



Approved Minutes of the RSCVD Committee

Teleconference (Zoom), 25 September 2024

Attendance:

Carmen Lomba carmen.lomba@unican.es Spain (Chair)
Ertugrul Cimen cimene@mef.edu.tr Turkey
Giovanna Colombo giovanna.colombo@uninsubria.it Italy
Ibrahim Farah Ibrahim.Farah@balamand.edu.lb (Lebanon)
Katia Medawar kmedawar@qnl.qa (Qatar)
Mallikarjun Dora mallikarjun@iima.ac.in (India)
Peter Bae p.bae@bowdoin.edu (USA)
Peter Collins collinsp@OCLC.org (USA)
Silvana Mangiaracina mangiaracina@area.bo.cnr.it Italy
Tom Bruno, tomb Bruno@upenn.edu USA

- Chair of the RSCVD Committee Carmen Lomba opened the meeting with the welcoming remarks and announcing the agenda:
 - Webinar updates
 - Support to Palestinian Scholars
 - Silvana updates on Santander workshop

- RSCVD agenda in Baku.

1. Webinar / Workshops/ Outreach

- Malikaarjun, Carmen, Silvana, and Peter conducted a webinar about RSCVD in India on September 10th, which went well, though participation was low. This was expected, as the RSCVD initiative will take time to achieve global reach. Currently, 11 libraries in India are members of RSCVD.
- The webinar recording is available on the RSCVD website.
- Ibrahim stated that lots of libraries in Argentina, Brazil, Chili, and Columbia are already members with RSCVD.
- Ertugrul mentioned that 17 libraries in Turkey are members with RSCVD but only 4-5 are active and noticing that the supply has declined as well.
- Ibrahim suggested a paper can be written about it.

2. Support to Palestinian Scholars in Gaza and West Bank

- Katia outlined a collaborative project with the Bodleian Library in Oxford, where the library aims to support Palestinian scholars in Gaza and the West Bank by providing scanned book chapters or articles from its main collection.
- Katia met with librarian Lydia Wright, who was interested in collaborating with QNL. Katia introduced Lydia to the RSCVD initiative and suggested informing the RSCVD committee to explore potential collaboration opportunities.
- Ibrahim suggested reaching out to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to see if they could act as a mediator for all Palestinian libraries and scholars. He also proposed the idea of adding RSCVD to the UNRWA webpage.
- Peter Collins raised a concern about how to verify scholars' affiliations with libraries and how to accurately recognize them.
- Peter Bae reflected on a similar situation in Ukraine during the conflict, where he personally contacted requestors to confirm their affiliations.
- It was also discussed whether Lydia Wright could serve as a mediator for scholars or act on their behalf.

- It was suggested to organize a webinar through the IFLA/MENA Regional Office, which is based at Qatar National Library. This webinar would help promote the RSCVD mission, raise awareness among Middle Eastern libraries, and reach Palestinian scholars. Katia will consult with her colleagues about organizing the event.
- Ibrahim suggested creating an emergency page on the RSCVD platform where institutions could act on behalf of scholars.
- Peter Bae mentioned that the Bodleian Library had used RSCVD during the COVID pandemic but did not continue afterward.

3. Talaria Updates

- Silvana has hired two students working on their theses, who are also helping to generate statistics in Talaria. So far, 2,397 requests have been registered, with 1,771 fulfilled. In Spain, there have been 231 requests and 350 items provided. The top request origins are:
 - Italy
 - Lebanon
 - Qatar (accounting for 10% of the requests through RSCVD).

4. RSCVD Workshop in Santander

- The Santander workshop took place on September 16-17, with Carmen, Silvana, Stefania, and Debora participating.
- The workshop was successful with 20 attendees from Spanish and Italian Institutions and mix languages.
- Carmen presented the SWOT analysis done to RSCVD:
 - Strength:
 - Same interface
 - Multiplicity
 - Easy interface
 - Under IFLA
 - Weaknesses:
 - Lack of research discovery
 - Lack of volunteers
 - Resistance to change.
 - Continuity of the software.

- Threat:
 - Success
 - Overload with time.
 - Justify the statistics.
 - Librarians' turnover
 - Licenses.

- Opportunities
 - Change of ideas
 - Build an internal document supply chain.
 - Model in our projects.
 - Lebanon as a model country
 - Palestinian scholars help.

5. RSCVD Session in Baku

- Carmen asked to contact the ILDS committee to plan the RSCVD session in Baku.
- She will be invited to the ILDS planning meeting to discuss further all the details and finalize the program.

6. End of Meeting

- The meeting ended at 5:00 PM and Carmen thanked everyone who attended the meeting.
- Silvana informed the committee that her Institution will no longer support the Zoom link and for the future, Peter Bae offered to use the Bowdoin College Zoom account.