

IFLA IT SECTION MIDTERM MEETING (Virtual)

Friday, February 18, 2022

11.30 UTC / 12.30PM CEST

Present:

1. Edmund Balnaves , Chair
2. Elena Sánchez Nogales, Coordinator
3. Cory Lampert , Secretary
4. François-Xavier Boffy, Information Coordinator
5. Sylvain Bélanger
6. Leda Bultrini
7. Alenka Kavčič Čolić
8. Wouter Klapwijk
9. Yeon-Soo Lee
10. Peter Leinen
11. Maria Loretto Puga
12. Ray Uzwyshyn
13. Kate Zwaard
14. Souleymane Sogoba
15. May Chang (AI SIG)
16. Patrick Cher (Big Data SIG)
17. Andrew Cox
18. Emmanuelle Bermes
19. Valensiya Dresvyannikova
20. Lynn Kleinveldt
21. Camille Callison
22. Caroline Saccucci

Absent with apologies:

Almudena Caballos Villar
Anna Tereza Barbosa da Silva
Ngozi Blessing Ukachi
Qiang Xie
Maria Kadesjö

Agenda

1. **Attendance & Apologies**
 - a. Quorum reached
 - b. Lynn Kleinveldt - joining late

2. Minutes of previous meeting

- a. Approved

3. Section update - Balnaves

- a. AI SIG exploratory meeting and webinar results

The meeting was conducted with strong attendance and the Section proceeded with the proposal for forming a new SIG. The SIG has been approved by the Professional Council and is pending final endorsement by the Government Council in April. (Please refer to it as a proposed SIG until final confirmation).

The proposed AI SIG has a team working on brainstorming topics for the planned Satellite meeting with the location (Galway, Ireland) and host institution (National University of Ireland-Galway) confirmed for a 2-day event (21-22 July 2022). The Chair has circulated a draft Call for Proposals for review by the standing committee.

The Team will be asking for volunteers to review papers and work on the program. This is a very interesting area with many topics we expect will attract interest from other sections.

- b. AI SIG formal proposal

Webinar was well attended and we got the number of signatories required for the proposal to move on. We have also learned from HQ that the SIG will be situated in Division B instead of the IT Section's Division H. There is hope this will lead to cross-pollination of ideas and collaboration.

4. Update from Big Data SIG - Cher

Big Data SIG is working on a joint Satellite meeting with Science and Technology Libraries (STL) and Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) to hold a workshop on Library Carpentry. A location was selected (Waterford, Ireland) as well as the host organizations (Higher Education Network Library Information Resources Group (HEANet LIR Group) in partnership with Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) – merging with Institute of Technology Carlow (IT Carlow) to form a new technological university on May 1st, 2022.) The dates will be Friday, 22 July - 23 July, 2022. This proposal was submitted by Margret Plank from STL. The role of the Big Data SIG is to support the visibility of Library Carpentry and promote the event via IT Section communication channels.

IFLA HQ has sent names of the five new self-appointed members of the SIG to the former Convenor (Cory Lampert) and she has sent a welcome email. Cory also called a Midterm SIG meeting to kickoff new membership in late January. We were advised by HQ to hold on further actions as they are finalizing procedures for filling in the total nine members each SIG should have under the new Governance structure. We are awaiting next steps for finalizing membership and formally electing the new Convenor. Patrick is the pending Convenor, working in anticipation of the election being formalized, similar to May working in the capacity of the AI SIG.

5. Update from Communications Team - Boffy

The Communication team launched the Facebook page and got a good response from IFLA. They are encouraging wider participation as the more engagement, the better. If SC members have ideas or have something to post, please submit your note / article to the group, it will be quickly moderated by Francois-Xavier Boffy or another team member. There is also the option to be appointed with regular publisher privileges for direct posting. The Communication Team is small and SC members are welcome to volunteer for this team. They have invited other Information Coordinators to join the Facebook group and post items on IT issues. Regarding the Twitter account, statistics are being collected and can be shared on activity (the account posted 230 messages and is followed by more than 100 other accounts).

The TILT newsletter is being led by Ray and recently published the first issue on Big Data themes. The next issue is in progress. Many thanks were extended to Ray and Wouter for their work on the team.

Souleymane Sogoba - volunteered in chat to join the Communication Team

6. IFLA WLIC 2022 planning

- a. Main sessions, Dublin, Ireland: themes to be discussed

Our main IT Section session -

Focus on wrap-up from satellite meetings. AI in context, ethics.

This is the key activity as deadlines are approaching. The WLIC 2022 will be a much shorter 3-day conference. SC needs to decide on proposals for the Congress from our Section. The focus for the conference formats this year is not on formal papers but on different styles of sessions (provocations, panels, ignite talks, working sessions, etc). The benefits of both styles (formal papers and other formats) have been discussed in Division H and we can expect that formal papers will return in 2023. For the Dublin Congress, planners are seeking Sections to propose topics (for their allotted time) as well as additional collaborative sessions. Two rounds of proposals will be solicited with a focus on collaboration in the second round. The venue is large and multiple sessions with partners will be considered. We need to submit as soon as we are ready for both our Main session and for any collaborative sessions. This year they will not be accepting virtual ideas, though sessions can have recorded presentations. There will not be any live virtual presentation options.

Q: *What are the times allowed?* More information can be found in the document attached with guidelines for session. (90 minutes seems to be the longest format).

Comment: *AI is a complex subject and some speakers may be very technical while others may be better at providing foundational concepts.* We need to decide when we want to use experts and when we want to introduce the topics on a basic level. Suggestion for a format of Panel + Town Hall discussion as this could work well for the range of AI topics.

Q: *What about a joint session with FAIFE on ethics?* The session may go in this direction as the technology may be difficult to get into via presentations and case studies. *Other ideas?* Practical

applications were suggested as good material to show how libraries are implementing AI.

AI SIG session / Big Data SIG session -

Metadata at Scale:

One topic idea was making data available for machines as this could go along with Big Data SIG. Boffy shared the National Library of France newsletter which showcases work is being done and gives many ideas. Aligned with this topic is the concept of metadata at scale: how to harvest and how to automate standardized data. Ray comes from an academic research library perspective with expertise on this transition to big data; he has offered to do a presentation. AI is becoming a feature in discovery systems and the debate/topic of infrastructure is relevant in many systems. Goal could be to highlight practical applications using the Case Studies format. A complementary topic could be sharing data from digital libraries.

Infrastructure for Data Use:

Peter widened the topic beyond metadata at scale to include data mining and automation. A suggestion included holding a round table with industry members and / or the research community that needs to use data and include these perspectives along with the view of libraries. Presentations could answer how to provide infrastructure to researchers for digital humanities. This could be a good way to pursue a joint session with Digital Humanities SIG. Could also include copyright laws and challenges they pose when researchers need to get data. Possible presenter could be the German National Library (Peter) and this seems to be more aligned with Big Data than AI. The Subject Access and Analysis Section could be interested in partnering. Two additional specific people/presenters mentioned: Andrew Cox who could provide ethics of AI scenarios, also Valensiya.

Joint Partners/ Agile Project Management:

- Caroline Saccucci from the SAA Section is interested in a Workshop on Agile project management. IT Project management, CPDWL group could be interested.
- Educause, managing IT in Libraries / NISO
- Case Studies?

Joint / SAA

- Saccucci also mentioned that her section is holding an automated indexing webinar in November; it could be interesting to work together. She suggested sending them a proposal for WLIC, Edmund agreed to participate in the webinar proposal.
- Possible presenter German National Library (Peter) on ethics. The Subject Access and Analysis Section could be interested in partnering.
- Workshop?

Other ideas:

- Metaverse idea for next year-remote meeting next year is supposed to be hybrid and could be interesting.
- Topic of remote work - 2023 option

Volunteers and Submissions to Plan

First round - IT Section lead

- SC Main session - IT/ AI Session - Chang; Bélanger; Kleinveldt, Boffy (comms), Bultrini
- Big Data / AI SIG - Cher, Klapwijk, Uzwyshyn, Lampert, Leinen - possible to merge Infrastructure challenges into the first round.

First round - Other section lead

- Joint session / Infrastructure challenges - Kavčič Čolić, Leinen - combine with Big Data SIG if no sponsor?
- Joint session with PD / Agile Technologies - Sanchez, Zwaard, Klapwijk, Boffy, Saccucci, Cher, Puga

Second round - Wild card?

- AI - What is AI? In the second round WLIC focus on understanding AI; Balnaves, Cox

Advice from Callison on proposals:

- Try not to limit yourself to academic libraries; include others such as public libraries and national libraries.
- Keep sessions concise - deeper dive in satellite meeting; recap in WLIC sessions
- Focus on practical information
- There will be experts and an education piece; promote the session to help attendees understand why the content is being presented
- Have a priority session designated when you submit multiple proposals
- Q: *Can we propose a session from AI SIG?* - A: Since you don't have approval yet, do a joint session AI SIG together with a sponsoring section or you can also do a second session (wild card) - for instance a wild card session sponsored by both SIGs and the IT Section would be looked on favorably.
- Recap the satellite meeting at the WLIC for those that do not attend both

- b. Satellite session (IT Section joint with pending-approval AI SIG), NUI Galway, Ireland: AI technologies, applications, ethics

Topics will include: AI technologies, applications, ethics. As mentioned in the update, the location is Galway, and the partner (National Library of Ireland) is confirmed. The planning team had a meeting with the local point NUI-G representative, Emma Goode, and a draft call for proposals has been circulated with the plan to issue this out soon after the formal proposal is submitted. Section members expressed support for the Satellite proposal.

- c. Satellite session (Big Data SIG joint with Science Libraries Section and Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section), Waterford, Ireland: Library carpentry. Will have 10-25 attendees with some fee reimbursement for underrepresented countries. Hands-on workshop format with Carpentry instructors teaching set curriculum.

Update from Klapwijk:

The discussion last Friday really evolved around sponsorship and marketing opportunities, and all the logistics are really taken care of by the host institution. We only need to note that we are co-organising the event in the sense that the SIG has been giving input to the planning all along, and that both the IT Section and SIG have obligations to fulfill in actively marketing the event.

7. Webinar topics and planning

Comment: Kleinveldt suggested a webinar informally on AI and using this as an advertiser before the topic is discussed in more detail at the satellite and conference. This would help us ensure a good flow of information opportunities for attendees and help us remain connected from the earlier webinar and later sessions. It was also suggested that we hold the webinar as a joint session with the South African Library and Information organization as they are planning a coffee talk on AI toward the end of March . We could host via IFLA Zoom platform. Boffy offered to help with logistics.

8. TILT publication update

Update from Uzwyshyn:

The special issue on AI is in progress and will be similar to the Big Data themed issue that just came out. At this point there is no need for new articles, unless SC members that are doing projects in AI, as there are enough articles under consideration. If you would like to submit, get articles in by March 22. The issue will feature great submissions from Fantastic Futures conference presenters, the presenters from the AI webinar, Andrew Cox with AI ethics scenarios, an excellent article from Greece, and an article from the National Library of Chile. Ray was congratulated on this excellent work.

9. Other business

None

Meeting Adjourned 13.30 UTC