

## **Division G Zoom Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday, 22 February 2023, 16:00 – 17:30 CET**

**Attending:** Karin Byström (Chair), Emma Farrow (E4GDH SIG), Petra Hauke (ENSULIB), Annelie Janred (Health and Biosciences), Beth Ketterman (Health and Biosciences), Bethany McGowan (Health and Biosciences), Ann Okerson (Secretary/News Media), Harri Sahavirta (ENSULIB), Ekaterina Shibaeva (Social Sciences), Xuemao Wang (DHDS SIG), Ted Westervelt (Serials), Andrea Wirth (Serials)

#### **1. UNIT UPDATES**

**A. Karin** introduced herself. She has worked at Uppsala University Library for 20+ years, has been active in IFLA since 2019, most recently as Acquisition & Collection Development Secretary. She's excited about this new role.

**B. ENSULIB - Hari** (Chair) reported that ENSULIB is experiencing its first term as a full section (prior to that it was a SIG). It is a very active group. It manages the annual IFLA Green Library Award. The deadline is 14 March; there are many submissions. Will hold a Satellite meeting in the Netherlands. Wrote a definition of "What is a Green Library?" which has been translated into over 25 languages. There are two vacancies in the standing committee.

**C. Serials & Other Continuing Resources - Ted** (Chair) reported that SCORE (the group's new acronym) is absorbed in the nominations process and also its Open Programme (about to submit the proposal). Andrea (Secretary) reported that the Committee is also participating in the ARL Satellite Program on Open Access and developing a webinar on scholarly metrics.

**D. Health & Biosciences - Bethany** (Chair) reported that the committee has 14 open positions and is working hard to fill all slots. They have issued a call for hosts for the International Congress of Medical Librarianship (2025 or 2026). Also are collaborating with staff from IFLA HQ and the Wikimedia Foundation about how Wikipedia can be used to improve access to health information. Beth Ketterman (IC) is coordinating participation with ARL on its Satellite. The Open Session will be on sustainability in health sciences libraries, using the Ignite format to engage the attendees.

**E. News Media - Ann** (Secretary) reported some recruitment challenges in the nominations process, partly because there are fewer newspaper librarians than in the past, partly because travel budgets are shrinking. Also mentioned that a couple of members haven't contributed very much, a challenge for IFLA committees. The chosen theme for the Open Programme is "Gathering News in Times of Conflict," with a number of short talks as the likely format. A subgroup completed a project (Resource Center) that compiles published works regarding digitizing of newspapers and will be posting it to the website.

**F. Social Sciences** - Ekaterina (IC) reported that this committee is working to fill up to 15 vacancies. Because of a period when groups didn't meet as much in person, some momentum may have been lost. The Open Session will pursue the topic of "Bringing patrons back to the library in a digital world," looking at those challenges from a social sciences point of view. Reference & Info Services is a possible partner. Also received a proposal from Sci & Tech Libraries committee to co-host a programme entitled "Decoding Citizen Science; putting libraries in the public sphere."

**G. Evidence for Global and Disaster Health SIG** - Emma Farrow (Convenor) noted that although SIGs have 9 members, E4GDH uses a wider advisory group as source of additional expertise. Work proceeds in 3 strands. (1) Advocacy - a 3-year project with Health Information for all (HIFA) and the WHO. This links directly to the SIG's Open Session. (2) Skill Development - with Librarian Reserve Corps, identifying best practices for searching for evidence during public health emergencies (resulting in a webinar). (3) Skills Building - adding good practice guidelines to renew the role of librarians in times of disaster. The SIG's Open Session will promote and provide updates on the work with HIFA and WHO. Speakers, key stakeholders in this work, are already identified. A Satellite about climate change from the perspective of availability of evidence is scheduled at the end of the Congress, August 25th.

**Digital Humanities/Digital Scholarship SIG** - Xuemao Wang (Convenor) reported that this SIG already has 18 nominations. SIGs attract energy partly because they are new areas of endeavor, but also because there are no barriers to participation. Anyone can self-nominate, and anyone can participate, not just the 9 official committee members. IFLA has approved DH/SD's move to apply to become a full section in 2 years' time. With the AI SIG, DH/DS plans to focus an Open Programme focused on AI developments such as ChatGPT. The session will be interactive and themed "AI: Library Friend or Foe?"

## 2. IFLA ELECTIONS - STATUS & QUESTIONS

Karin noted an undercurrent of concern that there may not be enough nominees for some groups. A lively discussion followed about this and other matters:

\* Nominations process is convoluted, as only the members and affiliates of any given section can nominate for that section. But while we receive spreadsheets showing who our members and affiliates are, often there is no way to use these to reach into their organizations for the people or support we need. How can we better utilize those relationships?

\* There's a lot of energy behind SIGs, which are new, exciting; participation can be more challenging for various older fields where positions are shrinking. SIGs have more flexibility and are more easily able to include others. They're not

constrained by as many rules as for Sections. SIGs are also much easier to nominate for. Changing IFLA's rules of procedure is difficult.

- \* But, SIGs are dissolved in 4 years, which the group feels is not long enough.

- \* Heads nodded as one participant said he has no idea what the regional groups are doing. Could there be a joint committee between regional and professional groups? Could all the regions create mail groups that anyone can join, to hear about their work?

- \* Regarding the Congress, there was agreement that the promised hybrid element is quite limited - one in six rooms has the capability.

- \* It was observed that many of the above represent long-standing discussions within the PC and HQ!

**3. PC UPDATE** - Karin reported as follows:

- \* PC's current focus is to finish tasks that they've been working on for most of 2 years, for a good handover to the new PC after elections.

- \* We can expect suggestions about the Network concept at the April PC meeting: perhaps a test period starting at WLIC this summer. For example, Open Access is a topic that could turn into a network. The plan is to try something on a small scale and learn from it.

- \* Regional Committees -- PC is also evaluating this new structure. Collaboration between regional and professional structure is not figured out yet.

- \* PC is working with HQ on a welcoming letter and an event for incoming and outgoing officers on the first Sunday pre-WLIC. Aim is to improve incoming experience.

- \* The OA Working Group has a subgroup that aims to develop an OA business model for the *IFLA Journal*.

- \* Reminder: it will soon be time for the midterm update of Action Plans.

- \* Unit reviews are deferred to the next PC; many things need to be put into place before such a review can be done.

- \* Next meeting will be held in April.

**4. ADJOURNMENT** - meeting was adjourned on the hour.

*Submitted by Ann Okerson, Secretary*