



**IFLA Public Libraries Standing Committee  
Mid-Year Meeting held in Brno, Czech  
Republic**

**Draft Minutes of the Meetings held on Thursday, April  
14 and Friday, April 15 2011**

<b>Time and Location:</b>	<b>Day One Meetings: Thursday, April 14</b> 10:15 – 12:30 at Jiří Mahen Library, Brno; 15:30 – 18:30 at Library Branch in Brno.	
<b>Time and Location:</b>	<b>Day Two Meeting : Friday, April 15</b> 11:00 – 16:00 at Jiří Mahen Library, Brno	
<b>Members attending Day One and Two Meetings</b>	Olga Ustinova (OU) Kent Skov Andreassen (KSA) Libuse Nivnická (LN) Ruth Ørnholt (RO) Suzanne Payette (SP)	Barbara Gubbin (BG) Rebekka Pilppula (RP)
<b>Apologies</b>	Marian Morgan Bindon Ian Stringer Monica Medina Blanes Hannelore Vogt	Annick Guinery Lorraine S. Jackson Ljiljana Sabljak
<b>Absent</b>	Neil Davies Jingxia Li	Magdalena Reyes Deming Zhou

**1. Welcome and Tour of the Jiří Mahen Central Library followed by a presentation from Mrs. Jarmila Burgetová, President of the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic.**

Ms. Libuse Nivnická, Director of the Brno Public Library and our host provided an informative tour of the Central Library assisted by members of her staff. This was followed by a presentation on SKIP, the library professional organization in the Czech Republic given by Mrs. Jarmila Burgetová. Mrs. Burgetová had previously served on the IFLA Public Libraries Standing Committee. SKIP was established at the time of the Prague Spring in 1968 and dissolved in 1970. It was re-established with the establishment of the Czech Republic and has 1,478 members – 962 are individual members and 516 are institutions. The organization provides training, assistance with copyright, oversees audiovisual lending rights, gives direction on the social role of libraries, encourages partnerships between libraries and academic institutions, sets operating standards for libraries, and sponsors a number of national library related events

such as Night with Andersen and Library Week. It publishes a newsletter and is a member of both IFLA and Eblida.

## **2. Greetings and apologies for absence. (Payette)**

Suzanne Payette (SP) welcomed the committee members who were in attendance and thanked Libuse Nivnická for agreeing to host the meeting for a second time, the volcano in Iceland having forced cancellation of the meeting in 2010. SP also thanked Mrs. Burgetová for her interesting presentation on SKIP. SP and Barbara Gubbin (BG) noted apologies for absence from committee members.

## **3. Opening, Announcements and Documents Check (Payette/Gubbin)**

Barbara Gubbin reviewed the documents which had been sent out prior to the meeting including the agenda, minutes of the annual meeting, the strategic plan and a proposal from Ian Stringer about a new project for the Committee to consider.

## **4. Approval of the agenda. (Payette)**

The agenda was approved as sent out.

## **5. Approval and Follow-Up of the minutes of the annual meeting held in Gothenburg, Sweden on Tuesday, August 10 and Saturday, August 14, 2010.**

Kent Skov Andreasen (KSA) made a motion to approve and Libuse Nivnická seconded; the minutes were approved.

SP did not have her notes immediately with her for the Chair's Report and Committee Membership (items 6 and 7) so these items were moved to later in the agenda and the meeting moved on to item 8 Financial Report.

## **8. Financial Report (Nivnická)**

Libuse Nivnická (LN) distributed her report. It indicated that the final payment had been made to Christie Koontz last October for the Guidelines publication. There had been a misunderstanding and it had been paid twice, once by IFLA direct to Ms. Koontz and once from the Public Libraries account. The second payment had been returned in January 2011 by Ms. Koontz. It also reported a payment to Ian Stringer for his expenses approved at the last meeting to attend a mobile library meeting in September 2010 and for various office expenses related to the newsletter.

KSA reported on what he had found about translating the Public Library Guidelines into DAISY audio format for the visually impaired. He passed out a proposal from the Danish Library for the Blind to create either the book on CD-ROM or as an electronic file. It will be recorded in English and take 5 hours to listen to the entire book. The CD-ROM version would allow for multiple copies to be made without restriction; it can be played on a DAISY compatible recorder as well as on a computer or CD-player. Copyright would not be included. The price would be Eu 805. There was discussion and KSA was asked to follow up with Simon Lemstra at IFLA as to whether the DAISY version could be made accessible from the IFLA website so that it could be downloaded. This is the Committee's first choice for distribution because distributing CD-ROMs is not practical. LN said that there are sufficient funds in the Administrative account to pay for the DAISY version. No final decision could be made until the distribution format was identified but there was general agreement that the Committee should move ahead with the translation using the Danish Library for the Blind.

**Action Item: Kent Skov Andreasen**

## **9. Programmes for IFLA WLIC 2011 in San Juan, Puerto Rico: (Payette/Ørnholt).**

**9 i. Pre-Conference.** SP indicated that no preconference had been planned prior to the Puerto Rico WLIC. One had been proposed in Colombia but the Standing Committee had decided not to sponsor it.

### **9 ii. Section Programme on “Re-thinking Public Libraries” in partnership with Metropolitan Libraries. (Ørnholt)**

Ruth Ørnholt (RO) said that there had been a minor change in the title of the program to “Rethinking the role of public libraries.” She passed out an outline of the program. Both the Chair of the Metropolitan and the Public Libraries Committees would play a role in moderating the programme. Claudia Lux has confirmed that she will serve as a keynote speaker and her topic is “Leading the Library of the Future – Challenges and Opportunities;” Hannelore Vogt had been responsible for working with Claudia. Rebekka Pilpulla (RP) confirmed that Jaana Tyrni, Director of the Espoo City Library would speak and her topic is “It takes courage to make mistakes.” It was agreed that having two speakers from Finland was not a problem, the second being Maija Berndston, Director of the Helsinki Public Library who will be speaking on “What and Why Libraries? – looking at what libraries might look like and why we will still need them in the future”. Patrick Losinski, Director of the Columbus Public Library in the USA was supposed to have been confirmed as a speaker by the Metropolitan Libraries section but it was not clear if he had confirmed. BG will contact him with regard to his participation. If he declines she will try recruiting Cathy de Rosa, OCLC, a principal contributor to a new OCLC report entitled “Perceptions of Libraries, 2010.” RO indicated that what was needed at this point in the program was a paper on the public library as a “third place” from the perspective of customers, and to explain how library customers and their needs are changing so that public libraries can respond effectively. Examples from libraries such as Columbus Public Library and others would be helpful in this regard. SP suggested asking Mathilde Servet from France who has conducted a number of workshops along these lines; she will contact Ms. Servet to find out more about her availability. RO stressed that we need the contributors’ papers to publish them on the IFLA website before the conference.

Following Mr. Losinski is Wu Jianzhong from the Shanghai Library whose paper is entitled “Transition to an e-and-globalised age: Shanghai Library’s practice of change”. His presentation has been confirmed by Sharon Thien. The last speaker, also confirmed is Elsebeth Tank, Director of the Malmö Public Library in Sweden speaking on “A New Paradigm requires a new Leadership.”

**Action Items: Barbara Gubbin re confirming speaker in USA. Suzanne Payette re. contacting possible French speaker for the programme.**

### **9iii. Review of the Overall Conference (Puerto Rico) and Section Meetings. (Payette)**

KSA told everyone that one of his staff members, Finn Poulsen of the Odense Public Library would be presenting a paper on their virtual reading club for young adults. It will be presented during the Young People’s Section program at the conference and he highly recommended it. You can find out more about this program at boggnasker.dk. (Note: it is in Danish!)

SP reminded everyone that the Standing Committee meetings will be held on Saturday, August 13 at 14:45 and Wednesday, August 17 at 11:30 of the conference.

## **10. Programmes for IFLA 2012 in Finland.**

**10 (a) Programmes for 2012 Conference: Discussion of conference program topics.** SP encouraged everyone to have a brainstorming session to identify possible topics for a program at the 2012 conference in Helsinki, Finland. Ideas included “the virtual library” which would address library apps, games, chat, and services to special groups. RP reminded everyone that the theme of the conference is “Surprising” and so a program with this idea in mind would link it to the theme. Other suggestions included: “What you do not expect from your public library”; mobile media; virtual worlds, virtual libraries.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned to have lunch and go to the Town Hall to meet with the Mayor. The meeting would resume that afternoon at the Branch Library.

The meeting re-convened at 15.30.

## **6. Chair’s Report – Suzette Payette.**

SP returned to the review of the minutes, which had been approved earlier that day. She noted that there was no paper submitted by the Danish public librarian who presented at the Gothenburg conference and which we had recommended to IFLA for publication so it could not be a candidate. SP will follow up about putting a “banner” on the Public Libraries Section webpage about the new Guidelines.

SP noted that mentors need to be assigned to the new members of the Standing Committee – she will handle this. SP asked that everyone check their address on the official mailing list for the Committee and reported that Lynne Rudasil is the new Division I chair (she is from the Social Science Libraries Section) and Anne Okerson has been elected Chair of the Professional Committee. KSA announced that he is running for election to the Governing Board and would appreciate the support of members of the Public Libraries Section. SP said that the Section currently has 283 members – little progress has been made in increasing our membership. KSA suggested we think about encouraging members of the Metropolitan Libraries, Children’s Services, Reading, Genealogy, Services to the Disabled and the Buildings Sections to consider choosing Public Libraries as their second Section membership. Rather than trying to find new members which is difficult during these economic times we might want to encourage members to make Public Libraries rather than another Section, their second choice in membership. BG said she thought this was an excellent idea and suggested that we appoint liaisons to these other committees so that Public Libraries Standing Committee members would attend their business meetings, get to know them and promote the Public Libraries section’s activities and membership.

It had been suggested at the meeting in Gothenburg that the Public Libraries Standing Committee consider holding its spring meeting in conjunction with the Metropolitan Libraries conference, also held in the spring. Next year, in 2012 the ML conference will be in Barcelona and SP had already discussed in very general terms this possibility with the conference organizers. SP will contact the organizers to find out more detail and how it might work for the Public Libraries Section. KSA did wonder if by combining with this conference the Public Libraries Committee would lose something by not having our meeting hosted by a Committee member.

Other items covered by Chair SP included being sure to encourage attendance at the joint program at the Puerto Rico conference; SP noted that the Metropolitan Section will be holding its own program called “The New Age Metropolitan Library: Challenging the stereotype that bigger is better.” SP

will assign Public Libraries Committee members to attend related Standing Committee meetings to represent and report on public library activities (see earlier discussion about how to increase membership); the need to load the new Guidelines on to the website; and a reminder that the lowest member rate for registration for the conference ends in early May.

**Action Items:**

- **SP to investigate putting a “banner” on the Public Libraries section of the IFLA website about the revised edition of the Guidelines.**
- **SP to assign mentors to the new Committee members.**
- **SP to assign liaisons from the Public Libraries Section to other Sections to attend their business meetings to represent the interests of Public Libraries (Committees identified included Services to Children; Services to the Disabled; Metropolitan; Buildings; Reading).**
- **SP to contact Metropolitan Section re their 2012 Conference as an opportunity for the Public Libraries Standing Committee to hold their mid-year meeting.**

Returning to agenda item **10 (a) Programmes for 2012 Conference: Discussion of conference program topics**, RP said that there need to be speakers from outside Scandinavia for the program.

One topic suggested was a discussion of the future of e-books and libraries and how this new format will impact the future of public libraries. Is there a new model to apply with virtual information different from the one we currently operate under? KSA said this is an active topic of discussion among Danish librarians where many are suggesting libraries need to develop parallel libraries, virtual and real. BG suggested we bring in publishers and ask them to talk about the future of e-publishing and have a panel of public and academic librarians to react to what they hear. Olga Ustinova (OU) suggested we address the issue of library buildings/building design in the electronic world.

It was suggested that the ideas identified by the Committee be sent out to the full committee prior to the August conference so that suggestions and Committee members could come prepared with speakers, ways to strengthen one of these topics into a good program or with alternative topics for consideration.

**10 (b): Proposal for pre-conference in Baltic area on Public Libraries.**

SP indicated that she had been contacted by Deloresa Veilande during the meeting about holding a pre-conference in Riga, Latvia in 2012. It was decided that the topic recommended was not in line with the theme of the conference nor the section’s strategic plans; RP will investigate another topic and location.

**Action Item: RP will follow up regarding pre-conference in 2012 and send in relevant paperwork to IFLA.**

**11. Review of Ongoing Projects.**

**11 (a) Guidelines for Public Library Services/14. Strategic Plan for 2011-2012.**

SP noted that many of the items to be discussed under the review of ongoing projects relate to the update of the Committee's Strategic Plan. An update had been drafted by MMB for the Committee's consideration.

There are a number of translations of the Guidelines (in process includes: Chinese; Bulgarian, Croatian; Czech; Portuguese; Russian and Slovak. Completed: Korean.) We have no word about the status of translations into German, French or Spanish. RO said she would contact Committee member Matts Hanson to find out about a Swedish translation. It was suggested that there was a need for an abstract about the book to be put on the IFLA website and for a press release. This led to a discussion of the need for a PowerPoint presentation which could highlight the book's contents and how it is different from the first edition. It was agreed that Christie Koontz was the most qualified to prepare such a presentation. SP will need such a product for the presentation she had agreed to do for the Metropolitan Libraries Conference to be held in Queens Borough, NYC in May. She will contact Christie to see if she could prepare these materials and at what cost. They would need to be completed by May 14, which is a tight deadline. BG made a motion that the Committee pay up to \$1,000 to Christie Koontz to prepare a press release and a PowerPoint presentation which provides some history of the Guidelines and outlines how the new edition updates the first edition. The press release would be put on the IFLA website and the PowerPoint presentation made available to any Committee members who want to use it to publicize the Guidelines and what they provide. These funds should come from the Committee's administrative funds. The motion passed.

**Action Item: SP will contact Christie Koontz.**

KSA said he would update the leaflet which is used to promote the publication once he gets the press release and asked BG to review it for accuracy. KSA's library graphic designer will also be asked to update the front page of the brochure to make it more attractive.

**Action Item: KSA updating brochure.**

There was significant discussion as to why the Guidelines could not be downloaded for free from the IFLA website as the first edition had been, if a charge is necessary and why it is so expensive (\$126US or Eu 90). No one knew if there would be a charge for downloading non-English language translations. This change clouds the issue of allowing the download of the audio DAISY version discussed earlier which we had assumed would be available for free.

In terms of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2012 RO suggested that there needed to be more use of social media included in the Plan and on the IFLA website such as a blog to improve communications between Committee members and public librarians across the globe. KSA recommended that a platform be created which could be used to share ideas to enrich the Guidelines so that it is constantly being updated.

The Mobile Library Guidelines which were updated by a committee led by Ian Stringer are also being translated. Sjoerd Koopman and Ian report translation into Spanish and Russian; RP reported that they have also been translated into Finnish and Ian Stringer indicates that they are on the IFLA website and can be downloaded. These guidelines also need to be added to the Strategic Plan.

Discussion then moved more specifically to the Strategic Plan.

**Action 1. Empowering libraries to enable their user communities to have equitable access to information.** Discussion as above about translations and promotion. The Russian translation should be ready by June 2011. Regarding the Reading Manifesto, our liaison Lorraine Jackson had

reported no progress. This section should reflect the appointment of a new liaison to the Reading Committee from the Public Libraries Committee.

**Action 2. Building the strategic capacity of IFLA and that of its members.** It was recommended that a new strategy should be the appointment of liaisons from the Public Libraries Committee to other Committees with related interests to foster partnership, understanding and possibly increase our membership. However, it was decided that this was more appropriate in 4a. Section 2.3 was renumbered 2.1 and RO recommended that social media should be listed as playing a much greater role on the IFLA website such as a blog or other communications tools to improve communication between members and public librarians across the world. Item 2.2 was taken out and KS recommended that a new 2.2 be included which would lead to a new platform being built for ideas to be shared about public libraries in order to enrich the Guidelines publication with new ideas from around the world and keep the publication up to date. The Action item on poster sessions was kept, the second action about the wiki was taken out, and consideration needs to be given to action items around Ruth and Kent's suggestions.

**Action 3. Transforming the profile and the standing of the profession.** No changes were made.

**Action 4. Representing the interests of IFLA's members and their users throughout the world.**

4.1 was expanded with the item from Action 2 above regarding the appointment of liaisons to be added to the existing section numbered 4.1. 4.2 – It was suggested that the first bullet be changed to “Maintain current level of membership” because it was not realistic to expect a growth in membership at this time.

**Action 5. Good governance – Manage Standing Committee finances effectively.** No changes suggested.

The meeting was adjourned to be reconvened the next day, Friday, April 15, 2011.

The meeting was called to order by Suzanne Payette at the Jiří Mahen Library on Friday, April 15, 2011.

### **9 c. Website, Newsletter and revised Section Brochure.**

SP reported that there would be no newsletter in April but that Marion Morgan Bindon would produce one in July 2011. KS is working on an update to the Section Brochure. No one knew of any changes needed to the website.

**9 d. Reading Manifesto.** Lorraine Jackson's email was reviewed which contained no update.

### **12. Committee officers and allocation of responsibilities:**

**12 a.** Barbara Gubbin said she did not plan to continue as Secretary after the August conference. Rebekka Pilpulla said she would be willing to take on this responsibility. There will be elections at the August conference.

**12 b and c. Web editor and Newsletter editor.** SP said that the election to the Information Officer position will take place at the August conference – no one has expressed interest in the position at this time. She will confirm with Marion Morgan Bindon that she is willing to continue as newsletter editor.

**12 d. Reading Manifesto liaison.** SP will ask Annick Guinery if she will take on this role. She will also assign newer members to serve as liaisons to attend the business meetings of committees with related interests to those of the Public Libraries Standing Committee.

**Action Item: SP to contact MMB and AG regarding newsletter and Reading Manifesto.**

**13. Report from IFLA, the Governing Board and Division 1.** There is no report.

**15. Projects for consideration of the Committee 2011 – Forward.**

Ian Stringer had sent a proposal for the Committee to consider and copies had been sent out to all Committee members. The consensus of those at the meeting (no one had sent comments ahead of time) was that it would not be feasible to get public libraries in the “developed” world to purchase online databases and then make these available to libraries in the “developing” world. There are copyright and related issues which would prevent this from happening and since many of these products are charged to public libraries according to the population served, adding the population of a “developing world” city or country would not be feasible for those libraries to pay. Haiti was discussed as a possibility for a special project since so little progress had been made in restoring public library service but this seemed beyond the means of the Standing Committee. RO suggested that the Committee sponsor a Library Snapshot Day around the World and ask all 283 members of the Division to participate in taking photographs of their library to be shared. She also thought we should consider a staff exchange program called “Connecting People.” There was some discussion as to how the Committee could be involved in such a program and thought it might be by providing a place for communication between staff that is looking for an exchange possibility. SP suggested that we consider soliciting the Ten Top Ideas for ..... and publicize them. In her case she would like 10 good ideas for serving seniors; BG suggested asking for the Top Ten Trends in Technology and making this into a future conference program. This idea is based on a panel program held regularly at the American Library Association conference. She went further with this idea suggesting that awards be considered for the most outstanding and innovative services or programs submitted by member public libraries. RO took this idea and gave it a title, playing off next year’s conference theme: “Inspiring – Surprising – Empowering – Innovations.” SP suggested we form a committee to look into this further and as one more “angle” to consider and suggested that public libraries be encouraged to send in a picture with a comment on their innovation which would be posted on the IFLA website. BG suggested that public library IFLA conference participants “post” notes on the website after each conference on ideas or issues they heard which caught their attention so these can be shared widely.

**Action item: SP appoint committee for 2012 program**

There were no more reports or other items to be discussed. Suzanne Payette declared that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. B. Gubbin  
Secretary