



World Library and Information Congress: 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

Draft minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday, 15 & Thursday, 16 August 2012, in Room Amfi of the Helsinki Exhibition and Convention Centre, Messuaukio 1, Helsinki, Finland

1. Opening by the President, Ingrid Parent

President Ingrid Parent opened the meeting at 16.15 on Wednesday, 15 August and welcomed the members and delegates and thanked them for their attendance at the Congress. She introduced those on stage: Treasurer Donna Scheeder, Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson and Wilma Mossink, Parliamentarian.

2. Appointment of Tellers

At the request of the President the Secretary General proposed the following persons to serve as tellers for the General Assembly meeting

Victoria Okojie (Nigeria)

Ivanka Stricevic (Croatia)

Mijin Kim (Canada)

Kerry Smith (Australia)

Loriene Roy (United States of America)

Viviana Quinones (France)

with Kerry Smith being designated as head teller.

The meeting approved the appointment of the tellers.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the time of the meeting a quorum of 66 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2012 and are not in arrears was required. This represents 50% plus one of national and international association members. 63 members were present.

In accordance with IFLA Statutes clause 11.2.1 business items may be transacted subject to gaining a two-thirds majority of voting members present or represented by proxy at the General Assembly and may be implemented if subsequently endorsed by a meeting of the Governing Board. The meeting proceeded.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Secretary General advised that the agenda for the General Assembly meeting was sent to all members in good standing in June, as required by the Statutes.

The agenda was adopted by the meeting.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 17 and 18 August 2011

The minutes of the General Assembly meeting held in San Juan on 17 and 18 August 2011 were adopted.

6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year

The Assembly rose for a moment of silence to commemorate those colleagues who passed away since the Congress held in San Juan and of whose death IFLA had been informed:

Whitney Coe, United States
Nan Hyland, United States
José María Ortiz Marchante, Spain
Jean Iris Whiffin, Canada
Frances Laverne Carroll, United States
Maija Jussilainen, Finland

and also other colleagues who have died during the past year.

7. Presentation of the Report of the President

The President outlined her highlights for the year, including:

- A very productive Governing Board which actively participated in and contributed to the positive results for IFLA's key initiatives for 2011 – 2012;
- the advocacy and representation activities undertaken to move towards the adoption of a legal instrument for copyright limitations and exceptions by the World Intellectual Property Organization, led by our Copyright and other Legal Matters Committee;
- the Presidential meeting in March 2012 devoted to the topic of Indigenous Knowledge: Local priorities, Global contexts held in April in Vancouver, which was an amazingly informative and heartfelt exchange of perspectives on the organisation, ownership and stewardship of traditional knowledge and information;
- The success of our Building Strong Library Associations programme in seven countries and the results so far have exceeded our expectations;
- Our new two year International Leaders Programme for 12 participants and which commenced at this Congress;
- The development of policies and standards to support our strategic and advocacy initiatives;
- An extensive representation schedule which supported the work of members and contributed to raising awareness of IFLA internationally of the power of libraries to make positive changes in peoples' lives.

The President thanked the Governing Board for their support, and the commitment of Headquarters staff to sound administration and undertaking creative initiatives with demonstrated actions and results. The President also thanked the WLIC National Committee as our hosts for a stimulating and enjoyable Congress.

The full report of the President is available on the IFLA website.

8. Presentation of the Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General reported on operational matters for 2011 and achievements within IFLA's five Key Initiatives for 2011–2012:

1. Digital Content Programme: Driving access to content, and digital resources, for library users
2. IFLA International Librarianship Leadership Development Programme: capacity building to raise the voice of the profession nationally, regionally and internationally
3. Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession: connecting, collaborating, representing strategically
4. Cultural Heritage Disaster Reconstruction Programme: Culture is a basic need, a culture thrives through its cultural heritage, it dies without it
5. Multilingualism Programme: a multilingual IFLA website opens windows to the world.

The Secretary General thanked the outgoing 2011 and incoming Governing Boards for the expansive agenda they set and successfully carried out. It is evident that there is great respect for and recognition of IFLA as an authoritative body both within our sector and beyond. We are widening our reach to new domains such as within civil society alliances, and working through our members and professional units are able to increase our impact at the local level. All this is supported by our very capable staff at Headquarters and our Regional offices and language centres.

The Secretary General noted that although membership declined in 2011 by 4% - the first decline since the global economic crisis commenced - IFLA is grateful for the support of those members who have continued to support IFLA during what is for many a time of economic hardship. Renewals for 2012 are going well and we also have new members.

The Secretary General's report was accepted by the General Assembly as presented. There were no questions of the Secretary General regarding her report. The full report of the Secretary General is available on the IFLA website.

9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that 2011 was a transitional year financially for IFLA. Though there was a loss of EUR223,599 the factors contributing to this are exceptional rather than structural. There were five main areas: the 2011 WLIC made a loss – this was the last to be held under the previous structure where there was no safeguard in place for IFLA should a congress result in a loss which IFLA would be obliged to cover; less income from publications as IFLA implements its open access policy; a 4% drop in membership income with the decline spread across all regions and categories, this being the first drop since the global economic crisis began; a decline in donations to Core Activities – a further impact of the economic crisis on donor budgets; and some readjustment of Earmarked reserves to bring them into the ALP budget. The higher staff costs result from IFLA now covering some parts of those salaries previously subsidized from external funds.

The Governing Board endorsed a risk management policy and strategy to further guide IFLA in its management of finances and activities. The reserves of EUR660,298 are above the amount required by IFLA's reserves policy.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the General Assembly as presented. There were no questions of the Treasurer regarding her report. The Treasurer's full report is available on the IFLA website.

10. Motions and Resolutions

10.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2013 (Art 8.2 of the Statutes refers)

The Secretary General advised that the Rules of Procedure relating to motions and resolutions at Assembly meetings are included in the IFLA Monitor, and presented the rationale for the Motion: the legislation of the Netherlands, as stated in the Dutch Civil Code, [Part 2, Sections 48 and 49], requires that the Governing Board must submit an annual report and annual financial statements to the General Assembly within six months of the end of the financial year, unless the General Assembly has extended this period. The period may be extended on account of special circumstances for no more than five months. This is reflected in Article 8.2 of the amended Statutes. IFLA's financial year

ends on 31 December, and its General Assembly meets during the Congress, normally in August, more than six months later. The General Assembly must therefore authorize the Governing Board to present the annual report and financial statements at the next Congress. IFLA's lawyers advise that this authorization has to be given every year.

On behalf of the Governing Board, the Secretary General presented the motion:

“That the General Assembly authorizes the Governing Board to convene the General Assembly to coincide with the next IFLA World Library and Information Congress which shall take place in August 2013. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2013.”

The motion was resolved unanimously in the affirmative.

11. Address by the President

The President presented her address focussing on her theme *Libraries: a force for change* and IFLA's Key Initiatives. The full text of the President's address is on the IFLA website.

12. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16.15 on Thursday, 16 August 2012

The President asked the members to agree to the motion **“that this meeting adjourns to meet at 16.15 tomorrow (Thursday 16 August) in the Room Ampi for the Closing ceremony.”**

The motion was resolved in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 18.00.

13. Closing Session, 16.15-17.30, Thursday, 16 August 2012

The meeting was reconvened by the President at 16.15.

Presentation of Awards

Ann Okerson, Chair of the Professional Committee presented the PC awards for 2012:

- Jérôme Fronty, Information Coordinator for the Acquisition and Collection Development Standing Committee received the *IFLA Communicator of the year Award 2012*
- The Best IFLA Poster Session 2012 was awarded to Poster #29, Prison Library Now! by Gerhard Peschers from Münster Prison Library

President Parent presented the following IFLA Honours and Awards.

The IFLA Scroll of Appreciation was presented to Maija Berndtson on behalf of the WLIC 2012 National Committee, in recognition of their wonderful hosting of the Congress.

The IFLA Scroll of Appreciation was awarded to Michael Heaney for his leadership and advocacy in placing library statistics onto the international agenda through IFLA and UNESCO activities.

The IFLA Scroll of Appreciation was awarded to Magda Bouwens for her achievements in administering IFLA's governance activities and loyal support for Presidents, Governing Boards and officers.

The IFLA Medal was awarded to Eeva Kristiina Murtomaa for her significant contribution to IFLA and international librarianship through her work in improving bibliographic standards and the development of new cataloguing and authority models.

The IFLA Medal was awarded to Helena Asamoah-Hassan for her significant contribution to IFLA and international librarianship through her work in building bridges across Africa and between African countries and the rest of the world.

The IFLA Medal was awarded to Jay Jordan for his significant contribution to IFLA and international librarianship through his leadership in the globalization of library services and dedicated support for the Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Fellowship Program.

IFLA Honorary Fellowship may be conferred on a person who has delivered long and distinguished service to IFLA, with outstanding achievements and that has brought distinction to IFLA in the international arena. The President conferred Honorary Fellowship on Winston Tabb and Ellen Tise. The Honorary Fellows citations are on the IFLA website.

Invitation to the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2013, Singapore

Elaine Ng, Chair of the WLIC 2013 National Committee thanked the National Committee for IFLA WLIC 2012 and the city of Helsinki for their warm hospitality.

Elaine Ng assured delegates that the Singaporean library community is looking forward to showing delegates the innovative Singapore library system and their collective role as a powerful societal agent. On behalf of the National Committee for IFLA WLIC 2013, the National Library Board of Singapore and the Library Association of Singapore, she extended the invitation to join them next year to discuss and debate the theme of Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities, to share and co-create solutions to transform the experience of libraries and the institution of libraries; and to have some fun in experiencing all that Singapore has to offer. A video of Singaporean libraries was screened.

Announcement of the location for the WLIC 2014

The President announced Lyon, France as the host location for the WLIC 2014, and invited Hubert Julien-Laferriere, Vice-président of Le Grand Lyon, to introduce delegates to Lyon. Pascal Sanz, President of Le Comité français international bibliothèques et documentation

(Cfibd) expressed appreciation to IFLA for the selection of Lyon. Both assured delegates that Lyon offers an exciting destination and the library communities of Lyon and whole of France are looking forward to welcoming delegates to the WLIC in 2014. A video of Lyon was screened.

Presentation by President-elect Sinikka Sipilä

Sinikka Sipilä gave a presentation on delegate comments on the theme of digital democracy running through a number of events, such as the sessions for the President and President-elect, and through the Congress social media.

“We need to change public opinions about the old or traditional image of the library”

In the information society the role of librarians keeps evolving: To help people to develop new skills, understand and use new technology to access, produce and share information and knowledge, and advocate for the right policies to foster universal access to information.

Mobile technology is providing access to information at an unprecedented scale, but it is also moving people towards a narrow focus of information. Libraries have an opportunity to expand that view of information again, provide the skills to navigate and access trusted information.

In the digital age the role of libraries in supporting freedom of expression, providing safe and universal access to information, and building capacity to advocate in support of civil liberties is even more relevant.

Libraries are key stakeholders in national and international debates on Internet governance and the future development of the Internet.

Copyright is in a state of flux: The walls between different kinds of information, between user and producer are disappearing. There will be increasingly more kinds of content and knowledge and forms of access. We need to think about how copyright laws should be created to address the change, how to balance profit with public interest and boost creativity. Libraries ought to put international pressure on the publishing industry and advocate on appropriate international regulation.

E-lending and new forms of access to information are a major emerging trend. More information is going online than ever, and digitization is helping to make access to information more and more accessible. Along with private e-lending these trends will change the traditional role of a librarian in a society. We are moving away from an ownership model in search for a new business model. Libraries need to explore crowd funding and new publishing methods.”

Vote of thanks from Finland

Maija Berndtson, Chair of the National Committee, thanked all participants for creating a good and memorable conference. The keynote speaker Helena Ranta, the plenary speakers Peter von Bagh, Yrjö Engeström and Siva Vaidhyanathan, the numerous social happenings, the face to face meetings and many discussions confirmed that libraries have an ever increasing role in supporting, promoting and preserving culture, development, and democracy. Libraries are important for intellectual freedom and freedom of expression. On behalf of all participating Finns she conveyed their gratitude and joy in having had the responsibility and pleasure to be the host country, with Helsinki serving as the host city.

She thanked all involved in planning – IFLA, K.I.T. the Professional Conference Organizer, and the Finnish National Committee – and the invaluable financial support of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the City of Helsinki. She also thanked the many actors involved in the conference: sponsors and exhibitors, numerous speakers, delegates and guests, the volunteers who helped delegates in different situations, the volunteer translators and interpreters, the TV crew, and volunteer photographers, and journalists. In closing she also wished our Singaporean colleagues all the best in organizing the 2013 conference.

Close of the Assembly

IFLA President, Ingrid Parent, closed the General Assembly meeting at 17.30.