Minutes - Session #1

Attending:

Committee Members:
Vicki McDonald (Chair)
Mariellen F. Calter (Secretary)
Janet Fletcher (Communications)
Gerald Beasley
Mike Berrington
Gulcin Cribb
Leo Ma
Jim Neal
Reggie Raju
Jan Simane
Liz State
Deena Yanofsky

Corresponding Members:
Jarmo Saarti

Observers
Juanita Richardson
Kimberly Silk
Percy Koi Roary
David McQuillan
Charles Forrest
Theresa Byrd
Camille Callison

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<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting called to order</td>
<td>at 12:35 on August 13, 2016.</td>
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<td>1 – 5. WELCOME, ATTENDANCE, AGENDA</td>
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<td>• Vicki McDonald welcomed the committee members and acknowledged the observers</td>
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<td>• Committee members and observers introduced themselves briefly</td>
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<td>• The proposed agenda was adopted</td>
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<td>• Minutes from the 2015 meeting were approved (moved: Gulcin Cribb, seconded: Mike Berrington)</td>
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## 6. REPORTS FROM ARL OFFICERS

### 6.1. IFLA Action Plan

Mimi Calter described the Action Plan process, and the committee was invited to comment or raise issues for the new action plan, which is due in October 2016. The committee agreed that the discussion points from this meeting, particularly the programs that are discussed, will serve as the basis for that plan.

Vicki McDonald noted that IFLA has a renewed focus on having the standing committees involved in activities outside of the conference. The group agreed that that would be useful, but notes that the committee’s program is already very full. Many committee members are already very engaged with other programs within their home countries and professional associations.

Vicki McDonald also noted the need for all committee members to remain engaged, and particularly noted IFLA’s requirements for attendance. Gulcin Cribb noted the importance of clarifying roles and responsibilities for newcomers.

Reggie Raju and Jarmo Saarti noted the importance of capturing the many activities that committee members are involved with outside of IFLA, particularly within our other associations that are IFLA members, and communicating that back to the group.

### 6.2. Committee on Standards Audit

The IFLA Standards Committee has undertaken an audit of IFLA standards. The committee agreed that this was not an area where our committee should be active, as there are already other avenues for the development of standards for academic and research libraries. Several members noted that standards can be useful in specific situations, but can also be stifling of innovation.

### 6.3. What Makes a Dynamic Professional Unit

IFLA is asking each of the standing committees to complete the distributed worksheets as part of a conversation about re-invigorating engagement within and between the IFLA standing committee / units.

The group had concerns that the questions were very generic, and did not lead to detailed analysis of issues. However, discussion raised several gaps that have been seen in communication. Earlier discussion revealed concern regarding the level of commitment and understanding requirements for incoming committee members. In addition, we have discussed concerns regarding communicating our activities outside of the conference.

Gulcin Cribb asked how we can develop linkages with the academic and research library groups that exist in each of our local countries. How do we communicate IFLA activities to those groups, in addition to ensuring that our IFLA colleagues understand the work these groups are.
undertaking.

Jim Neal noted that the United States is seeing similar issues at the national level, as people are defining themselves through more specialized communities of practice. ALA has been tracking international attendance at their conference. It has gone up significantly in recent years.

Jarmo Saarti noted that IFLA doesn’t have a good online presence for the conference. The inability to engage with the conference program outside of the physical meeting is a challenge. Cost is also an issue, as is the length of the conference, and the timing of the conference.

6.4.1. Report on Section Activities

A report was distributed to the committee in advance of the session, and that report was briefly reviewed. Most aspects of the report are covered elsewhere in the agenda, but two were discussed here: forthcoming elections, and the Wikimedia program.

Elections for committee members are scheduled in 2017, and the committee will be losing six members whose terms are ending. Nine additional members are ending their first terms and may choose re-nomination if they wish to continue. In addition, since Vicki McDonald and Janet Fletcher have completed their maximum two terms, we will have a new leadership election next year. All committee members should be thinking about their future activities with the committee.

Committee members were also reminded that committee members who fail to attend two consecutive meetings may be deemed to have resigned. If you are unable to attend a conference, it is important to stay in communication with the committee chair regarding participation and your reasons for non-attendance at the Congress.

Finally, committee members were reminded about the Wikimedia session at 16:00 on Monday. The session will discuss the Wikimedia report that the committee reviewed in draft earlier this year.

6.4.2. Financial Report

The committee hasn’t requested any funds, and hasn’t spent any money. Vicki McDonald reminded the group that project funds are available upon request, and proposals for projects are always welcome. This year, the request process is tied to the Action Plan, so the group needs to be thinking about funding for projects as they are building out that list.

6.4.3. Attendance Grant

Deena Yanofksy spoke to the previously distributed report, which was prepared by herself and Liz State. Only 18 applications were received this year, which was a significant reduction from past years. Delays in confirming sponsorship for this year contributed to this problem. It was
noted that sponsorship is already confirmed for next year. However, the committee also had three recommendations to improve response rates:

Recommendations:
1) Increase the visibility by advertising more broadly outside of IFLA
2) Ask individual standing members to promote the grant in their home countries
3) Extend the time available to apply. Kick off the process in December rather than January.

The committee agreed that these recommendations should be implemented.

The committee agreed to add a requirement that the winners be involved with academic and/or research libraries or be current students. This would result in a set of winners who was better aligned with our sponsor’s interests.

The committee would like to create a template to give our applicants more guidance as to what information should be included in the application. This project will be assigned at the meeting on Thursday.

Liz noted that the funding provided is not sufficient to bring someone from Africa. It would be helpful to approach the sponsors to see if we can reallocate the funds by region.

The awards will be distributed at a ceremony on Tuesday at 12:35. All committee members are encouraged to attend.

6.4.4. Information Coordinator’s Report

Janet Fletcher submitted the Information Coordinator’s report. She advised that due to information privacy requirements, if your details change, you need to advise IFLA direct, rather than through the committee.

We now have up to 700 members on Facebook, which means we have more activity there than elsewhere. Note that Facebook isn’t archived.

We tried to use the blog to discuss “Big Questions” in the past. It didn’t work well. We would like to leverage Facebook to promote more discussion. Committee members are encouraged to post to the group.

Committee members are also encouraged to use the committee’s Twitter handle where appropriate.

7. ORGANIZATION OF ARL SESSIONS IN COLUMBUS

7.1-3. Review of Sessions

Committee members were reminded to attend both joint sessions, the awards program, and the Hot Topics session. Committee members
were also asked to join a committee dinner on Wednesday evening.

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<th>8. PLANNING FOR SESSIONS IN WROCLAW</th>
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<td><strong>8.1 Regional Reports</strong></td>
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<td>Committee members submitted bullet points in advance outlining critical issues in their regions. The committee was asked to review the list for key themes or issues that would be good session themes for next year.</td>
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<td>There is a recurring issue with funding and budgets. While the concern is not new, it seems more intense this year. It’s not about money so much as to what the library’s role is in serving a digital research environment. Open access, library publishing, and general issues of openness of information are all of significant interest. Different groups see open access in particular in different ways, and we want to “be open about openness”. Also want to look at the role of the library within the university. Themes: Openness and Change. Also data: data management and the role in supporting the whole research cycle.</td>
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<td>Leo Ma noted that we have put significant effort into preparing the issues document, and asked how can we share it more broadly? We have also talked about the need to communicate our effort. It was agreed each of the committee members should generate a short statement regarding issues in their countries to post to Facebook.</td>
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<td>Vicki McDonald and Mimi Calter will coordinate with other sections on key themes.</td>
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<td>Committee members will each post a short issue statement on Facebook for discussion.</td>
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<th>11. MEETING CLOSE</th>
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