



**Public Libraries Standing Committee  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-2019**

## Introduction

National pride was an integral part of the *2019 IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year Award*, with each of the four short-listed accompanied by a passionate cheer squad at the presentation which was part of the WLIC in Athens. Excitement bubbled over when Helsinki Central Library, Oodi was declared the winner and the auditorium erupted into a sea of Finnish flags. The Awards which are one of the Standing Committee's key initiatives again attracted considerable attention both in the quality and reach of applications, and the numbers attending the ceremony.



*Oodi wins!*

The Awards are a partnership between the sponsor, Systematic, IFLA's Public Libraries, Metropolitan Libraries and Library Building and Equipment professional units and are indicative of the SC's collaborative approach in meeting their objectives. Other highlights of the year 2018-2019 included a rich mid-term program in Finland, and an exciting satellite meeting in Rome in the lead up to the 2019 WLIC. Both were the result of successful alliances with IFLA partners.

As demonstrated in this *Report* SC members actively promoted the work of IFLA and the Section at workshops and seminars worldwide increasing engagement in the sector.

The WLIC in Athens heralded a change in membership within the SC with Anette Mjöberg, Jane Wee, Jos Debeij, Annie Dourlent, Raymond Santiago and Hitomi Takeuchi completing their terms. This was also an opportunity to welcome new SC members; Martin Memet Könick, Raneetha Rajaratnam, Ulrike Krass, Jane Cowell, Elizabeth White, Annie Brigant and Sander van Kempen.

August 2019 also marked the end of my term as Chair of the Public Libraries Standing Committee, and also my time with the Section. It has been an enormous privilege to be part of such a dynamic and committed group of individuals who collectively bring so much experience and professionalism to the table. To the outgoing and ongoing members my sincere thanks for your support; and to the incoming members the best of luck. Enjoy this wonderful opportunity.



*Outgoing and incoming members of the Public Libraries Standing Committee in Athens*

**Jan Richards**  
**Chair, IFLA Public Libraries Section**

## Report on progress and activities

<b>Objectives</b> <i>Identified in the Unit's Action Plan</i>	<b>Project or activity</b> <i>Identified in the Unit's Action Plan</i>	<b>Progress</b> <i>Please give brief details, including status (not started, in progress, near completion, completed)</i>	<b>Risks</b> <i>Please identify any problems or concerns (e.g. missed deadlines, lack of resource) and how you would propose to address them</i>
<b>1. Support the sector through the sharing of best practice</b>	Undertake a review of IFLA <i>Public Library Service Guidelines</i> .	Consultant brief further refined, session conducted at WLIC in Athens. <b>IN PROGRESS</b>	Project delayed by time constraints of SC members to work on this initiative.
	Undertake a review <a href="#">IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto</a> 1994 for relevance	Worked with IFLA HQ to develop a survey to be distributed to key agencies. Promotional campaign developed to mark commencement of anniversary year. <b>IN PROGRESS</b>	Project delayed by time constraints of SC members to work on this initiative
	Deliver the annual Public Library of the Year Award in partnership with the sponsor (Systematic) and other IFLA Professional Group	Shortlisted Libraries were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Square Library and Plaza (Australia)</li> <li>• Bibliotheek LocHal (Netherlands)</li> <li>• Oodi Helsinki Central Library (Finland)</li> <li>• Tūranga – Christchurch Central Library (New Zealand)</li> </ul> The winning Library (Oodi Helsinki Central Library) was announced at the WLIC in Athens <b>ANNUAL</b>	That not enough libraries from a geographically diverse range will enter and limit the international nature of this Award.

<p><b>2. Advocate for equitable access to information and knowledge for communities world-wide that supports the democratic process, shared understanding and community well-being</b></p>	<p>Monitor, record and share initiatives that support equitable access to information and knowledge</p>	<p>Stories shared across the PLS website, social media channels and through national networks. <b>ONGOING</b></p>	<p>Relies on active engagement by all SC members</p>
<p><b>3. Build capacity for public libraries and public librarians internationally through an agile and engaged Section</b></p>	<p>Ensure the delivery of strong and relevant conference programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with Metlib, Academic and Research Libraries, Library Buildings and Equipment, and Public Libraries for satellite program in Rome prior to the 2019 WLIC , <a href="#"><i>The evolving concept of 'Library' and its impact on library design.</i></a> Attended by 120 delegates.</li> <li>• Sessions at WLIC in Athens on Public Library Standards and joint session with MetLib <i>Enter the third dimension: measuring public library impact and outcomes on the success of our communities</i></li> </ul>	<p>Relies on active engagement by all SC members and networks</p>
<p>Encourage public librarians to participate in IFLA conferences through the presentation of innovative papers or posters</p>	<p>Encourage public librarians to participate in IFLA conferences through the presentation of innovative papers or posters</p>	<p>Successful seminar and mid-term conducted in Helsinki and Tampere. The Seminar, <a href="#"><i>The Marrakesh Treaty in Action: Implementing the treaty and more ideas for accessible digital reading</i></a> was organised by Celia Library, IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities, and Finnish Library Association <b>COMPLETED</b></p>	<p>Relies on active engagement by all SC members and networks</p>

Encourage active participation in the Section


Members actively engaged through shared communication initiatives and wide geographical distribution achieved through a targeted campaign for corresponding members from areas not represented on the SC.

SC members also spoke about the work of the Section at workshops and seminars:

- Corinne Hill spoke at the ALA Conference and to the PLA Board
- Jan Richards travelled to Iran at the invitation of the Iran Public Library Foundation [to talk about the work of IFLA](#) and the Section. She was also a guest of honour at the opening of the Mashhad Central Library.
- Anette Mjoberg attended a conference in Norway and spoke to attendees
- Spaska Tarandova wrote an article for the Bulgarian Library Association Magazine
- Lenka Pruckova presented at a professional association meeting in the Czech Republic
- Adriana Cybelle Ferrari has been working with the Brazilian Federation on a book which

	<p>includes reference to public libraries and the SDGs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan Richards contributed a chapter to <i>Public Library Governance</i> which will be published by IFLA later in 2019.</li> </ul> <p><b>ONGOING</b></p>
Contribute to IFLA's Strategic Framework	<p>PLS contributed a report to this discussion &amp; SC represented at meeting in The Hague.</p> <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p>
Lead a project to work on Quality Assessment of Public Libraries Collections	<p>Creation of relevant Guidelines that demonstrate broad consultation and applicability</p> <p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p>

## Results

Completed Project or Activity	Outputs
<b>1. Collaboration with Metlib, Academic and Research Libraries, Library Buildings and Equipment, and Public Libraries for satellite program in Rome prior to the 2019 WLIC</b>	<p>Four IFLA Sections co-hosted a two-day Joint Satellite pre-conference in Rome in the beautiful Sala della Protomoteca on the Capitoline Hill immediately preceding the IFLA WLIC 19 Congress in Athens.</p> <p>The theme of the Joint Satellite, <a href="#">The evolving concept of 'Library' and its impact on library design</a> attracted 115 attendees from 27 countries. The delegates consisted of librarians, design professionals and architects, plus 10 library science / architecture students and librarians sponsored by the Goethe Institute in Rome</p> <div data-bbox="1120 603 1736 1069" data-label="Image">A large group of approximately 115 people, including librarians, design professionals, and architects, are posing for a group photo on the steps of a building in Rome. The group is diverse in age and appearance, and many are wearing name tags. The building behind them has large glass windows and stone columns.</div> <p data-bbox="1209 1072 1646 1098"><i>Participants and the joint satellite in Rome</i></p>
	<p>Our program showcased an exciting mix of keynote speakers, panel sessions, lightning and longer length talks plus a hands-on, interactive workshop on Inclusive Design. The programme committee invited thought leaders, librarians, architects and designers from across the globe to address themes of interest to all types and sizes of libraries – academic, public, heritage, new builds, small renovations to major construction projects.</p>

<b>Communications</b>	PLS communication platforms (web, email, blog and Facebook) were used in distributing information about these sessions including the call for papers and promoting the program. The considerable power of the public library networks in SC member home countries was also utilised successfully.
<b>Impact</b>	<p>This rich program was well received by the 115 attendees from 27 countries. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Let me thank you and the other organizers again for a truly wonderful and inspiring conference! It was just the right mix of presentations and interactive parts, and I took home quite a few good ideas and new contacts.</i> Benjamin Blinten, Head Librarian, Freie Universitaet Berlin</li> <li>• <i>Thank you very much for amazing conference in Roma. It was very inspired and full of ideas and interesting people.</i> Mgr. Lenka Dostálová, Moravian Library in Brno</li> <li>• <i>First of all I would like to thank you and your team for the wonderful conference (IFLA Sections: Public, Metropolitan, Academic and Library Buildings) it was perfect in many levels and everyone there was friendly and helpful too.</i> Rola Aboumoghesab and Amal Moumeni, Qatar National Library</li> </ul>

<b>Completed Project or Activity</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
<p><b>2. Develop the IFLA 2019 program sessions in partnership with :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Metropolitan Libraries</b></li> <li>• <b>Library Buildings and Equipment</b></li> </ul>	<p>Three successful sessions were organised for the WLIC in Athens. This included the IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year Award (see dot point 3 below),; a session on the Public Library Guidelines; and a joint session with Metropolitan Libraries <i>Enter the third dimension: measuring public library impact and outcomes on the success of our communities</i></p> <p>All attracted a large number of participants and offered individual SC members the opportunity to work with colleagues from other sections in developing these programs</p>



## Communications

PLS communication platforms (web, email, blog and Facebook) were used in distributing information about these sessions including the call for papers and promoting the program. The considerable power of the public library networks in SC member home countries was also utilised successfully.

## Impact

A rich public library relevant program was available to WLIC delegates

## Completed Project or Activity

### 3. IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year Awards

## Outputs

In 2019 15 libraries from 13 countries applied for the [IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year Award](#) which is a joint initiative of IFLA's Public Libraries, Metropolitan Libraries and Library Building and Equipment professional units.

The shortlisted libraries were: Green Square Library and Plaza (Australia); Bibliotheek LocHal (Netherlands); Helsinki Central Library, Oodi (Finland); and Tūranga – Christchurch Central Library (New Zealand).



*Left to Right: Barbara Lison (IFLA Governing Board) Anna-Maria Soininvaara (Director Helsinki Central Library Oodi) Gloria Perez Salmeron (IFLA President) Katri Vánttinen ( Director Helsinki Library Services) and Sinikka Sipila (IFLA President 2013-2015)*

The [Award](#) was announced and presented on Tuesday 27 August 2019 with Helsinki Central Library, Oodi being announced as the winner in front of a large audience

<b>Communications</b>	PLS communication platforms (web, email, blog and Facebook) were used in promoting the awards.
	The considerable power of the public library networks in SC member home countries was also utilised successfully to attract entries
<b>Impact</b>	Entries were received from 15 libraries from 13 countries across three continents. Considerable media coverage was received before and after the event

<b>Completed Project or Activity</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
<b>4 Participation in IFLA's Strategic Framework Process</b>	The Public Libraries Standing Committee was represented at the Strategic Framework workshop in The Hague by Margaret Allen. The issues were discussed by the SC and feedback incorporated.
<b>Communications</b>	Basecamp was used to share the document and as an area for discussion.
<b>Impact</b>	The majority of SC members participated.

## Standing Committee membership


<b>Standing Committee members' names</b>	<b>Role on the Standing Committee (if any) and contribution made to the work of the Professional Unit over the year</b> <i>For example, Chair, Information Coordinator, Project Leader</i>
<b>1.</b> Jan Richards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair</li> <li>• Convenor <i>IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year</i> Working Party</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) working party</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Manifesto</i> working party</li> <li>• Member Satellite Working Party</li> <li>• Guest Blogger May 2019</li> <li>• IFLA Literacy Key Initiative</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b> Anette Mjöberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b> Jane Wee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Coordinator</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)working party</li> </ul>
<b>4. Margaret Allen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Manifesto</i> working party</li> <li>• IFLA Literacy Key Initiative</li> <li>• IFLA Strategic Planning Framework Meeting, The Hague</li> </ul>
<b>5. Lo Claesson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Guest Blogger October 2018</li> </ul>
<b>6. Susan Considine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Guest Blogger April 2019</li> </ul>
<b>7. Jos Debeij</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> </ul>
<b>8. Annie Dourlent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> </ul>
<b>9. Montserrat Espuga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Member working party <i>Enter the third dimension: measuring public library impact and outcomes on the success of our communities</i>, joint session with Metropolitan Libraries, Athens</li> </ul>
<b>10. Adriana Cybelle Ferrari</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)working party</li> </ul>
<b>11. Corrine Hill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)working party</li> <li>• Member working party, <i>Public Library Guidelines</i> session Athens</li> <li>• Guest Blogger September 2018</li> </ul>
<b>12. Leikny H. Indergaard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Member <i>IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year</i> Working Party</li> </ul>
<b>13. Jakob Guillois Laerkes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)working party</li> <li>• Member <i>IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year</i> Working Party</li> </ul>
<b>14. Pirkko Lindberg</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Convenor Mid-Term Meeting Helsinki/Tampere</li> </ul>
<b>15. Isema Meic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Manifesto</i> working party</li> </ul>
<b>16. Lenka Pruckova</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> </ul>
<b>17. Xu Qiang</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> </ul>

18. Raymond Santiago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)working party</li> </ul>
19. Hitomi Takeuchi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)working party</li> </ul>
20. Spaska Tarandova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> <li>• Member working party, <i>Public Library Guidelines</i> session Athens</li> </ul>

Names of any other reporting persons	Role <i>For example, Corresponding Members</i>
1. Rusudan Asatiani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> </ul>
2. Sarah Dudek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Manifesto</i> working party</li> </ul>
3. Mark Freeman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Manifesto</i> working party</li> </ul>
4. Fatemeh Pazooki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> <li>• Review of <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)working party</li> </ul>
5. Shaddy Shadrach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> </ul>

## Professional Unit meetings or conference calls

Date	Location or type of meeting
12-13 March 2019	Mid-Term Meeting, Finland
<b>Main Outcomes</b>	
<p>The Public Library Standing Committee (PLSC) held its mid-term meeting in Finland 12-13 March. Our packed program included participation in a one day seminar, <a href="#"><u>The Marrakesh Treaty in Action: Implementing the treaty and more ideas for accessible digital reading</u></a> organised by Celia Library, IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities, and the Finnish Library Association. This gave our members an appreciation of the <i>Treaty</i> and how it impacts on our services. The seminar was held at the magical Oodi Helsinki Central Library and we were treated to a tour of this wonderful place before we headed north to Tampere for our meeting.</p>	
 <p>Our host, PLSC member Pirkko Lindberg and her staff made us incredibly welcome in snowy Tampere where we gained an understanding of this historic city. Our meeting at the Tampere Library allowed us to discuss the many projects in which the SC is involved including the <i>IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year</i>; the review of the <i>Public Library Manifesto</i> and our programs for the WLIC in Athens. The <a href="#"><u>Minutes</u></a> of the meeting are available to download.</p> <p>As a fitting finale we were treated to a traditional smoke sauna followed by ice-swimming and the (not so traditional) karaoke! Is it any wonder people are fighting to be part of the PLSC!</p> <p><i>Standing Committee Members were treated to a tour of Oodi Helsinki Central Library during their mid-term meeting in March</i></p>	

Date	Location or type of meeting
<b>2019</b>	<b>WLIC Athens, Greece</b>
<b>Main Outcomes</b>	
<p>The Public Library Standing Committee (PLSC) held two business meetings at the WLIC in Athens.</p>	
<p>At the first meeting on Saturday 24 August an election was held for Office Bearers for the next two years. Corinne Hill was elected as Chair, Margaret Allen as Secretary and Pirkko Lindberg as Information Coordinator.</p>	
<p>Outgoing members: Anette Mjöberg, Jane Wee, Jos Debeij, Annie Dourlent, Raymond Santiago, Hitomi Takeuchi and Jan Richards were thanked for their contribution to the Standing Committee.</p>	
<p>Members worked through the Action Plan with a focus on the sessions planned for the WLIC in Rome. A feature of this meeting was presentations by:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatemeh Pazooki, PhD Candidate of Knowledge &amp; Information Science, Faculty of Education and Psychology, Alzahra University, Tehran, Iran <i>Crisis Management and Libraries in Iran</i>. Fatemeh is a corresponding member of PLS and spoke passionately about the role public libraries played in Iran during the extensive flooding in March 2019. This elicited considerable discussion about the ways in which public libraries internationally had responded to disasters.</li> <li>• Kristine Paberza, IFLA Member Engagement Officer <i>Library Map of the World</i>. The SC had requested that Kristine attend so that we could mutually explore ways in which to simplify the <i>Library map of the World</i> process while retaining the tool's integrity. This will be discussed further.</li> </ul>	
<p>The SC's second meeting on Wednesday 28 August focussed on finessing the <i>Action Plan</i> in accordance with IFLA's strategic direction. This was an opportunity to welcome new Standing Committee members; Martin Memet Könick, Raneetha Rajaratnam, Ulrike Krass, Jane Cowell, Elizabeth White, Annie Brigant and Sander van Kempen.</p>	