Global statistics: getting ready for Phase II.

An overall 60% response rate from countries was achieved, with better results for public libraries than for academic libraries.

The project to reinvigorate the collection of national library statistics across the world took another step forward over the summer with a successful conference in Montreal and plans to carry the project forward into 2009.

The conference took place immediately after the Quebec IFLA congress and presented the results of the trial of the statistical questionnaire which took place in Latin America and the Caribbean in the second half of 2007. An overall 60% response rate from countries was achieved, with better results for public libraries than for academic libraries. Not surprisingly, data were available more readily for the ‘traditional’ figures than for the new measures. In presenting the UNESCO Institute for Statistics report on the survey, Claude Akpabie said that ‘The data gaps…suggest the need to strengthen the culture of data collection in library systems at the national level. Countries might consider undertaking a systematic and gradual approach to mapping data sources in addition to refining definitions and collection methodologies for capacity building purposes.’

We had reports from Trinidad and from Argentina from those who had actually responded to the survey and gather data in their respective countries. Cynthia Lisée of the École de Bibliothéconomie et des Sciences de l’Information (EBASI) at the University of Montreal presented an analysis using the indicators derived from the statistics.

We hope to publish the proceedings in the IFLA Publications series during 2009, and the presentations will be available on the City of Montreal website, http://ville.

One of the key requisites to emerge was the need to build capacity in developing countries to answer the questionnaire, and to embed the programme as a key element in the general advocacy of libraries and their worth. The project group met with Stuart Hamilton, IFLA’s Senior Policy Advisor, in The Hague early in November, and is developing a strong case to put to funding bodies for investment in the programme. The intention is to organise workshops in target regions to encourage and advise on the collection of data, before running the questionnaire again in those regions. At the same time we shall be seeking to engage UNESCO more fully in support of the programme by the preparation of a library statistics manifesto. UNESCO Institute for Statistics has agreed to incorporate the data collected in the 2007 survey into IFLA’s database for library advocacy being developed in Pretoria.
The first Standing Committee meeting was held 11:30-14:20 on Saturday, 9 August 2008, Session 30.

Present at the meeting: Colleen Cook, Michael Hearsey, Rosamund Polhill, Sherrie Schmidt, Michala Farrell, Tord Harstén, Markka Lahtinen, Parra Maoz, Eric Davin, Elisabeth Lomau, Miguel Duarte (observer). Apologies had been received from Sue Henshall.

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Members and observers introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Standing Committee

Meetings in Durban (published in the December 2007 Session Newsletter). Michala Farrell had registered her apologies for the meeting. Adopted with that correction.

4. Report from the Meetings of the Professional and the Coordinating Boards

Colleen Cook reported that there were 3200 registered delegates and another 400 day delegates were expected. Some IFLA members and delegates had failed to get visas. Everyone is urged to actively obtain visas in future years and to notify IFLA officers and HQ as soon as possible if there are problems. It is tightening borders to early action next year is advisable.

Procedural advice for the conference was disseminated. Rosamund Polhill reported some trouble with conference bookings.

There are to be changes to the statutes. There will only be five Divisions. Statistics & Evaluation is in the new Division IV Support for the Profession. Other sections: i) the Division of Management of Library Associations, Management and Marketing, Education and Training, Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning, Library Buildings and Equipment, Library Theory and Research, and Library History. Current session officers may no longer be Division chairs, who will be elected from among IFLA officers.

**Global Statistics**

The Global Statistics project has received an additional €7225 making a total of 10,000 available. Expenditure has been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Spent</th>
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<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td>2878.52</td>
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- Planning meeting in Montreal, June 2008 (not yet)
- CONTINUED: Data collection and entry, including validation, data cleaning, data classification
- Review of one full-time staff for at least 6 months
- Far from Programme Specialists, FIA contribution to win support for developing participation

**Total**

- Analysis of results: US/UNiversity costs: FIA contribution (500)
- Satellite conference: conference to be mainly financed with UNESCO and Canadian municipal support for developing participation
- Review of results and revision: IFLA/UNESCO. (Post-conference meeting)
- Publication of conference results: costs will vary depending on the number of copies and languages. UIS will also release data on its website.

7. Treasurer’s Report

Section accounts:
The section now exceeds €500 because the membership has risen above 50.

Two payments have been authorized: €42.65 to support the Society’s planning visit for the satellite conference in Florence next year, and €293.22 to support attendance at this year’s post-conference in Montreal by an invited speaker.

Agreed that remaining funds could be expended on a revised design for Newsletter and Brochure.


The committee noted that the Quality Issues in Libraries, the Library Statistics Group and their meeting, and the session on Library Evaluation had all been successful. Colleen Cook noted that there had been a good turn out.

**7. Activities of the Standing Committee**

**a. Projects**

1. Global statistics – UNESCO

Rosamund Polhill outlined the history of the project from the Buenos Aires meeting in 2004 when IFLA was seeking better library statistics for its provinces at WISEM, through meetings with UNESCO Institute of Statistics in 2005-06, and the pilot survey in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2007, the results of which will be presented at the Montreal post-conference. In January 2008 the IFLA received 8 results, developed a set of Performance Indicators, and modified the data set slightly. The results show that the statistics are fit for purpose, but UIS is not yet fully decided about whether to invest the resources to proceed.

**b. Publications**

1. Newsletter

Colleen Cook congratulated on the expanded Newsletter. She reported continuing member input. Agreed that she should ask her to design a new look at TAMU to look at the design of Newsletter and Brochure.

Tord Harstén asked for the material to be made available in Excel. Agreed that Michael Hearsey should ask the Metropolitan Library section about the membership notes (term of office, end date, etc.) should be included in the next Newsletter.
C. Programming for Quebec Conference - Housekeeping

Michèle Parent volunteered to count attendees at the Tuesday count session and Sherrie Schmidt at the Thursday session.

Agreed to hold a Committee dinner on Thursday 7 pm at Pavillon d’Ampère 115 Quai Sainte-Anne.

8. Strategic Plan - Progress report

Noted that after much delay, the Plan is now on the IFLA website.

Progress with the Status of the elements of the Plan was reviewed:

1.1 Proceeding at the Congress

1.2 IFLANET: Roswitha Poll has made the impact and discombs bibliography of the IFLA site. Agreed that Markku Latonen should re-upload the file/has been uploaded; a new one is planned.

1.3 Members were reminded that Colleen Cook, Roswitha Poll and IFLANET are working on the current status of all ISO standards relating to the Section’s interests. Tord Hauk drew attention to the new discombs discussion methods such as blogs and RSS feeds. Agreed that Markku Latonen should set up a discussion list for the Committee members.

1.4 Noted that more could be done in this regard and the election next year could be an opportunity to do so, using the discussion list which has over 200 members. Colleagues in South Africa were mentioned.

2.1 The Section has abandoned the proposed updated report, but a session on education and training is planned for the meeting in Florence next year.

2.2 Several actions are in progress, including participation in an Export Meeting on Block Statistics in Amsterdam, work on the Numero project and on APL statistics.

2.3 See the report on Global Statistics above.

2.4 Proceeding at the Congress

2.5 Michael Heaney is in discussion with the Libraries for the Blind Section on the possibility of running a workshop.

2.6 Assured that Roswitha Poll should report on ISO activities at the first Milan meeting in 2009 and in the meantime provide an update to the Chair.

2.7 See the report on Global Statistics above.

Agreed that Michael Heaney should update the Status notes.

8b AO8

Michèle Parent raised the question of satellite conferences reducing not increasing the attendance at the main conference. Conferences in the same city or nearby were thought preferable, or the introduction of a ‘roving workshop’ approach to satellite.

Meetings in Quebec - 2nd Meeting

IFLA Statistics & Evaluation Section Standing Committee

The second Standing Committee was held 11:00-13:30 on Friday, 15 August 2006, Session 192.

Present: Michèle Parent (Secretary), Colleen Cook (Chair), Pierre Maurier, Tord Hauk, Elisabetta Lonardi, Markku Latonen, Sue Hamblett, Michele Parent, Sherrie Schmidt, Roswitha Poll, Ursula von Kienlin, Annie DuCharme, Miguel Deitre, Vesna Izeta, Agnieszka Schmidt. Apologies had been received from Eric Dextier.

Members and observers were welcomed.

MINUTES

9. Review of Quebec Conference


This session was attended by 350 people. Noted that two papers (those by Sebastian Minet and Eduardo Orrozo Silva) had been withdrawn, one due to a IFLA publication policy. Agreed to raise this at the Coordinating Committee meeting.

The paper: ‘Understanding public access to information through ICT: A landscape study of 24 countries’ by Ricardo Gomez and others was singled out for its innovative approach.

(b) Session 180: National Libraries with Statistics and Evaluation. ‘Ensuring quality in national libraries: performance measures and quality evaluation supporting cultural heritage and research’.

Attendance had been 123. All seven papers were of high quality and very positive feedback had been received; the contributions of the three presenters from the Section Committee were noted. Agreed to recommend ‘Utilisation of indicators in the National Diet Library (NDL): Efforts for activity evaluation’ by Akiko Hashimoto (National Diet Library, Tokyo, Japan) for inclusion in IFLA Journal.

(c) Section dinner

Pierre Maurier was thanked for organising the Section dinner which had been followed by a viewing of the Image Mill, a forty-minute visual and audio ‘megaproduction’ project against the huge grain silos in the Port of Quebec.


The meeting discussed next steps in the project. Roswitha Poll said that Simon Ellis at UNESCO had expressed interest in a regional component. The project needs a boost by aligning study with other programmes of interest, e.g. literacy.

Conferred that Sherrie Schmidt would look to possible funding sources, and that the losses should remain with UNESCO as a use of the supporting data to be made available. Partial or matching funding could be a useful avenue to explore. Michèle Parent agreed to talk further with UNESCO in Paris, at the meeting on 18 September.

Agreed that we should assess the outcome of the Montreal meeting at that approval should be given to any suitable continuation project emerging from the discussions.

11. Program planning for Milan W/LSC 2009

A note for the agenda is ‘cultural heritage’ and the presidential theme is ‘Libraries on the agenda’.

Two themes were proposed: (a) Statistics on the agenda for advocacy, (b) Statistics for cultural heritage.

Agreed to support Statistics on the agenda for the guaranteed two-hour slot and to ask for an additional two hours. Tord Hauk to manage the programme, with support from Michael Heaney. Roswitha Poll to seek support from Academic Libraries.

Agreed to propose ‘Statistics for cultural heritage’ as an additional two-hour programme. Michèle Parent to manage the programme, with support from Roswitha Poll. Support may be sought from Preservation section.
12. Program planning for 8th Northumbria Performance Measurement Conference—Florence. The meeting is due to take place 17-20 August, most likely in the historic city of Florence (to be confirmed by the end of August). Michael Harey reported that a joint planning meeting had been held with other sections planning meetings in Florence, namely IT Section (18-20 August) and the Classification & Indexing Section (20-21 August). A common administration for registration accommodation and a shared costs programme had been agreed, as well as local co-ordinators for each conference. The programmes them selves will run separately. Agreed that Michael Harey and Ros with Pat should continue to act for the Section.

13. Preliminary planning for Brisbane 2010
Noted that the theme is “Engaging, exciting, empowering” while the President’s theme is “Libraries for access to knowledge”. Sue Hancox suggested as theme statistics to support research communities, and bibliometrics.

14. New business

(a) Special Interest Groups
Colleen Cook described the new rules for special interest groups. Agreed to propose a group on Eroica and to seek support from the IT, Academic and Public Libraries sections. Agreed that Sue Hancox should act as convener.

(b) Election and Officers
Colleen Cook reviewed the new arrangements for Division and the election of Divisional chairs. Noted that in consultation meetings the proposal that Information Coordinators should be elected officer had been supported, and this would now be discussed by the Professional Committee.

(c) New Website
Markku Lattaini thought that the structure of the new website will be much better, with easier navigation and the capacity for blogs, wikis, RSS feeds, networking, etc.

- Noted that web-based training would take place in September, with the launch in January 2009. The significance of the Information Coordinator’s role would increase in the new website.

(d) Membership
Agreed that Shane Schmidt will co-ordinate membership drive with assistance from Sue Hancox, both for membership of the Section and for election to the committee. 7 members will retire in 2009 and only 3 are eligible for re-election. A membership tool kit is available on the website to help in the process.

(e) Brochures
Agreed that Colleen Cook and Michael Harey would collaborate on the text for a new brochure. Noted that the audience should be defined and that it was important to coordinate it with website developments.

(f) Metropolitan Library Statistics
Agreed that Pierrpont Mortier should seek to liaise with Metropolitan Libraries Section and the colleague in Toronto in the further revision of their statistics.

(g) Budget
Confirmed that the raised of the current year’s budget should support brochure/ newsletter redesign. Agreed that 2006 funds could be used to support recruitment of perhaps provide a small amount of support for attendance at the conference by colleagues from the developing world. Noted the Education & Training Section budget of £1,800 to support attendance by an EU student presenting a paper.
15. Member activities of general interest
Observers at the meeting described their interests: Annie Dourlen (France): preparing a workshop for smaller libraries – in discussion with the Ministry of Culture to improve the national statistics which currently ignore smaller libraries, comprising 12,000 out of the 15,000 libraries in France.

Vesna Inja (Deputy Director National Library of Serbia, responsible for statistical reviews and planning, expressed satisfaction with the new draft ISO standard for performance indicators for national libraries. Is a member of the national standards committee and has translated many of the relevant standards

Miguel Duarte (University of Cadiz, Spain) Working on a new approach to evaluation using a business model.

Actions:

4. MH to circulate membership details [in these minutes]

5. Section funds to be spent on newsletter/brochure design (CC/MH)

5. Project funds to support attendance by IFLA officers (MH)

7a.i. SS to pursue Gates Foundation funding contacts

7b.i. CC to arrange for newsletter/brochure design and to put membership details in next issue

7b.i. MH to obtain spreadsheet from Metropolitan Libraries

8 (1.2). ML to recheck validity of links on website

8(1.3). ML to set up a discussion list for committee members

8 (1.3). ALL to provide material for Newsletter

8 (4.1). RP to provide a report on ISO

8. MH to update Status notes

8a. MH/CC to raise issue of Satellite meetings at Co-ordinating Board [done]

9a. MH to raise issue of publication of articles at Co-ordinating Board [done]

9b. MH/CC to recommend Akiko Hashizume’s paper for IFLA Journal at Co-ordinating Board [done]

10. MH/RP/PM to propose a further project on Global Statistics, depending on the outcome of the Montreal satellite