



IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Section

Standing Committee Meeting Held on 28 August 2019 in Athens, Greece

Attendance:

Present:

Standing Committee

Siobhan Reardon, Free Library of Philadelphia (Chairperson)
Stanley Tan, National Library Board, Singapore (Secretary)
Chan Wai Ling, National Library Board, Singapore (Information Officer)
Barbara Lison, Bremen
Carme Galve Montore, Biblioteques Barcelona
Carolyn Anthony, Chicago, IL
Ivancica Dukec Kero, Zagreb City Libraries
Katri Vanttinen, Helsinki City Library
Ton Van Vlimmerman, Utrecht Public Library

Observers

Cristina Dumitru, Bucharest Metropolitan Library
Carolyn Robertson, Christchurch, NZ
Emily Plagman, PLA
Hanne Vogt, Koln, Cologne
Ivan Filion, Montreal
John Spears, Pikes Peak Library District
Louise LaHatte, Auckland, NZ
Maria Privalova, Moscow Central Library
Theo Kemperman, Rotterdam

Absent with Apologies

Standing Committee

Chen Chao, Shanghai Public Library
Chu Shu Qing, Zhejiang Public Library
Eman Al Shamari, Qatar National Library
Jeff Barber, Regina Public Library, Canada
Joans Fanza, ZLB Berlin
Lucia Werder, Bremen Public Library

S/N	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Minutes of Meeting and Matters Arising from IFLA-MetLib Mid-Term Meeting in Helsinki (May 2019)	
1.1	The meeting was called to order at 1.30pm.	
1.2	Minutes were accepted with no further changes. Matters arising were closed with no action outstanding.	
2	Updates on Standing Committee	
2.1	Following Section Officer election at SCI on 24 August 2019, Siobhan Reardon, Stanley Tan and Chan Wai Ling are elected as Chairperson, Secretary and Information Officer of the IFLA-MetLib section respectively.	
2.2	<p>The committee noted the updated appointment of MetLib representatives on the following project committees:</p> <p>(a) Public Library of the Year Award 2020 - Carme Galve Montore and Stanley Tan</p> <p>(b) IFLA MetLib Short Film Award 2020 – Siobhan Reardon</p>	
3	Recap of Key Discussions at MetLib SCI, Athens on 24 August 2019	
3.1	<p><u>WLIC 2019 and MetLib Programmes</u></p> <p>The committee noted the completion of the series of pre-conference and conference programmes that were conducted jointly with partner IFLA sections and thanked committee members, specifically, Carme, Carolyn, Corrado and Siobhan, for their contributions in the organisation of these programmes on behalf of the MetLib section.</p>	
3.2	<p><u>MetLib Section Mi-Term Meeting and Conference Venues 2020, 2021 and 2022</u></p> <p>Ton welcomed the SC to MetLib conference 2020 in Utrecht and shared that the conference is tentatively planned to take place between 24 and 28 May 2020. In addition to the main conference programme and tours, an optional library visit programme outside of the conference period will be organised and offered to conference participants for sign up. Ton will update the SC</p>	
3.3		

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3.4	<p>It was proposed that the theme of the 2020 conference will anchor on staff and organisation structural changes with the transformation of the library sector and the call for conference papers to be open for submission in Oct/Nov 2019. Ton invited SC members to give suggestions on the proposed theme and actively participate in the submission of papers for the conference.</p>	
3.5	<p>On possible host venues for MetLib Mid-Term meetings and conferences in 2021 and 2022, it was suggested to explore possible hosts outside of Europe in order to retain the original intent of the SC to make use of mid-term meetings and conferences as opportunities to learn from diverse library community and developments across the world. There was a suggestion to explore the possibility of holding the 2021/22 mid-term meeting and conference in Asia rather than Rome.</p>	
3.6	<p><u>Metropolitan Libraries Short Film Award</u></p> <p>The meeting agreed to a suggestion to review the objective of the award and determine how it could better represent MetLib and further the section's desired outcomes. It was noted that Pikes Peake and Free Library of Philadelphia were open to continue their sponsorship of the award but will require greater clarity in the ROI derived from supporting such an award.</p>	
3.6	<p>In addition, the competition faced challenge in attracting good quality short films as the organisers took an easy-going approach to the qualification of submissions currently. It was agreed that as part of the review, a clear set of criteria could be put in place to ensure that submissions are aligned to an assigned theme and brief that is more reflective of MetLib's purposes. To which, Siobhan shared that she will take the suggestions up with the organisers to review and/or refine the competition.</p>	
4	Metropolitan Libraries Action Plan 2020	

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4.1	A draft set of plans with three proposed focus areas was shared with the meeting, taking in the following comments and suggestions from the meeting:	
4.2	<p><u>Focus Area 1 – Re-defining Metropolitan Libraries</u></p> <p>The meeting agreed that one of the section’s focus should be to more clearly define the distinct value of the metropolitan libraries section vis-à-vis that of sections such as the Public Section where the differences between them may not be immediately apparent. To which, key factors identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Difference in <u>size/scale</u> between public library networks and that of a library system that serves the larger metropolitan area, and correspondingly the difference in the role played by Metropolitan Libraries in matters relating to library, reading and learning innovations, community engagement approaches, and in mitigating diverse social challenges faced by metropolitan cities. (b) The larger mass of people in the metropolitan area and even globally that metropolitan libraries serve and hence a <u>larger citizen beneficiary base</u> (c) <u>Transformation and continual development</u> of metropolitan library services (e.g. going beyond basic reading to also focus on diverse range of literacies such as digital, new technologies, and the unique cultural, economic and historical characteristics of its metropolitan core), <u>operations</u> (e.g. staff roles, structures and business models) and visions in relation to the evolving role of metropolitan library systems vis-à-vis the changing sophistication of user demands globally and locally. 	
4.3	<p><u>Focus Area 2 – Growing MetLib Section Engagement</u></p> <p>The meeting acknowledged the importance of strengthening the section’s advocacy and communication. Chair (MetLib) shared that a communication strategy will be formulated. In addition, the meeting noted the incorporation of the following suggestions to the action plans:</p>	

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	<p>(a) To strengthen reach to member and non-member Metropolitan Libraries to share information about MetLib’s activities, tools, best practices, conference papers and research that may have been conducted by the section and members.</p> <p>(b) Forming an information coordination team with section members from different regions (e.g. US, Europe, Asia and Oceania) to work with the section’s Information Officer to plan and coordinate dissemination of section information through our members’ connections to their regional and local networks. The section agreed that the team could also work closely with IFLA Regional Offices and leverage their regional connections to extend our reach to more Metropolitan Libraries that may not be aware of the MetLib section’s work.</p> <p>(c) Create a list of potential members to reach out to in order to raise awareness amongst our members and empower them to introduce MetLib to these potential members when they meet them at different networking and professional events.</p> <p>(d) Deliberate and planned rotation of Metlib’s mid-term meeting and conference to different regions in order to create learning and engagement opportunities with different libraries from around the world for the section.</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Focus Area 3 - Growing Metlib section collaboration</u></p> <p>The meeting suggested to refine the focus to reflect the intent of taking action to demonstrate and communicate the impact of the Metropolitan Libraries Section.</p>	
4.5	<p>In relation to the section and the Metropolitan Library community, the meeting agreed to focus on (i) improving the sharing of useful research, tools and best practices with Section members and the Metropolitan Library community, (ii) sharing member contact and information amongst Section members, (iii) profile and promote section members and libraries. It was agreed that collectively, these measures could strengthen the identity of the Metropolitan Libraries Section.</p>	

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4.6	<p>It was also agreed that it would be helpful for the Section to conduct a survey to with new members to find out why they chose to join the MetLib section and what the section could offer that they think would be useful and of value to them during their term as member of the section. Chair (MetLib) shared about a similar survey that was done at an earlier mid-term conference, and will re-surface the survey results for everyone's reference.</p>	
4.7	<p>Chair (MetLib) thanked the meeting for their active discussion and open comments and suggestions. She informed about the aim to schedule two Zoom calls with the Standing Committee between Sept and 15 Oct to vote and concur on the proposed Action Plan initiatives before submitting the Action Plans to the Professional Committee, and sought the Standing Committee's support and cooperation to participate actively in the Zoom discussion.</p>	
5	IFLA Vision 2019-2024 & Ideas Store	
5.1	The meeting took note of the resource shared for the Section's reference.	
	With no further business, the meeting was called to a close at 3.30pm	