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# Minutes of the 4th (20<sup>th</sup>) Business Meeting

## Newspapers Section

NS 2004/2

The Memorial Hall of Masayuki Miyata, Shanghai Library, China  
March 29, 2004

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### 1. Introductions

1.1 Present: Hartmut Walravens (Chair: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin); Edmund King (Secretary: British Library, Newspapers); Majlis Bremer-Laamanen (University of Helsinki Library); Sandra Burrows (National Library of Canada); Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque nationale de France); Jonny Edvardsen (Mo I Rana, National Library of Norway); Geoffrey Hamilton; Lars Olsson (Royal Library of Sweden); Isabelle Rollet (Bibliothèque nationale de France); Huizu Wu (Shanghai Library)

Observers: Peijuan Wu; Feng Bing; Min Wu; Yijing Zhang.

**1.2 Welcome:** Hartmut Walravens welcomed all to the meeting, especially those from the Shanghai Library. He looked forward to the China Newspapers Seminar on the 30 March, and stressed the importance of good contacts for the Newspapers Section in China. He thanked Mr. Huizu Wu most warmly for all the work that had been done by the Shanghai Library to set up the Meetings.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 Apologies for absence had been received from: Hans Bohrmann; Erling Hansen; Denise Nicholson.

2.2 Hartmut Walravens stated that Mrs Toepser-Ziegert is to succeed Hans Bohrmann. Wilbert Ubbens of the University of Bremen is to retire in 2004. No successor has been appointed.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

### 4. Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Meeting/ Matters arising

a) There were no amendments or matters arising from the minutes of the 3rd Business meeting held in Berlin, August 2003.

b) **Newspapers Strategic Plan, 2004-2007 (NS 2004/1):** The Strategic Plan has been revised. Geoffrey Hamilton suggested that Goal C in the Plan be linked with the other IFLA Priorities as much as possible. The Plan will be linked to IFLA Priorities, wherever possible. Subject to this it was approved, and will be sent to HQ for mounting on IFLANET. Members will be circulated with the revised version. **Action: Edmund King.**

### 5. IFLA Conference Programmes and next Business Meeting

a) **Workshop *Hands on the Digital Chain*, Mikkeli, Finland 2-6 June 2003.** Majlis Bremer-Laamanen reported that the participants had learned:

- About the many steps in the digitisation process
- The importance of quality issues
- The need for further trialling and testing of techniques
- To secure quality, and to save money

Thanks were given by all to the University of Helsinki, who had organised the event. There was also no need as yet to revise the *Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming*. The situation needed to be kept under review.

**b) 2003: IFLA Berlin Open Programme. (114): Newspapers and Copyright developments:** The Programme had highlighted the following:

- The recent European legislation on copyright; the interpretation of copyright in different European countries
- The difficulties of securing consent to digitise newspapers
- Licensing rights being given by newspaper publishers to third party businesses which would shut out free access via libraries to newspaper content
- The lack of knowledge surrounding the ownership of microfilm, and the rights of third party companies to microfilm
- Many journalists own copyright, rather than newspaper publishers
- National Libraries would be the future repositories for newspapers preserved in digital form, proceed laws supported their mission in seeking to do this.
- There would be a need to explore this topic more in 2005 and 2006.

**c) IFLA Post Conference Satellite, 9-11 August 2004: Newspapers of Central and Eastern Europe:**

- Hartmut Walravens gave a final draft copy of the Proceedings to the Shanghai Library; it is intended to publish these in 2004
- Thanks were given to M.-L. Schillig for her efficient organisation of the Conference.
- Geoffrey Hamilton stated that IFLA should be urged to publish the Proceedings, as they are a substantive enhancement to the professional literature. **Action: Edmund King to raise this with IFLA HQ**
- Isabelle Rollet wished to know more about the technical solutions being achieved for the OCR of Chinese texts. **Action: Edmund King and Isabelle Rollet.**

**d) IFLA Buenos Aires, August 2004.** The Open Session is to be organised on the theme of *Newspapers of Latin America*. During discussion, the following points were made:

- This is the first IFLA Conference to be held in South America (apart from Havana, Cuba in 1991)
- The library situation in South American countries is very varied.
- Thanks were expressed to Henry Snyder for arranging the Speakers for the Open Session
- A database for Latin American Newspapers is maintained by Abinia (the Federation of Latin American libraries)

**e) IFLA, General Conference, Oslo, 2005:** The theme for the Open Session of : *Digital Newspaper Projects* was agreed. Jonny Edvardsen commented that this subject fitted with the “Voyage of Discovery” theme of the IFLA Oslo Conference.

Possible speakers would be identified. [It was noted, after the China Newspapers Seminar, held on the 30 March, that the Shanghai Library would sponsor a paper by Dr. Yuzhi Zhang, of Datum Data Co. about the digitisation of newspapers in China. This will be given at Oslo in 2005.] **Action: All Members**

It was also agreed that The IFLA Serials Section would be invited to join with the Newspapers Section, to hold a double Open Session. **Action: Hartmut Walravens.**

f) **IFLA, Pre-General Conference visit, Mo I Rana, Norway, 2005:** a possible visit for delegates to the General Conference is to be organised by the National Library of Norway, the Newspapers Section and the Preservation Section. It is likely to take place the week before the General Conference starts. Further details will be circulated to Newspaper Section Members. **Action: Edmund King and Majlis Bremer-Laamanen, and Jonny Edvardsen .** Jonny Edvardsen agreed to check if a notice about the Visit to Mo I Rana could be included in the full Oslo Conference Programme. **Action: Jonny Edvardsen .**

g) **2006 – possible Satellite meeting in USA.** *The theme of Digital newspaper projects in the Americas* Further discussion would take place on this with colleagues in the USA and in Canada, about the venue and the date. A decision was also needed as to whether to charge for attendance.

**Action: Edmund King and Sandra Burrows**

## 6. Projects

- a) *Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming. Supplement on best practice for the microfilming of newspapers in preparation for possible future digitisation.* Discussion focussed on:
- The need to promote awareness of the quality of master negative microfilm in libraries; in particular, the quality of acetate microfilm. **Action: 1. Edmund King, Hartmut Walravens and Majlis Bremer-Laamanen to take further. 2. Edmund King and Sandra Burrows to look at the possibility of including a short article in the RLG DigiNews.**
  - The desirability of making links to the *RLG Guidelines* for the digitisation of microfilm. **Action: Sandra Burrows to let Edmund King have the Internet address for these Guidelines, and a link to be made from IFLANET to them.**
- b) *Newspapers Management Handbook.* Edmund King reported that the funding requested for 2004 for this project proposal had not been approved by the Co-ordinating Board. During the discussion it was agreed:
- **Edmund King** to circulate the proposal and invite comments upon it.
  - A revised version is to include a statement of the benefits of the Project
  - **M.-L. Schillig** to be asked to provide international examples of newspaper titles, to be included in the Handbook.
  - **Hartmut Walravens** to pursue the matter of securing support at IFLA HQ, as the Project is considered to provide a tool for training newspaper librarians in all countries, particularly those in Africa.
  - **Edmund King** to check with Ed Swanson regarding the monies available to Div. V for the funding of small Projects in 2005.

- c) *Handlist of World Newspapers*. Edmund King reported that the publisher of *Willings Press Guide* had refused permission to the Section to have access to the data to extract and collate information relating to the national and regional newspapers of each country. Geoffrey Hamilton stated that there would be a need to be selective of the newspaper titles, and to make judgements about the amount of detail to be entered into a Handlist for each newspaper. Before any further progress is to be made, it would also be important to identify a specific audience for the Handlist. **Action: Geoffrey Hamilton and Edmund King to take the matter further.**
- d) *Survey of newspapers in Africa*. Else Delaunay reported on the results to date of the Survey carried out. 50 libraries had been contacted, with 28 replies received, a 56% rate of response. Members thanked Else Delaunay for all the work she had put into this Project. The initial conclusions were presented in the papers she had circulated before this meeting. Discussion at the meeting included:
- African colleagues wish to have access to newspapers published in digital format
  - Relevant National libraries need to be asked what microfilm they have of newspapers of their former colonies
  - There is a need to establish what runs of newspapers are held uniquely in each African country, and to ensure that microfilm is made of unique runs.
  - Proper storage of master negative microfilm needs to be funded
  - Digital copies made from microfilm could be provided on demand to particular African countries, possibly via CDROM copies.
  - It might be worthwhile to put this work under the patronage of UNESCO (“Memory of the World”)
  - Supply of text of newspapers in digital format could form part of a wider set of initiatives to supply information to African countries.

Actions arising:

- Send a second questionnaire to selected African countries. The precise format of the questions to be decided. **Else Delaunay and Geoffrey Hamilton**
- Establish if runs of required African newspapers can be filmed from copies held outside Africa. Establish those titles of African Newspapers that have already been microfilmed. **Edmund King to contact Center for Research Libraries in the first instance.**
- Mount the summary results on the IFLANET. **Else Delaunay and Edmund King.**

## 7. International Coalition on Newspapers.

Edmund King reminded those present of the many details now available on the Center for Research Libraries website:

For ICON home page, see: <http://icon.crl.edu/>

For ICON survey results, see: <http://www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=4&l2=20&l3=96>

Foreign newspapers database at:

<http://www.crl.uchicago.edu/content.asp?l1=5&l2=23&l3=44&l4=27>

U.S. Ethnic titles database at:

<http://www.uchicago.edu/content.asp?l1=5&l2=23&l3=44&l4=27>

Members should use the databases to find out what microfilm has been made of older newspapers, particularly those originally published outside the U.S.A. The recent ICON survey results is also of use to members in other countries, who may wish to conduct a survey of their own about the use of newspapers in libraries.

It was agreed that members would be circulated with a summary of planned ICON activity, for 2004-2006. **Action: Edmund King to follow up with James Simon.**

## **8. Membership**

Edmund King reported that membership of the Section in 2003 stood at 23(?) members. It was agreed that it would be important to raise membership to 50 organisations. All agreed to work to secure one more member within their own country. **Action: Edmund King and All Members.**

The matter of possible merger with Serials Section was noted but no action agreed.

## **9. Financial Report**

Geoffrey Hamilton reported that the previous surplus that had existed since the London Seminar held in 1987, had now been used. In 2004, the University of Helsinki workshop and the Section Newsletter no. 12 had both received the last of these surplus monies. The sums spent were:

- University of Helsinki Workshop: 2137 Euro
- Newsletter no. 12 : 180 Euro (debit to be made from the Section's account)

**Action: Edmund King to ensure that IFLA HQ has paid Administration funds to the Section bank account .**

## **10. Section Newsletter**

Sandra Burrows was thanked for the work done in producing the Section Newsletter no. 12. It was agreed, to produce Newsletter no. 13 in time for the IFLA Buenos Aires Conference.

## **11. Any other business**

**11.1 Past Conference Papers on Newspapers.** Hartmut Walravens reported that these had gone to press in late 2003. Publication is part of the IFLA Professional Publication series, no. 107. Copies are to be circulated to contributors. **Action: Edmund King to ensure that all contributors have a copy of the publication.**

**11.2 List of Newspapers available on the web.** It was agreed to mount the list Sandra Burrows had compiled onto the IFLANET. It was agreed to explore how to seek other partners, to provide updates for the information; and to see if the list could be mounted on a University website in a country where the Newspaper Section holds a future Business Meeting. **Action: Sandra Burrows and Edmund King.**

**11.3 Newspaper Section Business Meeting, early 2005:** Hartmut Walravens suggested the meeting be held in Australia.

The chairman closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their contributions.

Note for Participants:

**China Newspapers Seminar: *Opportunities for Newspaper Access and Preservation in China*, Shanghai Library 30 March 2004.**

This was a successful day, with IFLA Newspaper Section Members in attendance giving papers on the situation of Newspaper programmes/ projects/ state of the press in their countries. Chinese colleagues gave presentations on their collections. Some 30-40 participants attended, and there was time for a useful exchange of views about subjects raised in the papers. A list of the papers given is attached to these Minutes as Newspaper Section, paper no. NS 2004/3..