current and new work or ways of delivering on strategic priorities in a post-pandemic world. There is a need for ongoing transformation of processes to accommodate the different demands on people. IFLA cannot go back to default settings, but to be more dynamic.
- Also, the current election process is not taking diversity as a high priority, e.g. people can be from different region, but at the end they can be voted out in the in the process. One possibility is to hold or reserve seats for individuals from each region. If there is the only one person who is applying, then this person should get the seat in the in the section, if there is more than one person, then it goes to election for that position. If we are saying we want to guarantee that we reach diversity on the Committees it has to be also be considered to be part of the election process.
- Piggybacking on regional networks to engage those individuals in IFLA work. Some networks may also need to be identified via the Regional Divisions. Opportunities for Regional Committee Members to be able to nominate members to Professional Sections.
- Regional and Professional members were encouraged to share their views on the value of becoming an IFLA Volunteer via a current and ongoing Communications project.
- The Professional Council will be invited to attend a Regional Council meeting.

2.2 Victoria Owen – Advisory Committee on Standards Chair

Chair of the Committee on Standards, Victoria Owen provided an update on issues of cross-over with the Professional Council. Highlights included:

- The work related to the guidelines and standards produced by the Professional Units is ongoing and underway.
- To be noted is that the environment of technical standards and vocabularies and linked data, the technical aspects of the work of the Advisory Committee on Standards, is constantly changing and what has worked in the past is in need of revision so it can work into the future.

- The Committee on Standards in Collaboration with the Cataloguing Section, along with the Bibliographies and Subject Access and Analysis, and Serials and Continuing Resources Sections has developed a Working Group to address needed changes in structured data and metadata. This move is away from information that is shared, to information that is exchanged, including interoperability, accessibility, terminology, and how the information is linked and updated.
- Further information on process for updating as well as order of operations as well as consequences for other standards is needed. This will require greater integration in the standards-setting groups. Division H Units will be a key partner in this work.
- A statement of principles for the role of libraries and identifier management will be part of this proposal.
- There is a significant proposal coming from this working group in how metadata and structured data is viewed and used in the future as Linked Data. It's a strategic move for IFLA to look at how IFLA will remain as a leader and a driver in this work. Moving away from silos and into linked data information.
- Collaboration between IFLA and other major standards stakeholders is necessary to be integrated across the supply chain. The Committee on Standards will work with the Governing Board on the process for nominating to serve on external bodies and working groups. IFLA has representation on these committees so is really important, to keep our experts on those committees and in those working groups. it's essential for us and for that two way communication.

3.0 *For information

3.1 Unit updates

An update on Units + IFLA Strategy coverage, Professional Unit Virtual Events and Standing Committee changes was provided.

The Council noted the report.

3.2 Guidelines, Standards, Unit Publications

An update on the status of in progress guidelines, standards and unit publications was provided.

The Chair of the IFLA Journal Editorial Committee has issued a call for vacant positions seeking people with relevant expertise. The call closes on 2 December and it is expected that proposals for the appointment of members will come to the February meeting of the Professional Council.

A book proposal, *New Horizons in Artificial Intelligence in Libraries* Edited by Edmund Balnaves, Leda Bultrini, Andrew M. Cox and Raymond Uzwysyn was presented.

Resolutions: The Council approved the proposal for a publication titled *New Horizons in Artificial Intelligence in Libraries* and noted the remainder of the report.

3.3 Funding update and funding requests

A confirmation of funding requests and an update on allocated, spent and remaining funds for 2022 was provided.

The Council noted the report.

3.4 Actions from previous meetings

An overview of the work that had been completed following the September 2022 meeting of the Professional Council was provided, along with a status update of ongoing work.

New items resulting from the November meeting will be added to the list with dates set as available. An updated action list will be shared with the Professional Council and reported on at the February 2022 meeting.

The Council noted the report

3.5 2021-2023 Reporting Update

An overview of data from Unit Action Plans and Annual Reports submitted by Professional Units was provided.

The Council noted the report

3.6 2023 Nominations and Elections

An overview of the actions taken and planned for the 2023 Nominations and Elections process was provided.

The Council noted the report

3.7 **IFLA Handbook submissions

The revised PC-approved process for co-option was provided and will be entered into the IFLA Handbook for review and approval by the Governing Board.

4.0 Strategic matters for discussion (60 minutes)

4.1 Professional Council Survey data – Structural feedback

Results from the Division Chair survey data were discussed. Highlights included:

- Topics of the survey were centred around the Division Chair's perspective of how things were going within the Unit, but these same questions will later be provided to Units for their perspective as a 360 degree review. Prior to doing this a question regarding whether SIGs should be housed within the same Division as their Sponsoring Section will be added. Other Division-related question may be added.
- Meetings are primarily held around PC meetings to share and discuss PC meeting developments and information. A request for a similar level of information from the Governing Board and Regional Council was requested via the Officers Basecamp.
- Time zones make it difficult for the entire Division Committee to meet together – sometimes people hold two meetings so that the Division Committee Chair can meet with a representative from every Unit. Better to have a split conversation than a half the people not part of the conversation at all.
- That IFLA-wide announcements be made in all of the IFLA languages.
- Consider ways to make the meetings be more useful and engaging for Committee members. How could we better leverage this meeting time together. Possible focus on collaboration across

Professional and Regional Divisions. Thematic overlap in the Divisions – does this have an effect? Check-ins as a way to connect, so much as to report.

- Section engagement is a real issue for some.
- Passing on best practices for the next cohort of Division Chairs will help them not have to reinvent the wheel but to further develop practice.
 - Flex and adjust based on the needs of the Division Committee
 - Being able to have a one-on-one with the Division Chair can be really useful. Being accessible. It helps with the time zone issue.

4.2 Cross-Division information exchange – Kudos, etc.

The Division F Webinar series was highlighted.

4.3 WLIC 2023 Update & 2022 Satellite Meeting Report

An update on preparations for WLIC 2023 was provided.

- Call for Satellite meetings has been made and proposals are coming in. Additional locations are being scouted. If Units would like to reach out to other locations, they are welcome to do so – as long they are located within the BeNeLux region.
- Decisions regarding the parameters of the hybrid-ness of WLIC 2023 are being determined by the Hybrid Working Group. A survey went out to IFLA volunteers to get feedback that inform this decision-making. Once the framework is determined the call for open session proposals can go out.
- The subcommittee understands that session organisers need this information so that they can put out calls and develop their conference programming. Knowing the level of hybridity is necessary in order for session organisers to make these decisions and to invite and communicate with their speakers.
- Registrations, calls for volunteers and conference grants such as the Shawky Salem Grant have opened.

4.4 Subcommittee updates

An update on Subcommittee work was provided

- Governing Board Ethics Working Group
CEWG is making rapid progress to tight deadlines. There have been three meetings with tasks distributed for reviewing to report to the Governing Board on progress thus far. A mid-December meeting is proposed.
- IFLA Handbook Working Group
The working group has met twice to review the sections that have already been approved by the Governing Board. Changes from the Professional Council side have been approved by the PC and submitted by the PC's Governance Subcommittee to the Governing Board for approval. The current text will be shared with the PC and will be open for comment.
- IFLA Governance (ROP, SIGs, WG, Networks) Subcommittee
Waiting for approval on items submitted to the GB.
- Unit Reviews Subcommittee
Group has met once. A focus on not duplicating effort has been identified as one issue to be mindful of.
- Speaker Grants Subcommittee
Nothing to report

- **Action Plan Subcommittee**
Has met twice. The first meeting was to determine the purpose of the Action Plans and to confirm existing issues. The second meeting will be held next week and will be focused on the content of the Plan and Report. The third meeting will be focused around the format, method and platform needed to gather the content identified as integral to planning.
- The Governing Board's Open Access working group is looking for sustainable business models for the IFLA Journal. The Professional Council representative has been asked to request in writing any needed information around current income and costs from HQ to inform these discussions.

5.0 Division matters - Discussion

5.1 Division items not in 4.0

None noted

6.0 Other matters

6.1 Regional Committee Update

The Regional Council Chair provided an update on the work of the Regional Council. The Regional Council will be meeting in the Hague, alongside members of the Regional Offices. The Chair of the Asia and Oceania Region provided an update on the recent workshop held in Bangkok, where the Asia and Oceania Regional Division Committee met for the first time. PC Members from the Pacific are encouraged to contact the Chair of the A&O Regional Division Committee for a discussion on what was covered at that meeting.

Additional regionally-based workshops are planned for 2023 and into the future, to replicate the same workshops with the other regions, if possible. In the future, members of the PC who are part of those regions, could be invited to participate in the discussion.

It was a very useful a project, especially on the issue of communication. It was indicated that it is important for the IFLA members know what the Regional Council does and how Members and the Council can work together. Additionally, it is suggested that collaboration not only be with libraries, but with committees and other stakeholders who are outside the libraries.

It was noted that along with regional diversity within the Regional Division Committees, that the types of libraries represented also be considered – i.e. a mix of Public, School, Academic, Special, Archives, etc.

The Regional Council will be developing a new mission statement based on the experience of this first term.

The Council noted the report

6.2 ILDS Conference

The Inter-lending and Document Supply (ILDS) Conference for ILL professionals has been held every two years since 1988 with the Nordic ILL Conference held every 2 years in the alternate year. Due to the pandemic the schedule of the conference was off schedule with ILDS 2021 conference was first postponed to March 2022 and then to September 2022.

A request that the Professional Council approves that the next ILDS Conference be held in 2024 was presented.

Resolution: The Council approved the request to hold the next ILDS Conference in 2024.

6.3 Other matters not in 4.0

A question about progress on the discussion of the Sustainability of WLIC was raised. More information about the future of the conference is requested.

The past few years, including 2023 are opportunities to learn about what is feasible in terms of sustainability, which are all based on having an achievable budget. Additionally, it would be helpful to know what people are interested in raising as options for sustainability.

Confirmed GB and PC meeting dates

- Governing Board Monday - Wednesday, 5, 6 & 7 December, time TBD, The Hague, Netherlands
- Professional Council Friday, 17 February, 13:00 CET - teleconference
- Governing Board Monday, 27 February, time TBD – teleconference
- Professional Council Friday, 14 April, 06:00 CET - teleconference
- Governing Board Monday, 24 April, time TBD - teleconference