



**MID-TERM MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARIES SECTION OF IFLA HELD  
ON JUNE 4, 2008 IN PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Present**

<p>Liv Saeteren (Oslo) (Chair)          Ai Cheng Tay (Singapore) (Secretary/Treasurer)          Vicki McDonald (Queensland) (Information          Coordinator)          Sharon Thien (Singapore)          Dzidra Smita (Riga)          Aline Girard (Paris)          Tomas Rehak (Prague)          Josephine Bryant (Toronto)          Jens Ingemann (Copenhagen)          David Bradbury (London)          Alena Cerna (Prague)          Maija Berndtson (Helsinki)          Hans van Velzen (Amsterdam)          Kathleen Imholff (Lexington)          Shu-Hsien Tseng (Taipei)</p>	<p>Davorka Bastic (Zagreb)          Francoise Berard (Paris)          Ester Omella (Barcelona)            Thomas Galante (New York)          Christian Relly (Zurich)          Judit Terma Grassa (Barcelona)          Naida Tattersall (Gold Coast)          Peter Fodor (Budapest)          Deborah Jacobs (Seattle)          Josephine Siegrist (Zurich)          Christine MacKenzie (Victoria)          Inga Lunden (Stockholm)          Gerard Reussink (Rotterdam)          Louise Guillemette-Labory (Montreal)          Tatjana Nebesny (Zagreb)</p>
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No	Item	Action by
<b>1</b>	<b>MetLib Section of IFLA: Mid-Term Meeting of May 10, 2007 held in Seattle, USA</b>	
1.1	The minutes of meeting held on May 10, 2007 in Seattle, USA were confirmed.	
<b>2</b>	<b>MetLib Section Standing Committee Meeting of August 24, 2007 held in Durban, South Africa</b>	
2.1	<p>Ai Cheng asked if the election of office bearers had to be convened during the Standing Committee meeting at IFLA when there usually would be so few MetLib members present.</p> <p>Jens added if it was possible to reschedule the SC meeting to somewhere mid-week where more members could be present.</p> <p>Liv explained that it would be difficult to do so. The meeting then agreed that all major decision-making should be proposed during the mid-term meeting and the SC meeting at IFLA would be used to formalize these decisions.</p>	All to note
2.2	Gerard referred to the list of proposed topics and suggested that future conferences could carry stronger themes. Vicki seconded the suggestion and added that future conference organisers could use the mid-term meeting platform to help develop a stronger theme and program.	
<b>3</b>	<b>IFLA Division III Coordinating Board Draft Minutes</b>	
3.1	Tomas commented that there were far too many abbreviations used in the minutes. Ai Cheng explained that the purpose of the meeting was to	

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	<p>plan for the next IFLA conference as well as the platform for each section to submit project proposals.</p> <p>Gerard asked if a more strategic focus could be made to develop projects that go beyond the Section Administration and Finance matters.</p>	
3.2	<p>Maija suggested that we should collect topical questions and organize workshops to discuss them. This could be done prior to the mid-term meeting so that the latter could be used as a platform to present some of these conclusions. It was further suggested that at least a day should be devoted to an active discussion around these topics.</p> <p>Further suggestions from Inga, Vicki and Josephine Siegrist include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouragement of diverse debates and discussions</li> <li>• More formal and structured discussions around themes</li> <li>• Identify facilitators to lead the discussions</li> </ul>	
3.3	<p>Ester asked if there could be more discussion on best practices as there were still many municipal libraries that are in need of such knowledge as a point of reference for them.</p> <p>Hans van Velzen felt that there were far too many lectures in this year's conference. On the other hand, Thomas commented that the real value of INTAMEL conference model to him is one where we get together annually to share our experiences and the unique manner that each host country has taken to organise the week's events unlike the ALA and IFLA conferences which tend to follow the structure as proposed earlier by members.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>MetLib Section Annual Report 2007</b>	
4.1	Gerard commended that this was a well-written report on the Section's activities for the year.	
<b>5</b>	<b>MetLib Section Draft Strategic Plan 2008 - 2009</b>	
5.1	Thomas would like to propose a slight change to the mission statement: to replace "urban areas" with "all around the world" as the term "metropolitan" is already indicative of the urban nature of these libraries. He also requested for a formal letter of invitation to be given to prospective members who are interested in joining the section.	
<b>6</b>	<b>MeLib Section Standing Committee 2007 - 2011</b>	
6.1	<p>Liv and Ai Cheng requested for early succession planning in the nomination of new office bearers in 2009 when their term of office is due to expire. Both would not be eligible to continue for another term of office. The nomination has to be endorsed at the next SC meeting to be held in IFLA Milan in 2009.</p> <p>Vicki can still continue to be an office bearer in order to provide continuity. Jo Bryant and Deborah agreed that the nominations should be ready before our mid-term meeting in Brisbane next year.</p> <p>An interim nominating committee comprising Inga, David and Thomas was formed to identify names of prospective candidates.</p>	Inga, David & Thomas

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<b>7</b>	<b>MetLib Section Project Updates</b>	
7.1	<p data-bbox="284 300 584 333"><u>Section Administration</u></p> <p data-bbox="284 367 1241 434">All translations of the MetLib Brochure have been completed and uploaded on to the IFLA website except for the German version.</p> <p data-bbox="284 468 959 501">Zagreb has agreed to compile the Croatian version.</p>	<p data-bbox="1265 300 1390 333">Ai Cheng</p> <p data-bbox="1265 400 1382 434">Davorka</p>
7.2	<p data-bbox="284 539 868 573"><u>Benchmarking Criteria for Library Evaluation</u></p> <p data-bbox="284 607 1241 741">Jo presented the latest statistical findings for 2006. She reported that it may be possible for Toronto Public Library (TPL) to subcontract the job to a Canadian group which is collecting such library statistics so that the section need not incur additional costs to purchase the software.</p> <p data-bbox="284 775 1241 875">TPL would continue to ask for project funding from IFLA HQ and in the meantime, explore other means to make the data collection more efficient. This include an online direct input of data.</p> <p data-bbox="284 909 1241 1043">In response to Gerard's question, Jo explained that TPL is not keeping the older data formerly compiled by Hannover PL. The collection methodology was also different as this time round, TPL is adopting the ISO standards for definitions and terminology.</p> <p data-bbox="284 1077 1241 1211">Gerard asked about the connection between TPL and Barcelona's work. Ester explained that there is already a web platform created for 27 regional areas or cities in Spain. They have started with 2006 data and are now in the process of collecting 2007 data.</p> <p data-bbox="284 1245 1241 1379">Jo felt that these were two different projects. She said that she could not commit TPL to a possible integration effort until she is clear about the scope of Barcelona's project. A recommendation can be made at the next meeting.</p> <p data-bbox="284 1413 1241 1480">Aline asked if we could digitize the old data collected by Hannover PL and upload the information on to our website.</p>	<p data-bbox="1265 775 1326 808">TPL</p> <p data-bbox="1265 1245 1326 1279">TPL</p>
7.3	<p data-bbox="284 1514 632 1547"><u>Collaborative Work Space</u></p> <p data-bbox="284 1581 1241 1648">Christine presented an update on this project and did a quick demo of the workspace and its contents.</p>	
7.4	<p data-bbox="284 1682 549 1715"><u>History of INTAMEL</u></p> <p data-bbox="284 1749 1241 1861">Christian commented that it would be useful if someone could take over to archive past and future INTAMEL materials. Ai Cheng offered to undertake the task of collecting and digitizing them.</p>	<p data-bbox="1265 1783 1390 1816">Ai Cheng</p>
7.5	<p data-bbox="284 1890 687 1924"><u>Program of Library Excellence</u></p> <p data-bbox="284 1957 1241 2024">Gerard reported that with the collaborative workspace in place, the project team could now have an online place to facilitate more effective</p>	

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	discussion and exchange of ideas for this project. More details should be ready for discussion at the next meeting.	
<b>8</b>	<b>MetLib Section Financial Statement</b>	
8.1	<p>Aline asked if the scholarship money has been given to this year's applicant. Ai Cheng explained that due to some difficulty experienced with the acquisition of the air ticket, he was unable to turn up. As such, no money was given out this year.</p> <p>In response to the query on how he was selected, Ai Cheng explained that he has complied with given guidelines and submitted an application form. On the basis of that and the fact that it was the only application for the year, the application was accepted.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Met Lib Section Mid-Term Meetings</b>	
9.1	<p>After some discussion, it was decided that future mid-term meetings will be held in:</p> <p>2010: Zagreb  2011: Shanghai (subject to confirmation from Prof Wang)  2012: Barcelona  2013: Helsinki (subject to confirmation at a later stage)</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
10.1	<p>Christian asked if it was possible to insert an 1-hour debrief session on the last day of this year's conference to summarise key learning points. He added that this item should be part of the core conference program in future.</p> <p><u>After Note:</u> due to the last-minute insertion of Prof Wang's lecture on Friday, this suggestion was dropped.</p>	
10.2	There being no other matters, the meeting ended at 4 pm	

Recorded by: Ai Cheng Tay

Approved by: Liv Saeteren