



IFLA Section Metropolitan Libraries

IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Section

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

IFLA MetLib Standing Committee

Business Meeting

On 18th April 2024 Online via Zoom

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), John Spears (Buffalo, USA); Neeza Singh (Chandigarh, India); Flippie Van der Walt (Cape Town, South Africa); Katri Vääntinen (Helsinki, Finland); Lucia Werder, Secretary (Bremen, Germany)

Apologies: Nick Buron, Information Coordinator (NY, USA); Pablo Bruno D'Amico (Buenos Aires, Argentina); Ivancica Dukec Kero (Zagreb, Croatia); Suzie Gately (Australia); Moe Hosseini-Ara (Toronto, Canada); Tommi Laitio (USA); Marie Oestergaard (Aarhus, Denmark); Siobhan Reardon (USA); Mathilde Servet (Paris, France)

2. Adoption of the agenda

The committee accepted the proposed agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2024

The Minutes of the meeting of February were confirmed.

4. MetLib Learning Circle ---Tommi

Tommi send the following short report on the learning circle:

"MetLib Learning Circle has started well with the kick-off meeting on 9 April attended by 17 of the 18 participants (with one person informing me of an obstacle). People joined in good spirits and great enthusiasm. You can see a presentation of the participants and their projects [here](#) and the materials from the first meeting [here](#). I would especially wish to extend my appreciation to Brian and Marie for coordinating the peer mentoring opportunities, for Carolyn putting me in touch with IFLA on SDGs, and for Neeza for joining the first meeting. The next meeting is on 14 May.

As soon as we have more information on the sessions at the conference, conference fees and possibilities for some travel stipends, that would help many of the participants in either confirming their institution's financial support or seeking funding from other sources. It would be fantastic if we were able to organize online participation opportunities at least for the half day that the circle would spend with each other for everyone to be able to attend. I'd be happy to work on all of this with the conference organizers."

Carolyn added that for the Conference in Barcelona special sessions for the participants of the MetLib Learning Circle are planned.

Neeza joined the first meeting of the new MetLib Learning Circle and reported that it was great to meet the new group and get in touch with them.

For ensuring long-term sustainability, Brian added that they are looking for a sponsor for the participants for financial support for providing scholarships, especially for the participation in the MetLib conferences. They are in contact with different sponsors (e.g. Gates Foundation).

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

Carme shared a spreadsheet for the program. At the moment the names of the speakers are still missing. Carolyn suggested Vickery Bowles from Toronto as a speaker.

Buildings & equipment Section are planning tours with architects and have developed a program on their own.

ENSULIB may be a great partner for the topic sustainability.

Carolyn suggested UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) may be a great partner re the topics SDGs, democracy – they also have a formal cooperation with IFLA

Carolyn asked Carme to contact them as a local speaker for the conference.

6. PLOTY--- Flippie, Siobhan, Mathilde

Flippie reported that there are no news from PLOTY at that moment. The announcement of submissions is planned for end of April. The delay in the invitation for applications for this award is due to the need for approval of a contract and promotional material for the new sponsor Baker & Taylor.

7. MetLib Conference 2025 Auckland – Updates and dates --- John Spears

John told that there are no updates, as this is still in progress. He asked if the SC could Co-opt members. Carolyn answered that we have to send out an open call for that. Maybe the option as consultant member may be a better option.

Brian suggested a standard guideline for the MetLib conference and what is expected by the host. Brian offered to update that document that was drafted by Ton van Vlimmeren and his team for the conference in Utrecht. Carolyn will send the document to Brian.

8. A Corto di Libri---John Spears

John reports on the status of planning:

John, Pablo and Siobhan will be part of the jury.

Schedule: 12 May launch, deadline for submissions June

Films by or about libraries that meet the MetLib definitions are eligible in the following three categories: Documentation, fiction and advocacy. The TOP 3 of all categories will be published afterwards in an online voting.

The Award will be announced on the MetLib Conference

9. MetLib Goals for urban sustainability and civic engagement—suggestions for partnerships within IFLA? Outside?

Suggestions for partnerships can be sent to Carolyn at any time

Possible partners within IFLA:

Library Services to multicultural populations

Public libraries section

ENSULIB

UN: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) based in Barcelona. IFLA has a Memorandum of Understanding with them. Also various units of the United Nations.

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

- June 20
- August 15
- October 6 at 1 pm CET during Barcelona Conference

11. Other items for discussion and Committee member updates

John reported that they are working on redesigning spaces like children spaces as safe spaces

Brian told, that they are redirecting the focus on reading, especially as the reading benchmarks are critical

He is interested in projects and studies re the encouragement of reading and measuring of progress in reading.

Flippie informed about their reading strategy and their programs regarding reading. For more information, contact Flippie via Flippie.vanderwalt@capetown.gov.za

Neeza told they are doing many workshops and organized programs for children, e.g. the program 1000 books before school

Flippie reported that are focusing on information skills for women, they are part of the program that empowers women. The program takes place over a period of 5 weeks and focuses on a different topic each week

Flippie suggested using time in our meetings for sharing best practices.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 15:55 p.m. (MEZ).

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia Werder

Secretary, Metropolitan Libraries Section