

September 14, 2022
IFLA Division G Minutes

Attending: Te Paea Paringatai (chair); Ann Okerson (Secretary/News Media); Emma Farrow (E4GDH SIG); Harri Sahavirta (ENSULIB); Ekaterina Shibaeva (Social Sciences); Jennifer Voutssas (Social Sciences); Xuemao Wang (Digital Humanities).

I. ROUND TABLE

A. E4GDH. Evidence for Global and Disaster Health SIG. Held a roundtable during the Congress. Really good engagement, more than 60 people. A satellite conference was held after WLIC, as a three-way partnership led by IFLA HBS, with the Irish Health Sciences Librarians Group and our E4GDH SIG.

joint with Irish Health Librarians.

B. ENSULIB. Had a very successful WLC including Satellite meeting at Cork University, plus an open session that exceeded expectations in attendance and output. Received "special mention" as an IFLA Dynamic Unit. Two committee members retired from committee and replacements will be co-opted. Are working on new action plan. Noted that the current Action Plan form is very difficult to work with; this was seconded by others. (Emma mentioned that a PC working group has been struck to revise the current unpopular form.)

C. News Media. Just held its 2nd business meeting and finalized the action plan. Excellent sessions during WLIC; session held jointly with Social Sciences had people standing along the back and sides (about 200 attendees). The regular Open Programme was attended by about 100 (very good) BUT it was in the main auditorium and audience was widely scattered in a space meant for thousands.

D. Social Sciences. The papers from the Social Science/News Media session are all published and some will be translated. SS held a most successful Satellite event after the Congress, joint with Library Theory and Research. There were 20 onsite participants, plus a number joined virtually. Due to illness, SS may be delayed in submitting October 1st reports to HQ.

2. STRATEGIC MATTERS

A. Te Paea: Unit Reviews - PC is calling for volunteers to be part of the unit review. Te Paea will be on the group. This is only the start of the process.

B. Ann & Emma: SIG Futures - At the next PC meeting, Patrick (Division D Chair) will raise request to give newer SIGS extra time to determine their futures. There's wide sympathy for this request.

C. Emma: SIGs have been waiting for co-opting guidelines, which have been much delayed. Why should the co-opting rules be different for committees vs. SIGs?

D. Concerns or pressures being faced?

(i) Ann - what are the deadlines for submitting requests, satellites? Where is the calendar to be found? **Te Paea will follow up.**

(ii) Ekaterina - can we return to previous years' timing of Congress in all respects? This year was an anomaly. Need more prep time than this year.

(iii) Ann - When will there be an announcement about venue and dates for 2024? Te Paea: Maybe not until end of 2023 meeting? Ann: This timing has changed over time -- hearing the end of one Congress for the following year doesn't give enough planning time. Less than a year of lead time is insufficient; suggest hearing in the spring rather than summer. Te Paea: GB is reviewing frequency of WLIC and asking the question, "What will our annual get together look like? Are regional meetings an option?" Many ideas are coming forward.

E. Any support needed?

(i) Ekaterina - asked about website & making sure all photos of standing committee members are posted. **Te Paea - Will follow up with IFLA HQ.**

F. Current IFLA issues. Questions and discussion included: IFLA Plan adopted at the recent General Assembly; Letter to the GB, signed by numerous members and committees; Securing the best possible future for IFLA; Resignation of the PC Chair; When will Dutch court rule on the SG matter; IFLA Finances. Currently there are more questions than answers.

3. DIVISION MATTERS

There was discussion on various matters, such as committee experiences of: Division groups of 5 vs 8 committees; Mixture of committees located into the new divisions; Far too many schedule conflicts at WLIC; Tighter focus for future WLIC meetings.

In general, group is neutral on the 5 vs. 8 issue. Each has its benefits. Group is skeptical that "mixing up" the committees within divisions as was done in the restructuring has had much if any benefit, if the objective was working across subject boundaries and cross-pollination. This is a problem in need of much better solution. Maybe IFLA fixed something that wasn't broken but didn't address the core problems?

Te Paea thanked the group for its participation and will take back comments to tomorrow's PC meeting.

Meeting adjourned after 1.5 hours. Submitted by Ann Okerson, Secretary