



# IFLA Section Library Services to People with Special Needs

## Minutes of Library Services to People with Special Needs Section Meeting

Teleconference (Zoom), 25 October, 2022  
14:00 -16:00 CET

### Members present:

Maela Uvodic, Chair (Croatia)  
Janet Lee, Secretary (The United States of America)  
Aly Velji, Information Coordinator (Canada)  
Clayton Copeland (The United States of America)  
Corinna Haas (Germany)  
Lisa Krolak (Germany)  
Samira Zahra (Germany)  
Gerhard Peschers  
Caroline Smith (The United States of America)  
Diego Anthoons (Belgium)  
Sanjica Faletar Tanacković (Croatia)  
Bashiru Adamu (Nigeria)  
Laia Vidal (Spain)  
Faisal Hamzah (Malaysia)  
Priya Rangra (India)  
Farah Sbeiti (Lebanon)  
Olanike Alabi (Nigeria)  
Jane Finlay (England) Observer

### Apologies (and no response)

Jane Garner (Australia)  
Dolores Carungui (Philippines)  
Marie Engberg Eiriksson (Denmark)  
Maria Isabel Abaolo (Argentina)  
Miguel Rivera (Chile)  
Tilahun Shiferaw (Ethiopia)

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Section Chair, Maela Uvodic, welcomed the LSN Standing Committee Members to this October 25<sup>th</sup> business meeting..

## **2. Attendance and apologies (Maela)**

Maela listed the members who apologized for not being able to attend. They are included in the above listing with members who did not respond.

## **3. Approval of Minutes of LSN SC Meeting, April 7, 2022**

The minutes were included with the distribution of documents by the Chair. Corrina moved to approve the April 7, 2022 minutes and Aly seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

## **4. Approval of Agenda**

Lisa moved to approve the agenda and Corrina seconded. Approved by acclamation.

## **5. New co-opted members introductions**

In June, Maela sent out a call for additional members clearing the way to co-opt members to fill the terms of vacated positions and to add regional diversity and expertise. She received many applicants, who completed the required forms expressing their interest in becoming members of the committee. The officers (Maela, Janet, Aly) held a special meeting to review the applicants and invited four members to join the committee. They are:

Faisal Hamzah (Malaysia), Priya Rangra (India), Farah Sbeiti (Lebanon), and Olanike Alabi (Nigeria). Each introduced themselves and provided pertinent background information about their positions, skills, interests, and why they were interested in this committee.

## **6. UN Survey and conference invitation (Maela).**

Since our last meeting, Maela, Nancy Bolt (former LSN chair) and Laia Vidal edited, tested, and disseminated the UN DESA (United Nations. Department of Economics and Social Affairs) survey. The current survey is a follow up of the 2017-18 survey on library policies and practices in support of access to information for people with disabilities. By June they submitted a draft of the report to the UN. Since August they have been having weekly meetings and have met with Maria Martinho at the UN. The data submitted has focused primarily for Academic, Public, School and Special Libraries, because those outside the field do not understand the important roles of National, State and Regional libraries and that of library associations (state, regional, national, international). Part of the LSN committee's role has been advocating for those types of libraries and associations. Deadline is end of October.

The UN report will be published June 2023. Maria Martinho has extended an invitation to these three to present at a session at the UN. LSN may decide to organize a session to which other members of LSN may participate.

## **7. WLIC report. (Lisa & Maela)**

Maela was invited to present at a Strategy Session, "A shared framework for a stronger

future: tales of working with the IFLA Strategy.” The four-minute presentation addressed how the work of LSN aligned with IFLA Strategy 2019-2024 and future plans. Because of the group’s recent work on the UN survey, she was made aware of numerous comments on LSN’s name and the need to rename it. She focused her presentation on that issue and the speech was a great success. IFLA gave her permission to submit it as a paper to the repository.

One issue that she and other presenters needed to contend with was mandatory presentation template that was inaccessible. The template was flashy and very colorful. After persistence on her part, the organizers allowed her to present in black & white.

Maela had several meetings with LPD chair and other LPD members in part to discuss next year’s WLIC to be held in Rotterdam. They expressed concerns about the accessibility issues faced in Dublin with both presentations and videos. WLIC 2023 will be hybrid. LSN will submit the 2022 WLIC accessibility report and prior reports to the 2023 organizers in preparation for WLIC 2023. Physical access for WLIC 2022 was great and spot checking with attendees confirmed that assessment.

Although there were only four section members in attendance, (Corrina, Lisa, Miguel and Maela), held the section meeting. Surprisingly, they met with a room full of people, including Patrick (Division director), Megan Price from IFLA HQ, LPD members, former LSN Chair Misako Nomura and former LSN secretary, Helen Chan.

Lisa reported that the prison library session was very good with a full house of over 100 attendees. She received much positive feedback after the session. 10-15 people indicated they were currently working in prison libraries. Maela gave opening remarks, Lisa focused on German prison libraries, and there was a discussion of the Irish Prison Library Review that took place over the last few years.

Jane Finley (in attendance at this meeting as an observer) indicated an interest in maintaining contact with the prison library community. Miguel gave a presentation on modernizing prison libraries. Jane spoke (via video message) about the process for updating the IFLA guidelines for library services to prisoners.

Further, Lisa reported, A group of 10 librarians visited the prison library in Dublin where three prison librarians provided a tour. The working group made additional revisions after WLIC to the IFLA guidelines and have forwarded the guidelines to IFLA for final endorsement. Hopefully, Lisa will receive an endorsement within a month and the guidelines will be published. IFLA will take care of translating all the guidelines into the official IFLA languages. German has been completed.

Jane expressed her appreciation about the opportunity to speak about the Irish Review and meeting with many interesting people.

Laia announced that on Nov. 8, there will be the first meeting about prison libraries in Barcelona.

## **8. Action plan (update) (Maela)**

### **a. Web page work group**

Corrina has already volunteered her services.

The newsletter is a vital part of our communications plan. Maela will send out a reminder by Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> for ideas for contributions to the newsletter. The proposed deadline for publication is the end of the year.

### **b. Name change**

Revision of each section and SIG will be conducted by IFLA HQ, therefore the names of the sections will also be a topic of the revision board.

Maela will create a Google doc and members can submit suggestions.

### **c. Removal of items on Action plan.**

Since it is not feasible at this time to develop the most inclusive library award, Maela suggested that we remove it from the action plan for the time being. It can be added back in at a later date.

## **9. Other**