

IFLA - Information Technology Section

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

2nd SC Meeting: August 22, 2013, 08:00-09:30 Room 310 (Session 195)

Attendants:

- Alenka Kavcic Colic, National and University Library of Slovenia
- Astrid Verheusen, National Library of the Netherlands
- Atononin Benoïl Diouf, African digital library support network
- Dorothy McGarry, UCLA
- Eddy Maepa, University of South Africa
- Edmund Balnaves, Prosentient Systems (Chair)
- Emmanuelle Bermès, Centre Pompidou
- Gloria Matthew, National Library of Nigeria
- Hans Jansen, National Library of the Netherlands
- Jose Luise Bermes, Biblioteca nacional d'España
- Julianne Beall, Library of Congress
- Kazoo Takehana, NAL, Japan
- Lars G. Svensson, Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (Secretary)
- Ntuabiserg Kotsokone, Monash University & University of South Africa
- May Chang, IT & Digital Initiatives (Information co-ordinator)
- Mikhail Goncharov, Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology
- Mohammed Bilkisu, National Library of Nigeria
- Sawhky Salem, ACML-Egypt Egypt

1) Publication proposal

Mike Heaney, Editor IFLA, is looking for a publication on how to integrate library data with other datasets, thus exploring the technical possibilities for mash-ups, and since the idea is to publish it in the green IFLA series, Mike proposes that the IFLA ITS take a lead in this project. As an example of mash-ups he referred to a smartphone app from Oxford University where the search in the library catalogue is interlinked with OpenStreetMap, so that a user – once she has found the appropriate resource – can be guided to where the library is.

If the SC accepts the task, it needs to appoint an editor responsible for collecting acquiring papers and finalising the text. Publications in the IFLA series must always be approved by the relevant section (in this case IT) and the Professional Committee.

ITS members interested in acting as editors for this publication can contact Mike, please cc the section chair (Edmund), secretary (Lars) and information co-ordinator (May).

2) Reports

Edmund asked the participants to briefly report on their impressions of the conference. There was a general consensus that the section's activities during the conference had been very successful. Several members highlighted the pervasiveness of IT in all library activities and particularly the importance of IT in the trend report. Some members having to leave the section will move to corresponding member status.

a) Namespaces Technical Group

The IFLA Namespaces Technical Group is working on requirements and options on the topic of IFLA support for the representation of IFLA standards in formats suitable for use in the Semantic Web. The

group is currently a project of the Classification and Indexing section, but has applied to be recognised as a working group. Major points discussed during the meeting were the development of the Open Metadata Registry, where the group has applied for funding from the IFLA Professional Committee; the workflow and the technical changes necessary to enable independent work on the translations of the vocabularies; the development of training materials; and the need for unconstrained versions of the IFLA namespaces (i. e. where the properties are not constrained through domains or ranges). The full meeting minutes will be posted at <http://www.ifla.org/node/5353>. [this section 2a updated on 4 Oct, 2013]

b) SWSIG

See separate report by Emmanuelle Bermès (<http://www.ifla.org/node/7989>)

c) Open Source Group

The IT Section's Open Source Group (OSG) is an informal on-going group looking at the use of OSS across the whole library spectrum (cataloguing, circulation, back-end service, digital libraries, etc). The OSG met on Wednesday to discuss OS projects. This meeting identified two key areas that the OSG could contribute to the ITS section programme: satellite conference and a possible handbook.

Edmund proposed that the ITS publish a handbook on the use of OSS in libraries, containing best practices and recommendations and addressing barriers to OSS adoption. OSS has proven to be very effective in small to medium-sized libraries, and the publication would be a significant output from the ITS. De Gruyter and the professional committee have expressed an interest in having such a publication.

It is estimated that the project will take about two years (the plan is to have the publication ready for IFLA 2015). The first step is the formation of a publication committee. Edmund will write a project proposal asking for approx. €1.500 in order to pay the authors.

Edmund volunteered to chair the editorial committee and work in final proofing for publication. May, Astrid, José, Antonin, Edely Maepa, Mohammed Billaisu (Nigeria National Library), Gloria Matthew (Nigeria National Library) and Ntuabiserg volunteered to serve on the editorial committee. Edmund will prepare a draft project plan and circulate this to the editorial committee prior to submission to the Professional committee.

3) Nomination of best paper from the ITS sections for publication in IFLA Journal

The papers for the sessions were selected using the following criteria: 1) As many continents as possible should be represented, and 2) the innovativeness of the presented solution. For selecting the best paper innovativeness and the general quality of the paper should be considered. Voting can take part either by hand-written form or through email to Lars (until August 22, 2013, 23:00 Singapore time).

Result: *Integrating physical preservation and digitization: a currently effective process in the French National Library* by Philippe Vallas (BnF) was selected best paper

4) Confirmation of the strategic plan

Edmund had sent out an updated version of the strategic plan (from August 21). The most important amendments from the previous plan was the addition of a fifth goal, that "ITS will work as a consultation body for IFLA project, activities and section programmes" and the addition of two related actions: to develop a register of ITS competencies and to monitor IFLA activities that pertain to the ITS and follow up with additional communication.

The new goal and the related actions caused some discussion among the members. Particularly the possibility that the ITS could be flooded with requests that no-one in the section can answer was a major

concern. It was agreed that this register would be shared with other IFLA sections but not more broadly, with evaluation of the impact at the next SC meeting in Lyon. It was also noted that once there is a procedure in place and we can offer this service to institutions outside of IFLA, that could be a possibility to acquire new members, and it would also be an on-going activity that would make the ITS less conference-oriented.

The members of the SC confirmed the amended strategic plan unanimously. This will be submitted to the Professional Committee.

The following changes were approved:

4.2 – Correction to read “Namespaces technical group”

5. ITS will work as a consultation body for IFLA projects, activities and section programmes and will encourage and support projects within the scope of the strategic plan by maintaining close contacts with other IFLA sections and Core Activities, as well as with other international and national associations and organizations focused on information technology.

Key initiatives: (2) 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

Actions:

- 5.1. Liaise with other IFLA sections and encourage ITS membership to participate and provide feedback on new or revised IFLA standards, guidelines, and studies.
- 5.2. Work with other national and international associations to enhance dissemination of information across associations and cross-fertilize activities among groups.
- 5.3. Specifically work with IFLA ALP (Advanced Librarianship Programme) and eIFL to support initiatives towards promoting Information technology competencies.
- 5.4. Develop a register of IT section competencies and communicate to the appropriate IFLA channel identifying current ITS capabilities and projects and offer assistance within the competencies of current members of the standing committee.**
- 5.5. Monitor IFLA activities that pertain to the IT Section and follow-up with additional communication where relevant.**

5) Planning for Lyon (2014)

- a. The open session will have “cloud based services and IT security” as its topic. Ntuabiserg, May, Astrid and Edmund act as the session committee and prepare a call for papers.
- b. The joint session will be on eBooks with the Preservation and Conservation Section. Alenka, Emmanuelle, Edmund and Astrid and Tanja act as the session committee.
- c. The satellite conference will be held in Paris at the BnF and will be on a linked data topic. Emmanuelle and Lars act as organising committee.

6) Planning for Cape Town (2015)

- a. The satellite meeting will be on open source. Edmund promises to come up with an appropriate session title. It was agreed that the session should be directed to mid-level management with concrete examples, rather than “technical”. The venue will probably be Stellenbosch University, approx. 20 km from Cape Town. Shawky Salem will contact Ellen Tise to confirm the venue.
- b. The provisional IT session will be on mobile devices and cloud services, with the possibility of this leading to an IFLA publication.
- c. A provisional joint session will be on Universal Bibliographic control together with the Cataloguing Section.

7) IT register of contacts and specialties.

An initial registry of those attending the meeting was formulated, and this will be circulated to the section for further input. The focus of the different specialties should be narrow rather than broad.

8) No other business, the meeting finished on time.