



**International Federation of Library Associations
and Institutions**

MID-TERM MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARIES SECTION OF IFLA
HELD
ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2012 IN BARCELONA, SPAIN

Present

Claudia Lux (Melbourne) (Chair)
Hans van Velzen (Amsterdam)
Assumpta Bailac (Barcelona)
Judit Terma (Barcelona)
Anna-Maria Soininvaara (Helsinki)
Louise Guillemette-Labry (Montreal)
Liv Saeteren (Oslo)
Markus Feigi (Vienna, Austria)
Bastic Davorka (Croatia)
Herk Koopman (Netherlands)
Corrado Di Tillio (Italy)
Helene Roussel (Quebec, Canada)
Ton (Urecht)
Siobhan A. Reardon (Philadelphia, US)
Tay Ai Cheng (Singapore)

Observer

Gerard Reussink (Rotterdam)
Valerie Siew (Singapore)

	ITEM	ACTION BY
	Claudia welcomed all guests to the meeting. She asked the meeting if anything to add to agenda.	
1	Minutes of last Mid-term meeting held in Queens, New York 2011	
2	Minutes of the last Standing Committee meeting held in Puerto Rico, 2011	
2.1	With no queries made to the minutes of the meeting, it was moved for approval by Hans and seconded by Assumpta.	
3	Chairman's Report	
3.1	Since last meeting, Claudia shared that she was shifted from Berlin to Qatar, so she was not able to do much for the section.	
4	Project updates: Library Evaluation & Benchmarking Survey Project (Toronto Public Library)	
4.1	Ai Cheng shared that Toronto had earlier asked to hand over the project to another library to continue the work. She asked if	

4.2	<p>anyone is interested in taking over the project, and that the library overseeing this project will be given EU3000 per year to pay for the system. Many members agreed that this is a very meaningful project to have, not just for the section, but also as an international source of data for metropolitan libraries.</p> <p>After much deliberation, Anna-Maria volunteered to check with her library director for permission to have the Helsinki Public Library do the job.</p> <p>[Note: Anna-Maria confirmed on the same day that the Helsinki public library would take over the task from the Toronto Public Library.]</p>	Anna-Maria
5	MOU for Metlib conference	
5.1	The need to have an MOU was discussed, and the consensus of the meeting was that there is no need to have a formal set of guidelines in the form of an MOU for the organising library doing the annual mid-year conference.	
6	Digital Lending	
6.1	On the topic of digital lending, many members felt that it would be useful for the Section to undertake a study of how digital lending is being carried out in different countries. Such a study can be one that is more strategic in value and can give libraries a good sense of alignment	
6.2	Ai Cheng shared that although funding was sought to undertake this study, the IFLA Governing Board had turned down the funding request. Claudia said that it is highly likely that the IFLA Governing Board needed more time to deliberate on how it would like to resolve this matter of digital lending, and how it ought to be for libraries. As such, she advised that the Section discuss this matter again after the Governing Board meets in Helsinki.	
6.3	Many agreed that having an understanding of how different libraries deliver their own digital lending services would be useful for others to see how they can craft their own. Assumpta pointed out that it is useful to have some kind of international framework that guides what digital lending ought to be for public libraries.	
6.4	Helene shared that her library already had six libraries collaborating on digital lending, and that they would be extending this to four more libraries.	
6.5	Corrado shared that in Italy, the users get to keep the digital eCopies as long as they wish to, and that the libraries pay about Eu2 for every borrowing made from the database.	

6.6	Claudia shared that in Berlin, the digital lending is still very "traditional" where the user is only able to borrow on one eCopy. This model of having one user borrow at most one copy is also the model used by the Helsinki Public Library and the Vienna Public Library.	
6.7	Louise echoed many sentiments that there is a strong need to have a good alternative to Overdrive, which is something many libraries subscribe to but yet it does not meet the libraries' needs.	
6.8	After much discussion, it was agreed that an informal poll would be sent out to all Section members to gather information on how various libraries conduct their own digital lending services. Ai Cheng will draft up a simple survey and have this sent to all Section members.	Ai Cheng
6.9	The data will be collected prior to the Helsinki Section Committee meeting, and discussed as an agenda item.	
7	IFLA Standards Committee	
7.1	Claudia shared with all that Ai Cheng will be representing the Metropolitan Section in the newly set up IFLA Standards Committee.	
7.2	This new Standards Committee will meet up during the Helsinki conference to deliberate about the various standards to be set for all libraries in various library services. E.g. Having standards for Audio visual services, children services etc.	
7.3	After the first meeting, Ai Cheng will provide the updates at the next Section Committee meeting.	Ai Cheng
8	Future mid-year meeting venues	
8.1	Claudia led the meeting in discussing which libraries would be willing to host the next few years' mid-year meetings.	
8.2	The schedule is agreed as follows: 2013 – Amsterdam Public Library 2014 – No takers 2015 – Qatar 2016 – Oslo (subject to building completion) 2017 – Montreal 2018 – Oslo (second alternative year: subject to building completion)	
8.3	Claudia thanked the libraries for volunteering, and she asked everyone to consider hosting the 2014 mid-year, and reminded all that this ought to be settled by the time the section next	

	meets in Helsinki.	
9	IFLA WLIC 2012 Open Session	
9.1	Ai Cheng updated that at the forthcoming WLIC in Helsinki, there will be four presenters during the Metlib Open Session:	
9.2	They are from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tallinn Public Library b. Judith O'Hare c. Elaine Ng, National Library Board Singapore <p>Members were reminded that this Open Session would be held on Wed 15 Aug.</p>	
10	IFLA WLIC 2013 Open Session	
10.1	Members deliberated on what theme ought to be used for the Metlib Open Session in the WLIC 2013 to be held in Singapore.	
10.2	Suggestions included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The outer space metropolitan libraries: fusing today's libraries with the unknown 2. The library as a new social enterprise 3. How libraries can make the invisible visible: connecting physical and digital library services together 4. Downloading from another planet: how can metropolitan libraries conquer digital lending 	
10.3	There were no firm decisions on what the theme ought to be. Therefore Claudia agreed that the final theme should be further deliberated and thereafter confirmed during the next Section meeting.	
11	Secretary/Treasurer's Report	
11.1	Financial statement	
11.1.1	Ai Cheng reported that the finance for the section was in good order and that the Section still retained a healthy budget.	
11.1.2	Dvokak asked if the surplus money was to be given back to IFLA. Claudia replied that there is no need to do so, and that the Section retains the money for its use.	
11.2	Stuart Brewer Scholarship	
11.2.1	Stuart Brewer Scholarship Recipient for MetLib12 Conference held in Barcelona, Spain was awarded to 2 applicants from Spain. Both scholar recipients were scheduled to present during the Metlib Conference.	
11.2.2	Hans was reminded that Amsterdam Public Library will be administering the call for scholarship recipients next year.	Hans

11.3	Contact listing	
11.3.1	Claudia has the complete listing of the Section. She will pass to Ai Cheng and Ai Cheng will then distribute to all.	Claudia Ai Cheng
12	Information officer's Report	
12.1	After deliberating about the position of the Section's Information Officer, Corrado volunteered to assume the responsibilities from Sharan Harvey. Claudia thanked Corrado for his service.	
13	Any other business	
13.1	Chairman position	
13.1.1	Claudia suggested to have someone else to take over as chair for 2013 onwards, as she has moved to a new posting in Qatar. She explained that she was only prepared to do the Chair position for at most one year of services until 2013. Claudia explained that she is currently being contracted by the Qatar Foundation to establish a metropolitan library in Qatar, under the directive of the Emir and his wife. She also plans to retire in two years' time from active service.	
13.1.2	All members were to consider the post, and this topic will be revisited again during the next Section meeting.	
14	With no further matters to discuss, the meeting ended at 10.15am.	

Reported by: Tay Ai Cheng
Secretary / Treasurer

Vetted by: Claudia Lux
Chair