

IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations

Standing Committee Meeting II

Date: Friday, 24 August 2001

Time: 10.15am-12.15pm

Place: Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Massachusetts

Chair: Souad Hubert (France)

Attendees: Jane Dreisig, (Denmark), Barbro Ejendal (Sweden), Benedikte Kragh-Schwarz (Denmark), Kirsten Leth Nielsen (Norway), Ekatarina Nikonorova (Russian Federation), Robert Pestell (Australia), Jane Pyper (Canada), Ana Asensio Rodriguez (Spain), Ryoko Takashima (Japan), Adriana Acauan Tandler (USA), Maria Tapaninen (Sweden), Susy Tastesen (Denmark), Lucille Thomas (USA), Carmen Madrid Vilchez (Spain), Kristina Virtanen (Finland), Lourina K. de Voogd (Netherlands), Barbara von Wahlde (USA)

Guests: Antoni Carvahlo, (Portugal); Fred Gitner, (USA); Jose Jorge Letria, (Portugal); Ann-Katrin Ursberg (Sweden)

Reporters: Barbara von Wahlde and Jane Pyper

AGENDA

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B. REPORTS

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2. IFLA Booth in Boston
3. New Officers' Orientation Meeting
4. Glasgow 2002

C. DISCUSSIONS

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9. Leaflet / Brochure
10. Guidelines
11. Domain Names
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MINUTES

A. INTRODUCTIONS

Suoad Hubert (France) opened the meeting and the distributed agenda was approved. New members: Ana Asensio Rodriguez (Spain), Barbro Ejendal (Sweden), and Ekatarina Nikonorova (Russian Federation) were introduced.

The new officers were introduced and their terms run from 2001-2003:

Chair: Jane Dreisig (Denmark); Secretary: Kirsten Leth Nielsen (Norway); Information Coordinator and Newsletter Editor: Barbara von Wahlde (USA); and Co-Editor: Jane Pyper (Canada).

B. REPORTS

1. **Boston Workshop**

The workshop on "Library Services and Resources Multicultural Populations", organized by Lucille C Thomas (USA) with assistance from Suoad Hubert (France) was held on Thursday, August 23, 2001. Fifty-five participants attended the program which included presentations by the following: Barbro Ejendal, Stockholm Public Library, Sweden; Fred Gitner, Queens Borough Public Library, USA; Martin Gomez, Brooklyn Public Library, USA; Joyce Ray, Institute of Library and Museum Studies, USA; Adriana Tandler, Queens Borough Public Library, USA; Frank Xu, Queens Borough Public Library, USA; Lourina de Voogd, NBLC, Netherlands. Kirsten Leth Nielsen (Norway), although not originally on the speaker roster, presented her prepared paper which she was unable to deliver at the Buffalo pre-conference due to illness. Lucille Thomas also served as program moderator. The papers of the speakers will be made available on the IFLA section's Web site. Jane Dreisig will distribute the papers to committee members as well. Lucille Thomas was thanked for all of her work and commended for the very fine job that she did with the program.

2. **IFLA Booth in Boston**

Benedikte Kragh-Schwarz (Denmark) provided a brief report on the activity in the IFLA booth which was staffed by Benedikte and Kirsten Leth Nielsen (Norway) on Monday, August 20, 2001 from 12:00 – 1:30pm.

3. **New Officers' Orientation Meeting**

A short report was given by Barbara von Wahlde, incoming Information Coordinator, (USA) and Jane Dreisig, incoming Chair, (Denmark) on the responsibilities of the Information Coordinator which were discussed at an earlier meeting both had attended. It was also noted that the duty of recording and submitting minutes of meetings would be passed on to Kirsten Leth Nielsen, incoming Secretary/Treasurer.

4. **Glasgow 2002**

Information was given about the Glasgow conference to be held from August 18-24, 2002. Discussion of funding and holding a program in Sterling, Scotland followed. A proposal to have a joint session on life-long learning with the Section on Public Libraries was also discussed. It was viewed as desirable to have a working group of committee members from the Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations and the committee on Public Libraries' to plan and discuss the topic. Benedikte Kragh-Schwarz (Denmark) suggested that there be United Kingdom participation in any session as the things that are happening there are interesting but may not be completely viewed as life-long learning. It was suggested that Margaret Evans, committee member from the United Kingdom, be involved in this activity. It was reported that the Joint Session with the Section for Libraries for the Blind is no longer being pursued as the section has proceeded with another plan.

C. DISCUSSIONS

5. **Strategic Plan 2002-2003**

The deadline for submitting the Strategic Plan 2002-2003 (Medium Term Programme/four year plan) is September 2001. According to directives from IFLA the Strategic Plan should include the following components:

- MISSION STATEMENT - A succinct statement of the scope and purpose of the activity.
- PRIORITIES - A list of the strategic goals for the target period. Each priority should be linked to the Professional Priorities of IFLA.
- ACTION PLAN - (Also referred to as the STRATEGIC PLAN.) A list of the specific actions, which will take place during the target period, to accomplish the priorities outlined in the previous section. The action plan will be reviewed each year.

There was discussion of the strategic plan based on the key issues and recommendations from Stan's Skrzyszewski's summary of topics held at the Buffalo pre-conference on "Technology, Globalization and Multicultural Services." The document was distributed to group members and some ranking and priority of these recommendations were discussed.

In summary, the committee agreed:

1) that we address recommendation #1 on facilitating collaboration through the updating of the Section Web site, a more active newsletter program, and perhaps a listserv.

2) that we incorporate the recommendation on the training program for library staff on multicultural themes which some of the Nordic librarians volunteered to spearhead.

Also discussed was the definition of <multicultural>. Jane Pyper (Canada) volunteered, with the assistance of Ana Asensio Rodriguez (Spain), Barbro Ejendal (Sweden), and Ekatarina Nikonorova (Russian Federation), to create a discussion document for the Norway midwinter meeting. (This action was prompted as a result of the woman from the deaf community who felt that the deaf are a cultural group and should be covered by the Section.)

Key issues from Stan's summary of topics might also add <elderly> as a point of focus for the future.

Maria Tapaninen (Sweden) will draft the action plan before the Fall meeting of the Coordinating Board.

6. Berlin 2003

The IFLA Berlin 2003 pre-conference contact persons are Susan Schneehorst and Lourina K. de Voogd, (Netherlands). The pre-conference site, location and theme(s) were discussed. If Amsterdam is selected, Lourina K de Voogd offered to organize the meeting in the Netherlands. Some topics suggested for the program or the pre-conference included: collections, staff training, and outreach. Members also thought covering several topics at either venue would be possible. Although the pre-conference location was not established, the committee agreed that a satellite meeting would be held every two years rather than every year. (This was also discussed at the Granada midwinter meeting.) Therefore, a satellite meeting held prior to the Berlin 2003 conference would be on schedule.

D. OTHER COMMITTEE MATTERS

7. Listserv

To facilitate communication among the committee members, it was suggested that the Information Coordinator set up and manage a listserv to be hosted somewhere other than IFLANET since this would be mainly an internal communication device. Barbara von Wahlde (USA) will set this up within the next few months and host it at her institution.

8. Newsletter

Souad Hubert (France) reported that she will share some guidelines regarding the coverage and content of the newsletter. It was stressed that a paper version of the *Newsletter* be sent to Section and committee members in addition to the eight paper copies to IFLA Headquarters. The suggestion was made to continue to include the Newsletter on the website.

9. Leaflet / Brochure

Jane Dreisig (Denmark) reported that the 1998 leaflet/brochure needed to be updated and revised. Barbara von Wahlde (USA) suggested that the leaflet be used more as a marketing tool to increase membership.

10. Guidelines

The committee discussed the *Guidelines* and suggested that they be made available on the Web site.

In reference to producing a third revised edition, the following was discussed:
The Guidelines need to be general, as multicultural situations are different.

There was a discussion about signing as a multicultural activity for the community of deaf patrons. (This was a follow-up to comments made at the Boston workshop by Marguerite Hegstrom (USA) who said that the deaf can be considered a separate cultural group. Is this an issue for public libraries? It fits into our guidelines as presently written but we are not sure what the outcome of this might be. Probably more discussion and consideration of the issue should occur at a future meeting. Thinking about a definition of culture versus ethnicity and linguistic differences is important. What would be the definition for our group? Would we change our guidelines, which are broad or create more definitions?

Jane Pyper (Canada) volunteered to work on these definitions with the assistance of Barbro Ejendal, Ana Asensio Rodriguez, as well as Ekatarina Nikonorova. They may be examining what are linguistic and ethnic definitions.

11. Domain Names

It was suggested that a group be established to work on researching domain name options. Jane Dreisig, Chair, will consult with Maureen Cubberley on the process of establishing domains to determine whether pursuing multicultural.lib is a viable option.

It was also suggested that a group be established to work on this and would be a training group for library staff on how to work with multicultural themes and patrons. Adriana Tandler (USA), Benedikte Krag-Schwarz (Denmark), Ana Asensio Rodriguez (Spain), Christina McDonald (USA) and Fred were proposed as possible members.

12. Pre-conference Planning

Barbara von Wahlde (USA) promised to provide some tips or guidelines on how to host a satellite meeting and manage arrangements and would distribute this later in the Fall or by the Oslo midwinter meeting.

13. Midwinter Meeting

As proposed in Granada, the midwinter meeting will be held in Oslo, Norway in late February. [Note: Subsequent to this meeting, the midwinter meeting date was scheduled for February 18th and 19th, 2002.] Kirsten Leth Nielsen (Norway) will investigate the appropriate date and notify the committee members. The February meeting date was chosen to assure that committee information is forwarded to the IFLA Coordinating Board prior to their March 9-10, 2002 meeting. The members recommended that the meeting date be connected to a weekend so that travel and flight arrangements could be more economical. A show of hands indicated that seven members of the committee were giving some thought to attending.

It was also suggested that perhaps a United Kingdom person might be invited if we are discussing planning a joint program for the Glasgow IFLA meeting. Maria Tapaninen (Sweden) suggested that three programs might be appropriate in Glasgow that would have our involvement. Jane Dreisig, Chair, will make some follow-up contacts about this.

E. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The meeting concluded with remarks from outgoing Chair, Souad Hubert, (France) on the activities that had occurred during her chairmanship. She mentioned that under her leadership during 1999-2001, the following had been accomplished:

- The Section's publication, *Multicultural Communities: Guidelines for Library Services*, 2nd edition, revised, was translated into French and Spanish.
- The *Newsletter* had been produced and distributed.
- The midwinter meeting was held in Elsinore, Denmark on February 28-29, 2000.
- The workshop, "Library Services to Arabic Communities" was held in Jerusalem in 2000.
- The open session on "New Research in the Multicultural Area" was held in Jerusalem.
- The 20th anniversary celebration of the Section was marked in Jerusalem
- The Section's leaflet was updated.
- A brief history of the Section was written and published by Marie F. Zielinska.
- The midwinter meeting was held in Granada, Spain in February 2001.
- The pre-conference on "Globalization, Technology and Multicultural Services in Libraries", organized by Barbara von Wahlde, USA, was held on August 14-16, 2001 in Buffalo, New York
- The workshop on "Library Services and Resources for Multicultural Populations", organized by Lucille C Thomas, USA, was held in Boston on August 23, 2001.

F. APPENDIX: Standing Committee Member Roster 2001-2003 (2005)

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Respectfully submitted,

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