



## IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Standing Committee

<http://www.ifla.org/metropolitan-libraries>

Business Meeting

10 February 2022

Zoom Conference

### **1. Welcome, attendance, general introductions, apologies**

Present: Carolyn Anthony, Chair (Public Library Association, USA); Brian Bannon (NY; USA); Ivancica Dukec Kero (Zagreb, Croatia); Suzie Gately (Newcastle, Australia); Moe Hosseini-Ara (Toronto, Canada); Knut Skanson (Oslo, Norway); John Spears (Pikes Peak Library District, USA); Katri Vanttinen (Helsinki, Finland); Lucia Werder, Secretary (Bremen, Germany)

Apologies: Nick Buron, Information Coordinator (NY, USA); Mathilde Servet (Paris, France); Flippie Van der Walt (Cape Town, South Africa); Ton van Vlimmeren (Utrecht, Netherlands)

The SC meeting was called to order at 16:00 p.m. MEZ.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The committee accepted the proposed agenda.

### **3. Confirmation of minutes of MetLib meeting 9/12/2021**

Minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2021 were confirmed.

### **4. Focus Area 1: Expansion and Engagement of Members--- Nick (Also Lucia, Eman and Chao)**

As Nick was not able to attend the meeting, Lucia passed on a few points:

- For the Conference: it's up to all of us Standing committee members to pass on the Save the Date and the upcoming Call for Papers and Registration to our professional listservs and other networks.
- For the expansion of our membership, Nick suggests that each Standing committee member selects one or two libraries or Directors and reach out to them personally. Before starting with that, Nick, Lucia, Eman and Chao will draft a paragraph detailing the benefits of membership and what steps new members would need to take to join us. This will be discussed with the SC.

### **5. Focus Area 2: Impact of Libraries – Carolyn (Also Moe, Neeza, Suzie and Ton)**

Carolyn referred to some documents posted on basecamp e.g.:

- A brief paper of Carolyn on where MetLib is with outcomes measurement.

- Ton shared a paper he wrote on Libraries in Europe and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Toronto PL's current Strategic Plan from Moe including outcomes and impacts throughout the document
- Neeza mentioned the IFLA publication on the relation of local library activities to SDG's. She translated that publication into Hindi, Bengals, Punjabi, and Malayalam

The discussion is still in progress, any comments of the SC are welcome.

## **6. MetLib conference in spring 2022 / Short Film Award --- Knut (Also Katri, Ivancica, and Brian)**

Knut reported on the current planning status. The planning committee has regular meetings and additional help from Anita, Carolyn and Brian (and his team):

- Keynote Speaker: Tommi Laitio (member of Finland's capital city Helsinki's executive team with overall responsibility for cultural services, art museum, city museum, libraries, hundreds of sports facilities, youth work and grant policy for culture, sports and youth work; Bloomberg Public Innovation Fellow at Johns Hopkins University) He plans to attend the whole conference  
More about Tommi Laitio see: <https://fi.linkedin.com/in/tommilaitio>  
<https://publicinnovation.jhu.edu/>
- Conference Website will be launched soon by a company in Oslo that the Deichman Library is working with. This website will allow for registration, as well as all needed information. Additional marketing is planned on Instagram and Facebook.
- Program committee is established, call for paper will be send out soon e.g, also to the invitation list, that Ton had prepared for the planned MetLib conference in Utrecht + Scandinavian networks
- The program will include lectures, workshops, time for meeting and talking, visits of other cultural institutions and branch libraries, also including bus trips, a get-together on Thursday. Start will be on 17<sup>th</sup> may with a get-together in the main library, that is closed to public as it is national day of Norway
- Costs: Approx. all in all approx.. 500 €
- Registration starts soon, probably next week
- Maybe parts of the conference will be streamed for colleagues that can't come to Oslo
- Covid restrictions: all restrictions are cancelled in Norway  
(<https://www.visitnorway.com/plan-your-trip/coronavirus-and-travelling-to-norway/>)

## **7. Discussion about the MetLib SC program for the WLIC 2022 in Dublin (26-29 July 2022) - final date for submission of a program proposal to IFLA is 3/7/22**

Carolyn reported on the official planning status: IFLA WLIC will be an in person conference, not hybrid. Planned are 3 program days instead of 4.5 days, each session can be max. 90 minutes.

Different topics for the program have been discussed:

- Showing library value and impact, also regarding Post Covid and strategy:
  - Decrease in library use, bringing the patrons back especially rare library users

- what is the new normal
- comparing pre- and post pandemic use, new habits of using the library
- classic metrics like circulation don't work any more
- Comeback of physical spaces (IFLA trend report), programming in new ways
- Impact and SDGs

Knut recommended the following publications:

[https://www.roskildebib.dk/sites/roskilde.ddbcms.dk/files/files/news/roskildebib\\_folkebibliotekets\\_betydning\\_for\\_borgerne\\_i\\_danmark\\_eng\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.roskildebib.dk/sites/roskilde.ddbcms.dk/files/files/news/roskildebib_folkebibliotekets_betydning_for_borgerne_i_danmark_eng_final_0.pdf)

<https://christianlauersen.net/2020/12/02/a-new-language-for-the-value-and-impact-of-libraries-design-and-first-findings/>

- What is happening with our collections: print vs. digital
- Democracy, Freedom and equity of access to information: foundation of democracy, Censorship (of books and programming), accurate information ; huge problem in Canada, USA, but also in other countries around the world; IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto; places that are open for everyone, fighting against misinformation; Helping getting information, getting out of isolation and echo chambers

**Decision:** Regarding the two main goals in the Action plan, the final decision for the program proposal was made in favor of the topic value and impact.

Moe will start writing a draft for the program proposal and send it to the SC for finalizing. He will ask Vickery as a speaker. Ton could be a great speaker for democracy and value.

#### **8. Other items for discussion & Committee member updates**

Suzie (+ a specialist of her library) will participate in a webinar of the IFLA's Rare Book and Special Collections Section on behalf of the MetLib SC, as they have a Rare Books collection based on the donation of a wealthy philanthropist.

Suzie will share the information about the webinar.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

Next meetings of the MetLib Standing Committee are scheduled for April 7, and June 9 + a Business meeting in Oslo.

#### **10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 17:05 p.m. (MEZ).

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia Werder

Secretary, Metropolitan Libraries Section