



Approved Minutes
Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage

Wednesday 31 January, 2024, 16:05-17:00 UTC

Zoom

In attendance: Helen Vincent, Cristina Roiu, Howayda Kamel, Jasmine Bouchard, Jędrzej Lesniewski, Maureen Pennock, Jacob Nadal, Ujala Satgoor, Orenella Foglieni, Camille Callison, Claire McGuire

Apologies: Myriam Leiva, Liisa Savolainen, Daryl Green, Raffael Ammann, Stephanie Stillo

1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda, including agreement to record the meeting

The agenda was approved with no changes and the meeting was recorded.

2. Approval of December Minutes

No comments or corrections were received and the minutes were approved.

3. Business Arising and Updates

The Chair informed the committee of two casual vacancies that have arisen, following one resignation and another assumed resignation due to lack of communication. IFLA HQ and the Chair followed the process laid out in the IFLA Handbook and advised the governing board on replacements from the list of candidates nominated for appointment in 2023.

The committee was notified that the Chair of Scholarship and Open Access Advisory Committee has invited other advisory committee chairs to send representatives to their first business meeting. An ex officio member expressed interest, and others are invited to do so.

Blue Shield International's Trafficking working group reached out to IFLA to propose involving a library expert in their work. The Chair of RBSC volunteered, and IFLA will make the collection. This is not a formal liaison position, but the committee might consider advising it in the future.

The committee heard an update from the Library of Congress concerning work by the US State Department to develop AI tools to combat cultural property trafficking by assisting customs and border control in identifying objects. The use of AI in this regard is an interesting angle that could be explored further.

The committee heard an update from the ICA's EGATTT meeting in Paris in January which the chair attended. Interpol is not open to loosening reporting rules concerning the need for photos of the stolen objects. However, there is a possible strengthening of work with the World Customs Organisation to explore. A report will be shared with the CCH.

4. Cultural Heritage Across IFLA

IFLA HQ compiled actions by Professional Units and PAC Centres planned for 2024-2025 on topics related to culture and heritage.

From the overview, it was noted that there are many guidelines and webinars in development. The CCH could be involved in consultation on these guidelines, as well as in disseminating them and finding expert speakers for events.

It was also noted that AVMS is going to plan outreach around the UNESCO International Day for Audiovisual Heritage as well as place focus on formats other than books.

One example was the Library Services for Multicultural Populations work on translating guidelines. Another example is the upcoming Guidelines for Library Services to Displaced People from the Libraries for Persons with Special Needs Section. It was suggested that the CCH invites these sections to a meeting to discuss their work and identify possible actions to further their reach.

The CCH discussed whether engagement with these Sections could work in two directions, both inviting them to share information as well as pushing outreach in a more proactive way. They should know who the CCH is and have early awareness of the interests of the committee members in able to know how and when to engage.

It was suggested sharing the biographies of the CCH members, highlighting their particular interests and expertise, with committees.

ACTION: IFLA is GDPR compliant and needs active consent to share biographies. IFLA HQ will start a thread on BC to collect consent and map areas of interest that overlap with units.

5. CCH Action Plan

A lot of progress was made towards finalising the action plan in the December meeting, so this discussion was to pick up on remaining topics for discussion and see if action already has happened.

Newsletter

IFLA HQ shared an example of a newsletter from FAIFE which could act as a model for a CCH newsletter. It was noted that there is merit in all the advisory committee communications having a similar look and feel.

Action: IFLA HQ and the Chair will make a brief for the newsletter, create a template, and identify next steps.

Definitions

CCH members agreed to lead work towards defining cultural heritage from a global perspective, asking whether individuals know what is meant by cultural heritage in their national context, as well as within IFLA's context.

Those leading this project had a meeting and felt it would be good to design a short survey and disseminate it using IFLA's structure, including the National Libraries Section, regional structure, and PAC Centres. This survey could measure what is being done within regions to know definitions of cultural heritage from a legal perspective, as well as ascertain national funding models, capabilities, challenges, what activities could IFLA support of engage with the entities driving at a national level.

It was noted that while some international conventions include documentary heritage, not all major cultural conventions do (such as the 1972 Convention). Even when documentary heritage is named at the international level, this might not come to be in national level implementation legislation. Digital heritage legislation (such as relating to copyright) would also be an important aspect.

This might tie into work on trafficking, as national policy supporting the 1970 Convention does not always include documentary heritage. The survey could also be an awareness raising tool, asking people to see if they're happy with national legislation and heritage definitions and see whether more advocacy needs to be done.

Action: IFLA can provide support for survey using HQ's software. Project leaders should follow up with HQ to design.

Risk Register

Project leaders discussed the approach to this topic, using the folder of resources provided by IFLA HQ on Basecamp. They have identified many questions, such as the objectives of this approach to risk, the target audience, and the use-cases for it. There should be a meeting to discuss further with IFLA HQ.

Action: IFLA HQ to send doodle to schedule RR meeting.

Digital Heritage Network

A meeting will be scheduled by the project leader in February to begin work.

An area of interest on which there might be engagement with IFLA is on digital preservation risk. There was interest expressed in exploring how IFLA might use a reference model being developed and share with its wider community.

It was noted that this work ties into the UNESCO PERSIST engagement. There is an opportunity to refresh IFLA's engagement with PERSIST, and the committee should look into the challenges and opportunities around PERSIST in more depth.

ACTION: IFLA HQ to make a connection with IFLA's PERSIST liaison.

UNESCO and Mondiacult

IFLA HQ noted that part of this activity will be providing advice on an at-needed basis. It was discussed that a meeting with HQ to explore IFLA's advocacy goals in terms of international cultural policy would be helpful.

This might also be open to a wider community of interest who might have the capacity to take up work and possibly consider future nominations to the CCH.

ACTION: IFLA HQ to create BC folder of resources and create a concept note for this meeting, to be discussed at next CCH meeting.

The Hague Convention Anniversary

This will need to be coordinated by email as the anniversary is in May. It is still unknown what official events will take place. However, this could be an opportunity for the CCH to highlight important messages and advocacy opportunities on CPP.

It was noted that the convention went into force in August 1954, so that could move the deadline back.

ACTION: IFLA HQ to provide updates by email/BC

6. In person meeting 2024

The CCH was asked whether they might be interested in planning an in-person meeting in 2024 and if so, what the modality of such a meeting might be.

It is still unclear whether the IFLA Summit is an option, as it is unclear who will be invited or attend.

Many feel it is more dynamic and productive to meet face-to-face. If so, it would be best to meet towards the end of 2024 so activities are further underway and meeting time can capitalise on substantial discussion, reviewing action and driving forward work in 2025.

However, funding is an issue for most members. It is difficult to justify funding just for a business meeting, and is better to join with another event/meetings to justify. There is likely no funding from IFLA for members to meet in person.

An alternative was suggested as a full or half-day of virtual meetings for substantial discussion.

Given the funding challenges, the in-person meeting would have to have a hybrid option. Sub-groups could also use this opportunity to have break-out sessions on their projects.

It seems most achievable if the CCH meeting is linked to something else to make travel more viable, members should look at the calendar and see if there is alignment. Before the next meeting.

Action: propose in-person ways of meeting and possible links to other events in the next meeting.

7. AOB and date of next meeting

There was no other business.

The next meeting will be held in early April, a Doodle poll will follow for this meeting and at least one subsequent meeting.

Close.