

MINUTES
IFLA Information Literacy Section, SC-II Meeting
Berlin - August 8, 2003

Attendees

Members: Jesus Lau, Christina Tovoté, Hannelore Rader, Chan Sai Noi, Babakisi Fidzani, Judy Peacock, Eileen Stec, Toby Stone, Eva Tolonen, Patricia Yocum

Observers: Bill Johnston, Leslie Murtha, Ellen Hammond, Patricia Iannuzzi, Birgitta Hansson, Bernadette Patte Guédon, Maria Luisa de la Maza.

The meeting continued the SC-I agenda including a few new items.

1) *Glasgow minutes were approved*

2) *IFLA priorities and recommendations to the Division on Regional Activities.*

During the next two years the Section will work on the two priorities identified in this basic document.

Literacy in libraries:

Number 2: *“IFLA should urge library and information schools to promote adult basic education skills as a component of their curricula.”*

Number 3: *“IFLA should promote literacy training as a basic library service as advocated in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto.”*

and

Human Resource Development

Number 7: *“IFLA should research the education and training needs of Southern (discussion in the SC about this word!) countries in conjunction with relevant agencies in order to facilitate the development of appropriate information curricula.”*

2) *Implications of IFLA new policy documents.*

a) *The Green light* paper was previously distributed. This key document discusses the changes that IFLA should undergo to be more efficient, including reducing the number of sections. It was also stated that it is too expensive to host conferences with a large number of rooms allotted to every group.

b) *The Digital Divide. President-Elect’s brainstorming session* (see:

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/brainstorming02.htm>) was continued under the title of the incoming presidential theme “Lifelong Literacy (August 7 in Berlin)”. All kinds of literacies were on the agenda. Division VII discussed a full day workshop next year for the division devoted to the discussion of terms, meanings, concepts, etc. The IL section expressed their willingness to work on a project entitled “Training the trainers” to address the needs of librarians from less developed countries. (See project description below)

3) *Update of Strategic plan.*

There was a long discussion about the content of the next two-year Information Literacy Strategic Plan. The main topics discussed were:

- ❖ The question on how Information Literacy(IL) relates to other literacies. There is a need to clarify the IL concept. More research should be done and IFLA should provide an official definitions of these key terms.
- ❖ The Mission ought to be altered so that the word “user education” is changed to information literacy.
- ❖ We should keep user education as a part of IL.

- ❖ We need to bring the statement into line with Blooms taxonomy.
- ❖ The different suggestions and changes were worked out in a new paragraph that is now part of the strategic plan (The text is on a different document).
- ❖ The key terms and concepts used in the previously listed IFLA documents (The Digital Divide, Social Responsibilities, Presidential Theme and the conference themes) were extracted. They will be taken into account in the Strategic Plan of the Section:
 1. Literacy in libraries
 2. Promotion of literacy – UNESCO manifesto
 3. Advocacy
 4. Less developed nations
 5. IFLA’s restructuring
 6. Lifelong literacy
 7. Libraries: tools for education and development.

The question was raised whether we should concentrate on one of the or all.

- ❖ We should provide a short description of IL.
- ❖ Eileen S’s definition of an information literate person: “ He or she has the ability to locate, analyze, manage, produce and create information”. The question is where to insert it.
- ❖ Another concern was whether we should try to include other than libraries in a vision.
- ❖ One option would be to merge priorities and mission.
- ❖ Patricia Y. suggested the following for our mission: “The Information Literacy Section fosters the educational role of all types of libraries by promoting cooperation and providing opportunities to share experiences and ideas about information literacy globally.
- ❖ Bill J. provided this version of goal 1 based on the priority discussion: “To encourage/foster a shift in concept and practice from a user education perception to an educational and information literacy perception”.
- ❖ Patricia I. promised to work on a version and send it us for approval after the conference. Hannelore R. and Christina T. will do the final composing.

4) *Identification of priorities for action plan.*

In the first SC meeting, confirmed again in the second meeting, we agreed upon a list of actions and persons to carry them out:

Task assignment / Deadline: February 28, 2004

Management duties

- a. Action Plan - Jesus Lau
- b. Section History – Eva Tolonen/Teodora Oker-Blom
- c. Compilation of Newsletters - “ “ “
- d. Compilation of Workshops - “ “ “
- e. Compilation of Open Sessions - “ “ “
- f. Directory of Previous Officers and SC Members – Christina Tovote
- g. Update section’s website information on IFLANET – Hannelore Rader
- h. Flyer – Eileen Stec
- i. Flyer editing – Jesus Lau
- j. Electronic tutorials – Leslie Murtha
- k. Discussion list / Yahoo discussion – Leslie Murtha
- l. Translation of the flyer – Volunteers will be requested when the flyer is ready

- m. Website Directory – Toby Stone
- n. Publishing of Best Papers – Book/Proceedings – Hannelore Rader/Jesus Lau

Brief Guidelines / Pamphlet/flyer type:

- a. How to facilitate an Infolit course – Jose Gomez-Hernandes/Benno Homan
- b. How to train librarians - “ “ “ “
- c. How to create an electronic classroom – Jesus Lau
- d. How to promote Infolit at school libraries – Jose Govez-Hernances
- e. How to promote Infolit at public libraries –
- f. How to promote Infolit at university libraries – Chan Sai Noi/Christina Fleming/C. Tovoté
- g. How to assess information literacy programs – Leslie Murtha
- h. How to prepare an online course – Judith Peacock
- i. Workforce development and Infolit – Bill Johnston

5) *Plans for future conferences.*

- ❖ Every section is only entitled to a two-hours program, including sessions and workshops. However, if a section does a joint program, then time can be double to four hours.
- ❖ The Latin American Regional Section will explore to organize a joint program/workshop with our section in Buenos Aires.
- ❖ The Section on Parliament Libraries has also approached our section to cooperate on an Information Literacy program for congressmen and decision makers. It could be organized for the OSLO conference, either as a program or a satellite meeting.
- ❖ A second program to discuss the international guidelines for the IL draft in Buenos Aires. Jesus Lau will be the convener if the program is accepted by the IFLA Secretariat.
- ❖ If the workshop is approved it will be held offsite for 40 – 50 persons in Spanish. Bill J. proposed the following title: “Information literacy for lifelong learning: Implementing programs and the implications for staff developers/trainers.” Christina T. will be the convener and, Hannelore will be the facilitator.

Election of additional new EC members

New EC members were elected during this meeting: Birgitta Hansson (Sweden), Leslie Murtha (USA), Maria Luisa de la Maza (Chile) and Bill Johnston (UK).

6) Appendix: Research project proposal – Babakisi F., Maria Luisa de la M. and Christina T.

The Committee worked on a potential IL project with the title “Training the trainers for Information Literacy”, during the Berlin conference. Babakisi F. introduced the project during the SCI meeting. A general description of the project follows:

“There is a need to facilitate continual development of librarians to enable them to cope with emerging demands of the profession. Most of the library schools equip them with knowledge about librarianship. Thus they are well equipped with the theoretical aspects of the profession. There is a need to put the theory into practice by imparting what has been learnt to different user groups. This would therefore require knowledge and competencies in the development of programs, assessment/evaluation techniques, teaching methods and application of appropriate ICT in the delivery of the program. A project was approved to develop a Training Package for Potential Information Literacy Facilitators. The aim of the project will be to help

librarians to facilitate information literacy courses. Teaching requires knowledge and competencies on the following:

- i Content of subject to be taught, in this case information literacy
- ii Skills to develop or adapt existing programs
- iii Competencies in the delivery of the content – teaching methods
- iv Assessment and /or evaluation

To set this up, a workshop will have to be held on "the Teaching of Information Literacy, and the state of the art of information literacy in various region in the world.. This would include:

- a) Presentation of survey results to provide baseline data which would be the base for the development of programs to meet librarians' needs.
- b) Case studies by countries on how librarians have been supported in the development and implementation of IL programs.
- c) Development of the program

The resource persons for delivering the first workshop at a regional level need to be identified.

The participants would be from different institutions and would serve later as information literacy leaders in their own regions. There would be need for continuous monitoring of the project. Reports and case studies on the impact of training would be a possibility

The project will be submitted for the Buenos Aires Conference to allow for a literature search on the subject and to clarify the content. Babakisi F. will be the leader of the project.