**IFLA News Media Section Standing Committee**

**Business Meeting**

**Via Zoom**

**September 11, 2020**

**Attending:** Mary Feeney, Minna Kaukonen, Ana Krahmer, Jeffrey Knapp, Ralph Marshchall, Pär Nilsson, Ann Okerson (Chair), **Perla Olivia Rodriguez Reséndiz, Rich Richie,** Nina Servizzi, Kopana Terry, Deborah Thomas, Frederick Zarndt

**I. Introductions**

Ann welcomed the particpants; all present introduced themselves and gave a short report of how they are working during the pandemic. The majority are working from home; some are partly at home with limited hours in the office. A fair amount of re-adjustment has been necessary. Even those whose job had them working from home for some years have found a real difference in engagement with their colleagues and projets.

**II. Recordings of business meetings**

Ann noted that, because of the large volume of IFLA virtual meetings, committee business meeting recordings are to be removed in seven days. Frederick offered to store permanently the News Media recording if desired. A consensus was that minutes would suffice, as not many are able to return to listen to virtual minutes.

**III. Updates from IFLA as they pertain to our work**

Ann stepped the group through highlights of the proposed new IFLA governance structure. On June 19th, an initial document was released to the members. Following a widely distributed survey and requests for comments on all phases (hundreds of comments and responses were received.), plus virtual roundtable consultations, a 2nd version was released on August 11th. This represented a consensus for the structure of a more inclusive, transparent, and effective IFLA. <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/documents/gov-working-paper.pdf>

Highlights:

\* A compact governing board (11 people) including the 3 officers, 3 ex officio members, plus 5 members elected at large, targeted for expertise to key needs of IFLA.

\* Professional Council to replace the current Professional Committee, giving opportunities for more frequent and more focused discussions. Also there is a proposal to revamp the current PC from 5 Divisions, so as to even out the workload for division chairs. There's no plan to eliminate any current committees.

\* Regional Council has not existed before. It aims to give more representation to the regions that comprise IFLA and better meet all needs - a lot of detail to be worked out.

\* Nothing will be taken for granted -- everything will be reviewed every 5 years

\* Working Groups and Networks to be added.

On 9/17, GB will put final touches on the documents, which will go before the AGM on November 5th for final discussion and vote.

There was discussion about how the changes will affect specific committees; about the point of the Regional Council; about distribution of committees within the new divisions.

**IV. Reports on News Media action plan Focus Areas**

**Focus Area 1** - Guidelines for preservation of born digital news materials. Frederick reported that, due to time constraints, it might be best for someone else to take the lead in this focus area. Discussion ensued along the following lines:

\* This is a very worthy but over-broad focus area. Can we wrap our arms around something more doable?

\* Various standards exist or are in progress for digital/born digital preservation. Might we provide a service by pointing to what already exists and provide locations/links?

\* IFLA has taken over a survey requested by News Media, National Libraries, and Preservation committees (Born Digital Legal Deposit Policies and Practices -- see: http://library.ifla.org/1905/1/S18-2017-zarndt-en.pdf). Responses suggested there are still relatively few national standards around preservation of digital news -- nothing like standards or guidelines that exist for printed newspapers.

\* Tentative conclusion: On our committee are individuals (for example, Ana, Pär, Ralph, Minna, Deb) who have spearheaded many born digital news processes. Plan to revisit this item at year-end and see what expertise we have available to document efforts, articles, emerging standards in this area, to create a resource site that's extensible and easy to revise as needed; perhaps start with institutions represented by our committee.

**Focus area #2** - Create a directory or listing of Born Digital Newspapers. Rich Richie reported that he had started a spreadsheet identifying born digital newspapers or repositories and to get a sense of what's available for free, or what are the access limitations. He plans to get together with Ed McCain for further brainstorming.

Discussion:

\* Make sure we define a workable project -- would it be of value to create a template for such a listing and complete some prototypes from the Committee's own libraries?

\* Collaboration with Wikipedia? Rich harvested titles from the Wikipedia newspaper site as his starting point and then began working with area studies colleagues to expand his listing for foreign born digital newspapers.

\* So far there are no additional volunteers beyond some help from Deb and Ann. More volunteers are sought.

**V. Nominations process coming in early 2021**

Ann observed that News Media is a hard-working but relatively small committee of 13, (people on the call reported this was because not all who wanted to be formal members learned about the nominations process in a timely way). We were fortunate to also get 5 energetic corresponding members, but our numbers are thin for what we want to accomplish. A crucially important task is for us to go into active recruitment mode for the next nominations process, which will happen early in 2021. Everyone agreed. We will know who our additional committee members are by next spring and can enhance our Focus Group teams.

**VI. Programming for 2021**

This is our opportunity to start the discussion. Mary has been giving the programming themes thought; some of our most successful programs have included presentations on actual use of content: what are researchers, students, and the public doing with news? A number of great projects are happening. We are most successful when we cast a wide net to work with other IFLA committees.

Ana suggested we look at CFPs from past conferences. Ann suggested to look through a list of IFLA committees to see what other opportunities may exist. Whatever programming we do in the coming year will likely be virtual.

The Fake News Lecture Series takes us into late winder/early spring. The closing session, a month after the Lectures could be called a "substitute Midterm." We will include our FAIFE, CLM, and DH colleagues and use the session as a way to feature what our committees do. Ana and team will be working on this.

Mary offered to draft a paragraph overview of what such a program like that could look like and Minna offered to help.

**VII. Adjourn and next meeting**. Ann will send around a Doodle poll for late 2020.