



IFLA Section Metropolitan Libraries

IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Section

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

IFLA MetLib Standing Committee

Business Meeting

On 14th December 2023 via Zoom

1. Welcome, attendance, general introductions, apologies

Attendance: Carolyn Anthony, Chair (Public Library Association, USA); Brian Bannon (NY, USA); Nick Buron, Information Coordinator (NY, USA); Pablo Bruno D'Amico (Buenos Aires, Argentina); Carme Galve Montore (Barcelona, Spain); Moe Hosseini-Ara (Toronto, Canada); Jasmina Nimkov (Belgrade, Serbia); Siobhan Reardon (USA); John Spears (Buffalo, USA); Neeza Singh (Chandigarh, India); Tommi Laitio (USA), Lucia Werder, Secretary (Bremen, Germany)

Apologies: Ivancica Dukec Kero (Zagreb, Croatia); Mathilde Servet (Paris, France); Flippie van der Walt

Guest (TOP 5): Ferran Burguillos

The SC meeting was called to order at 15:00 p.m. MEZ

2. Adoption of the agenda

The committee accepted the proposed agenda extended by the following topic: Update re IFLA Public Library Guidelines

3. Approval of the Minutes from August 2023 and October 2023

The Minutes of the meeting of August were confirmed.

For October Minutes Carolyn wrote a draft and all members, who attended the meeting are asked to add topics if they miss anything.

4. Debrief report on MetLib Conference 2023 in Buenos Aires

Pablo presented the report of the survey re the conference, that is also published on basecamp. 41 responses were received. Above 95% generally expressed high or very high satisfaction with the conference. More than 80% considered that it was useful for their work. They mainly highlighted the exchange and the opportunity to learn about diverse experiences and points of view.

Of the organization of the event, the most valued were the location of the event, the translations, and the tango gala. More than 95% were satisfied with the contents of the

sessions. Of the contents of the conference, the most valued were the speakers, the thematic panels, and visits to libraries.

Pablo resumed that it was great to host colleagues from around the world. The scholarships for colleagues from Latin America helped to have a conference that was more inclusive and diverse

Carolyn added that the bilingual part of the conference worked very well. She thanked Pablo and the conference team for this great conference and their efforts.

The unconferences ended up being in Spanish. They were informal and successful.

Carme asked about the fees for the conference: Pablo answered that there has been a reduced fee for participants of the developing countries.

Pictures of the conference: <https://abgra.org.ar/cronica-de-la-metlib-2023-en-buenos-aires/>

5. Interim conference in Barcelona 2024, 6-10th October 2024

Carolyn welcomed the director of the regional libraries of the region of Barcelona, Ferran Burguillos

Carme reported that they have held a couple of meetings with the Ministry of Culture, the Barcelona Provincial Council and FESABID (Spanish federation of library associations) to agree on the calendar of the midterm/congress of the PL and MetLib sections.

They have also agreed with Cerlalc that they will attend the conference and they organize the simultaneous sessions that they require. Jeimy Hernández, the managing director of Cerlalc, will talk with IFLA-LAC.

The agenda will take place from October 6 to 10. 2024 in Barcelona, as follows (subject to possible changes):

For PLS/MetLib/Buildings sections:

Sunday afternoon, October 6: Section business meetings

Monday 7: Libraries and Democracy Conference (provisional title).

Tuesday 8: Workshops Section

Wednesday the 9th and Thursday the 10th: Visits to the library

In addition, there will be a reception and dinner for the speakers.

For the collections and rare books section:

Monday, October 7: Section Meeting (morning and afternoon)

Tuesday 8: Symposium

Wednesday the 9th and Thursday the 10th: Visits to the library

Different and new of the conference: It will be a joined meeting of the MetLib Section, the Public Libraries Section, the Building and Equipment section, and Rare Books Section. A holistic conference for all participants is the plan.

Ferran added that they want to promote the participation of colleagues from Latin American and Caribbean Countries, not only Spanish speaking. They are in contact with the Latin American Section of IFLA. 400 people are expected.

Carolyn added that the PLOTY will be presented at the conference. The sponsor changed to Baker & Taylor.

The Working group from MetLib Section supporting Carme in connection with the other sections and regarding the programme planning will be:

Carolyn, Siobhan, John, Brian, and his team as backend supporters for minutes and coordination

Pablo offered his help regarding their experiences regarding their learnings of the conference.

6. MetLib Conference 2025

John reaches out to his contacts if Auckland can host a conference in 2025 or 2026.

7. MetLib Learning Circle

Tommi presented the call of nominations. The final call for nominations can be found here (deadline for nominations 15 February: <https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/iJDvTZADgAphD7M>)

The 2024 edition focuses on the role of libraries in urban transformation and civic engagement.

Carolyn thanked Tommi and the Advisory and Development Group Pablo, Brian, Merryl and James Tisch, Mathilde, Neeza and Marie for their engagement and for facilitating the upcoming MetLib Learning Circle.

8. Responsibilities for 2024

PLOTY new in: Shioban instead of Mathilde

MetLib Learning Circle: Tommi, Pablo, Brian, Mathilde, Neeza and Marie

If there is anybody who wants to volunteer for a project please contact Carolyn

9. News from Division A and IFLA.

The process of Co-opting members was updated:

<https://3.basecamp.com/3833672/buckets/31685025/uploads/6120854970>

Information from the Governing Board

- President' meeting
Information on past events here
<https://www.ifla.org/past-presidents-meetings/>
- More details will be shared after the next Governing Board meeting 4-6 Dec
- plan to launch the IFLA Strategy and IFLA Trend Report at the meeting - plan to explore issues, trends, possibilities around the presidential theme - **Stronger together.**

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

- February 22, 2024

- April 18, 2024
- June 20, 2024
- August 15, 2024
- October, 2024 (during the MetLib Midterm)

11. Other items for discussion & Committee member updates

Nigel Brown and his team are finalizing the videos from the Rotterdam satellite conference and afterwards they will be published on the IFLA website.

Manifesto of Lifelong learning: the Outline of the draft is complete

Public Library Guidelines Update: John and Neeza reported that they had several meetings of the group. A survey of how the guidelines have been used in the past and what is missing will be released soon. Once the survey is ready, we at METLIB must actively drive and encourage libraries to participate. This is the pre-work for the Guidelines

For the update of the guidelines an agency will be hired.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 16:00 p.m. (MEZ).

Respectfully submitted,
Lucia Werder
Secretary, Metropolitan Libraries Section