



IFLA Section Equitable and Accessible Library Services

Minutes of Equitable and Accessible Library Services Section (EALS) Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024, 15:00-16:00 CET (via Zoom)

Participants:

Maela Rakocevic Uvodic (Croatia) (Chair)
Anne Chastrusse (France)
Caroline Smith (USA)
Diego Anthoons (Belgium)
Clayton Copeland (USA)
Janet Lee (USA)
Lisa Krolak (Germany)
Mohd Faizal Hamzah (Malaysia)
Sanjica Faletar Tanackovic (Croatia)

Apologies/No Response

Bashiru Adamu (Nigeria)
Corinna Haas (Germany)
Dolores Carungui (Philippines)
Farah Sbeity (Lebanon)
Jane Garner (Australia)
Karin Larsson (Sweden)
Kavita Ilangovan (Singapore)
Laia Vidal Serrano (Spain)
Maria Isabel Abalo (Argentina)
Miguel Rivera (Chile)
Olanike Alabi (Nigeria)
Priya Rangra (India)
Tilahun Shiferaw (Ethiopia)
Yasmine Youssef (Egypt)

Moderation: Officers

Protocol: Janet Lee

Agenda:

Welcome (Maela)

1. Attendance and apologies (Maela)
2. Approval of the minutes from last SC meeting by acclimation.
3. Approval of the agenda by acclimation.
4. Flashlight postponed until January meeting.
5. IFLA Elections 2025
 - a. Maela had previously distributed a list of committee members and their status: final year of service, continuing appointment, need to nominate self by November 29 after which they will need someone to nominate them between January 13 to February 24, 2025.

An email was distributed by Headquarters to each committee member about their status with instructions. Some committee members indicated that they did not receive the email and therefore will need to be nominated during the dates indicated above.

Mohd Faizal Hamzah was not on the list and Maela discovered that he was listed on a similar committee as an ongoing member. She will contact Headquarters to correct this.

Election guidelines may be found at:

<https://repository.ifla.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/0a6fc96b-f694-4fbe-bf58-c0a2139d671f/content>

<https://www.ifla.org/units/elections/>

- b. Call for nominations for officers of a section (Chair, Information coordinator, secretary) begins June 9, 2025 and election results will be announced on July 14. Since Maela is term limited, a new chair will need to be elected. The other current officers will need to apply or reapply for one of the three positions. All positions can be contested. Please inform Maela if you are interested in one of the positions or ask a current officer what the duties and responsibilities are for that office.
6. LGBTQ+ seeking section approval
 - a. The IFLA LGBTQ+ Special Interest Group was formed in 2013 at the Singapore IFLA WLIC. It has sponsored many successful events. They are seeking support of institutional members to supporting the change of status from a SIG to a Section. Committee members who would like to support the status change and receive forms may contact hafnerj@yorku.ca
7. WLIC proposals (Maela)

- a. The IFLA Guidelines for Libraries Supporting Displaced Persons: Refugees | Migrants| Immigrants | Asylum Seekers authored by Despina Gerasimidou will be published next week (December 16-20, 2024). Despina will be writing an article announcing the guidelines publication for a future issue of the IFLA newsletter. The guidelines would be an ideal candidate for a session if the author, committee chair, or other committee members could be in attendance, but that may not be possible because of funding. Despina may be able to submit a video promoting the guidelines. More to come.
- b. LiBri project (Library Bridges) Maela met with representatives with members of LiBri last week. Because Europe is facing challenges in hosting and integrating a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers (1.1 million asylum applications in 2023 alone). It is crucial to reduce barriers by promoting access to education, culture, and information. Thus, there is an opportunity for EALS to partner with the LiBri Project and possibly conduct a joint webinar.

Libraries without Borders has brought together a consortium of organizations engaged in library and migration-related issues. It is a two-year project co-funded by the European Union. These are the members:

Partner Organizations

- Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF)
- ANVITA: National Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories (France)
- FRSl: The Information Society Development Foundation (Poland)
- Kulturas Informācijas Sistemu Centrs (CIS): Culture and Information System Centers (Latvia)
- Asociația Comunitară Viitorului (ACV): Communities of the Future Association (Romania)
- Biblioteche Senza Frontiere (Italy)
- European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)

8. Information on IFLA Strategy 2024-29; postponed from November meeting. (Please read and follow up with questions).
9. Miscellaneous. Maela removed non-committee administrators on Facebook and updated a message linking to our LinkedIn site.
10. Next meeting: Possibly the end of January, January 29-30, 2025.