



**IFLA Section
Management of
Library Associations**

**Minutes of Management of Library
Associations Standing Committee
Meeting
Teleconference (Zoom)
Tuesday, 09 January 2024
13:00 – 15:00 (CST) (Beijing, Shanghai)**

Attendance:

Loida Garcia Febo (Chair) loidagarciafebo@gmail.com UNITED STATES
Micheline Brule mbrule@fmdoc.org (Information Coordinator) CANADA
Hella Klauser klauser@bibliotheksverband.de GERMANY
Dijana Machala dmachala@nsk.hr CROATIA
Vidar Lund vl@norskbiotekforening.no NORWAY
Alicia Sellés Carot aselca@gmail.com SPAIN
Julia Demasi julia.demasi@gmail.com URUGUAY
Wang Yanhang wangyh_lsc@163.com CHINA
Deepali Talagala d.talagala@gmail.com SRI LANKA
Wai Tat Wilson Hoi hoiwaitat@gmail.com MACAU SAR, CHINA
Antoine Torrens Montebello antoine.torrens@hotmail.fr FRANCE
Imad Bachir imad.bachir@gmail.com BAGDAD
Namutenya Hamwaalwa hnamutenya@gmail.com NAMIBIA
Adama Kone adams.kone@gmail.com COTE D'IVOIRE
Paria Aria paria@tamu.edu (SIG Convenor, New Professionals) UNITED STATES
Loy Jyoon Chin (Secretary, Minutes) jyoonchin57@gmail.com MALAYSIA

Excused:

Marwa El Sahn marwa.elsahn@bibalex.org EGYPT
Jorge Moisés Kroll do Prado jorge.exlibris@gmail.com BRAZIL
Irina Trushina trushina@nlr.ru RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Nicholas Poole nick.poole@cipilip.org.uk UNITED KINGDOM
Ana Carolina Lopez Scondras carodras@gmail.com ARGENTINA
Lynn L. Jibril jibrill@ub.ac.bw BOTSWANA
Jeli Saveta Blagojeric jelisaveta.blagojevic@skupstina.me (SIG Convenor, Women,
Information and Libraries) MONTENEGRO

1. Welcome

Loida Garcia-Febo, MLAS Chair welcomed all MLAS Standing Committee Members and New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) Convenor present at the meeting. The Chair wishes everyone a Happy New Year and this is the first MLAS Standing Committee Meeting for the year 2024. The Chair also highlighted that this is the first time that the MLAS SC Meeting is held at 13:00 (CST)(Beijing, Shanghai) to allow members from Asia to attend the meeting during the daytime. She also thanked all the Standing Committee members for waking up so early in the morning or staying up late to attend the meeting due to the different time zones.

2. MLAS Secretary items: Attendance, Agenda, Approved Minutes 21 November 2023

Loy Jyoon, MLAS secretary also welcomes and wishes all the MLAS Standing Committee and NPSIG Convenor a Very Happy New Year. Loida then informed that members not present today sent their apologies and some of the Standing Committee will be attending the meeting later due to the different time zones. The Meeting today is being held at 13:00 (CST)(Beijing, Shanghai) to allow five Standing Committee Members from Asia to attend the meeting during their working hours since they usually attend the meeting during their late night time. The agenda for the meeting was confirmed and approved without any amendments.

Loy Jyoon informed that the minutes of the MLAS SC Meeting held on 21 November 2023 were emailed to all SC members and there was a slight amendment pertaining to the name of Wang Yanhang in the minutes. The Minutes were then approved by all the MLAS SC by 22 December 2023 via email and uploaded in the IFLA Repository on 23 December 2023. This is to allow the minutes to be uploaded earlier in the IFLA Repository before the next MLAS SC meeting. Loida is happy that the new system is working well and thanked all the MLAS SC for their cooperation.

3. Report from the IFLA Governing Board

Loida as MLAS Chair is a member of the IFLA Governing Board informed that there will be two reports from MLAS for the IFLA Governing Board Meeting which will be held in April and August in person. Among the highlights that Loida reported include the IFLA President's meeting in September, the election of IFLA parliamentarian to assist the President or Chair of the General Assembly, and also the Governing Board to ensure compliance with good decision-making and meeting procedure; many IFLA sections are planning conferences in May, June, July and

August; WLIC Review Group Steering Committee and Workshop on IFLA Strategic Directions from 2025-2029.

Loida also reported that IFLA sent a Statement about the situation in Israel and Gaza on October 24, 2023. As per MLAS members request, during the IFLA GB meeting it was agreed if IFLA sends another statement, they will include the destruction of libraries in Palestine and Gaza.

4. MLAS priorities for 2023 – 2025

In order to have a conversation with MLAS about priorities for 2023-2025, MLAS Chair explained a chart with various data points she put together to analyze them together with

MLAS at this meeting. The data points are in the link :
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nTzDNDt8PbDfy-MK6rjuQywukPyA3FWI2ny_9_INesg/edit?usp=sharing

Loida highlighted that for the MLAS Associations Survey, among the top topics that MLAS has carried out activities and developed resources or regional webinars were advocacy, leadership and professional development programmes, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and library associations. Other top topics not fully developed in activities include financial management and sustainability; strategic forecasting and planning and membership management. Antoine commented that the chart is still up to date and MLAS does not need a new survey as it is still relevant. All these topics are good priorities.

From the Regional Professional Priorities Survey Results - GLOBAL which was shared by Stephen Wyber from IFLA HQ, three IFLA Regions expressed interest in working with MLAS. The three regions are Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Sub-Saharan Africa. Each one of them expressed specific needs which are included in the chart with the data points.

Loida also highlighted what the IFLA Volunteers & Members would like to see by 2029 from the IFLA Pulse [survey results \(4th survey\)](#) which include inclusiveness, innovative and empowerment as the top three, the other top results were included by Loida on the chart with the data points.

Finally, a data point from The United Nations which is undertaking global action to look into and propose action/policy about Information Integrity (misinformation, polarization, fake news, mistruth). Imad commented that this would be a good opportunity to put back libraries on the stage to verify and give proper information to the audience.

In light of the agreement in comments from MLAS members, MLAS Chair continue explaining how MLAS can address the priority areas identified through the exercise of the chart and conversation during the meeting: information integrity, advocacy, financial sustainability, strategic forecasting, membership management. MLAS can build on the Building Strong Library Associations initiative as an umbrella to develop programs, resources and perhaps webinars as MLAS members have expressed interest in continuing webinars with the regions as MLAS has done during the last years.

Loida explained that during MLAS last Midterm meeting before the pandemic on February 2020 at the ALA HQ in Chicago, MLAS members expressed interest about resuming Building Strong Library Associations which MLAS had powered a few years back. At that time, MLAS was asked to wait to take any action due to lack of budget and that IFLA was considering a sort of IFLA Academy that would include BSLA. Fast forward, pandemic and lots of other things happened. The BSLA topic was not addressed. Now, it is a good time to resume our work on BSLA and we can build on the MLAS conference and on MLAS priorities. Library associations from across the world constantly ask MLAS for advice and with BSLA we don't have to reinvent the wheel, we already have a name (BSLA) that serves as umbrella for MLAS efforts to help and support library associations. MLAS Chair asked if anyone had comments or questions on moving forward with it. MLAS members agreed with the priority areas and moving under this umbrella of BSLA.

Loida informed if any SC has any ideas or inputs to send to MLAS and we will work with them. There is strength in our members as we all come from different regions.

5. MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Year Meeting 2024: Kazakhstan, May 29-31, 2024

Loida informed that the MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Year Meeting 2024 has a Working Group comprising Loida as the Chair, Loy Jyoon Chin, Micheline Brule, Marwa El Sahn and Lynn L. Jibril. She reported that she had one meeting and communications via email with the Director of Nazarbayev Library in Kazakhstan. She reiterated that this is the country that went to the top when MLAS SC discussed location for the Mid-Year Meeting for 2024. Loida also informed that she has requested support from IFLA HQ. The Library Association of Kazakhstan is working closely with the Nasir Bayev University and the member of the Asia and Oceania Division that works at the Nazarbayev Library is interested in connecting with the Division.

The European Asian International Conference (EALC) is an annual conference and the proposed theme at the moment is “The Future is Now: Role of Libraries in a Changing Landscape” presented in collaboration with IFLA Management of Library Associations Section and its initiative Building Strong Library Associations: best practices and recommendations from around the globe.” The keywords for the MLAS Conference are: information integrity, advocacy, financial sustainability, strategic forecasting, membership management.

The proposed date of the Conference is 29-31 May 2024 and it will be a hybrid conference with a registration fee. This is the first time in many years since 2016 that MLAS has a Mid-Term with content. Loida informed that the attendance in person for the previous MLAS Mid-Year meeting was: Chicago, USA 2019 (10); St Gallen, Switzerland 2022 (10); Paris, France 2023 (8 + 1 NPSIG Convenor). All the previous MLAS Mid-Term Meeting was held hybrid and there was enough quorum (in-person and virtual) for the meeting.

6. MLAS Action Plan 2023-2024: Reports from Working Group Leaders and Members

(a) Advocacy Impact Evaluation Working Group

Dijana Machala gave a summary of the Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project which started in November 2021 for the new Standing Committee Members. The working group comprised Dijana Machala (Chair), Pascal Sanz, Susan Haigh, Hella Klauser, Alicia Selles Carot, Jorge Moises Kroll do Prado, Namutenya Hamwaalwa, and Ana Carolina Lopez Scondras. The project started with a literature review to compile all available information on advocacy in different languages. The project then proceeded with a small online survey in May 2023 on what are the advocacy impact evaluation practices around the world and received 113 responses from all the regions. The findings of the survey were then communicated in the IFLA MLAS Open

Session during IFLA WLIC 2023 in Rotterdam by Susan Haigh. The working group is now finalizing the project by conducting interviews with advocacy impact experts from around the world. They have conducted interviews with Stephen Wybers (IFLA HQ), Nicholas Poole (CILIPS) and will conduct an interview with Michael Dowling (ALA) in January.

Loida commented that this project will be a great contribution to our library field because there is very little impact evaluation in the area of advocacy.

(b) MLAS Communications Working Group

Micheline as the Chair of the MLAS Communications Work Group reported that there are no new updates on MLAS Communications. She highlighted that Loida has produced a Happy New Year 2024 Video in their languages by MLAS SC and has shared it with the 172 MLAS Members and IFLA List with 395 views in 6 days via : <https://youtu.be/vZf78qrA2s4?si=Cj5sG6VhOWNJJhJq>

Loida thanked all the MLAS SC for allowing her to produce the multilingual video and as not everyone was in the video for different reasons, she included the names of all the MLAS SC members in the video. This is MLAS first first-ever video and Micheline suggested that we could create another video on other occasions, perhaps at the MLAS Mid-Year Event.

(c) WLIC 2024 Open Session Working Group

The MLAS Open Session for WLIC 2024 won't take place this year, but the working group is coordinating collaboration for an event in Lebanon from 14-17 May 2024 in collaboration with the Lebanon Library Association, the United Nations Regional Office in Lebanon, and the IFLA MENA Division. MLAS will contribute to one session at the Lebanese Library Association Conference under the theme "Libraries and digital heritage preservation". In this context, Loida suggested that the name WLIC 2024 Open Session Working Group needs to be changed.

Imad Bachir and Marwa will be leading the coordination as the MLAS Chair and Secretary will not be able to attend in person. Imad gave an update on the Conference and that the call for papers is out now. Imad will email all the MLA members for the call of papers and the deadline for the abstract and full paper submission.

(d) MLAS Associations Survey Update Working Group

Loida on behalf of Nick Poole, the Chair of the MLAS Associations Survey Update Working Group informed that there is no update on the survey message that was sent to all MLAS SC last December 2023. She hopes that the chart with the priorities is helping MLAS to move forward in that area.

The link to the Google document with the strategic plans/work plans from MLAS members who shared on it is as follows: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19LcMM5R7EaoDH9a2c-ACrbnIQ8dD2NoUoZUS21wDr5A/edit?usp=sharing> MLAS members are encouraged to share their Association's Action Plans in PDF format if it is not available in their website.

She thanked Nick Poole who will be leaving the library field in March 2024 for his great contribution and commitment to MLAS and leadership in IFLA. MLAS will need to have a co-option of MLAS members to replace Nick in March. MLAS will send an email to IFLA HQ to ask for the names of those expressing interest to serve as co-opted members of an IFLA Section. IFLA sent this call last year.

7. MLAS Standing Committee Meeting Next Dates : 5 March, 2024; 23 or 30 April 2024

MLAS Standing Committee Meeting will be held every two months. The MLAS SC agreed that the next dates for the MLAS Standing Committee Meeting are 5 March and 30 April 2024. The meeting in April is to finalize the preparation for the Mid-Year Conference in Kazakhstan. The time for the meeting will be at 15:00 (CET), Amsterdam time.

8. Updates from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Convenors

(a) New Professionals Special Interest Group

Paria Aria, New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) Convenor reported three updates which include the co-option of two new members as one from France and another from Spain left NPSIG. NPSIG has co-opted one new member from France as she was already a volunteer with NPSIG and there is still one open spot in NPSIG. Loida Informed that NPSIG and WILSIG are under the sponsorship of MLAS and co-opted members need to be agreed upon and approved by MLAS. The Convenor needs to send the name of the co-opted member together with their recommendations and MLAS approved them.

NPSIG is working with the Library Services to the Multicultural Population Section on a few webinars and some meetings called Multicultural Cafes. NPSIG planned to have something like that. Another NPSIG activity is the IFLA Camp Online in different time zones.

(b) Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group

Jeli Saveta Blagojeric, Women, Information and Libraries SIG (WILSIG) Convenor is not present today. Loida reported that WILSIG has also expressed interest in the co-option of new members.

9. Miscellaneous

(a) IFLA Code of Ethics for Volunteers Working Group

The IFLA Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working Group (CCVWG) has been established to provide advice to the IFLA Governing Board (GB) in relation to the development of the IFLA Code of Conduct for Volunteers. The purpose of this Working Group is to develop a draft Code of Conduct for Volunteers for approval from the Governing Board in 2024.

The membership of the Working Group includes a member representing the Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS). Loida informed the attendees that Irina Trusina has volunteered to be appointed as a member of the IFLA Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working Group. All the attendees at the meeting agreed that Irina represents MLAS.

10. Closing Remarks

MLAS Chair thanked all the MLAS SC and NPSIG Convenor for their active participation and valuable inputs which have contributed to a very fruitful meeting. 16 members from 14 countries attended the first MLAS SC meeting for 2024 and MLAS is off to a good start. A Kudo Board for New Year Greetings 2024 has been sent to all MLAS SC. <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/7ZzMzEn0>

On this note, the meeting ended at 15:00 CST (Beijing) with a group photo of all attendees for the IFLA Website and MLAS social media. The next meeting will be held on 5 March and back at the regular time, 15:00(CET) Amsterdam.

280124 MLAS

MLAS SC Meeting
21 November 2023