

**IFLA Division G - Business Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

**Attending:**

Te Paea Paringatal, Chair  
Hari Sahavirta, Chair, ENSULIB  
Petra Hauke, Secretary, ENSULIB  
Anne Brice, E4GDH Convenor, Special Interest Group  
Bethany S. McGowan, Chair, Health and Biosciences Libraries  
Parisa Paysar, Information Coordinator, Serials and Other Continuing Resources  
Jeffrey Knapp, Chair, News Media  
Ann Okerson, Secretary, News Media  
Lindsay Ozburn, Chair, Social Sciences Libraries  
Jennifer Voutssás, Secretary Social Sciences Libraries  
Ekaterina Shibayeva, Information Coordinator, Social Science Libraries

**Absent:**

Digital Humanities/Digital Scholarship

I. Welcome and Introductions. Division Chair Te Paea welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those present introduced themselves and the work their committee is undertaking.

II. After some brief updates from the Professional Committee, Te Paea opened the meeting for discussion and questions. A lot of work has already been achieved and a significant amount is underway in preparation for WLIC Dublin

Te Paea noted the following questions for follow-up:

- \* Key sessions at WLIC will be streamed. What are these key sessions?
- \* What will happen if Officers are not able to attend in person?
- \* Are Business meetings in person only? What about quorum? Is there really no option to have a virtual business meeting? (See Business meetings below - Business Meeting I is in person only, Business Meeting II is virtual)
- \* Will there be a Division meeting? Relates back to question 2 and virtual meeting options?

Te Paea then posted to Basecamp the latest update (February 11, 2022) from the WLIC 2022 Subcommittee of the Professional Council, which includes useful information and check out questions/concerns that have been raised by others:

**Satellite meetings.** Planned to take place in-person in Ireland, Northern Ireland or the UK can be in-person or hybrid with both in-person and virtual. Units and/or their hosts are responsible for the costs associated with the meetings, including those for broadcasting programs. Units will be able to resubmit their program ideas from WLIC

2020 or submit new program ideas. A blackout established for other virtual events, such as webinars, from July 1st through August 12th. The call for satellite meetings went out on January 20th with a deadline of February 25th for submission. IFLA HQ will circulate the draft to members for comment later this week. Submissions to be reviewed as they come in and units will be informed of decisions as they are made.

**Posters.** The theme for posters will be ‘Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect, especially in uncertain times’. The call will go out before the end of this week and closing on March 18th. We are looking at the possibility of posters being available both onsite and remotely to all members (through the IFLA Repository).

**Open sessions.** Inspired by the conference theme: Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect. Open sessions will take place over 3 days rather than the traditional 4.5 days. Each section will be able to submit one proposal as the lead and may collaborate on an unlimited number of submissions with partners. Sections will develop varied program offerings, such as panel discussions, workshops, ignite talks, lightning talks, provocation, interviews, round tables, and more. Each program type will have an appropriate time allotment, reflecting the different needs. There will be two rounds of calls for sessions, with the second round filling open slots by competition for wildcard sessions (the most innovative and creative approaches done in collaboration). The first call for open sessions went out on February 3rd, closing on March 7th to provide time for the second round.

**Business meetings.** Each section (both professional and regional) will have an in-person business meeting with a room and timeslot on Monday July 18th. The second meeting will take place virtually following WLIC 2022. Some sections may not have quorum since the facilities do not support best practice for members to participate remotely at the in-person business meetings. These time slots used for the business meeting may be limited to those present or may leverage hotspots of members to link in members remotely. Meetings may be held on Zoom with members in Dublin doing the meeting from their hotels and then using their timeslot and room for a social event. Sections to confirm if their room assignment is not required, so the room can be reallocated to other events.

**Issues and Concerns Raised by Officers and Sub Committee Members** - Note these have been raised but not yet addressed.

**Plan B.** It is important for IFLA to have a plan B for WLIC 2022 should the situation change between now and July.

**European centric.** IFLA has worked over the past 5 years to move to be more global and less European-centric. With WLIC 2022 being in Dublin without a virtual option (hybrid) and with WLIC 2023 being in Rotterdam with a hybrid approach, the focus risks becoming European-centric. Many countries may be opening their borders, but that could change as the next wave develops and in many cases libraries have had their funding cut

and are not planning to provide support travel in 2022. At the same time, in economically challenged countries, vaccination may not be accessible

**Diversity.** For WLIC 2021, diversity of sessions and speakers was a priority. There is concern that WLIC 2022 may be one of the least diverse WLICs.

**Regional programming.** Perhaps the Regional Council could encourage sections to design sessions around regional issues to help make WLIC less European-centric.

**Challenges with open sessions and recruiting speakers.** A number of sections have decided not to propose sessions for WLIC 2022 as they will not have enough members present in Dublin to manage the sessions. Sections worry that speakers may either not be able to commit to attend in person or may find that they are unable to do so after committing to come to Dublin. Officers question why, if speakers may end up having to record a video, there is no facility for speakers to answer Q & A remotely and these videos will not be accessible remotely.

**Clarity of messaging.** Many members of IFLA still assume that they will be able to participate virtually in WLIC and requests for information about registration to attend virtually are being raised.

*Submitted by Ann Okerson, Secretary*