

I- Welcome and apologies (Vincent)

Members onsite:

Vincent Boulet (Outgoing Chair, France)

Ricardo Santos (Outgoing Information Coordinator, Spain)

Susan Morris (outgoing member, United States of America)

Ángela Quiroz (continuing member, Chile)

Marja-Liisa Seppälä (continuing member, Finland)

Katarina Synnermark (outgoing member, Sweden)

Elise Conradi (continuing member, Norway)

Cristian Aliverti (continuing member, Switzerland)

Renate Behrens (continuing member, Germany)

Sophia Zapounidou (continuing member, Greece)

Jenny Wright (continuing member, Scotland)

Miki Yamaguchi (continuing member, Japan)

Mélanie Roche (incoming Chair, France)

Maria Kreislere (incoming member, Latvia)

Mathilde Koskas - incoming member, France)

Ted Westervelt (Incoming Information Coordinator, United States of America)

Members attending virtually:

Merideth Fletcher (Continuing Secretary, Canada), Fabyola Lima Madeira (incoming member, Brazil), Yang Wang (continuing member, China), Lucia Sardo (incoming member, Italy), Ruzilah Ehsan (incoming member, Malaysia)

Regrets: Trine Adolfsen (continuing member, Finland), Gordon Dunsire (outgoing member, UK), Karina Esman (continuing member, Russia)

Observers:

Kate James (USA)

Simona Bursasiu (Romania)

Agneta Lovasz (Romania)

Maria Micle (Romania)

Florence Tfibel (France)

Emmanuel Jaslier (France)

Isabel Garcia-Monge (Spain)

Iris O'Brien (UK)



Mihwa Lee (South Korea)
Gaelle Bequet (France)
Irena Kavčič (Slovenia)
Branka Badovinac (Slovenia)
Hermina Delic (Switzerland)
Theresia Sandjaja (Australia)
Kiyoka Koizumi (Netherlands)
Chris Oliver (Canada)
Sandy Roe (USA)
Pat Riva (Canada)
Rehab Ouf (Egypt)
Satu Niininen (Finland)
Maud Henry (Belgium)
Veronica Santoni (Italy)

The Chair congratulated newly elected incoming members as well as incoming and continuing officers, Mélanie Roche (Chair), Ted Westervelt (Information Coordinator) and Merideth Fletcher (Secretary). He also gave his warm thanks to all outgoing members of the section for their work over the last two terms. He noted that the Section's Action Plan shows just how active the cataloguing section had been. He thanked the membership for this.

II- Adoption of the agenda (Vincent)

As there were no comments on the agenda, it was adopted unchanged.

III- Section's action plan 2021-2023

The main item on the day's agenda was to discuss the outcomes of the action plan from the 2021-2023 term. The chair noted that there would be a second standing committee meeting after WLIC. This second meeting is normally held online in September, with the section's incoming membership and officers in attendance.

a. Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries

i. Approval of the revision of MulDiCat and endorsement by CoS (Mélanie)

Mélanie uploaded <u>a spreadsheet</u> to Basecamp that compiled all comments received for MulDiCat along with suggested actions that are the most likely and appropriate to make to the document.



MulDiCat is a multilingual dictionary for cataloguing terms. Its focus is semantic terms used in cataloguing and metadata standards. Previous versions were translated into other languages. It was noted a few years ago that updates were required. In 2022 a final list of revised English terms was provided.

It was important to compile English terms and dictionaries as the first step. IFLA metadata standards were used as the starting point to develop this list. Also important to the methodology of the project was that the English list was finalized and endorsed by competent authorities before any translation started. Many countries were very eager to start translating and Mélanie, as a first language non-English speaker, said that she shared this eagerness. However she noted that it was important that this wait and the methodology be followed.

Last year definitions and semantic relationships between terms were developed, as the priority intention of MulDiCat is to function as a semantic tool, for example, that it include broader and narrower terms, and indicate whether terms are synonyms or not.

MulDiCat was submitted to the three IFLA metadata sections for feedback (SSA, Bibliography, and Cataloguing), along with the Bibliographic Conceptual Models (BCM), UNIMARC and the ISBD Review Groups. The MulDiCat working group received 98 comments, which was a good sign of interest in the community. These comments can be found in the spreadsheet in Basecamp, but the suggested updates had not yet been made. Mélanie thanked the commenters who were so thorough and detail-oriented in their review.

Out of the ninety-eight comments received, seventy-one comments noted issues with terms and definitions, thirteen comments related to problems with semantic relationships (broader and narrower), five comments related to the general presentation of MulDiCat and three comments related to supporting documentation that had been prepared. Fifty of the comments were straightforwardly accepted as they were not problematic. Twenty-one will need to be rejected or partially accepted with amendments, in which case the rationale for the decision will be circulated to the groups that made comments. One third of the comments unfortunately still need to be discussed - since decisions here cannot be easily made. It would have been ideal to discuss in the MulDiCat Editorial Group however it was hard to find suitable date/time, so this hasn't happened yet this year but will happen soon. The comments should be sorted out in the next two meetings and be completed very soon.

MulDiCat is a proof of concept for how to enable larger harmonization of the IFLA metadata standards. This is ongoing work led by the incoming Chair.



MulDiCat is a proof of concept and cornerstone for harmonization between IFLA metadata standards. The environment in which MulDiCat exists, the world of metadata standards, is constantly moving and evolving, which is why the working group is so dedicated to maintaining MulDiCat.

In terms of next steps, there are representatives of various working groups in the MulDiCat Editorial Group and given that there is ongoing work for ISBD Manifestation to be released soon, along with the updated LRM, it is anticipated that further updates to MulDiCat will be required. These updates will provide a very good use case for how updates to MulDiCat should be made, and for determining who is responsible for which tasks. It needs to be determined what maintenance process is wanted for standards in general, and MulDiCat in particular.

Mélanie said that she would gladly take any questions.

Vincent thanked Mélanie and members of the working group. He reiterated Mélanie's comment that MulDiCat is a cornerstone for future harmonization of IFLA standards, and that it is very crucial work. He asked whether the next step would be another meeting of the editorial group, and asked how long it would take to complete this work. Mélanie said that perhaps two meetings would be needed.

Mélanie indicated that it was her personal perspective that they should not wait a year for work to be completed. She is aiming to complete the work in October, November or December, to have a final list of English terms approved by CoS. She said that she felt it was important to complete the work in this timeframe. Vincent encourages the group to establish this deadline.

ii. Structural revision of ICP (International Cataloguing Principles) (Christian)

Christian, as chair of the ICP Structural Revision Working Group, presented the group's report and draft changes to the ICP, which he had posted to Basecamp. He indicated that feedback on the draft changes to the Principles would be appreciated.

He thanked the members of a subgroup of the WG, Sofia, Mélanie and Pricilla (a former member of the Cataloguing Section in Macao), for their work in preparing the report.

He described the content of the current (2016) version of the ICP, and the changes that had been made to the new draft. These changes included removing a significant amount of content that should instead be part of cataloguing rules and procedures (this significantly reduced the length of the ICP). He also mentioned that the wording of the ICP would also be improved by providing links to MuldiCat definitions and by focusing on an entity-driven approach rather than a traditional BIB-AUT division.

There were not a lot of changes made to general principles in the new draft, however a new proposed principle about data provenance was added. Christian noted that the introduction to the



new draft ICP had not yet been written, but that it would be done at the end of the group's work.

Mélanie added some additional comments about where the group was going after last year's discussion. She said that most of the ICP underwent a huge change as part of their revision, which drastically reduced its length as compared with the 2016 version. The Working Group wanted to ensure that the ICP remained principles, not a conceptual model nor a content standard. She said that this needed to be very clear in regard to work on the suite of IFLA standards. She said that it was important that ICP remained a statement, and that the working group was ruthless in cutting out anything that resembled instructions. They also wanted to step away from the semantic confusion that arose with MulDiCat - between different exceptions to access points. Therefore they kept the section on access points in the final draft, determining that "access points", in the modern usage, simply means the form of names, terms or concepts that will give access to persons. This is not considered to be "authority data". They also ensured that wording of the ICP focuses on cataloguing, and not how to access a catalogue.

Christian added that if the membership thought that they have gone in the right direction with ICP, the working group would work on wordsmithing the draft, and then prepare the introduction.

Vincent thanked Christian and the working group members. He said that the direction taken fit with the aims that had been established in 2022. He agreed with adding data provenance to the ICP. He then asked the working group whether they had made a distinction between cataloguing vs catalogues in the draft. Was there a discussion of the reuse of data from external repositories or did they consider this to be out of scope?

Christian responded that they hadn't discussed this, but that he had a personal opinion. For him, the question of the meaning of the principles was whether they referred to the act of creating a catalogue, or rather the act of making a catalogue accessible. For him it did not matter if the data was machine made or handmade, what was most important was that the product, "the catalogue", was created. The question of "what is the catalogue and on what is it based" is a philosophical one, and he was not sure that it was important.

Mélanie added on to Christian's answer by saying that the group viewed cataloguing as a service that was given to a user or a user community. When you consider cataloguing as a service to community, it is not relevant how the service is rendered. The result of the activity, for example, the creation of cataloguing codes and systems, is irreverent. The main focus of the ICP is principles, and if you incorporate other content in the ICP, then you start mixing up the level of granularity with other IFLA standards.



Sophia added that the ICP had to provide principles to support the unique structures of various catalogues. For this reason the ICP must discuss the issue of identifiers, and ensure that each person or entity only had one identifier regardless of catalogue in which the name appears.

Renate said she wanted to explain further why they were so radical with the ICP. She said that there are multiple standards across the world, and a huge variety of methods needed to be described. In the past it wasn't necessary to have ICP structured as the draft is now. Now we need principles over models, principles over best practice. In regard to her work with RDA, she said that we needed principles in order to understand each other. She said that when she talked about ICP or the Paris Principles to her students, this was the starting point of all work and the accountability of all of the standards. Whatever you're doing in your local community, you must follow the principles as best as you can.

Ted asked Christian what the next steps would be, and the timeline to accomplish the work. Christian said that the section should say "go ahead" and then work should really move forward, and that he would talk to Mélanie as the next step. Christian said that he would try to re-write the introduction and then take it to the ICP group. Then they could present this document at a mid-term meeting and if CAT agreed, then there could be a wider review. The ICP is important for other sections and also other libraries not represented by IFLA sections.

Mélanie agreed with what Christian proposed and suggested that this be discussed further at the September meeting to get the formal go-ahead of the section so the ICP group could complete their work. At that point, there would then be time for members of the Section to pinpoint areas they don't agree with, and the MulDiCat Editorial Group would be happy to take this feedback into account in the next draft. Following the addition of the new introduction and editing, the draft could be ready for discussion at the mid-term meeting.

Vincent proposed that the group be given the green light immediately and proposed that the membership send feedback on the ICP wording, so that the working group could continue their review and have a finalized version for the mid-term meeting.

Christian agreed with Vincent's suggestion. He also asked that if any new members would like to join the Editorial Committee they contact Mélanie to let her know. He said that they especially needed British or American English speakers to participate.

Mélanie added as an aside that they were bound by IFLA rules, so that the document they produced needed to be written in British English.

iii. Towards IFLA advisory document on description of entities => renamedTransitional Group on the Integration of IFLA standards (Vincent)



The Chair had previously submitted the group's report in Basecamp.

The Chair noted that in 2022 a decision was taken to set up a transitional group, including members of the metadata review groups and metadata sections to make proposals to the Committee on Standards (CoS) on how to ensure the better integration of IFLA standards. This group previously made three recommendations to the section. The chair said that these were to be proposed to CoS right after the section meeting. To sum up, these recommendations were:

- 1. IFLA should publish a policy statement on the strategic development of its metadata standards
- 2. IFLA should strengthen the role of expertise in the development of metadata standards
- 3. IFLA should improve the governance of integrated metadata standards development

Vincent said they expected CoS' feedback on the recommendations later that day.

b. <u>Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice</u>

i. Towards an IFLA white paper on key-competences for metadata librarians in an evolving and technical environment (*members of the working group*)

The Chair thanked Susan and the working group members for their work on the report, which had previously been discussed at the last meeting. He asked Susan if she would like to add anything or proposed next steps. Susan asked whether the membership had had a chance to look at the report, Appendix A and B in Basecamp.

Susan noted that in the most recent version of the report she had forgotten to change the date. It should have been changed to August 14, 2023, but still said January. This was very important because ChatGPT, which was mentioned in the report, only became commercial after January. [Merideth made this change to the report on Sept. 25, 2023.] Another shortcoming was that while Appendix A provided a school by school review for 125 library and information studies programs, Appendix B only provided a country by country analysis in those instances when it was not possible to provide more granular information. There were gaps in Africa and the Middle East, but with the chair's permission she wanted to add a further twelve countries to Appendix B that she had obtained from some of her Library of Congress colleagues.

This report was written by hands-on managers of cataloguers, not educators. In a way the WG were the "purchasers" of the work of educators. There was consensus on the WG that both cataloguing and metadata conceptual skills belonged in the curricula of library and information schools. However the group members were realists, and expected that both conceptual and practical skills would be blended together "on the job".

Since the group members were not educators themselves, they wanted the report to be data driven. Accordingly, 120 schools were surveyed, and 31 schools responded. Susan said that the situation for



cataloguing instruction was dire but not hopeless. Out of the library schools consulted, 40 didn't offer cataloguing at all, despite the fact that the working group was very broad in their definition of "cataloguing", including both cataloguing and knowledge organization courses. Despite the lack of education on the topic, cataloguing doesn't stop in libraries around the world. Rather more and more learning is being done on the job. About one third of the schools surveyed actually required a course in cataloguing and knowledge management, but these were the best, most well-funded schools.

The working group made several recommendations, including that it wanted advocacy from IFLA to promote the crucial role of cataloguing and a recognition that cataloguing principles should be a foundation, ideally in the classroom setting but probably also on the job too.

Susan mentioned that it might be valuable to post the report in the IFLA Repository, however the content would quickly become out of date. The best example of this was the sudden arrival of ChatGPT, which was issued in November 2022 as a free tool to try, but by Feb. 2023 it had become a commercial product. The report could be left as is, however Susan's own personal feeling was that it could be adopted as a guideline to the IFLA Building Strong Library Education (BSLISE) working group. She said that she hoped other members of the working group agreed with this idea. Susan said that she didn't feel that the landscape called for a standard, as most standards were very cataloguing specific and different from what cataloguing education should be.

Merideth said that she would put the updated version of the Appendix in Basecamp when she received it [Merideth did this on September 27], and also that she would discuss next steps for the activity with Mélanie.

Renate said that she would like to thank the working group and she said that she strongly supported the suggestion to make the report into an IFLA guideline. LIS schools in Germany didn't even talk to students about cataloguing. The RDA training and orientation officer had been made into an ongoing role because of the importance of these topics in training. The RDA Steering Committee was trying to be realistic by both pushing library schools to teach cataloguing while also providing documentation for library schools to use, and also working on another document to be used for on-the-job training. Cataloguing colleagues need help as soon as possible, as their challenges are increasing. IFLA should be strongly pushed to advocate, to say that cataloguing is an essential topic to discuss in LIS programs and to be taught.

Jennifer said that these comments come together quite well with the earlier discussion of the ICP. They support the objectives that Susan has been discussing.

Ted told Susan that he thought the guidelines were a fantastic way to go, but that the biggest challenge to this would be how to maintain them over time. We need to know what our level of commitment would be, so we can tell IFLA.

Susan answered that the level of effort will be surprisingly high. For the two appendices, each cell completed averaged about 1.5 hours of work. She would have liked it if the appendices could be



reviewed every year to ensure that they were up-to-date, as library schools revise their curricula every year. However this would take a working group 60 hours a year if they were to update the appendices into a database. The data in the appendices had been gathered initially as raw data to support the main report's recommendations.

Ted asked whether we could leverage the regional divisions of IFLA to find contacts that may be able to fill in gaps, if IFLA did support this. It could be a good collaborative effort.

Ricardo asked what the status of the document was, and whether Susan was still willing to accept comments, which she said that she was. The chair noted that it would be the responsibility of the 2023-2025 Cataloguing Section to determine how to integrate these recommendations into the next action plan.

- ii. Maintaining Names of Persons as an online and continuously updated standard (*Ricardo*)
- iii. Maintaining Anonymous Classics as an online and continuously updated standard (Ricardo)

Ricardo gave reports on the state of both Names of Persons and Anonymous Classics and summarized what had been done during the last 5 years, and the work that would need to be done, if these project were to be continued.

Names of Persons was an old project from the Cataloguing Section, last published in 1996. The aim of the document was for it to be a reference tool for authority work, to help cataloguers determine how author names from different countries were formed and how access points should be established according to language conventions. In 2010 it was decided to revise the 1996 document, but not to publish it as a single document. Rather a plan was developed for a separate file to be added to the website for every country.

In the last five years, three files were added for language, rather than country. These were Arabic, Hebrew, and Chinese names. Updates for Greece, Poland, Malaysia, Iran and Turkey were also made. Ricardo said that the scanned PDF for the 1996 edition, the three language files, and 60 individual country files (most published in the past 20 years) are now available on the Names of Persons website.

Ricardo said that volunteers would be needed to continue this work, and to get new files for missing countries, and updates for other countries.

Ricardo said that there was a great geographical gap in the Names of Persons, with files mainly from Europe and very few files for Asian and African countries. Trying to get answers from countries in



these areas had proved very difficult, as it was challenging to find appropriate contacts and receive responses. The use of the new IFLA regional structures had also been used, to no avail.

Ricardo noted that Anonymous Classics was a longstanding reference tool providing uniform titles for anonymous classics. Ricardo said that he had been contacting and giving presentations to several potential communities. He was successful in finding contacts for Arab, Persian and Hebrew works. There are currently two working groups, one for Hebrew works and other for Japanese works. Both of these groups were in the development state (selecting reference tools and devising a structure.) The tentative final version for these groups could be 2024. He thanked Miki for her ongoing work for Japanese works. He said that he had received a sample from Miki the week before, and that it was very fine work. He hoped to receive two additions in the following week. He had unfortunately not been able to obtain a list of Latin American anonymous classics.

The work ahead would involve following and lending support to the current working groups. It would also include drawing from older report activities, to study and find potential candidates for other literatures: Cambodian, Thai, Vietnamese, (or perhaps a South-Asian file), Korean, and Turkish. An update for European literatures would also be beneficial because the last update had been more than 20 years before.

Ricardo said that he would be very happy after the conference to help any potential volunteers that may be willing to take the lead, despite the fact that he would no longer be a member of the section.

The chair said that he wanted to highlight the importance of these documents, which are used by cataloguers when doing authority control. He made a call out for volunteers from the incoming members of the section and asked the section to consider this task for inclusion in the next action plan of the section. He thanked Ricardo for his work.

c. Connect and Empower the Field

i. Continuing the Metadata newsletter in cooperation with other metadata sections (*Marja-Liisa*)

Marja-Liisa noted that the Metadata Newsletter was published in August (originally planned for June). The delay was caused by problems with the IFLA Repository. She thanked everyone who contributed to the issue.

Vincent thanked Marja-Liisa and the whole editorial group. He noted that the newsletter was a very important tool and he thanked all contributors.

ii. Promoting key-documents related to cataloguing standards to ask for translations to the community (*Angela*)



Ángela posted a <u>list of key documents</u> in Basecamp related to cataloguing standards and their respective translations. She planned to write a brief paper with conclusions and recommendations to finalize this task in 2023.

iii. Updating the SCAT webpages and maintaining the social networks (Ricardo)

Ricardo said that following the launch of the new IFLA website they found that there were many broken links. Thanks to Ángela and another colleague, the broken links were fixed and older documents were moved to the archive. However there was still work to do. IFLA didn't have a repository before the new website was created, so all documents were previously stored in the old website, including old meeting minutes etc. These will need to be moved to the archive. The webmaster had said that the Section had too many items in the website landing menu, (there should be no more than four or five items) so this would need to be addressed in the future as well.

Regarding social media for the section, Ricardo said that there are more than 600 followers. This number had almost tripled during the 2021-2023 term.

Vincent thanked Ricardo for all his work as information coordinator.

iv. Make clearer the opportunities to cooperate with the Wikidata/Wikibase working group (*Vincent*)

This topic was not addressed during the meeting.

IV- IFLA WLIC 2023

a. <u>Outcomes of the satellite meeting « Universal Bibliographic Control at the crossroads, the challenges of unifying IFLA bibliographic standards » held at KBR, August, 18th and 19th (Vincent and all the participants there)</u>

The Chair warmly thanked the KBR team for all their organizational work to make this satellite meeting a success. The meeting was well attended, and the discussion was very interesting. He asked Mathilde to speak to the outcomes of the meeting.

Mathilde said that the main question of the meeting was whether it was time to review and revise the declaration on UBC (which dates from 2012) and what place the UBC played in the suite of IFLA standards. In the main, it was felt that UBC was still needed and would require update, and discussion would be required to determine its place in the suite of IFLA standards. Mathilde suggested that this be discussed during future Standing Committee Meetings, and that all metadata sections be involved in this work. She asked the membership whether they should form a working group and proceed.



The Chair thanked Matilda and agreed that the satellite meeting called for follow-ups to rewrite and reformulate IFLA documents for UBC. He said that it was necessary to determine within the IFLA governance what the best way to proceed was.

b. Open sessions on Artificial Intelligence with SAA and IT (Ricardo):

i. Library data in the world of machine learning: ethics, bias and algorithms, Wednesday, 23 August, 10:00 – 11:15

ii. Utopia, threat or opportunity first? Artificial Intelligence and machine learning for cataloguing, Wednesday, 23 August, 13:30-14:45

The chair reminded the membership about the two upcoming sessions on artificial intelligence cosponsored by the Section and turned the floor over to Ricardo.

Ricardo noted that there would be ten events about AI scheduled during the conference. The first session co-sponsored by the Cataloguing Session would be focused on ethics, bias and dangers related to AI, and the second co-sponsored session would be focused on metadata and cataloguing matters, including a project about automatic cataloguing and papers from OCLC and LC.

The chair said that he hoped these sessions would provide useful discussions, he thanked Ricardo and the other sections for all of their work and he said that he hoped to see everyone at these sessions.

c. Other sessions of interest

i. CoS session: International Standards in the Digital Information Landscape: the Development and Consultation Process, Wednesday, 23 August, 11:30 – 12:45

The chair mentioned the upcoming CoS-organized session to be held at 11:30 on Wednesday and flagged it as a session of interest to the membership.

ii. Others?

No other sessions were discussed during the meeting.

V- Wrap up (Vincent and Mélanie)

The outgoing chair indicated that he had been honored to fulfil his role and work with his colleagues and co-officers. He thanked the membership for their trust, confidence and patience. The chair would soon start as a member of the Professional Council. He said that the work of the section, cataloguing and metadata, should be at the heart of the IFLA mission and that the two sister sections were good partners.



The Incoming chair Mélanie Roche thanked the outgoing chair Vincent, Ricardo, and Merideth for their outstanding work on past group.

A photo was taken of incoming and outgoing members who were present in person in Rotterdam.