



IFLA Section Equitable and Accessible Library Services

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

Friday, October 2, 2024, 14:00-15:00 CET (via Zoom)

Participants:

Maela Rakocevic Uvodic (Croatia) (Chair)
Caroline Smith (USA)
Diego Anthoons (Belgium)
Clayton Copeland (USA)
Corinna Haas (Germany)
Janet Lee (USA)
Karin Larsson (Sweden)
Kavita Ilangovan (Singapore)
Lisa Krolak (Germany)
Miguel Rivera (Chile)
Mohd Faizal Hamzah (Malaysia)
Olanike Alabi (Nigeria)
Yasmine Youssef (Egypt)

Apologies/No Response

Anne Chastrusse (France)
Bashiru Adamu (Nigeria)
Dolores Carungui (Philippines)
Farah Sbeity (Lebanon)
Jane Garner (Australia)
Laia Vidal Serrano (Spain)
Maria Isabel Abalo (Argentina)
Priya Rangra (India)
Sanjica Faletar Tanackovic (Croatia)
Tilahun Shiferaw (Ethiopia)

Moderation: Officers

Protocol: Janet Lee

Agenda:

1. Welcome (Corinna Haas for Maela)
2. Attendance and apologies (Maela)
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Approved by consensus
4. Approval of agenda. Approved by consensus.
5. Flashlight. Each member in attendance gave updates on activities since the last meeting:

Corinna reports that an association specializing in accessibility (“Die Sozialhelden”) was going to assess the accessibility of the building that houses the German Centre of Gerontology, Berlin, where she works.

Kavita’s library has hosted two special events for deaf persons this year, within the framework of an event series in accessibility. Deaf persons were not only participants, but also hosts of these events.

Lisa was in Zagreb together with Maela for The Croatia Library Association for People with Disabilities, where she gave a talk on prison libraries and exchanged information on prison libraries with participants. Also, Lisa announced the launch of an online collection of international best practices on prison education. Lisa will participate on a conference on prison education in Montréal.

Miguel and his colleagues are starting activities related to the 10 years celebration of setting up libraries in prison: seminars, workshops, etc.; also he is doing research on the profiles of readers all across Chile. Moreover, Chile is hosting a conference on education in prisons in South America where Miguel will give a presentation.

Caroline was at the IFLA Library LPD seminar in Washington D.C and met Dolly (Dolores Carungui) there. She is also working on a book distribution project in disabilities facilities.

Clayton’s area was hit by hurricane Helene and has internet issues. She attended the annual Library of the Year Award Meeting for the National Library services for the blind and print disabled with the Library of Congress. Also, she does research for the Association on Higher Education and Disability

Faizal was in Tokyo for a one month’s training and visited school libraries and libraries for disabled users. He shares related info and news on LinkedIn. He is trying to get a slot on the South East Asian Conference for libraries and disabled people. He will publish an article on Braille in Malaysia (the situation is that Malaysia shifts from Braille to accessible digital formats).

Diego’s institution is launching a campaign for people with print disabilities to promote audiobooks in Brussels and Flanders; they focus on the elderly and aim to engage public libraries.

Karin has started a cooperation with an association for the blind that is going to check if the 12 city libraries in Malmö are accessible for blind people. Also, she is preparing an accessibility day in 2025 with different associations. She is involved in the production of a book on accessible libraries with a publisher from South Korea. Together with a video producer, she created an instructive video for people working for the city of Malmö on how to approach people who are deaf or hard of hearing. She will share the link with us.

Maela: The Croatian Library Association for People with Disabilities had their 20th Round Table; Lisa was invited as a speaker.

Janet worked with a Sister Cities International initiative with pairing 500 African cities [also see article in the Nov, 2023 newsletter]; the Denver committee set up a digital learning center in Axum, Ethiopia. The committee is also fundraising for hospitals in Axum.

Yasmine's organization has been giving capacity building to an NGO that is setting up a small library for the blind in Alexandria, Egypt. The training covered the production of accessible books.

Olanike is conducting research to improve accessibility for people with disabilities for a university and its library in Nigeria. Her project has applied for a grant for this research.

6. Cooperation EALS/LPD and IFLA HQ on accessibility (Maela)

The Cooperation started this Summer after Megan Price in front of IFLA HQ ... had contacted Maela. LPD Chair, Megan and Maela had a meeting because IFLA wants to check their overall accessibility. They agreed to start with the webpage. LPD asked their members if they want to be part of the working group – EALS members can also join the working group! Karin is another representative from EALS. It was proposed to IFLA to appoint an accessibility officer sometime in the future.

7. I&C work: LinkedIn (Corinna, Diego)

- a. Diego delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the rationale behind using LinkedIn as the primary form of media to communicate the business of the Equitable and Accessible Library Services Section (the PPT is attached). After discussion, there was positive feedback consensus for the subcommittee to make recommendations on the implementation process. The handing over of login credentials must be taken care of. Moderation will still have to be negotiated.

To get started, Corinna will set up a LinkedIn group page for the EALS Standing Committee, based on the IFLA guidelines, that will hopefully get active soon.

8. Action Plan 24/25 (Maela) Because this is the second year of the action plan, Maela will contact individual committee members for updates and inclusions by the deadline. By the end of this year two of EALS Guidelines will be published: Accessible library services to people with disabilities and Displaced guidelines.

9. WLIC 2025 The World Library and Information Congress will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan from August 18-22. Still, there is no information on the Call for papers. Future business meetings will discuss programming and if it is feasible to present either ASD Guidelines or Displaced.

10. Other: Yasmine Youssef asked if anyone has heard from Farah Sbeity (Lebanon). No one has heard from her recently. Corinna will follow up with a welfare check. – The nominations for the next IFLA term will have to be discussed soon. Currently it's the pre-nominations. The formal process will start in January.

11. Next meeting: November 6, 2024 14:00-15:00 CET