

IFLA Milan  
First Standing Committee Meeting Minutes  
Government Libraries Section  
August 22, 2009

Present:

Jerry W. Mansfield, Chair (USA)

Maija Jussilainen (Finland)

Emma Voskanyan (Russia)

Jane Wu (Canada, outgoing Information Coordinator)

Rebecca Davies, Secretary/Treasurer (UK)

Inger Jepsson (Sweden)

Maria Goekeritz (Germany)

Miguel Navas-Fernández (Spain, incoming Information Coordinator)

Sanjay Kumar Bihani (India)

Mika Lawler (Japan)

Guest: Christine Wellems (Germany)

1. Minutes from Québec accepted

2. Treasurers report

325 Euros remain in Admin funds – the Treasurer asked for ideas to promote the section. 300 Euros were required for the translation of the *Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments* into German; the Treasurer is waiting for confirmation that payment has been made to the translator. Last year 40 copies of the guidelines were sent to government libraries and library schools in developing countries.

3. Membership

Jerry Mansfield has worked with great success to grow the Standing Committee membership and we begin the 2009-2011 cycle with 6 new members: Miguel Navas-Fernández (Spain), María del Carmen Díez Hoyo (Spain), Laurie Atkinson (Australia), Inger Jepsson (Sweden), Lamine Camara (Mali), and Mika Lawler (Japan). We also have one new Spanish corresponding member, Maite Cuende (Spain). We have a total of 18 elected Standing Committee members – an excellent result.

4. Information co-ordinator report

We issued 2 newsletters and the website has undergone the transition to the new IFLA format.

Our new information Coordinator, Miguel Navas-Fernández, is receiving training during the conference on the new CMS “drupal”, and the section are looking forward to using “Web 2.0 tools” including wikis and blogs.

5. Notes from Coordinating Board Meeting of August 21<sup>st</sup> 2009

Jerry Mansfield reported that the officers met for the last time for the Coordinating Board for special libraries on the 21<sup>st</sup> Aug. This Board is being replaced by a "Leadership Forum." The Chair, Information Coordinator, Secretary/Treasurer will all attend the "Leadership Forum" as the section moves to the larger group, Library Types/Division 1.

On Tuesday from 9.30-12.45 am there is to be a brainstorming session being held by the IFLA President - attendees at each table will sit together and share knowledge and experience. The section needs to send at least one attendee; Jerry Mansfield will try to go, but recommends that other section members attend if possible.

Discussions were held at the board about the move of the 2010 conference from Brisbane to Göteborg. There was quite an impact for the pre-conference preparations; fortunately for the section, the planned pre-conference for Government Library sessions in Australia had already been cancelled by the Australian host. This means that there is opportunity to consider a satellite / pre-conference at Göteborg. Deadline for any plans would be November 2009.

ACTION: Committee members to consider pre-conference options.

#### 6. Election of officers for 2009-2011

Officers elected as follows:

Jerry Mansfield was re-elected as chair. Patrick Ryan was elected Secretary/Treasurer to replace Rebecca Davies and Miguel Navas-Fernández was elected as Information Coordinator to replace Jane Wu.

Jane and the attendees confirmed their appointment.

#### 7. 2010 Göteborg , Sweden

Due to the short time to prepare the 2010 conference will be compressed; Tuesday Aug 10<sup>th</sup> – Sun Aug 15<sup>th</sup>.

Section meetings will be held on the first day of conference on the Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and the Leadership Forum will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>.

The opening session is on Weds 11<sup>th</sup> and the conference ends on the Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### 8. Theme for Göteborg .

Jerry Mansfield (Chair) has been approached by the law libraries section on doing a joint session with them. He discussed the options for co-sponsoring a session with them, noting that as it is a shorter conference we would have to allocate all our time to this session – so he asked the floor to consider if we would want to do this.

We will discuss at the Weds 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

#### 9. 2010 Barcelona mid-term conference April 2010.

The section had spoken last year about a short conference at Barcelona to talk about the *Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments*, feedback & impact, but not on changes to the *Guidelines*.

Miguel took the members through the options at Barcelona, with the clear guidelines that all individuals would have to pay for their own accommodation and refreshments.

In the debate that followed many ideas about the sessions that could be included, such as Jane Wu who raised the idea of thinking of a snapshot of government libraries worldwide – some being shut, some expanding, how they raise awareness and consider the rights of citizens. Maija Jussilainen supported the idea of trends for government libraries, with Maria suggesting that the opportunity could be taken to identify case studies and success stories relating to the *Guidelines* sections that could be added to our website as well as at the conference to enhance the impact of the guidelines.

Jerry Mansfield stressed that we need to be mindful that he has only received one comment from a library in Kenya to say they had used the *Guidelines*, so case studies might be difficult to source.

As additional ideas emerged it was agreed that we would discuss this in more detail at our Wednesday meeting and consider issues like:

- Do we have enough resource and speakers to attend?
- Will we receive support in terms of attendees - as it a different type of conference, it might be easier for people to attend, and who would otherwise not be able to get to the main IFLA conference.

The committee agreed that it would be likely to be very popular – and we are excited that Barcelona is so eager to cooperate.

The main themes would be around sharing experiences, getting to know one another and to learn about the working world in other countries.

Using the new website there are also options for podcasting the sessions.

Emma translated the *Guidelines* into Russian and they have published in electronic format. Jerry Mansfield was delighted to receive the presentation from Emma of a copy of the *Guidelines* in Russian.

#### 10. Online publication project for 2010 and beyond

This is an exciting proposal by the Chair, Jerry Mansfield for us to have a publication project on our website to gather the mission and/or vision statements from international government libraries. Jerry had recently assisted, from a query via IFLA HQ, a government library in Kenya to find a vision statements and mission statements. Jerry proposed that we build on the work he had started to have a section on the website with some examples, by country, of mission and vision statements for government libraries.

Jerry has made a significant start to this project and asked committee members to add and complement the initial document he had started. There was strong support from the committee for this long term project which would be delivered online.

**ACTION; ALL COMMITTE MEMBERS TO EMAIL THE INFORMATION COORDINATOR WITH EXAMPLES.**

#### 11. Strategic plan

Jerry explained that we need to rewrite a new strategic plan for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November. Need to have an offsite meeting for the bullet points for the strategic plan. In the strategic plan we will include the new publication for “worldwide mission/vision statements of government libraries” on the website. Jerry and Miguel will meet to discuss.

#### 12. Sponsor for the newsletter

Jerry explained that he had obtained sponsorship for the newsletter – the advert on the final page on the July newsletter. The company, Research Solutions, a document delivery service based in Chico, California, paid \$25 to have their advertisement placed in the newsletter. Payment was made by way of an Amazon.com voucher for which a drawing was held among members of the Government Libraries Section. Research Solutions has indicated that they will also sponsor at our January 2010 newsletter.

#### 13. Papers at the conference

Jerry and the committee agreed the order of the presentations and committee members to introduce each paper.

#### 14. The Meeting closed, with the committee looking forward to our session and the meeting on Wednesday.