



NATIONAL LIBRARIES SECTION STANDING COMMITTEE  
79<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference and Assembly, Singapore  
**Standing Committee Meeting 1, Saturday 17 August, 2013**

## **M i n u t e s**

1. Welcome by the Chair Martyn Wade. The Chair introduced himself and welcomed the members and guests. He informed them about the second SC meeting and its location.
2. Apologies. The Chair received apologies from national librarian of Cuba.
3. Introduction of members and guests. Each participant introduced her (him) self. Among observers there were colleagues from: NL's of Korea, Portugal, Cuba, Finland, South Africa, Presidential Library in Russia, Nigeria, and Kuwait. The chair encouraged the observers to take part in the discussions.
4. Adoption of the Agenda.
5. Approval of the minutes of Sc1 and 2 meetings in Helsinki, 2012. Approved.
6. Election of the Chair and the Secretary. The Chair informed the members that he is finishing his term in 2013. He recommended as his successor Monica Rizzo Soares Pinto, Brazil. The chair also announced that the Section's secretary Irina Lynden is stepping down from her position retiring from the National Library of Russia. It was recommended to elect Roger Jøsevoid as the new secretary. The members unanimously voted for Monica Rizzo Pinto as a chair and for Roger Jøsevoid as a secretary for the term of 2013-2015.
7. Report from the Chair on the IFLA Leadership Brief. Special attention was given to the new project - IFLA Library which was presented at the Leadership Brief by Jenevieve Clavel, Switzerland. The IFLA digital library was tested and went to public. All librarians were invited to use it and send the feedback to IFLA. Patrice Landry spoke about the initiatives of the IFLA Standing Committee on Standards. The Committee was planning to begin a survey on the impact of the IFLA standards and on the areas which currently need either international standards or guidelines. At the Leadership Briefing there was an announcement on the Plenary Session with a discussion of the IFLA Trends Report on August 19. It would be important for a representative of the SC to attend it and later report back to the members.
8. Guidelines for National Libraries. Hans Jansen (KB, NL) and Andy Stephens (BL, UK) made a presentation on the draft of the guidelines which he and Andy were assigned to prepare by the SC. He described the reasons for developing such guidelines, the results of the survey of the NL's legislation, mission, goals and objectives. Based on that they were able to formulate what is

common for all NLs, what the core functions are, and which activities could be defined as "additional", specific for one or a group of libraries. Andy Stephens discussed how the results of the analysis, provided by the KB could be transformed into the guidelines for all NLs. He believed that the guidelines should not be prescriptive. They may state what shall be done by all NLs, and what they can do in addition. Patrice Landry, Lek Choh Ngian, John Tsebe, Katarzina Slaska highly praised the document and agreed with most of its conclusions. They noted that the survey shows the current state of affairs at the NLs. Katarzina expressed her concern regarding possible limitation to the core functions for any library. Andy explained that core does not mean any limitations, but rather indicated a group of functions which any NL in the world had. Roger Jøsevold asked for which audience the document was created, was it aimed for the governments? Hans suggested that indeed the document may be used when approaching or speaking to the governments, although it was designed primarily for the NLs. Roger also added that in the extremely rapid changes in the librarianship, the guidelines may be considered as a tool for developing more specific documents. Bill MacNaught commented on very different core function for different NLs, or for example, in New Zealand one of the core functions is to support school libraries, which is not acceptable at all for many NLs. So he believed that only general guidelines, not a standard, could be developed. Representatives from Nigeria were very interested in the document and mentioned that for their country it would be of a great value. Vigdis said that this document is not for politicians but for us first of all. All NLs have a lot in common, i.e. preservation of national collections and now preservation through digitization with all the consequences of it. For the politicians the best argument in favor of NLs is preservation of the national heritage, and we have to skillfully use it. Patrice concluded that this document in the form of guidelines would be very useful, but it is not possible to create it by only two SC members. Andy asked if the term "best practices" could be used.

CONCLUSIONS: 1. Thanks to Hans, Irina (KB) and Andy for their excellent work and the draft. 2. To continue work in collaboration with the Committee on Standards. 3. To create a group of experts to finalize the document. Hans expressed his willingness to continue working on the final document.

9. National Library Section's program at IFLA - 2013. We have a good range of speakers and anticipate very interesting presentations and discussion.
10. Initial ideas for the WLIC 2014 program. Proposals were: NL Budget (Monica), Changing legislation (Katarzina), Taking care of the cultural heritage in the digital age (Roger), Support for the NL's (Egypt), Collections outside legal deposit: born digital materials, private archives, private collections of photos, special collections - how we can collect, index and handle them in terms of modern search and retrieval practice (Erland). Martyn suggested for these to invite and sponsor experts from other areas and institutions who work with sound and video, which means including speakers from libraries, museums and archives. Summary of the discussion: to select the programs theme related to collection and preservation of the materials outside traditional Legal Deposit.
11. AOB:
  - A. Hans Jansen volunteered to participate in the Professional Units Key Initiatives Session.
  - B. The SC was requested to change the convener for the NILP SIG. The National Librarian of Korea officially asked Martyn Wade to delegate this assignment to another person. Since there were no

volunteers immediately, dr. Lim Won-sun agreed to continue his duties as the convener of the SIG until 2014.