

**IFLA / Rare Books and Manuscript Section
Minutes of Business Meetings in Helsinki, 2012**

First Standing Committee Meeting: August 11, 2012 Saturday 12:00-14:30

Welcome and introductions

Standing Committee Members present: Alexander Samarin, Bente Granrud, Chu Shuqing, Claudia Fabian, David Farneth, Edwin Schroeder, Garrelt Verhoeven, Isabel García-Monge, Krister Östlund, Marina Vernier, Pilar Egoscozábal, Raphaële Mouren.

Other attendees: Alexandra Clemence, Andrew Stephenson, Bettina Wagner, Daryl Green, Elena Zagorskaya, Lee Mei Chen, Mika Hakkarainen, Monique Hulvey, Noryati A. Samad, Odile Dupont, Sergey Kudryavtev, Sirkka Havu, Victoria Barsukova, Wu Yu Lin.

Regrets from Eric Holzenberg, Mark Dimunation, Jan Bos and Pilar Moreno.

Approval of the August 2011 Minutes

The August 2011 Minutes (Puerto Rico) were approved.

IFLA RBMS meetings in Helsinki

Raphaële Mouren and Sirkka Havu presented the RBMS meetings in Helsinki which were to include two meetings of the Standing Committee and two sessions: on 13th August, off-site session in the National Library of Finland *Marketing of rare and special collections in a digital age* and a second session on 16th August: *Cataloguing standards and special collections*.

Financial report

The section annual sum received from IFLA Headquarters was to be fully invested in expenses associated to the publication of Antwerp conference papers, *Ambassadors of the book : competences and training for heritage librarians*.

Activity report

Regarding email lists, a list for the 118 members of the section had been created and updated, while it was pointed out the importance of the use of the RBM list, where SC members should register themselves.

The rules concerning IFLA Standing Committee sections membership were reviewed and the requirement to participate in all the activities of the section was also stressed.

There had not been possible to prepare joint activities with other IFLA sections, while cooperation with LIBER and CERL proved very succesful in the organization of the Midterm in Antwerp. Claudia Fabian commented LIBER was

preparing a new strategic plan. Both LIBER and CERL are always interested in cooperation with RBM Section.

Raphaële Mouren presented the book for the Antwerp conference papers, *Ambassadors of the book : competences and training for heritage librarians*, including the previous year which includes Jan Bos' conference in Puerto Rico "All Books Are Equal, but Some Books..."

David Farneth, as Information Officer and Newsletter editor, encouraged participation with articles about any projects, exhibitions or publications in our field. There were questions about the possibility of finding out the actual reach of our newsletter, but it would need to be through IFLA web site statistics. David Farneth also invited the members of the SC to propose improvements for the RBM section web site.

2013 Midterm meeting in Moscow

Alexander Samarin presented the program for the meeting in April in Moscow with practical information about travel and visa. The theme for the conference was intended to be wider than the first one proposed by the SC ("Collections in foreign libraries") in order to open the conference for more participation. The SC proposed to include a reduced number of papers, up to five, describing important projects in our area. Sergey A. Kudryavtsev, who is responsible for international activities from the Russian State Library, invited the members of the SC to participate. The RBM sections thanked him for his presence.

2013 Singapore Congress programme planning

Noryati A. Samad, as representative of Singapore National Library, offered her help and that from her institution for the 2013 Congress. Raphaële Mouren proposed to hold an off-site day in the library instead of a satellite meeting. The theme "concept of special collections and the creation of special collections in the Asian context" was approved. To organize the session it was also agreed to contact the Asian and Oceania Section. The other sessions proposed for Singapore would be:

- Visual material in rare book and manuscript libraries
- Trends in the Rare Book Library as "place"
- Digitization guidelines – presentation and case studies

2014 Satellite Meeting proposal

For the 2014 Congress, Raphaële Mouren opened the possibility of a satellite meeting in Lyon about the History of Librarianship to take place in the Université de Lyon - École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques, after the main conference.

RBMS Projects

Strategic Plan

The RBM Section strategic plan was discussed, including a possible change of the section name and the future objectives of the section. The plan should be

modest as the section doesn't count upon many resources. The change or not of the section name, oriented towards a more comprehensive vision of special collections, should include the vote of all section members.

David Farneth proposed as an action to develop education programs for special collection librarians; Garrelt Verhoeven presented the Summer School for Rare Books and the possible cooperation with Lyon and Uppsala. Edwin Schroeder proposed to include in the RBM site a list of institutions that offer this kind of courses with their programs. Raphaële Mouren suggested organizing these courses in places where they are not usually available.

These two actions were to be added to the strategic plan, while mission and goals (decided in the 2011 Congress in Puerto Rico) stayed unchanged:

Mission

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section provides a forum for discussion and exchange of information on matters of particular concern to rare book and manuscript librarians, including collection, preservation, bibliographic control of, and access to such materials, in all types of libraries.

Goals

The RBM section's vision is focused on the history of the book, and the international definition of special collections and bibliographical heritage. The strategic plan contemplates:

- 1 - to increase the visibility of special collections
- 2 – to increase the attention for the special collections in their libraries
- 3 – to encourage networking for special collections and associations around the world
- 4 – to promote attention to bibliographical heritage
- 5 – to help specialists face new problems and adapt to the evolution of the profession.

Actions

- 1) To develop a definition of “special collections” (“ special collections of documentary heritage”) which will allow moving forward from the concept of rare books and manuscripts into that of special collections (adapting to UNESCO's definition), helping institutions and professionals in the identification and description of special collections.
- 2) To identify and improve the new competences and skills that heritage librarians need to help them face the changes and new demands of users and institutions. In order to achieve it, the RBMS intends to go into the specific skills that these professionals require, compile an index of centers which offer these courses, and promote cooperative training programs.

Regarding the Annual Bibliography on the History of the Book, after some time in which it had not been possible to agree on a new host, Brill seems to have taken over the project. The Russian State Library maintains a list for its area but at the moment the list is not online.

Other announcements

Russell Lynch, Division of Library Collections Chair, visited the SC to introduce himself and invited SC members to participate in IFLA General Assembly and sessions.

Odile Dupont presented the new SIG "Religion libraries serving intercultural dialogue". Raphaële Mouren proposed to keep in contact with this group.

Second Standing Committee Meeting: August 14, 2012 Tuesday 16:45-18:00

Standing Committee Members present: Alexander Samarin, Bente Granrud, Claudia Fabian, David Farneth, Edwin Schroeder, Garrelt Verhoeven, Isabel García-Monge, Krister Östlund, Marina Vernier, Pilar Egoscozábal, Raphaële Mouren.

Other attendees: Andrew Stephenson, Anja Korkala, Fabiano Acevedo, Gabriella Contardi, Helen Vincent, Helene Stenman, Hümeýra Doruk, Jan Simane, Jorma Niemitalo, Monique Hulvey, Noryati A. Samad, Sonia Pacheco

Guidelines for the Digitization of Manuscripts and Rare Books.

The work on the draft of the Guidelines for the Digitization of Manuscripts and Rare Books was discussed, and the Standing Committee suggested some editing and some new ideas to be included. It was agreed to offer some time for further comments on the last draft and to compile a list of standards and good practices to supplement the Guidelines which should be presented in 2013.

2013 Singapore Congress programme planning

There had been contacts with officers from other sections in order to present joint sessions in Singapore, such as the chair from the Art Libraries Section, present at the meeting. There was also a new proposal for a session with Preservation and Conservation Section and Information Technology Section. The planned sessions for the 2013 Congress in Singapore were finally:

- Asian Special Collections, with Asia and Oceania Section: off-site day in the National Library of Singapore.
- Visual Material in Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections, with Art Libraries Section.
- Evolution of historic libraries buildings: Rare Book Libraries as place, with Library Buildings and Equipment Section.
- Digital and material preservation in a digital world, with Preservation and Conservation Section and with Information Technology Section.

The SC members were encouraged to participate in the organization of these sessions.

Meeting adjourned at 18.00.