



# IFLA Professional Division Committee G

## Division G Zoom Meeting Minutes Wednesday June 14, 2023, 17:00 – 18:00 CET

**Attending:** Karin Byström, Division Chair; Elizabeth Ketterman (Health and Biosciences); Jeffrey Knapp (News Media); Bethany McGowan (Health and Biosciences); Ann Okerson (News Media); Lindsay Ozburn (Social Sciences); Ted Westervelt (Serials and Other Continuing Resources); Andrea Wirth (Serials and Other Continuing Resources).

1. **The agenda** was approved as posted on Basecamp.
2. **Karin gave a short report** from the last PC meeting.
  - A. The draft document proposing a structure for the new IFLA Networks option was approved and is going to the Governing Board for decision. It is hoped we can start using the networks option at the upcoming WLIC.
  - B. The suggested timeline for 2024 is much tighter than in the past. Proposals will be due in November, the draft program in December, and the final program in February. The 2024 WLIC location will be revealed before Rotterdam so that committees can more easily go about their work in the Rotterdam business meetings.
  - C. There was lengthy discussion about a memo the PC received from Division A, pertaining to collaboration with members from Russian Federation. This came from a Division Chair who is based in a country with sanctions that prohibit collaborating with Russian organizations. The larger question is: with all of today's political problems, how best to be a global organization that works for the benefit of libraries. The IFLA position is that when one works as a volunteer, that person works as themselves and is not a representative of their country or organization. However, at times the path is not clearcut. Group discussed the intricacies of the problem and shared examples from their own personal and IFLA experiences. It was suggested that, while issuing general guidelines, IFLA should give discretion to committees to handle arising situations as best they can, in a most diplomatic way. Cases are not always the same and are often best handled on a case-by-case basis. One participant reminded the group that, even without any controversial issues, volunteers' organizations have to approve employees travel – IFLA membership is most usually at an institutional or organizational level, and employers feel they have a legitimate role in members' ability to participate. Member organizations feel ownership of the time of the staff who participate in WLIC and other

groups. Those on the call felt that their institutions are not overly directing their IFLA work.

D. Elections and handover. Officer elections are underway with self-nominations. There was discussion about ways to encourage members to self-nominate for officer roles. Encouraging committee members can take active individual work: describing what the work is about and level of commitment required. Having experienced previous officers' support is important. There was some concern about the travel component, as attending WLIC is costly. Is there still an expectation that officers attend the congress? Karin noted this is no longer an obstacle, now that IFLA offers a hybrid component for business meetings.

E. Division meeting will be held in Rotterdam on Sunday morning (9:45 – 10:30) for current and incoming officers. Karin asked for ideas to be covered there. Topics were very practical: tips for communicating with IFLA HQ; using Basecamp; listserv options; best practices in terms of meetings. Incoming officers will arrive with their own questions.

F. There was a question about how to handle speakers who cannot attend but will be giving pre-recorded talks. Do they have to register? Should they use specific software in their recording, etc? Any answers should be posted on Basecamp.

3. **Adjournment.** Wishing everyone a good summer, Karin adjourned the meeting at 45 minutes after the hour.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Ann Okerson/Secretary*