ADVOCACY

The outcomes from President Ellen Tise’s President’s Meeting, in the Royal Library, The Hague, 14-15 April 2011

Libraries driving access to knowledge: Action for Europe

This IFLA Presidential Meeting 2011, held in collaboration with FOBID and in association with the Board meeting, provided IFLA with a great platform for the promotion and discussion of three strategic areas: Access to Information as a Human Right, Copyright and Libraries, and Open Access and the Changing Role of Libraries. With 185 delegates, the Meeting was fully subscribed. Thirty-four countries were represented, with 22 delegates from outside Europe. A new feature was the participation of students in interviewing speakers and delegates on specific topics and giving presentations to the President and Board members after the Meeting.

Two key IFLA documents were launched - the IFLA Statement on Open Access and draft Treaty on copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives. The Open Access statement will be presented at the WSIS meeting in May. It will be translated into all IFLA languages. Work will continue on the ‘Treaty’ in preparation for the critical meeting of WIPO in November this year when access to information through libraries will be on the agenda.

The President’s Meeting was a good opportunity for European library organisations and institutions to discuss these issues with European Parliament and Commission representatives and get a better understanding of the advocacy needs for the library sector in Europe.

President-elect Ingrid Parent advised that the Presidential Meeting series will be continued during her presidency, including the participation of students. A meeting focusing on traditional knowledge and inclusiveness is being planned for 2012 in Vancouver. The themes of human rights and copyright will be incorporated.

ALP report on 2011 activities

Helena Asamoah-Hassan ALP Committee Chair reported that one small project is completed (Cameroon, February 2011), and that new projects will follow in Bangladesh, Bulgaria (May) and in Uruguay (June). The call for ALP projects 2012 will go out in May 2011. Three BSLA projects (http://www.ifla.org/bsla/) have commenced, with the first training round carried out and now being evaluated. The Committee is considering applications for the 2nd round (2012). Regional Train the Trainer Workshops will be carried out this year. The
first, for Arabic speaking countries, was in March; the next will be held in Panama to train Spanish-speaking trainers from South and Central America; and a workshop will also be held in Puerto Rico for Caribbean trainers.

**Policy and position statements framework**
The Board endorsed a Policy and position statements framework that provides guidance for the IFLA Board, professional units and members on the role, development and endorsement process for IFLA statements.

**STRATEGY**

**2010-2015 Strategic Plan Key Initiatives**
The Board confirmed the five Key Initiatives for 2011 – 2013:

- **Key initiative 1** (Content) - the Board added open access and the components of the ‘Treaty’ on copyright exceptions and limitations as central elements to this initiative, since they influence many issues including mass digitisation, digital preservation and digital lending;
- **Key initiative 2** (Leadership Programme) - focusing on leadership in international librarianship;
- **Key initiative 3** (Outreach Programme) – to maximise opportunities for strategic advocacy at major events, meetings and conferences, and to utilise local expertise and networks;
- **Key initiative 4** (Cultural Heritage Disaster Reconstruction) - making best use of IFLA’s resources and partnerships for recovery and protection of cultural heritage from natural disasters or in conflict/post-conflict situations;
- **Key initiative 5** (Multilingualism) with a focus on implementing an automated translation system to assist IFLA’s translators in its official languages; and on adding versions of the central IFLA website in the official languages.

**IFLA Bibliographic standards proposal**
Following on from the IFLA Bibliographic Standards Working Group Final Report to the Professional Committee the Board agreed that the visibility of IFLA as a standard setting organisation has diminished, and that the standards activities within IFLA are of high importance for IFLA’s advocacy and lobbying work. At its August 2011 meeting the Board will consider implementation and resourcing options for improving this important role for IFLA.

**President-elect’s Programme**
President-elect Ingrid Parent advised that her theme for her presidency is “Libraries - a force for change”. For the President-elect Meeting at the IFLA Congress in Puerto Rico a two part presentation is foreseen, showcasing success stories from Sections in terms of change through libraries.

**IFLA CONGRESSES**

**Congress communication model**
Both paper and digital communication media will be available at the IFLA Congress in Puerto Rico, following the model used at the Congress in Gothenburg last year. It is expected that the IFLA Congress 2012 will have a strong technical approach so the two years evaluation of Gothenburg and Puerto Rico will provide a solid base for a decision on whether and when to move to an online only option.

**World Library and Information Congress 2014 Call for expressions of interest**
The invitation for Expressions of Interest to host the 2014 Congress will be distributed to (national) association members in the IFLA Europe region in May.
FINANCIAL
2010 annual financial statements and Management Letter
The Treasurer Barbara Schleihagen reported on the audited financial statements for 2010 which show a surplus of EUR4,323. The result includes a provision of EUR10,000 for VAT following changes to the Dutch VAT legislation in 2010 which will increase IFLA’s tax liability. This result is a welcomed outcome for 2010, given the budgeted deficit of EUR2,732. IFLA also received an unqualified Management Letter from the auditor. The financial statements and report will be presented to the 2011 General Assembly in Puerto Rico by the Treasurer.

GOVERNANCE
CLM appointments of committee members 2011 – 2015
The Board appointed Victoria Owen, Head Librarian of the University of Toronto at Scarborough and Chair of the Canadian Library Association Copyright Committee, as Chair of CLM for 2011-2013; and Winston Tabb as a CLM Expert Resource Person with the special brief for WIPO matters. The Board commended Winston for his outstanding contribution to CLM over many years and as the outgoing Chair.

The Board also appointed 19 committee members for the 2011 – 2015 term and one for a 2011 – 2013 term.

FAIFE – appointments of committee members 2011 - 2015
The Board appointed Kai Ekholm, Director of the National Library of Finland, and current FAIFE Chair, as continuing Chair of FAIFE for 2011-2013; and congratulated Kai Ekholm on all the work done in 2009 – 2011. The Board also appointed 7 committee members for the 2011 – 2015 term and one for a 2011 – 2013 term.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
Scope of corporate partnerships
The Board is investigating how to better structure its partnerships with corporate organisations such as Corporate Partners and sponsors of IFLA’s many IFLA activities. The Board has developed principles for engagement between IFLA and corporate partners, and principles of fairness to corporate partners. IFLA will now look at developing more flexible benefits packaging for corporate partners that include all areas of a partner’s involvement with IFLA.