



**IFLA Section
Management of
Library Associations**

**Minutes of IFLA Management of
Library Associations Section
Mid-Term Meeting
Hybrid (In-Person / Online)
Friday, 31 May 2024
15:00 – 17:00 (Astana, Kazakhstan)
Nazarbayev University Library, Astana,
Kazakhstan**

Attendance: In-Person

Loida Garcia Febo (Chair) loidagarciafebo@gmail.com UNITED STATES
Micheline Brule mbrule@fmdoc.org (Information Coordinator) CANADA
Loy Jyoon Chin (Secretary, Minutes) jyoonchin57@gmail.com MALAYSIA

Attendance: Online

Julia Demasi julia.demasi@gmail.com URUGUAY
Dijana Machala dmachala@nsk.hr CROATIA
Alicia Sellés Carot alselca@gmail.com SPAIN
Lynn L. Jibril jibrill@ub.ac.bw BOTSWANA
Deepali Talagala d.talagala@gmail.com SRI LANKA
Wai Tat Wilson Hoi hoiwaitat@gmail.com MACAU SAR, CHINA
Imad Bachir imad.bachir@gmail.com BAGDAD
Namutenya Hamwaalwa hnamutenya@gmail.com NAMIBIA

Excused:

Hella Klauser klauser@bibliotheksverband.de GERMANY
Marwa El Sahn marwa.elsahn@bibalex.org EGYPT
Jorge Moisés Kroll do Prado jorge.exlibris@gmail.com BRAZIL
Ana Carolina Lopez Scondras carodras@gmail.com ARGENTINA
Antoine Torrens Montebello antoine.torrens@hotmail.fr FRANCE
Wang Yanhang wangyh_lsc@163.com CHINA
Irina Trushina trushina@nlr.ru RUSSIAN FEDERATION

MLAS Mid-Term Meeting
31 May 2024

Adama Kone adams.kone@gmail.com COTE D'IVOIRE

Jelisaveta Blagojeric jelisaveta.blagojevic@skupstina.me (SIG Convenor, Women, Information and Libraries) MONTENEGRO

Paria Aria paria@tamu.edu (SIG Convenor, New Professionals) UNITED STATES

Observer:

Khabiba Murzakanovna Akzhigitova ukcbs@mail.ru (East-Kazakhstan Regional Association of Librarians) KAZAKHSTAN

1. Welcome and Introductions

Loida Garcia-Febo, MLAS Chair started the meeting at 15:00 (Astana, Kazakhstan) which was held in a hybrid format (in-person and online) at the Library Meeting Room, Nazarbayev University Library, Astana, Kazakhstan. The MLAS Mid-Term Meeting was held in conjunction with the 13th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference which is a collaboration between the Nazarbayev University Library and the IFLA Management of Library Associations from 29 to 31 May 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The link to the conference can be viewed via: <https://nu.kz.libguides.com/ealc2024/home>

MLAS Chair welcomed all MLAS Standing Committee Members present in person and online at the meeting and to introduce themselves. The MLAS SC present in person and online were from the United States, Malaysia, Canada, Iraq, Croatia, Sri Lanka, Macau SAR, China, Uruguay, Spain, Botswana and Namibia. The Chair and MLAS Standing Committee Members also welcome Khabiba Murzakanovna Akzhigitova from the East-Kazakhstan Regional Association of Librarians, Kazakhstan as an observer. The MLAS Mid-Term Meeting is open to all MLAS members as observers.

2. Updates from MLAS Secretary - Attendance, Agenda, Approved MLAS Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, 23 April 2024

Loy Jyoon, MLAS secretary informed that members not present today sent their apologies. They are Vidar Lund, Wang Yanhang, Hella Kluaser, Irina Trushina, Paria Aria and Marwa El Sahn due to work commitments, different time zones and technical problems. The agenda for the meeting was confirmed and approved without any additions.

Loy Jyoon informed that the draft minutes of the MLAS SC Meeting held on 23 April 2024 via Zoom which was reviewed and approved by MLAS Chair were emailed to all SC members for their comments and approval. The Minutes were approved without any comments or amendments by all the MLAS SC via email. The Minutes were submitted to the IFLA Repository and have been accepted and archived in DSpace. It has been assigned the following identifier: <https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/3344>

Loy Jyoon thanked all the MLAS SC for their cooperation. MLAS Chair thanked Loy Jyoon for preparing the minutes.

3. Updates from IFLA Governing Board

Loida as MLAS Chair is a member of the IFLA Governing Board. She gave an update on the following matters:

a) Loida encouraged all MLAS SC and members to attend the IFLA General Assembly 2024 which will be held on Thursday, June 20th, 2024 at 13:00 – 15:00 (CEST Amsterdam) in a hybrid format (In Person/Online) in The Hague, Netherlands. In the General Assembly, the proposal for IFLA to become a charity ([ANIBI Status](#)) and an organization for public benefit and working with libraries and librarians will be discussed. The link to the General Assembly can be viewed via the [2024 General Assembly – IFLA](#)

b) Loida highlighted that the IFLA WLIC Review Survey sent out by the IFLA WLIC Review Steering Committee has received good response from IFLA members and volunteers. Loida as MLAS Chair is representing MLAS in the Steering Committee. Loy

Jyoon is in the Steering Committee as she was in the Malaysia National Committee for IFLA WLIC 2018 and also for geographical diversity.

c) MLAS Chair also informed that any libraries and library associations looking to identify potential partners for future projects can visit this link: <https://www.ifla.org/news/who-is-funding-library-projects-new-open-data-resource/>

d) MLAS Standing Committee Members who attended the IFLA Draft Strategy 2024-2029 for Members and Volunteers Consultation Sessions gave very positive feedback that the information was very clear, informative, useful and easy to understand. Loida informed that MLAS Committee Members will answer the survey collectively as a Section at the end of the meeting today.

e) MLAS Standing Committee who attended the IFLA Town Hall Meeting gave positive feedback that helped them to understand key issues in IFLA's work and the work of the IFLA Governing Board.

4. Impressions from the conference in Kazakhstan

The IFLA Management of Library Associations (MLAS) was thrilled to collaborate with the Nazarbayev University Library with the support of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Association of University Libraries in the Republic of Kazakhstan to jointly present the 13th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC) from May 29 to May 31 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The title of the conference was "Connect, Collaborate, Create: Advancing Library Associations and Partnerships to Future-proof our Profession." The MLAS Session was held from 15:00 to 17:00 (Astana Time) on 29th, 30th and 31st May 2024. The link to the conference can be viewed via: <https://www.ifla.org/news/mlas-conference-on-may-29-31-2024-in-kazakhstan/>

Loida, MLAS Chair; Loy Jyoon, MLAS Secretary; and Micheline Brule who were present in-person at the Conference were very impressed with the smooth and efficient handling of conference by colleagues in Astana. Among the impressions were the conference

was professionally done and meet the direction of the academic library; the staff of the library has great respect for IFLA; the kind hospitality by the host made our stay in Astana very comfortable and enjoyable. Loida also highlighted that the Deputy Minister of Culture in Kazakhstan is currently working on a law for information and will be ready soon.

Loida as MLAS Chair delivered a Welcome Speech and Closing Remarks during the Conference. Loida also thanked the following MLAS Standing Committee members who presented papers during the MLAS Session.

(a) Loy Jyoon Chin on the theme: Financial Sustainability (Librarians Association of Malaysia : Financial Sustainability). Loy Jyoon Chin was also a member of the MLAS Midterm Working Group working intensively in the coordination of the event.

(b) Dijana Machala on the theme: MLAS Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project

(c) Julia Demasi on the theme: Membership Retention

(d) Loida Garcia-Febo on the theme: Membership Retention(Creative and Systematic Strategies for Membership Retention For Associations, Organisations and Institutions)

(e) Micheline Brule, MLAS Information Coordinator and member of the MLAS Midterm Working Group for her work intensively in the coordination the event prior and during the event, support creating MLAS Communications, and presence during the event.

(f) Marwa El Sahn and Lynn Jibrill were members of the MLAS Midterm Working Group working intensively in the coordination of the event.

(g) Paria Aria, NPSIG Convenor, for managing zoom for MLAS session on May 30.

(h) Magdalena Gomulka, former NPSIG Convenor, for managing zoom for MLAS session on May 29.

Loida will prepare an e-booklet later this summer to share all presentations and links to recordings. Loida also created a video to recognize this significant event on MLAS Facebook and Twitter pages. On behalf of MLAS, she thanked our partners, MLAS members, and each one of the leaders and team members in Kazakhstan.

5. Impressions from the conference in Lebanon including program and business meeting

Imad as coordinator of the MLAS Working Group gave an update on the MLAS Open Session held in collaboration with the Lebanese Library Association (LLA), the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA). The Libraries and the Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage 6th Conference of the Lebanese Library Association (LLA) was held from 14-17 May 2024 in Beirut, Lebanon.

The MLAS Open Session took place on Thursday, May 17th from 9:00 to 10:00 am (Beirut Time) with Imad, Claire Macguire, and Stephen Wyber on the panel. The Conference was conducted in hybrid format (in-person and online). Loida's recorded speech at the conference was very much welcome by the conference participants. Imad informed that the Conference went on smoothly without any technical problems and most of the participants were from the Arab Countries. The Conference website can be viewed via this link: [About Conference - Lebanese Library Association](#)

Loida thanked Imad and Marwa for this amazing opportunity to partner with the Lebanese Library Association.

6. Future MLAS collaborations

Loida informed that the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE), in collaboration with the Library and Information Research Institute (IIBI) of UNAM, is pleased to announce the upcoming Mexican Information Global Forum (MEXINFO), which will be held in Mexico City from 5 to 9 August 2024.

MEXINFO will feature four events which include the International Symposium on Libraries and Censorship "Unshelving Voices: Empowering Libraries Against Censorship" together with IFLA FAIFE, IFLA LGBTQ+ Special Interest Group, School Library Section, and IFLA Management of Library Associations (MLAS). Loida, as MLAS Chair informed that she will be attending the hybrid Symposium which will take place in Mexico City on August 8.

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Loida highlighted that there are also two potential opportunities to partner with other library associations later this year or next year, and that is Croatia and Germany. Expressed appreciation for the interest of MLAS members in collaborating with MLAS which speaks to MLAS Building Strong Library Associations Initiative and the Events piece of the initiative.

7. Co-option of MLAS Standing Committee Members

Loida informed that Nicholas Poole (UK) and Vidar Lund (Norway) have stepped down as being MLAS Standing Committee Members – as per her prior emails to the MLAS Members. Important to keep in mind that as per IFLA HQ and IFLA bylaws, members serve in a personal capacity. Therefore, both of them served in a personal capacity and do not represent their employer. Nicholas Poole's term and Vidar Lund's term were from August 2021 to August 2025 and both were serving their first four-year term in MLAS. In this context, MLAS needed to co-opt two new members as soon as possible to continue moving forward with our work. The MLAS members agreed to co-opt the following two members:

(a) Edward Junhao Lim from the United States of America for Nicholas Poole. It is recommended that Edward join the MLAS Communications Working Group.

(b) Helene Voldner, President Norwegian Library Association (Norway) for Vidar Lund. Without Vidar Lund in MLAS, MLAS has no one from Scandinavia. Thus, it is important to have representation from all regions.

MLAS Chair will send the names of the co-opted members to IFLA HQ for further action.

8. Program of Mentoring

The Chair asked for comments or thoughts on this Building Strong Library Associations Mentorship Programme. Loida explained that under this Mentorship Programme, MLAS

will facilitate connections between library associations wishing to mentor other library associations or receive mentorship from library associations. She reiterated that this is MLAS and not IFLA HQ initiative and this programme will be launched this year. Alicia Selles volunteered for this mentorship programme.

9. All initiatives Building Strong Library Associations together and projects for future (need more implication than just the 21 elect for be dynamic and all around the world)

MLAS Chair informed that there are three MLAS initiatives for Building Strong Library Associations as follows:

- (a) Building Strong Library Associations Mentorship Programme
- (b) Building Strong Library Associations Sessions at conferences and events :
 - (i) [Libraries and the Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage 6th Conference](#) of the Lebanese Library Association 14-17 May 2024 in Beirut, Lebanon.
 - (ii) [13th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference \(EALC\)](#): Connect, Collaborate, Create: Advancing Library Associations and Partnerships to Future-proof our Profession on May 29-31, 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
 - (iii) [Unshelving Voices: Empowering Libraries Against Censorship](#). *ATwo-Day Symposium on Library Censorship on August 6-7 in Mexico City, Mexico.*
- (c) Building Strong Library Associations Webinars with IFLA Regional Division based on regional needs.

Loida informed that during the last years MLAS has collaborated closely with the six IFLA Regional Division: Asia/Oceania, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and North America in the MLAS Webinar Series. The webinars were focused on themes from MLAS Associations' Survey. For 2024, the theme for the webinars will be focused on MLAS priority areas.

Loida informed that she emailed IFLA Regional Council Chair for collaboration in the MLAS Webinar Series. It is good to meet with the leadership and the Regional Division Chairs. MLAS will send a poll to all the MLAS Standing Committee and MLAS Members for their engagement in the webinar series in their respective regions.

10. Updates from Advocacy Impact Evaluation (AIE) Project

Dijana Machala gave an update of the IFLA MLAS Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project which was launched in 2021 is aimed at strengthening practices focusing on the evaluation of library advocacy impacts through providing insightful and highly practical guidelines and recommendations.

The working group comprised of Dijana Machala (Chair), Hella Klauser, Susan Haigh, Pascal Sanz, Jorge Moises Kroil de Padro, Namuntenya Hamwaalwa, Alicia Selles Carot and Anna Carolina Lopez Scondras.

Dijana informed that the IFLA MLAS Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project Work Group Meeting was held from the 20th to 24th of May, 2024 in Zagreb, Croatia at the National and University Library. The presentation of the [IFLA MLAS Advocacy Impact Evaluation](#) project : A Preliminary Report was held on 24 May 2024. The project presentation with participation of project team members Susan Haigh, Hella Klauser, Dr Dijana Machala; and Loida Gracia-Febo as the Chair of IFLA MLAS and member of the IFLA Governing Board.

MLAS Chair thanked Dijana for the excellent presentation on the MLAS Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project during the MLAS Session in the 13th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC) 2024.

11. Updates from Special Interest Group (SIG)

IFLA MLAS is the sponsoring section for the New Professionals Special Interest Group and the Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group.

(a) New Professionals SIG

Paria Aria is the Convenor of the New Professionals SIG. She has graciously volunteered to manage the zoom for the MLAS session during the 13th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC) on May 30.

(b) Women, Information and Libraries SIG

Jelisaveta Blagojeria as the Convenor of the Women, Information and Libraries SIG send an update for the meeting which include the following:

- (i) Preparation of the WILSIG Newsletter
- (ii) Bibliographies of Children's Books on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
- (iii) Improving WILSIG Communication Tools
- (iv) Contribution to IFLA May Newsletter
- (v) SIG's Self-study
- (vi) IFLA Draft Strategy 2024-2029 Consultation

The report is attached in this minutes.

12. Fill out the IFLA Draft Strategy Survey as a Section

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7822281/IFLA-Survey-2024-2029-Survey>

Loida together with all the MLAS SC members present in person and online at the meeting filled out the IFLA Draft Strategy Survey as a Section. MLAS SC members agreed that the Section should use the IFLA strategy to build their own strategy.

13. Closing Remarks

MLAS Chair thanked all the MLAS SC present (In person and online) for their active participation and valuable inputs which have contributed to a very productive and informative meeting. MLAS also thanked Khabiba Murzakanovna Akzhigitova from East-Kazakhstan Regional Association of Librarians, Kazakhstan as an observer for the meeting. On this note, the MLAS Chair ended the meeting at 16:35 (Astana Time, Kazakhstan).