



Minutes of the mid-year business meeting: RISS, 5 March 2021
Teleconference

RISS Chair Kimberley Bugg opened the meeting at 13.30 Eastern time. In attendance were SC members Marydee Ojala /USA, Secretary; Laverne Page /USA, Information Coordinator; Phillipa Andreassen /Sweden; Laura Ballestra /Italy; Polly Boruff-Jones /USA; Julie Biando Edwards /USA; and Christine Brown /Canada. Anne Reddacliff /Australia and Kathleen Kern /USA, sent apologies. Also attending was Adjoa Boateng (UK), Division III Chair.

Adjoa reviewed recent IFLA governance activities, focusing on the new governance structure and how that affects elections. We have 4 SC members who have completed their second term and another 4 who have completed their first term. The latter must re-apply to be elected to a second term; it is not an automatic renewal. The new governance structure eliminates the category of Corresponding Members and establishes the category of Co-opted Members. Up to five additional members can be co-opted to a Standing Committee if they fulfil a criterion of supporting the diversity of the committee. Marydee noted that the new restriction that "your membership status and registered Sections as of 28 February 2021 will form the basis for your ability to nominate and elect" discriminates against personal members whose SC terms are expiring and might want to move to another section. Adjoa urged RISS to reach out to institutional and personal members of the section to encourage people to stand for election to the SC. The group discussed strategies to fill the vacancies on the RISS SC.

Kimberley reviewed our very successful year. We completed two infographic projects and almost completed the Reference Guidelines project. She will submit the midyear report.

IFLA HQ requested that RISS peer review the 164 page Professional Report produced by the Government Information and Official Publications Section. The document has 10 chapters and committee members are asked to identify a chapter they want to peer review. The turnaround is only 2 weeks, so Kimberley will contact HQ to ask for an extension. Meanwhile, we can share the document with the SC and ask for their feedback.

Marydee noted that the minutes from the annual business meeting have been posted to Basecamp and that the papers submitted by our October webinar presenters have yet to be added to the IFLA Library. We are waiting for IFLA HQ to decide how to handle papers from 2020.

Lorraine reported that activity on the RISS Facebook page was low. Perhaps we need a better venue to raise our visibility. One suggestion is to do another webinar, perhaps based on two posters that were presented at ALA, with time at the end for SC members to talk about RISS. Another possibility is a Facebook chat on reference during a pandemic, innovations with electronic resources for reference in the covid era, or a webinar hosted on Facebook.

Kimberley will update our Action Plan for 2021-2022. The project regarding ten skills that library patrons should have, is now cancelled. Kimberley has received several translations for our two infographics. She will let us know which languages are still needed.

Laura asked for guidance regarding how we cover information literacy activities as part of the guidelines. This may be situational depending on the type of library. As a result of the discussion, she added a "disclaimer" for considering IL metrics only when IL sessions are offered by reference services staff.

Polly reported that the committee on the misinformation project has met and decided that a visual approach is best. It needs to take a different approach from the IFLA infographic about "fake news". Classifying categories of misinformation and how libraries can mitigate the effect of misinformation is the focus. The committee is considering a toolbox with a usable collection of resources. Polly will continue to lead this project. Working on this project is Anne Reddacliff, Christine Brown, Kathleen Kern, and Laura Ballestra.

The meeting was adjourned at 15.00 ET, March 5, 2021.
Submitted by Laverne Page