



Approved Minutes
Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage

Thursday 16 November 2023, 17:35-18:30 UTC

In attendance: Helen Vincent, Jędrzej Lesniewski, Camille Callison, Cristina Roi, Howayda Kamel, Jasmine Bouchard, Liisa Savolainen, Jacob Nadal Ornella Foglieni, Claire McGuire

Apologies: Ujala Satgoor, Rafael Ammann,

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no amendments.

2. Business Arising / Updates

Business arising includes updates from IFLA's president on a President's meeting in 2024 in Brisbane, Australia. The committee is still waiting on more information regarding possible in-person meetings instead of WLIC 2024, and decisions on a midterm meeting or other possible meetings will be postponed until then.

Committee members were invited to share any updates, including updates from Professional Units from ex officio members. An update from AVMS was posted on Basecamp prior to the meeting, noting especially that the section is working on updating the IFLA Guidelines for audiovisual resources in libraries and other institutions.

The committee heard an update from the Indigenous Matters section as they complete their action plan. A main area of work is ongoing drafting of guidelines for services with Indigenous people. Another key area of work is on the UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages, which is a huge priority. The Section also develops and maintains relationships with other stakeholder organisations, such as the International Indigenous Librarians Forum, Indigenous Pacific Associations, AILA and more. Work on respectful terminology was noted as a collaborative initiatives. The Section is also working with different IFLA professional units and will keep this committee informed on interesting updates.

The National Libraries section is working on launching a working group for the legal deposit guidelines. IFLA HQ will be represented to help encourage a relationship with UNESCO.

Updates on a recent theft from the National Library of Poland were shared, in which 19th-century books were stolen. There was a similar case recently in Latvia.

An update was also shared on recent flooding in Tuscany, Italy, in which libraries were damaged. It was noted that in such situations, library professionals are left without work. It was suggested that

IFLA consider their role in responding to this in support of library workers. Perhaps this is a line of action of the regional council or the Europe RDC.

The war in Palestine was noted as being of major concern, among many other concerns in the MENA region. The committee members were asked to share any specific information on how the war is affecting libraries with the committee.

There was an update on the work with the EGATTT group. They are working with law enforcement at Interpol on growing a presence of documentary heritage in theft reporting. They are producing a brochure that is sharable with customs and law enforcement to raise awareness, and working to expand Interpol's reporting requirements to be more suitable for documentary heritage.

Finally, an update from Blue Shield International, there is work to highlight measures that must be taken in peacetime on cultural property protection. IFLA HQ will continue to engage with BSI on this.

3. Approval of October Minutes

The minutes were approved.

Outstanding actions were noted, and a log of such outstanding actions has been shared on Basecamp. There is a forthcoming paper on expert advisors, and IFLA HQ will follow up on actions on the risk register.

4. Vice-Chair Role Description

As per the last minute, in the spirit of inviting diversity, committee members were asked to express interest in taking on the vice-chair role to the chair. No additional candidates came forward, so Maureen is congratulated on her appointment to the role.

The Chair and Vice-Chair drafted a role description for the committees approval. This was approved. There were no other comments or suggestions on the role description.

5. Action Plan Draft

Committee members who shared ideas and suggestions for the action plan were thanked.

The chair framed the discussion around recalling the committee's remit, in order to ensure activities are within the capacity and the mandate of the committee.

It was noted that the committee will finalise a draft to be shared with the GB, but that the final version of the action plan will be agreed to in the CCH December meeting.

Notably, the committee was reminded that the CCH is an advisory committee, and therefore acts differently than a professional unit. The committee may choose to act itself on a topic that is of interest, or they might make a suggestion to another body to act, or advocate for setting up a working group or network.

To recall, a network will bring people together from across IFLA to focus on one topic from a variety of viewpoints, and requires sponsorship. This can be more open-ended, as opposed to a working group which is established to complete a set task.

An example of a network that the CCH might consider sponsoring is a network on sustainable preservation of digital cultural heritage. The CCH might convene colleagues from ENSULIB, PRESCONS, the PAC Centres, IT Section, Academic libraries and beyond to thoroughly explore this issue. The network then might choose to produce an output such as a report or guidelines.

It was noted that each action on the plan must have a person assigned to lead. If no one comes forward to lead activities, they will not happen.

Communications / newsletter

The first suggested action is on communication. A newsletter is useful in the IFLA context. This was agreed by other committee members, and suggestions for the frequency were offered. It was noted that a reasonable frequency would be 2-3 issues per year.

Each issue could focus on specific topics. It was suggested that the first examines the definition of cultural heritage itself. This could help IFLA members by raising awareness of the many aspects of cultural heritage relevant to libraries.

It was noted that the CCH should consider what it is that people actually want to read. Perhaps this is not a newsletter per se, but more of a "hot-sheet". It could have an interesting title, help people understand what IFLA does on heritage.

LEAD: it was suggested that this should be on a rotating basis, as it might be too much work for one person.

Context and defining cultural heritage

This topic was expressed as being something the committee could explore. It relates to the general question of what is cultural heritage. The interested committee member suggested workshops on restoration, restitution, and use of infographics to share ideas.

It was noted that an interesting angle could be a project to explain and define cultural heritage led by the global south. It was noted that many definitions start with western heritage, and IFLA could be placed to start a conversation from different perspectives, those who are operating with different, non-European based understandings of cultural heritage.

The example of Europeana's Migration project was noted. This highlights the small items that people carry from one continent to another than become very important to them. This could examine a wider definition of cultural heritage, and perhaps address the question of how libraries approach oral histories.

Towards a digital heritage Network

It was suggested that the CCH might be best suited to create a network on this subject as their action. It was noted that many sections are approaching this from different angles, such as the Bibliographic section renewing statement on describing digital publications.

It was agreed that a network was a good idea.

Cultural heritage at Risk

This might entail a range of various activities. The CCH can be a channel through which to report on existing activities and to enable the further development of IFLA's relationship with UNESCO in this area.

A mapping of risk zones might be helpful. This would be an activity to highlight the risks present in various areas, resulting in a visual tool that helps visualise risks and enable people to do self assessment. The CCH's goal could be to develop resources to support people in assessing risk and identifying sources for help or advice. Activities around the Risk Register might also fit in here.

LEAD: Jasmine and Cristina offered to lead on risk zone mapping.

UNESCO

The CCH might provide advice on where IFLA could be working with UNESCO to achieve maximum impact. The newsletter would also be a helpful way to communicate on this to the wider community.

There could be more action on the Decade of Indigenous Language as well as making connections to UNDRIP and the Library Map of the World.

Ahead of Mondiacult 2025 and the global report on cultural policy, the CCH might consider exploring how IFLA can best engage in these policy processes. They could be a sounding board on how to connect high level policy process to practical things

UNDRIP

Coming out of the sessions from WLIC 2023, there were many opportunities identified to work with UNDRIP and much to explore in terms of activating this relationship.

Action is needed to broaden awareness within IFLA and collect example of how its been used and encourage more engagement.

Next steps: The Chair and Vice Chair will create a second draft of the Action Plan and request more committee members to take on actions as leads.

IFLA HQ will bring a paper to a meeting in early 2024 with an overview of all cultural heritage actions across the action plans of the professional units.

6. AOB and date of next meeting

No other business. Next meeting is 18 December.