



Division Leadership Virtual Meeting
Support of the Profession — Division IV

Wednesday, March 25, 2015; 1600-1700 CET or 1100-1200 EST (via Skype)

<http://www.ifla.org/support-of-the-profession>

Participants: Clara Chu (chair, Div 4), Anna Maria Tamaro, Felipe Martinez, Rebecca Vargha, Tord Høivik (secretary, Div 4)

AGENDA with minutes (DRAFT)

1. Revised R17, R18 and R20 rules – please review document sent to you by Joanne and provide feedback by Tuesday, March 31st at <http://tinyurl.com/ifla-rules-review-input>

The suggested changes were accepted (and applauded) by the group. No additional suggestions.

2. Section Annual Reports – 2014 reports are overdue – those Sections (and SIGs should they wish) that have yet to submit a report, please submit a copy to cmchu@uncg.edu, joanne.yeomans@ifla.org and place on your Section's website.

Duly noted.

3. Project Funds – If any Section still has a project they wish to pursue, please submit the proposal to joanne.yeomans@ifla.org with a copy to cmchu@uncg.edu by April 1st for consideration during the PC's April 13th meeting. Guidelines: <http://www.ifla.org/officers-corner/professional-projects>

The discussion focused on the wish for a less formalistic (rules oriented) and a more informal and substance oriented way of communicating with the people who spend time writing applications and carrying out projects. Process dialogues around the projects are requested.

4. Administrative Funds 2015 – Each Section is allocated 150 Euros. Guidelines for allocation and reimbursements: <http://www.ifla.org/node/8376>. Please note: Sections that do not require their allocated Admin Funds are requested to inform the PC as soon as this is known, and no later than 1 September, so that the funds may be reallocated. This does not rule out the Section requesting additional funds at a later time during the year.

Reminder noted.

5. Technology needs of professional units – The PC is considering purchasing software to support the work (communication and productivity) of professional units, to be used/shared by all professional units. Please submit recommendations to cmchu@uncg.edu by March 31st.

There was a lively discussion in the group. Points made:

Several members have had extensive experience with different generations of communications software, including e-learning platforms. The group emphasized that the whole field of computer-supported cooperation and computer-supported learning is in the middle of very substantial changes. Before IFLA and the PC discusses and selects specific systems, it needs to understand the dynamics of the digital communication field and what it means for IFLA itself. This calls for strategic organizational learning rather than a narrow selection process.

On the level of specifics: Skype works reasonably well. So does Doodle for simple scheduling and Google Documents for shared reading/writing. More advanced scheduling for IFLA as a whole may be needed (will Google Calendar suffice?). Adobe Connect and Camtasia Relay have steep learning curves (and may be replaced by more convenient systems). GoToMeeting is a good option for group meetings and webinars. Anything involving video is often technically and personally demanding (not for everybody) . Slide shows with audio is often a good solution. An ontology tool is needed.

Knowledge-based institutions will continue to update their systems that will require an ongoing training process as well - including an organizational commitment to the learning of new skills. As a global organization, IFLA includes professionals with very unequal levels of digital competence and experience for the foreseeable future. Creating and updating user-friendly, highly modularized, training programs (mainly online and preprogrammed) for members and officers looks like a natural task for the organization. For example, an IFLA Academy.

General rule: access to and recommendations about tools do not change practices by themselves: demonstrations, encouragement and leadership by example are needed.

6. PC Chair election – Ballots and information should have been received SC Chairs and Secretaries from Joanne. Election deadline: Friday, May 15th.

Noted.

7. SC Members List – Lidia Putziger has sent you an updated list. Any questions, please consult Lidia.Putziger@ifla.org

Noted

8. New IFLA Strategic Plan – under development

Members of the group expressed a desire for an open, dialogue-oriented development process, where the central persons involved shared their thinking and their arguments (and invited responses) rather than the texts only.

9. Other

Officers Conference Briefing (*formerly* Leadership Brief/Officers Training) - recommendation to put information on web and use meeting for conversation (from information to dialogue)

One of the participants invited the PC to emphasize the African dimension in the planning towards Cape Town. Concretely: learning, thinking and writing about the contexts and roles of African academic, school and public libraries.

As IFLA President, Kay Raseroka stressed the role of African public libraries as community and communication centers. Today, cell phones rather than Internet terminal are driving the digital revolution in Africa. Community work, and the role of libraries in social and economic development, is rather more important in Africa than in the highly industrialized world.