



IFLA Section Metropolitan Libraries

IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Section

<https://www.ifla.org/units/metropolitan-libraries>

IFLA MetLib Standing Committee

Business Meeting

On 20th June 2024 Online via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Welcome, attendance, general introductions, apologies

Attendance: Carolyn Anthony, Chair (Public Library Association, USA); Brian Bannon (NY, USA); Carme Galve Montore (Barcelona, Spain); Jasmina Nimkov (Belgrade, Serbia); Neeza Singh (Chandigarh, India); Katri Vanttinen (Helsinki, Finland); Tommi Laitio (USA); Nick Buron (NY, USA) until 9:25AM; Pablo Bruno D'Amico (Buenos Aires, Argentina); Ivancica Dukec Kero (Zagreb, Croatia); Moe Hosseini-Ara (Toronto, Canada); Marie Oestergaard (Aarhus, Denmark); Siobhan Reardon (USA) joined at 9:45 AM

Apologies: Suzie Gately (Australia); John Spears (Buffalo, USA) Lucia Werder, Secretary (Bremen, Germany); Flippie Vander Walt (Cape Town, South Africa); Mathilde Servet (Paris, France)

2. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2024

Minutes were approved.

4. Update on membership---Nick

We now have a total of 73 paying MetLib members – this number has increased from 65 to 73 – thanks to Carolyn for her leadership!

Top 3 countries - 9 members from China, 6 members from Canada, 5 members from Australia and many other countries around the world.

Nick also reported that the Barcelona Conference registration form has been posted and asked members to get signed up ASAP! Registration form can be found here:

<https://congres.manners.es/LIBRARIES?idioma=EN>

5. **MetLib Learning Circle ---Tommi**

Tommi provided an update. There have been three meetings to date with high attendance. Attendees are asked to come forward with a project to present to colleagues – biggest topic is capital project for main or new branch libraries. There are quite a few participants (10) coming going to Barcelona in the fall.

Tommi has developed a mentorship program – 6 library leaders giving 3 hours of their time to coach and mentor participants – this will be starting in the fall.

Looking for a sponsor to help finance the MetLib Learning Circle as current approach is not sustainable. To be discussed at a future meeting.

6. **Request from ENSULIB for volunteer from MetLib to participate in ENSULIB's project for developing "IFLA Green Library Guidelines" (from Petra Hauke, Berlin)**

ENSULIB is looking for rep to help develop guidelines (see Carolyn's email to the team) – Moe to see if there are any TPL reps. Katri offered to represent if Moe can not find any TPL representatives. Will follow up with Carolyn or Petra.

7. **MetLib Conference in Barcelona with Public Libraries Section, Buildings & Equipment Section, ENSULIB and Rare Books Section, Oct 6 -10, 2024 --- Carme, Brian and others**

Tuesday Programming

- **Navigating Censorship and Book Bans: A Global Perspective—John Spears and Larra Clark (Deputy Dir of PLA and Deputy Dir of ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office) Room for 100 for 90 minutes**
- **AI and Digital Transformation in Urban Libraries---Bruno d'Amico--
-and others?**
- **Libraries as Beacons of Democracy and Inclusivity: Explore the role of libraries in promoting democratic values, inclusivity and community engagement within the urban public library---brief presentations, followed by breakout group discussion inc of previous day's content**
- **Libraries at the Frontlines of Climate Action and Sustainability---
Highlight the role of libraries in supporting urban sustainability and resilience efforts, aligning with SDG 11's focus on sustainable cities;
(also outdoor programming?)**

There will be no fee to attend the conference itself in Barcelona, only air travel and accommodations are required. Still not all attendees or those who want to attend can afford to get the approval to attend.

Registration form has been posted and can be accessed here:
<https://congres.manners.es/LIBRARIES?idioma=EN>

Carme shared the schedule and programme with the group. Preliminary programme can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EhJpf3tXz5avT2GalamYWJzL8x6zAQpW/edit?gid=758105423#gid=758105423>

Tommi requested that the Learning Circle session be allotted more time and session be renamed to "Libraries in Urban Transformation".

Discussion around democracy sessions and the fact that they need to be spread out throughout the day. Can they be moved so they don't conflict? Can a democracy track be created? Carme will take feedback back to the committee to determine how best to proceed.

Third day of the conference will include tours for visit to Girona and Vic (both cities in Spain) along with several library tours – Monserrat would be most appropriate library tour for MetLib members. Carolyn asked if a brief description can be provided for each library so attendees could decide which visit would be most appropriate for them based on interest.

8. PLOTY--- Flippie, Mathilde, and Siobhan

No one in attendance to provide update. Carolyn mentioned that an announcement was sent out and some nominees have been identified.

9. MetLib Conference 2025 Auckland -- John Spears

John not in attendance and unfortunately can not continue to assist with coordination

Brian agreed to take on coordination and planning for 2025 conference. Marie and Carolyn to join workgroup.

10. Appointing Mentors to the Standing Committee (note: not a SC member and can't vote)

Will need to add someone as an advisor otherwise it has to be a member.

11. A Cordo di Libri---John Spears

Haven't heard anything from the Italian contingent on running the program. No other updates.

12. MetLib Conference 2026---Paris?

Carolyn suggested potentially Paris in 2026 conference and has contacted Matilde to look into the possibility.

13. Future Meeting Dates---all at 9 am EST unless otherwise specified

- August 15
- October 6 (time TBD during Barcelona Conference)

14. Other items for discussion and Committee member updates

Pablo – thanked Barcelona for invitation – willing to visit other European libraries while in Barcelona will connect with others off-line.

Also mentioned that he is working on AI course from a librarian's point of view – more to come on that.

15. Adjourn