



**International  
Federation of  
Library  
Associations and Institutions**

### **Approved Minutes**

Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage  
28 February 16:30-18:00 CET

**Regional Council + CCH Catch-up: 16:30-17:00**  
**Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage meeting: 17:00 – 18:00**

Zoom

In attendance: Ramesh C. Guar, Dorothea Sommer, Lilja E Johanna, Silvia Stasselova, Jake Nadal, Liisa Savolainen, Russell Lynch, Cecilia Salvatore, Ry Moran, Huanwen Cheng, Daryl Green, Claire McGuire (IFLA HQ)

In attendance - RDC (first 30 min): Nthabiseng Kotsokoane, Frédéric Blin, Tomasz Gruszkowski

Apologies: Carlos Alberto Della Paschoa, Helen Vincent (proxy), Rana Abdulrahman, Stacy Allison-Cassin, Rashidah Bolhassan

#### **Part 1 – Regional Council Catch-up: 30 minutes (16:30-17:00)**

##### **1. Welcome: CCH Chair + IFLA HQ**

The Chair of the CCH welcomed members of the European RDC and the Chair of the Regional Council. He asked IFLA HQ to provide an overview of the committee's work since the last meeting in July 2022.

IFLA HQ outlined work that is progressing on providing thought leadership on climate and library collections and repatriation of cultural material, through the drafting of white papers, and Open Culture through participation in a Creative Commons expert working group. IFLA also highlighted work happening to further relationships with UNESCO through participation with Memory of the World.

IFLA noted that these topics, related to climate, repatriation, and copyright/open culture, might be aligned with advocacy work happening in the regions. She also noted that there will be possibilities to communicate on a national/regional level around Memory of the World and the upcoming call for nominations. She asked members to provide more information on these activities.

##### **2. CCH update on projects through August 2023: CCH Members**

***Memory of the World***

IFLA's liaison to the Memory of the World Register Sub-committee gave an update. He noted next steps can work to deepen the relationship between UNESCO and IFLA. The Chair noted that new nominations will be submitted in May, and the committee can discuss ideas on how to strengthen the MoW programme.

### ***Climate***

CCH members shared that they are working on drafting and eventually publishing a white paper that focusses on climate and cultural heritage, namely the role of library/institution collections. The outline will introduce the central place of cultural heritage in climate change and sustainability, it will include information on networks working on this, such as Climate Heritage Network, and will provide examples of how collections support resilience – as aspect of culture's role in the SDGs.

### ***Open Culture***

A CCH member noted that she will participate in an Open Culture Roundtable in Lisbon this coming May organised by Creative Commons. The goal is to drive policy towards better sharing of cultural heritage. The expert group will discuss issues around restriction and copyright law, with the aim of influencing policy.

### ***Repatriation***

CCH members shared the work they are doing on a white paper regarding the issue of repatriation and where libraries factor in the wider discussion. The committee would like to share a draft and create opportunities for others to share input and insight. It was noted that the RDCs could be a big help for getting this diverse input.

In this, the Chair also noted the current International decade of indigenous languages.

## **3. Regional Feedback/input on CCH projects: RC Members (10 minutes)**

The European RDC members noted that there was limited work on cultural heritage in the RDC. However, they noted that the topics were very interesting, and integrating cultural heritage into the workplan would be work for the next committee.

The RC Chair noted that cultural heritage should be considered by the RDCs in their action planning processes in the future. She noted that the current RDCs focus primarily on the SDGs. She suggested that as soon as new RDCs are in place, there could be a meeting in which the CCH and chairs of RDCs share action plans and see where priorities align.

## **4. Update on related regional priorities / opportunities: RC members (5 minutes)**

Speaking from the perspective of the SSA RDC, the RC Chair spoke about a series of workshops that are being planned in Africa with the PAC Centre in South Africa and the Regional Office. They will work with AFLIA and include workshops in Ghana (May) and Lesotho – the first topic will be on disaster planning.

**5. Follow-up and Closing:** CCH Chair (3 minutes)

IFLA HQ suggested that follow up might include the CCH writing a paper to contribute to the Regional Committee's handover for the incoming committee. This paper might briefly outline key topics in cultural heritage that the CCH advises the incoming RDCs consider in their action planning.

The RC Chair also suggested that upcoming Regional Workshops should include cultural heritage, similar to what was done in Bangkok in November 2022.

The CCH Chair notes that the current CCH has identified priorities, but that these did not turn into new policies or guidelines. He stressed the incoming CCH must determine how to carry this work forward in the coming term and determine strategies for implementation.

IFLA HQ noted the outputs currently underway by committee members. HQ also noted that these information exchanges, and the CCH providing advice to the RDCs on key topics for consideration for further action already are impactful actions that fall within the advisory committee's mandate.

The chair noted that these exchanges are helpful, and hoped to have more in the future.

**Part 2: CCH February Meeting:** 60 minutes (17:00-18:00)

**1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda:** Chair

The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of November Minutes:** Chair

The minutes were approved with no changes, IFLA HQ will put minutes online.

**3. Update on CCH Projects:** CCH members

Committee members were requested to provide any further updates on actions they have been progressing since the November meeting.

Concerning trafficking, questions were asked regarding the format. Should it be a white paper, an opinion piece? Is it representative of the community as a whole or is it written in the authors' own voices? Each of these options will require further input.

It was also asked what the review process would be.

IFLA HQ responded saying that these questions are for the committee to decide concerning the best approach. IFLA would not be prescriptive regarding the format. However, IFLA noted that the mandate for this committee is advisory – and so providing a jumping-off point for the larger library community to better understand this issue, then have further discussion/projects relating to it would be a good function for such a piece.

A function of this output could be to inform the Governing Board of this key issue and how it might impact the library field. It can inform the key professional units working on culture issues, as they may want to further the discussion and explore additional outputs in their own action plans. It can also inform the larger library community and encourage further exploration of the topic.

IFLA can facilitate further input through the professional programme and regional divisions.

The committee heard an update on the white paper on climate and cultural heritage. They are thinking of how to present the draft to the committee. They asked if the

Cecilia – time zones together has been difficult, but they're group has divided up the tasks, met on a few occasions. They were thinking of a white paper, thinking of how to present to committee. They asked how this would work and whether the committee would provide feedback.

IFLA HQ responded saying again, it is up to the committee to determine how to proceed. But ideally, the committee would provide feedback, as well as any other external groups the committee would like feedback from. Once the committee agrees to a final document, it could be included in the CCH's report to the GB (as an annex) either for information or for GB endorsement, depending on the nature of the document.

Something like a proposed IFLA statement would require GB endorsement. Advice would be for information.

The Chair further noted that he is still not clear on basic role of this committee. He wants to know who implements their ideas. The committee need answers to these questions in the future. Some committee members agreed that the remit of an advisory committee must be clarified. It was noted that the committee must create a programme or work, but also be flexible and available to provide help on topics arising.

IFLA HQ noted again that this committee can provide advice to the GB and other areas of IFLA, which can inform future actions, in addition to choosing select outputs to develop.

An example of the CCH working well was shared. The IM Section was looking for support on a satellite meeting on repatriation. The CCH was able to make a connection to the RBSC Section, and now the satellite will be a joint project.

Another example of the committee working to fulfil its mandate was shared in the papers currently being written. The committee can bring different points of view together to identify and explore these topics, and then advise the GB on them.

The Chair feels that the committee discussed many action points, but needs a complete strategy to produce a concrete proposal on at least one topic. He feels the committee should produce policy or guidelines, something implementable, beyond raising discussion points. The Chair feels the committee did not produce anything tangible.

HQ suggested an output could be an advisory paper for all relevant incoming committees. This can help inform them of what IFLA has done on cultural heritage, and what topics are of highest concern and could factor into their action planning. The committee agreed to develop this in a future meeting.

Output: Advisory paper for incoming committees – let's develop a meeting for that. In the future.

#### **4. WLIC 2023 Open Session**

The committee was asked to share ideas for a WLIC Open Session on Basecamp. The ideas were shared in this meeting for decision.

The P&C section shared that their satellite meeting is on Disaster Planning and Preparedness. RBSC midterm will focus on libraries in times of war. Both of these topics are very similar to the suggestion on libraries in times of political turbulence. It was also noted that this may risk focussing too closely on Europe and lack a global scope.

The idea of cultural heritage's role in inclusivity was noted as being important, and also related to the topic on political turmoil and the International Decade of Indigenous Language.

The committee all felt that the topic, "How can library collections promote inclusive, just, and peaceful societies?" was the best option.

The committee felt the best approach was a provocation session that lasts 74 minutes, with plenty of time given for a discussion with the audience. Three speakers maximum is a good approach, based on the 2022 session.

IFLA HQ was asked to circulate this proposal on Basecamp for comment by committee members that were not present, with a deadline of 2 March for agreement.

#### **5. AOB**

IFLA HQ mentioned the call for proposals for the special edition of the MoW SCEaR newsletter focussing on Documentary heritage and press freedom. Information has been posted on Basecamp and shared on IFLA's website and via IFLA-L and the PAC mailing lists.

No other business.

