



IFLA Section
Management of
Library Associations

Minutes of Management of Library
Associations Standing Committee
Meeting

Teleconference (Zoom)

Tuesday, 05 March 2024

15:00 – 17:00 (CET) (Amsterdam)

Attendance:

Loida Garcia Febo (Chair) loidagarciafebo@gmail.com UNITED STATES

Micheline Brule mbrule@fmdoc.org (Information Coordinator) CANADA

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Namutenya Hamwaalwa hnamutenya@gmail.com NAMIBIA

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

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

Loy Jyoon Chin (Secretary, Minutes) jyoonchin57@gmail.com MALAYSIA

Excused:

Vidar Lund vl@norskbibliotekforening.no NORWAY

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Antoine Torrens Montebello antoine.torrens@hotmail.fr FRANCE

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

1. Welcome

Loida Garcia-Febo, MLAS Chair started the meeting at 15:03 (CET) and welcomed all MLAS Standing Committee Members and New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) Convenor present at the meeting. She also thanked all the Standing Committee members present for their commitment and time to attend the meeting despite the different time zones.

2. MLAS Secretary items: Attendance, Agenda, Approved Minutes 09 January 2024

Loy Jyoon, MLAS secretary informed that members not present today sent their apologies. They are Vidar Lund, Nicholas Poole, Antoine Torrens Montebello, Wang Yanhang and Julia Demasi. She also informed that some of the Standing Committee members will be attending the meeting later due to work commitments. The agenda for the meeting was confirmed and approved without any additions.

Loy Jyoon informed that the minutes of the MLAS SC Meeting held on 09 January 2024 were emailed to all SC members and there was a slight amendment pertaining to the dates of the 13th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC) 2024 in the minutes. The Minutes were then approved by all the MLAS SC by 12 February 2024 via email and uploaded in the IFLA Repository on 13 February 2024. The submission was accepted and archived in D' Space and it has been assigned the following identifier:

<https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/3202>. Loy Jyoon thanked all the MLAS SC for their cooperation.

3. Report from the IFLA Governing Board

Loida as MLAS Chair is a member of the IFLA Governing Board. She informed that the first IFLA Governing Board Meeting of the year was held on 15 February 2024 via teleconference. Among the highlights that Loida reported include the IFLA Information Futures Summit hosted by IFLA President Vicki McDonald, and under the theme “Stronger Together”. It will be held in Brisbane, Australia from 30 September to 3 October 2024 and the Summit website can be accessed at <https://2024.ifla.org/>; welcomed new members onto IFLA Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage <https://www.ifla.org/units/cch/>; timeline for IFLA General Assembly 2024, 20 June 2024 in The Hague (in a hybrid format) <https://www.ifla.org/units/general-assembly/>; results of the survey on experiences of IFLA nominations and elections process; and IFLA Strategy Survey <https://www.ifla.org/news/setting-a-benchmark-for-the-next-ifla-strategy-latest->

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[survey-results-out/](#). MLAS SC inquired when the names of the IFLA Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage will be made public. (Upon further revision, the Chair shared the link to the committee's page on the IFLA website which includes the names of the new members.)

Loida also informed that the IFLA WLIC Review Steering Committee #2 held a meeting on 28 February 2024. Among the matters discussed were a set of questions on whether IFLA needs a congress. Loida shared the questions orally with MLAS Members and asked for their comments and consultation. MLAS members thought the question "Does IFLA need a Congress?" could be asked after asking the other questions, such as the purpose, benefits, and need of WLIC. The Chair will share this point with the Steering Committee. MLAS SC asked if Loida could share the questions in an email with them. Loida will consult the Steering Committee on this matter.

Loida also brought to the attention of the SC that Loy Jyoon (Malaysia), Magdalena Gomulka (Poland) and Randa Al Chidiac (Lebanon) are also members of the IFLA WLIC Review Steering Committee for geographical diversity and had experienced with other Congresses in their countries. Loida is representing MLAS in the Steering Committee. MLAS Chair as a member of the IFLA GB welcomed any comments or questions about anything else they are interested in finding out about the IFLA GB.

4. Update Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working Group

Irina Trushina, representing MLAS as a member of the IFLA Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working Group (CCVWG) gave an update on the Code of Conduct for Volunteers. The goal of the group is to develop a draft Code of Conduct for Volunteers (final copy) that is to be submitted to the IFLA Governing Board for approval by December 2024. The Code of Conduct for Volunteers has value as both an internal guideline and an external statement of IFLA values and commitments that sets out the minimum standards of behaviour required by volunteers for or with IFLA. The Code will provide guidance on standards of behaviour appropriate for volunteers within the context of approved Statutes, Rules of Procedure, and Core Values. The Code of Conduct for Volunteers is planned to be a working tool and will be reviewed every two years to ensure currency and relevance.

Irina also highlighted that the Chair of the Working Group is Te Paea Paringatai, representing the IFLA Governing Board. CCVWG have 10 members who represent the GB, the Professional Council, the Regional Council, Management of Library Associations Section

(MLAS), the IFLA Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (2022 IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Award winner), also Representing Sections, Special Interest Groups, Regional Divisions, Advisory Committees. The first meeting will be held on 20 March.

5. MLAS priorities for 2023 – 2025 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nTzDNDt8PbDfY-MK6rjuQywukPyA3FWI2ny_9_INesg/edit?usp=sharing

Loida reiterated that the mission of MLAS is to build and support strong, well-managed library associations. The MLAS Building Strong Library Associations Initiative includes three activities based on the following MLAS priority areas: information integrity, library associations advocacy, financial sustainability, strategic forecasting, and membership retention. The three initiatives are :

(a) 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.*

(b) Building Strong Library Associations Webinars with IFLA Regional Division based on regional needs.

Loida highlighted that 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.

(c) 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 suggested that this Programme be launched this year.

The Chair asked for comments or thoughts on the three proposed MLAS Building Strong Library Association activities. Hella thanked Loida for all the hard work and preparation and suggested that the programme document be sent to them to look at it again. Loida will re-send the document via email.

6. MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting 2024: Astana, Kazakhstan, May 29-31, 2024

Loida informed that the MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting 2024 has a Working Group comprising Loida as the Chair, Loy Jyoon Chin, Micheline Brule, Marwa El Sahn and Lynn L. Jibril. MLAS Working Group had Zoom meetings with Kazakhstan in January and February. She highlighted that this year's theme for the European Asian International Conference (EALC) is "Connect, Collaborate, Create: Advancing Library Associations and Partnerships to Future-proof our Profession". The keywords for the MLAS Conference are information integrity, advocacy, financial sustainability, strategic forecasting, and membership management. The link to the Conference website can be viewed via this link: <https://nu.kz.libguides.com/ealc2024>. It will be a hybrid Conference with a registration fee but MLAS SC will be given free registration.

Loida reiterated that MLAS contribution in the conference include the following: two keynote speakers from the United Nations and ALA; three MLAS Standing Committee(Jorge Moises Kroll do Prado, Imad Bachir and Lynn L. Jibril) are part of the committee reviewing programme proposals; MLAS Meeting with local associations leadership; MLAS Mid-Term Business Meeting on 31 May from 4.00 to 6.00 pm (Kazakhstan Time) (Observers welcome); a block of MLAS programme each day from 3.00 to 5:00 pm (Kazakhstan time); So far MLAS SC Panelists (Loy Jyoon Chin on financial sustainability; Irina Trushina on Library Advocacy; MLAS SC on Strategic Forecasting)

The SC present agreed that the MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting which will be held on 31 May from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in Astana, Kazakhstan during the Conference be open to all MLAS Members as observers. Loy Jyoon and Micheline will coordinate the Zoom meeting in Astana.

Loida highlighted that the attendance in person for the previous MLAS Mid-Term meeting was between 8 to 10 person. Loida informed that six MLAS SC have expressed their intention of attending the Conference in Astana. She invited all the other MLAS SC to attend the meeting in person so that she could arrange for library and museum tours and other places of interest and dinner.

7. MLAS Action Plan 2023-2024: Reports from Working Group Leaders and Members

(a) Advocacy Impact Evaluation Working Group

Dijana Machala gave an update on the Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project by introducing the working group which comprised of Dijana Machala (Chair), Pascal Sanz (Former MLAS SC/ European Regional division), Susan Haigh (Former MLAS SC), Hella Klauser, Alicia Selles Carot, Jorge Moises Kroll do Prado, Namutenya Hamwaalwa, and Ana Carolina Lopez Scondras. She informed that the WG meets regularly once a month. Dijana welcomed Namutenya Hamwaalwa, and Ana Carolina Lopez Scondras as new members of the WG and will send invitations to them for the next meeting.

The working group is now finalizing the project by conducting interviews with advocacy impact experts from around the world. The WG planned to finish the interviews covering Asia, Australia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean and MENA Region by the end of May 2024. The WG will meet in person from the 21-24 May in Zagreb, Croatia to prepare the document of the project review before the MLAS Mid-Term Business Meeting in Kazakhstan.

Hella commented that the different interviews conducted from around the world will give different perspectives, and perhaps more insight information on our topic through their experience. Loida reiterated that this project will be a great contribution to our library field because there is very little impact evaluation in the area of advocacy.

(b) MLAS Communications Working Group

Micheline as the Chair of the MLAS Communications Work Group gave an update on MLAS Communications. Among the updates she shared included the following: Communications through the website, Facebook and X (Twitter)) about the congress in Lebanon and Kazakhstan; Need to find a free WordPress solution for MLAS so that IFLA can eventually

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integrate it into the official IFLA Website; MLAS Facebook and Twitter; MLAS SC and MLAS Member Mailing lists and Survey on communication needs.

Micheline also informed that Loy Jyoon and herself attended a meeting for the Information Coordinator organised by IFLA HQ. Several sections in the meeting felt that the task of an Information Coordinator was too big for just one person, and the work was divided just like in MLAS.

Loida informed that she will prepare the MLAS Report for the next IFLA GB Meeting in April and that it will be in the format prepared by IFLA HQ.

(c) WLIC 2024 Open Session Working Group

Loida informed that Imad Bachir and Marwa El Sahn are MLAS representatives coordinating with the Lebanese Library Association, the IFLA MENA Regional Division, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) to present Libraries and the Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage 6th Conference of the Lebanese Library Association (LLA) from 14-17 May 2024 in Beirut, Lebanon. The Conference will be conducted in-person and online. The Conference website can be viewed via this link: <https://lebaneselibraryassociation.org/>

Imad gave an update on the upcoming conference and informed that MLAS will host two sessions at the LLA conference and would like to ask for collaboration with IFLA HQ. The two sessions are :

(i) Session on cultural heritage preservation in the MENA region and it is crucial that MLAS have a member of the IFLA Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee speaking at this event.

(ii) Session on IFLA membership issues and concerns and library associations challenges worldwide and in MENA. Loida will communicate with IFLA HQ to request for the IFLA membership staff member to speak at this session, and Stephen Wyber to speak about advocacy and SDGs.

(iii) MLAS will host a business meeting with library association leadership in the region at this conference.

Loida will participate in the conference online and Imad invited the MLAS SC to participate in-person or online. MLAS SC who are interested in participating in any of these sessions are welcome and can inform Loida.

(d) MLAS Associations Survey Update Working Group

Loida suggested working on this MLAS Associations Survey Update at a later time or in 2025 since we have already identified MLAS priorities. The Chair asked the SC members present whether another Working Group would like to work on it as Nick Poole, Chair of the Working Group will be leaving the library field in March 2024. MLAS SC agreed to work on this Survey in 2025 and another group of volunteers to look at it.

The link to the Google document with the strategic plans/work plans from MLAS members who shared it is as follows: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19LcMM5R7EaoDH9a2c-ACrbnIQ8dD2NoUoZUS21wDr5A/edit?usp=sharing>

8. “Unshelving Voices: Empowering Libraries Against Censorship”

Loida informed that the two-day International Symposium on Library Censorship with the theme “Unshelving Voices: Empowering Libraries Against Censorship” is sponsored by IFLA LGBTQ+ Special Interest Group, The Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE). The co-sponsors are the School Library Section and the Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS). The Conference will be held in Mexico City from 6 to 7 August 2024 sponsored by the National Autonomous University of Mexico. FAIFE had earlier invited MLAS to be the co-sponsor and the MLAS SC agreed. MLAS Chair is a part of the Advisory Committee and MLAS members might be asked to volunteer to review presentation proposals and as part of a panel. The Conference website can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.ifla.org/news/unshelving-voices-empowering-libraries-against-censorship/>.

9. MLAS Standing Committee Meeting Next Dates: 30 April (Zoom), 31 May (Hybrid)

MLAS SC Committee agreed that the next MLAS SC Meeting be held on Tuesday 30 April via Zoom at 15:00 CEST (Amsterdam). The meeting in April is in part to finalize the preparation for the Conference in Lebanon and Kazakhstan. The MLAS SC Business Meeting will be held on 31 May in Astana, Kazakhstan from 4:00 to 6:00 pm (Kazakhstan time) in a hybrid format

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during the European Asian International Conference (EALC). MLAS SC agreed that MLAS Members be invited to the MLAS Business Meeting as observers. Loy Jyoon and Micheline will set up the Zoom Meeting in Astana. The Chair hope to meet all the MLAS SC in Astana.

10. Updates from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Convenors

(a) New Professionals SIG: Paria Aria

Paria Aria, New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) Convenor left the meeting early due to work commitment and sent updates on the activities of NPSIG for February and March. The updates include the following activities:

(i) Multicultural Cafés – Collaboration with Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section. Multicultural cafés are a place for new professionals, LIS students, and librarians to gather, talk about their culture, and meet one another. The first café is taking place on March 26th at 3.00 pm CET.

(ii) Opportunities and Challenges on the Job Market – Collaboration with the University of North Texas ASIS&T Student Chapter and ASIS&T SIG III. NPSIG will host a workshop on March 28th at 6.00 pm CET. The workshop is about writing good resumes / CVs and cover letters and the points hiring managers look for in an application.

(iii) IFLAeCamp-This Year IFLA eCamp will be held online with the theme “Libraries of the Future” Among the activities during the IFLAeCamp include a keynote speaker to open the camp; an icebreaking session with the participants; Around the World in 80 Days held at different time zones to allow people from different time zones to present and attend presentations; and a flash mop for the closing ceremony.

(iv) An avatar contest - to create an avatar of a librarian in the future.

NPSIG members, Maja, Nathalie, Laura, Adrienne, Mahmoud, Mario, Lorato, Borna, and Paria are working together to create an engaging IFLAeCamp for everyone.

(b) Women, Information and Libraries SIG: Jeli Saveta Blagojeric

Jeli Saveta Blagojeric, Women, Information and Libraries SIG (WILSIG) Convenor is not present today. She sends an update on the activities of WILSIG. The updates include the following activities:

- (i) WILSIG convened a meeting on January 15th, 2024, from 15:00 to 16:00 CET (virtual) to discuss the implementation of planned activities for the period 2023-2025.
- (ii) Preparation of WILSIG Newsletter
- (iii) Preparation of bibliographies on Children's books on Women Rights and Gender Equality
- (iv) Improving communication tools

11. Miscellaneous

Co-option of MLAS Standing Committee Member

Nicholas Poole will be leaving the library field in March 2024 and MLAS will need to have a co-option of MLAS Standing Committee Member to replace Nick. MLAS will send an email to IFLA HQ to ask for the names of those expressing interest to serve as co-opted members of an IFLA Section.

12. Closing Remarks

MLAS Chair thanked all the MLAS SC and SIG Convenor for their active participation and valuable inputs which have contributed to a very fruitful meeting. Everyone is very active, doing different things, and that is what makes MLAS strong and has good visibility and regions want to work with us. She then proposed to move the NPSIG and WILSIG updates to the first or second items in the MLAS SC Meeting agenda, so we can hear from them as they really work very hard.

The next MLAS SC meeting will be held on Tuesday, 30 April 2024 at 15:00 (CEST) Amsterdam via Zoom. On this note, the MLAS Chair ended the meeting at 16:40 CET (Amsterdam).

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