

**Government Libraries Section  
Standing Committee Meeting II  
17 August 2011  
San Juan, Puerto Rico**

**Members Present:**

Maria Goeckeritz (Germany)  
Inger Jepsson (Sweden)  
Mika Lawler (Japan)  
Jerry W. Mansfield (USA)  
Beacher Wiggins (USA)

**Guests Present:**

Marie Elena Dorta-Duque (Cuba)  
Carmel M. Idim (Nigeria)  
Carmen L. Montañez Reyes (Puerto Rico)  
Elena Escolano Rodriguez (Spain)  
Tinna Tuomaala (Finland)

The meeting was called to order by acting chair, Jerry W. Mansfield.

A brief wrap-up of the conference to date was shared. The chair asked about any papers that members heard that they might recommend to be considered for publishing in the *IFLA Journal*. Jerry reported that as a member of the editorial committee of the *Journal* that he is looking at all abstracts and reading some of the papers; a process he will continue after the conference ends.

Jerry reported that he had heard from the new secretary/treasurer, Sanjay Bihani, since the first standing committee meeting and he filled Sanjay in on what had transpired to date.

**IFLA 2012 Conference – Helsinki**

Jerry reminded all present that the theme for the 2012 conference is -- “Libraries Now! – Inspiring, Surprising, Empowering.” Part of the purpose of our second meeting was to strategize and plan for the section’s programs for IFLA 2012. Jerry reported that he had not been approached by the new officers of any other section for possible program co-sponsoring in Helsinki. He indicated that he would make no deals or no commitments but would refer individuals to the new officers of the Government Libraries Section.

Many ideas were presented for the section’s Helsinki program during a brainstorming session as follows:

- Focus on empowering as a theme. It was reported that at least one other section may be considering this as well and perhaps we could co-sponsor.
- Caution was expressed that “empowering” may be the most overused word of the 2012 conference. It was suggested that we focus on another word, perhaps “surprising.” It may be surprising to some that we are still here. What makes government libraries last?

- What have we discovered? How do government libraries continue to make ourselves valuable? Have government libraries helped in the post-disaster recoveries throughout the world?
- Focus on global government library programs
- Many government libraries have closed around the world. Once closed, how are the information needs of the parent organization met? What service alternatives are there without physical libraries?
- How can we continue to be relevant after a closure?
- We should pick one of the theme words and make a positive spin on it.
- Open access and government information
- Focus on e-government, e-reference in government libraries or e-reference and knowledge databases.

Jerry reported that these ideas would appear in the Minutes of the meeting to serve as a reminder of the discussions and for further follow-up by the new officers.

The meeting ended with a photo taken of those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry W. Mansfield