

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions	
Document nr	RC 24-11-2
Agenda Item	2
Subject	Minutes, Regional Council meeting, 19 September 2024
From	Alejandro Santa, Chair
Purpose	Agree on the minutes
Date	13 November 2024
Note	
Recommendations	That the Regional Council approves the minutes

MINUTES

**The tenth meeting of the 2023-2025 IFLA Regional Council
was held on Thursday 19 September, online, 11:00-12:30 UTC**

1. Welcome, apologies and agreement of agenda

RC 24-09-1

Regional Council: Alejandro Santa (RC Chair), Lin Li Soh (AO RDC Chair), Ertugrul Cimen (EU RDC Chair), Saif Al-Jabri (MENA RDC Chair), Jeannette Lebron (LAC RDC Chair), Diane Koen (NA RDC Chair)

Others: Stephen Wyber (Director, External Affairs, IFLA), Despina Gerasimidou (IFLA Consultant, Community Mobilisation and Capacity Building), Vesna Vuskan (Community Building Manage), Eiman Alshamari (MENA Regional Office 2024-2026), Ian Loh (National Library Board, Singapore), Lindi Nhalpo (SSA Regional Office), Michelle Lau (AO Regional Office), Yamila Cortenova (IFLA LAC Regional Office), Maria Florencia Tebano (Interpreter), Martha Kyrillidou (Quality Metrics)

Apologies: Ayanda Lebele (SSA RDC Chair), Te Paea Paringatai (PC Chair)

The Chair welcomed participants and sought inputs on any additions or amendments to the agenda. The agenda was agreed upon.

2. Agreement on the minutes of the previous meeting

RC 24-09-2

The Chair sought agreement on the minutes, as circulated soon after the previous meeting. Saif Al Jabri requested one change, after which the minutes were approved.

3. Welcome by the Chair

Oral report

The chair welcomed the participants.

4. Updates from Governing Board, Professional Council, Headquarters

Oral report

The RC Chair mentioned the previous day's GB meeting, at which key topics had been addressed, and that RC members should look out for messages from the President in the next days.

5. Supporting Library Association Development – presentation from the authors of the commissioned study

RC 24-09-5

The Chair welcomed Martha Kyrillidou who described work around the evaluation of IFLA's past support for library associations, specifically of the Building Strong Library Associations

initiative with a view to building an evidence base for designing more effective support to associations in future. This is expected to be completed by December 2024. Its overall purpose is to understand which are the most impactful outcomes and most sustainable elements of the old BSLA work as well as the current major needs in this all and to propose the BSLA2.0 for the next 5-10 years. She asked for regional support for the dissemination of surveys and gathering of evidence and invited conversation within the group about the situation within library associations within regions.

Lin Li Soh shared her observations that countries with strong associations tend to have stronger and more participative members, and noted also the role of national libraries. She asked about when a BSLA 2.0 would be launched, noting interest from various associations, and about coordination with MLAS. Martha mentioned that most members of the BSLA scientific committee are also members of the MLAS. Stephen mentioned that we wouldn't anticipate any materials for BSLA 2.0 until the second half of 2024.

Ertugrul Cimen noted the value of working with library associations, and welcomed work on this. Martha agreed on the value of helping all associations reach a similar area of maturity.

Eiman Al Shammari noted the importance of simply having a list and contact details for library associations, as well as their professional role. She asked how information would be collected. Martha mentioned they are gathering data through interviews and surveys, noting the risk of lack of information when there is lack of contacts in a specific country.

Diane Koen noted her interest in the Canadian environment, a developing association and an interesting case of 40 million people and very regional groupings of library associations, but a current rebuilding of the Canadian Library Association.

The Chair noted the financial and political challenges faced by library associations in LAC, and their reliance on major libraries as partners.

Saif also noted the financial difficulties of members renewing their library association membership in MENA, and that the MENA RDC members are trying to contact some vendors and publishers if they can help sponsoring some library associations. Jeannette noted that in LAC, for many years, associations have been created based on specific library types. This tended to lead to a lot of smaller associations which did not cover all libraries in their countries.

6. Regional Division Committee Evaluation Process Update

RC 24-09-6

This paper provided a brief update on the RDC evaluation process, in line with e-mail communication already provided. The RC Chair thanked all Vice-Chairs for their work and the RC members noted the paper.

7. Towards a mid-term review of the Regional Council

RC 24-09-7

This paper proposed a set of questions to be addressed by a discussion paper which can then be on the agenda at a future meeting, in order to allow useful and positively focused evaluation of the Regional Council.

The Chair noted that it is good to have a health check and be self-critical. He then shared things he felt were positive, e.g. cross-regional cooperation and more regular meetings. Lin Li Soh noted the need for clearer specifications for the role of the RDC Vice-Chair (they

need to take notes and minutes) and the Information Coordinator (they need to have technical knowledge and good access to WiFi). Diane Koen, Lin Li Soh, and Jeannette Lebron Ramos volunteered to share feedback, also to inform the upcoming Elections guide.

8. Regional Council Contributions to the Preparation of WLIC 2025

RC 24-09-8

This paper called for RC nominations for a committee to work on preparing WLIC 2025 in Astana. Ertugrul Cimen asked for the exact role of this involvement. The Chair, Ertugrul Cimen and Diane Koen volunteered for this work. Lin Li Soh asked about the open sessions for RDCs and Stephen answered that these will be defined by this committee's work -which this year will be a blend of PC and RC representatives, with the aim to make WLIC regionally relevant. Eiman Al Shammari asked if RDCs will act individually, and if the organization of things will be different this time given the WLIC location of Astana -so more easily accessible and more relevant to AO and MENA. Stephen noted these considerations are to be added to the committee's discussions.

9. IFLA Strategy 2025-2029 – Implementation in Regions

RC 24-09-9

The Chair presented the new Strategy, which had been designed in order to be more relevant for all. The paper focused on dissemination in regions, and proposed that RDCs prepare short statements about how their work delivers on the Vision included in the Strategy. IFLA HQ noted that the Strategy was already available in all IFLA languages.

10. IFLA ANBI Status – Towards a Sustainability Strategy

RC 24-09-10

The RC members noted this paper about work on sustainability, including upcoming requests for inputs from RDCs. The Chair mentioned how useful and important the ANBI status is for fund raising. IFLA HQ noted that there will be further discussion on this later on.

11. IFLA Trend Report – Regional Results from the Survey

RC 24-09-11

The RC members commented on this paper which shared the regionally-relevant results from our Trend Report survey, in order to help the work of RDCs. Saif Al Jabri noted that these results are indeed very interesting material. Ertugrul Cimen felt that communication and ideas' sharing seem to be the most important things in the EU region and associations play a crucial role in this. Lin Li Soh highlighted that the results aligned with the interest she has witnessed in AI in the region, which is strongly related to competency training for librarians. The Chair noted that there was a very similar discussion at the Argentinian national librarians' conference and highlighted the need for a policy of anticipation. Jeannette added the topic of new technologies and their challenges (lack of time to dive into them, lack of tech professionals etc.) and noted we need to use the results of the survey to focus on lagging communities.

12. IFLA Internet Manifesto – Promotion in the Regions

RC 24-09-12

The RC noted this paper that shared the new Internet Manifesto, and ways in which RDCs can help with next steps.

13. Update on the Regional Council Action Plan (to note)

Oral Report

Lin Li Soh noted she has been able to consolidate some of the changes of the RC Action Plan and will continue to work on a review by the end of the year.

**14. Regional Division Committee Chair Updates (only if urgent, otherwise in writing)
Oral Report (only if necessary)**

Jeannette Lebron-Ramos noted the celebrations for 50 years of LAC at MexInfo, presenting the history and background of the contributions of IFLA over the last 50 years. The Chair asked her to share the report. Alejandro wished success to the EU RDC mid-term meeting in Barcelona, and noted the LAC workshop and RDC meeting on 20-26 November, asking everyone to be involved remotely if possible during the RDC business meeting (like we did at ALA!). Sharon shared her excitement being present in the RC meeting and that she is looking forward to meeting with some of the people in Brisbane.

15. Any other business

16. Close and next meeting

The meeting ended.