



## IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Standing Committee

<http://www.ifla.org/metropolitan-libraries>

Business Meeting  
On 13th April 2023 over Zoom

Over Zoom

### **1. Welcome, attendance, general introductions, apologies**

Carolyn Anthony, Chair (Public Library Association, USA); Brian Bannon (NY, USA); Suzie Gately (Newcastle, Australia); Carme Galve Montore (Barcelona, Spain); Moe Hosseini-Ara (Toronto, Canada); John Spears (Buffalo, USA); Mathilde Servet (Paris, France); Neeza Singh (Chandigarh, India); Katri Vanttinen (Helsinki, Finland); Ton van Vlimmeren (Utrecht, Netherlands); Lucia Werder, Secretary (Bremen, Germany)

Apologies: Eman Alshamari (Qatar); Nick Buron, Information Coordinator (NY, USA); Pablo Bruno D'Amico (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

The SC meeting was called to order at 15:05 p.m. MEZ.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The committee accepted the proposed agenda extended by the following topic: "Intellectual Freedom Challenges" and an update from John on "A Corto di libri".

### **3. Approval of Minutes from Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of February were confirmed.

### **4. Elections for Standing Committee---5 vacancies**

There are 11 candidates for 5 vacancies

Timeline:

Elections close: Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 17:00 CES

Election results announced: Monday, 1 May 2023

### **5. Public Library of the Year Award---Update?**

Mathilde reported that the next meeting is in May.

To qualify in 2023, the library must be built and opened between January 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022.

You can apply for the award until April 23 2023.

More about the Public Library of the Year Award: <https://hubs.ly/Q01GJKRk0>

### **6. MetLib Learning Circle Update--Mathilde and Neeza**

Neeza reported that the workshop for the upcoming MetLib Conference is planned by the members of the Learning Circle.

Each time a different topic is discussed, often with a guest.

The network between the participants is growing.

Mathilde will share the slides of the sessions and of upcoming sessions with Nick to be shared with all SC members via basecamp.

## **7. Satellite session on Metropolitan Libraries and Urban Development in Rotterdam, August 18<sup>th</sup> ---Ton and Mathilde**

Ton reported about the Satellite meeting in Rotterdam August 18th on the topic of «Realising the Opportunity: Libraries in Sustainable Urban Development». The satellite meeting is a cooperation with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS).

The session is planned for an audience of 75 participants, including participants and speakers from outside the library world like architects. Therefore the number of participants from the library world is limited to around 50 persons to discover a range of experience and perspectives. No registration fee will be required.

This meeting will kick-off with an urban development-based keynote speaker (to be confirmed), followed in the morning by two sessions presenting case studies of libraries impacting on urban development (the ambition being to have a librarian and an urban professional each give their perspective views on the expected outcomes/challenges and lessons learned from the cases in question). During these sessions interaction with the meeting participants will be encouraged and reinforced during the afternoon sessions.

Ton announced two of the speakers:

- Carlos Moreno will talk about the "15-minute city," where inhabitants have access to all the services they need to live, learn and thrive within their immediate vicinity
- Aat Voss, architect from the Netherlands and expert for public spaces, 3<sup>rd</sup> space

In the afternoon sessions, featuring 2 sets of 3 parallel workshops, (participants can choose a maximum two themes) there will be the opportunity to deepen the discussion further in small groups to explore ideas, before the ideas will be consolidated and future follow-up is defined.

The full program and registration details are to follow shortly.

## **8. MetLib program for WLIC**

The Business meeting will take place on Sunday, 8/20/23 13:30 – 15:15 local time in Rotterdam, in room Rotterdam A, it's planned as hybrid meeting.

A joint program with Statistics and Evaluation Section on impact measurement will take place on Tuesday 8/22/23 11:30 - 12:30 h local time in Rotterdam. The program will be streamed but won't be hybrid.

Colleen Cook, professor of McGill University and member of the Statistics and Evaluation Section, will speak about the survey on impact measurement and the findings. Other speakers are not yet fixed but there will be a representative from National libraries and public libraries.

Moe reported about a firm from Denmark (Seismonaut) which is involved in Social impact studies and did a tour at Toronto library branches. The results of the studies are expected in

August and will concern outcomes and impact of libraries. These are especially important regarding funding in troubled times of budget cuts. Moe will share the results.

Here is the actual report from Seismonaut they did in Denmark:

[https://www.roskildebib.dk/sites/roskilde.ddbcms.dk/files/files/news/roskildebib\\_folkebiblioteks\\_betydning\\_for\\_borgerne\\_i\\_danmark\\_eng\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.roskildebib.dk/sites/roskilde.ddbcms.dk/files/files/news/roskildebib_folkebiblioteks_betydning_for_borgerne_i_danmark_eng_final_0.pdf)

<https://www.roskildebib.dk/new-study-impact-public-libraries-denmark>

### **9. MetLib Conference in Buenos Aires Oct 2 - 4**

Carolyn reported that a number of proposals came in with good suggestions. The reception is planned on Sunday 1st October followed by 3 days with planned program. Until now there are proposals from Argentina and Brazil, Carme is in contact with speakers from Chile, Lima for more diversity of speakers from Latin America.

There is also a proposal from the MetLib learning circle.

As there are also proposals from academic libraries an additional Unconference for academic libraries is planned.

### **10. IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Short Film Award**

John reported about the status of the IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Short Film Award. The award is part of "A Corto di libri", a contest for short films about libraries and librarians, organized by Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (AIB).

The ceremony is postponed to October (during the MetLib Conference in Buenos Aires) including the announcement of winners.

This year John's library will be sponsor for the award with 1000 €.

There is already a commitment with "A Corto di libri" for next year, but a sponsor for the award is still needed.

### **10. Dynamic Unit and Impact Awards 2023 – Deadline 15 May 2023 -**

<https://www.ifla.org/g/professional-council/ifla-dynamic-unit-and-impact-award/>

The DUIAs sponsored by the Professional Council (PC), recognise Professional Units who excel at putting the expectations of a [Dynamic Unit](#) into practice. Dynamic Units have the greatest impact on IFLA's global work – engaging members, developing strong leadership and identity, delivering high-quality services with a measurable impact, and communicating activities within IFLA and beyond.

For 2023, the Professional Council will award a winner for each individual DUIA criterion in addition to the overall DUIA - **a total of four awards**. The PC invites Units to nominate themselves to one of the following to be recognised for their work and achievements during the August 2022- August 2023 period:

- **DUIA for Work Quality and Impact**
- **DUIA for Communication**
- **DUIA for Engagement and Leadership**

- **DUIA Overall Achievement**

**Who is eligible?** The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award(s) will be presented to one or more of the following:

- Divisions
- Sections
- Special Interest Groups
- Review Groups
- Advisory Committees

**How do we nominate our Unit?** We can submit **the application online:**

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7292532/2023-DUIA-Nomination-Form>

We will nominate our unit for the DUIA for Engagement and Leadership for several reasons:

- The MetLib Learning Circle run by Tommi and our MetLib Conferences are very good examples for developing strong leadership and identity.
- **We have** coopted members and many nominees who run for the section (11 nominees for 11 vacancies)
- we are partnering with the Statics and Evaluation Section and with the Public Library Section
- We are organizing a satellite conference this year
- We have nearly monthly SC meetings and are an active group with many engaged members

And to show that MetLib section is valuable for IFLA regarding the discussions about merging with Public Libraries in the past.

## **12. Other items for discussion & Committee member updates**

Intellectual Freedom Challenges: Moe reported that Toronto Public Library just published a statement about intellectual freedom and equity:

<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/about-the-library/mission-vision-values/intellectual-freedom/index.jsp>

And referred to the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Declaration of Democracy:

<https://www.urbanlibraries.org/initiatives/democracy/declaration-of-democracy#:~:text=Democracy%20can%20only%20thrive%20with,participate%20in%20the%20democratic%20process.>

He offers that Vickery can be invited for talks about intellectual freedom to move this initiative forward.

Brian also spoke on the initiative of unbanned books/censorship of ALA, he reported about an inspiring talk of Tracie D. Hall from ALA. Also see:

<https://libraryleadershippodcast.com/103-dealing-with-book-banning-with-tracie-d-hall/>

As this topic is relevant for libraries around the world, maybe a summit about that topic or a national dialogue with other initiatives should be pushed forward.

Carolyn suggested a webinar or to put the topic on the agenda of the MetLib Conference.

The FAIFE SC would be a good partner for that subject.

**Ton reported about the EBLIDA perspective:** the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe approved the Recommendation on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe, drafted in collaboration with EBLIDA. This Recommendation reinforces active citizenship in a democratic environment and, beyond culture and education, focusses on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. It also reinforces the social dimension of libraries and their commitment towards a sustainable, democratic and equitable society. For more information see: <http://www.eblida.org/news/recommendation-on-library-legislation-and-policy-in-europe.html>

EBLIDA will focus on that topic on this years conference.

The SC discussed the idea of a statement of MetLib on that topic or joining a statement on that topic. This discussion will be continued.

## **12. Next Meetings**

Next meeting of the MetLib Standing Committee is scheduled Thursday, June 15, 9 am EDT

Topics: Looking ahead to MetLib Conference 2024 Melbourne, Australia

Further upcoming SC meetings: 8/20/23, 13:30 – 15:15 RTM, room Rotterdam A at WLIC in Rotterdam

## **13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 16:00 p.m. (MEZ).

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia Werder

Secretary, Metropolitan Libraries Section