



**Public Libraries Section  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2015 - 2016**

## **Introduction**

The public library allows us all to become a little more extraordinary.

The IFLA Public Libraries Section has relished a superb 18 months as the Section advocates and supports public library initiatives across the world.

The 2015 Spanish mid-term partnership *New Uses of the Library* organised by the Barcelona Provincial Council Library Services Management Office with the cooperation of the Barcelona Libraries Consortium and IFLA's Public Libraries and Library Buildings and Equipment sections, provided a professional development opportunity for approximately 400 library staff. The three round tables focused on the changes taking place in the use of the public library and how they impact and influence the three pillars - services, users, spaces and professional staff. The Section is particularly grateful to the organisers for the outcomes the program delivered.

We were delighted to work with the City of Cape Town Library Service and the Western Cape Provincial Library Service to present the very practical 2016 Congress *Public Libraries at the Crossroads* satellite. Approximately 120 South African and international professional colleagues progressed solutions for their service delivery options with their colleagues from around the world. Our hosts worked tirelessly to present this event and I know their work was extremely valued and very much appreciated.



**Winners of the IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award 2015**

The Section has also cemented our partnership with the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces to be the presentation forum over the next few years for the Systematic Public Library of the Year Award, an international award that celebrates public library design. Within the dates of this report the Award has been awarded twice, in 2015 to Krista in Sweden and most recently the very handsome 2016 winner – Dok1. The calibre of the submissions provided difficult work for the judges and demonstrated the role our public libraries play in building resilient and successful communities.

Literacy has always made the difference between active participation in society and watching from the sidelines. This was never more evidence in the papers showcased at the *21st Century Literacies* Public Libraries Satellite event in Philadelphia in August 2016. Indebted to our host - the Free Library of Philadelphia- delegates were continually provided with evidence of the public library's constant and consistence response to their role and the way they incessantly demonstrate ways to meet and deliver services to customers on the customer's terms.

We continued to develop our social media communication channels and were incredibly proud to secure the coveted *IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award* at Cape Town in August 2015 and were humbled to be joint winners in 2016.

Sincere thanks to the energetic and passionate Section members who I know are only a very small subset of public library staff committed to ensuring public libraries remain at the heart of the communities they serve. In 2015 election year we paid special attention to the drive of the wonderful folk who left the Section and welcomed our enthusiastic new team members whose public library values will deliver an even stronger IFLA Public Libraries Section.

**Marian Morgan-Bindon**  
**Chair IFLA Public Libraries Section**

## Report on progress and activities

Objectives <i>Identified in the Unit's Action Plan</i>	Project or activity <i>Identified in the Unit's Action Plan</i>	Progress <i>Please give brief details, including status (not started, in progress, near completion, completed)</i>	Risks <i>Please identify any problems or concerns (e.g. missed deadlines, lack of resource) and how you would propose to address them</i>
<p><b>1 IFLA International Librarianship Leadership Development Programme:</b> capacity building to raise the voice of the profession nationally, regionally and internationally</p>	<p>Develop the IFLA 2015 program sessions in partnership with :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFLA's Library Services to Persons with Special Needs Section.</li> <li>• Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning</li> <li>• Information Technology Section</li> </ul> <p>Develop the IFLA 2016 program sessions in partnership with :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libraries for Children and Young Adults</li> <li>• Library Services to Persons With Special Needs</li> <li>• Law Libraries</li> <li>• Literacy and Reading</li> <li>• Library Buildings and Equipment</li> </ul> <p>Encourage public librarians to participate in IFLA conferences through the presentation of innovative papers or posters.</p> <p>Participate in the promoting and</p>	<p>Report in Results below</p>	<p>Partnerships with all Sections worked well.</p> <p>Opportunities for public librarian from developing countries to participate and present is limited. Location of WLIC 2015 and work with African colleagues mitigated this.</p>
		Blog and Facebook promoted by all	Over commitment of SC members.

	sharing information using PLS Blog and Facebook Page	members and wider public library community.	Coordinated approach (eg Guest Blogger schedule) addresses this.
		Guest Blogger initiative launched in October 2015 to showcase SC members and encourages international/multilingual content.	
	2015 Mid-term meeting and symposium delivered	Report in <i>Professional Unit Meetings</i> below	Local sponsorship necessary for mid-term meetings to be accessible by colleagues in host country.
	2015 Satellite in Cape Town delivered	Report in <i>Results</i> below	
	2016 Mid-term meeting and symposium delivered	Report in <i>Professional Unit Meetings</i> below	
	2016 Satellite in Philadelphia delivered	Report in <i>Results</i> below	
	Promotion of <a href="#">1001 Libraries to see before you Die</a> project	Project continues to be promoted internationally with examples from 23 countries.	Appearance of similar sites
	Further develop partnership with the Danish Agency for Culture (DAC) and sponsors regarding the role of Public Libraries Section in the <a href="#">Public Library of the Year Award</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC represented on Awards evaluation committee.</li> <li>• Program highlighting the Awards delivered in Cape Town and Columbus as part of WLIC.</li> <li>• Winner 2015 Kista Public Library, Sweden</li> <li>• Winner 2016 Dokk 1, Denmark</li> </ul>	Ongoing funding to support the Awards. Sponsorship for Awards from Systematic obtained by DAC ensuring 5 years of funding
<b>2. Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession: connecting, collaborating, representing</b>	<i>Marketing and Communication Plan</i> 2014-16 implemented	Plan formed basis of much of the SC's work during the year. Section awarded <i>IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award 2015</i> at WLIC	

strategically		in Cape Town and <i>IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award 2016</i> in Columbus.
Planning commenced for 2016 Satellite event	Philadelphia identified as location for Satellite in 2016. Theme developed at meetings in Cape Town.	
Planning commenced for 2017 Mid-term meeting	<a href="#">STEAM into Sydney</a> mid-term scheduled for March 2017 expected to attract new IFLA audiences.	
Finalise the “ <a href="#">How do you describe a public library?</a> ” user survey to establish advocacy starting point	Report in <i>Results</i> below	Involvement by many SC members ensured wide distribution of survey.
Compilation of <a href="#">Responding! Public Libraries and Refugees</a>	SC Members and international colleagues joined together to collect some examples and stories of the role public libraries are playing in the refugee crisis, particularly in Europe.  The resulting document is not meant to be exhaustive but is more of a starting point for shared experience and inspiration and demonstrates the power of libraries to make a difference in people’s lives. This will form the basis of the PL open program in Columbus.  Annie Dourlent spoke about our work at the German Bibliothekartag (national librarians' congress) in a session on IFLA and International Relations with donna Scheder and Barbara Lison.	This project did not initially form part of the <i>Action Plan 2015</i> but demonstrates the agility of the network to monitor emerging issues and to respond accordingly.

The Public Libraries Section was represented by Jan Richards on a webinar on Library Services to Immigrants and Refugees which took place on 31 March 2016. IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning and the New Professionals SIG partnered with the American Library Association to present this one-hour webinar. An online resource is now available

## Results

Completed project or activity	Output	Communications	Impact of the completed project or activity
<b>1. 2015 Satellite in Cape Town delivered</b>	<p>The IFLA Public Libraries satellite in Cape Town <a href="#"><u>Public Libraries at the Crossroads</u></a> was hosted by the City of Cape Town Library Service and the Western Cape Provincial Library Service.</p> <p>The very practical program was designed to explore the role of technology in public libraries and to provide suggestions and directions for a way forward.</p>	<p>The outcomes of the satellite have been promoted through the PLS Blog and Facebook page with papers from the event available on the satellite web page and in IFLA Library.</p> <p>Individual SC members also communicated the outcomes through their own networks.</p>	<p>It was a truly inspirational 2 days – thought provoking presentations; workshops where everyone participated; generosity of spirit in the sharing of ideas; networking, networking, networking; and some vibrant libraries to visit.</p> <p>Our dynamic speakers brought perspectives and experiences from around the world including Australia, Denmark, Japan, South Africa,</p>

			Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA
<b>2.</b> Develop the IFLA 2015 program sessions in partnership with :	<p>Successful sessions with other IFLA sections were held during the WLIC in Cape Town. All attracted a large number of participants and offered individual SC members the opportunity to work with colleagues from other sections in developing these programs</p>	<p>PLS communication platforms (web, email, blog and Facebook) were used in distributing information about these sessions including the call for papers and promoting the program. The considerable power of the public library networks in SC member home countries was also utilised successfully.</p>	A rich public library relevant program was available to WLIC delegates.
<b>3</b> Finalise the “Three words to describe your library” user survey to establish advocacy starting point	<p>Results of the survey were used to develop an advocacy story for public libraries to be used by SC members in their home environment.</p> <p>Library users from 21 countries across 6 continents responded to our request with 500 plus completing the survey</p>	<p>PLS communication platforms (web, email, blog and Facebook) were used in distributing information about this program. The considerable power of the public library networks in SC member home countries was also utilised successfully and members translated the survey into multiple languages</p>	An advocacy tool for SC members and others.
<b>4.</b> 2016 Satellite in Philadelphia delivered	<p>The Satellite Meeting <i>21st Century Literacies in Public Libraries</i> was hosted by the Free Library of Philadelphia on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 August 2016.</p> <p>The program explored the changing concept of literacy and the role of public libraries in delivering civic, health, financial, digital, and information literacy.</p>	<p>PLS communication platforms (web, email, blog and Facebook) were used in distributing information about this program and a dedicated <a href="#">website</a> was established.</p>	The Satellite resulted in shared professional development learnings which provided evidence based information that intervention assists in developing resilient and inclusive communities.

<p><b>5.</b>Develop the IFLA 2016 program sessions in partnership with :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libraries for Children and Young Adults</li> <li>• Library Services to Persons With Special Needs</li> <li>• Law Libraries</li> <li>• Literacy and Reading</li> <li>• Library Buildings and Equipment</li> <li>• IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations</li> </ul>	<p>Successful sessions with other IFLA sections were held during the WLIC in Columbus. All attracted a large number of participants and offered individual SC members the opportunity to work with colleagues from other sections in developing these programs</p>	<p>PLS communication platforms (web, email, blog and Facebook) were used in distributing information about these sessions including the call for papers and promoting the program. The considerable power of the public library networks in SC member home countries was also utilised successfully.</p>	<p>A rich public library relevant program was available to WLIC delegates</p>
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## Standing Committee membership

Standing Committee members' names	Role on the Standing Committee (if any) and contribution made to the work of the Professional Unit over the year <i>For example, Chair, Information Coordinator, Project Leader</i>	Comments on position <i>For example, resigned, co-opted to fill a casual vacancy, etc.</i>
<b>1. Marian Morgan Bindon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair</li> <li>• Member of the organising committee joint session with IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning for the open program WLIC Cape Town</li> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Literacy and Reading Section for the open program WLIC Columbus.</li> <li>• Co-convenor Mid Term Meeting, Sydney 2017</li> <li>• Guest Blogger August 2016</li> </ul>	
<b>2.Jan Richards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary/Information Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Member of the organising committee joint session with IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning for the open program WLIC Cape Town</li> <li>• Presenter at webinar on ALA webinar on Library services to Refugees</li> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Law Libraries Section for the open program WLIC Columbus.</li> <li>• Co-convenor Mid Term Meeting, Sydney 2017</li> <li>• PLS representative Systematic Public Library of the Year Award 2015 &amp; 2016</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Lo Claesson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Library Services to Persons with</li> </ul>	

	<p>Special Needs for the open program WLIC Cape Town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Library Services to Persons with Special Needs for the open program WLIC Columbus.</li> <li>• Guest Blogger June 2016</li> </ul>
<b>4. Jos Debeij</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member From August 2015</li> </ul>
<b>5. Annie Dourlent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/organising committee open program WLIC Columbus</li> <li>• Guest Blogger July 2016</li> </ul>
<b>6. Sarah Dudek</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/organising committee open program WLIC Columbus</li> <li>• Guest Blogger February 2016</li> </ul>
<b>7. Montserrat Espuga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/Coordinator 2015 mid-term Barcelona</li> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Library Services to Persons with Special Needs for the open program WLIC Columbus.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Adriana Cybelle Ferrari</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member From August 2015</li> </ul>
<b>9. Annick Guinery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member Until August 2015</li> </ul>
<b>10. Corrine Hill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/co-convenor PLS Satellite Philadelphia 2016</li> </ul>
<b>11. Leikny H. Indergaard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Library Services for Children and Young Persons for the open program WLIC Columbus.</li> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Literacy and Reading Section for the open program WLIC Columbus.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLS representative Systematic Public Library of the Year Award 2016</li> </ul>	
<b>13.</b> Jakob Guillois Laerkes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Library Services to Persons with Special Needs for the open program WLIC Columbus.</li> <li>• PLS representative for organisation of Systematic Public Library of the Year Award 2016 presentation</li> <li>• Guest Blogger March 2016</li> </ul>	From August 2015
<b>14.</b> Pirkko Lindberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning for the open program WLIC Cape Town</li> <li>• Guest Blogger May 2016</li> </ul>	
<b>15.</b> Anette Mjöberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Library Services to Persons with Special Needs for the open program WLIC Cape Town</li> <li>• Member/ organising committee joint session with IFLA Library Services to Persons with Special Needs for the open program WLIC Columbus.</li> </ul>	
<b>16.</b> Tebogo Mzizi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> </ul>	
<b>17.</b> Torbjorn Nilsson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/Guest Blogger October 2015</li> </ul>	From August 2015
<b>18.</b> Ljiljana Sabljak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ Coordinator 2016 mid-term Zagreb</li> <li>• Guest Blogger January 2016</li> </ul>	
<b>19.</b> Raymond Santiago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/Guest Blogger December 2015</li> </ul>	
<b>20.</b> Angels Miguelas Sarri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ Coordinator 2015 mid-term Barcelona</li> </ul>	Until August 2015
<b>21.</b> Josephine Siegrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> </ul>	
<b>22.</b> Jane Wee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/ Guest Blogger November 2015</li> </ul>	From August 2015

<b>23.</b> Irina Dobrinina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member</li> </ul>	From August 2015. Has not responded to any communication
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<b>Names of any other reporting persons</b>	<b>Role</b> <i>For example, Corresponding Members</i>	<b>Comments on position</b> <i>For example, resigned, co-opted to fill a casual vacancy, etc.</i>
<b>1.</b> Libuse Nivnická	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b> Suzanne Payette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> <li>• Guest Blogger April 2016</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b> Hitomi Takeuchi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> </ul>	
<b>4.</b> Paul Tovell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corresponding member</li> </ul>	

## Professional Unit meetings or conference calls

Date	Location or type of meeting
<b>1. 25-28 February 2015</b> <b>Main Outcomes</b>	Mid-term meeting, Barcelona, Spain  The PLS Mid-term followed the Section's established format of:  <b>Business meeting</b> (Wednesday) In addition to discussion around the Committee's <i>Action Plan</i> and current projects presentations were made by Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, IFLA Governing Board (International Advocacy Program), Ilona Kish Program Director Public Libraries 2020 and Jonna Holmgaard Larsen, Danish Agency for Culture (Public Library of the Year Awards).  We were joined by IFLA's Library Buildings and Equipment Section for a session that focusses on the results of a project undertaken by Barcelona Libraries on return on investment. The <a href="#">minutes</a> of this meeting reflect discussion.  <b>Seminar with local colleagues</b> (Thursday) The one day seminar <i>New use of the public library</i> attracted 400 local colleagues in addition to IFLA delegates. The program examined the topic from the perspective of users, library services, professionals and best practice and was highly evaluated by all in attendance.  <b>Library and Cultural Tours</b> (Friday and Saturday) During our visit to Barcelona we were able to visit several public libraries; Sant Gervasi – Joan Maragall Library, Esparreguera Library and Fondo Library. At each destination we were able to observe the innovative ways in which our colleagues in the region are delivering library services to their communities.  We were also privileged to visit the Library at the Monastery of Montserrat, an honour rarely afforded visitors.  The meeting in Barcelona provided an opportunity for Standing Committee members to progress and finalise plans for the 2015 Congress and other projects. All of these were communicated to the wider public library community through our web site, blog and Facebook page in addition to stories contributed to local publications by Standing Committee members.

Date	Location or type of meeting
<b>9-12 March 2016</b>	<b>Mid-term meeting, Zagreb, Croatia</b>
<b>Main Outcomes</b>	
The PLS Mid-term followed the Section's established format of:	
<p><b>Business meeting</b> (Wednesday)</p> <p>In addition to discussion around the Committee's <i>Action Plan</i> and current projects a presentation was made by Jessica Dorr from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation who gave a presentation on the Global Libraries Data Atlas Project</p> <p>The <a href="#">minutes</a> of this meeting reflect discussion.</p>	
<p><b>Seminar with local colleagues</b> (Thursday)</p> <p>The one day seminar <i>The interaction between library users and librarians</i> attracted 200 Croatian colleagues in addition to IFLA delegates. The program provided some outstanding examples of innovative programs to deliver community based library services. The papers are available on the <a href="#">website</a></p>	
<p><b>Library and Cultural Tours</b> (Friday and Saturday)</p> <p>During our visit to Zagreb we were able to visit the City Library of Velika Gorica (which was celebrating its 130th anniversary) and the Library of Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In addition we were welcomed to the Modić-Bedeković Manor House, and Turopolje Museum.</p>	
The meeting in Croatia allowed us to finalise plans for the 2016 Congress and other projects.	
	
<p><b>PLS members in Zagreb</b></p>	

Date	Location or type of meeting
<b>15-21 August 2015</b>	<b>WLIC Congress, Cape Town, South Africa</b>
<b>Main Outcomes</b>	
During the 2015 WLIC Congress in Cape Town the Standing Committee conducted two meetings which finalised plans for the <a href="#">2016 Mid-Term</a> (Zagreb, 9-12 March) and the <a href="#">Satellite</a> planned as part of the 2016 WLIC (Philadelphia, 10-12 August) in addition to the proposed program for Columbus.	

Members also worked collaboratively on development of the 2016 [Action Plan](#)

The [Minutes](#) of these meetings were posted on the Section's web page with Section members notified of their availability through email.

Date	Location or type of meeting
13-18 August 2016	WLIC Congress, Columbus USA
<b>Main Outcomes</b>	
During the 2015 WLIC Congress in Columbus the Standing Committee conducted two meetings which focussed on the Action Plan 2016-2017 and the 2017 mid-term meeting.	
The Minutes of these meetings were posted on the Section's web page with Section members notified of their availability through email.	