



Division IV – Support of the Profession – Mid-Year Zoom Meeting

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**Minutes of the Mid-Year Zoom Meeting
Thursday 16 April 2020**

Attendance:

Division IV

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New Professionals Special Interest Group

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LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group

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Women, Information and Libraries SIG

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1. Opening and confirmation of the agenda

The meeting was opened at 09:30 am and at 04:00 pm (Europe/Sweden).

The following Agenda was confirmed for the meeting:

- Short update from the Professional Committee
- WLIC
- IFLA Governance Review update
- Any other business

2. Update from the Division Chair

Catharina shared news from the Professional Committee meeting held in Zoom in April 2020.

Short update from the Professional Committee

During January Division IV Zoom meeting Catharina shared information on the December PC meeting. After that the focus of the PC has been on the Governance Review. The next PC meeting was planned to be in den Haag in the end of April. Instead this was rescheduled into two different Zoom meetings. Division IV members will get information from the meeting afterwards. Of course some of the work has now focused on the cancellation of the Dublin conference and the needed work in line with that.

WLIC

As a result of #COVID19, the IFLA Governing Board & Irish National Committee have made the difficult decision to cancel IFLA #wlic2020. Dublin will be our destination for the congress in 2022. The New Zealand International Convention Centre in Auckland – the previous planned venue – is unlikely to be ready on time.

Catharina thanked all Division IV sections for preparations done for the WLIC 2020. She informed on *future WLIC themes*:

- 2021 Rotterdam - The theme for WLIC 2021 will be in line with the Presidential theme of *Let's Work Together*, with the specific theme to be announced subsequently.
- 2022 Dublin - At this stage, the theme for WLIC 2022 will remain as *Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect*.
- 2023 For the 2023 Congress, a call for candidates will be issued for all world regions other than Europe.

In accordance with IFLA's Statutes, IFLA will investigate a new date and location for a General Assembly to be held at the latest by 30 November 2020.

Catharina shared **Officers' info from Secretary General:**

The cancellation of WLIC 2020 will require some tasks to be undertaken by you and members of your Standing Committee.

Satellite Meetings

- *IFLA will note on the WLIC website that WLIC 2020 Satellite Meetings are now cancelled.*
- *You are asked to contact your host and notify them of the cancellation of WLIC 2020. As we aim to return to Dublin in 2022, you may wish to ask if you can stay in touch and if they would be willing to host in the future. If a host agreement had been signed, a new agreement will need to be signed in 2022.*
- *Contact any confirmed speakers regarding the cancellation. You will need to decide if you keep the same topic for a future year or wish to start afresh.*

Conference programme

- *IFLA will note on the WLIC website that Calls for Papers for WLIC 2020 Open Sessions are now cancelled.*
- *If you have not closed your call or are assessing papers, contact all those who have proposed papers to ensure they know that the conference has been cancelled. We suggest you ask them to follow calls for papers for future WLICs, and encourage them to submit proposals to match the theme(s).*
- *If you have decided on speakers, you will need to decide if you wish to carry your topic/theme over to WLIC 2021 or WLIC 2022 or if it would be valuable to do something with the material this year. The theme for WLIC 2021 will be in line with the Presidential theme of Let's Work Together, with the specific theme to be announced subsequently. We believe there is ample scope to rework your topic to fit in with this. At this stage, the theme for WLIC 2022 will remain as Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect.*
- *Contact any confirmed speakers and inform them of your intention to delay your topic or to issue a new call in 2021.*
- *Special guests or speakers – contact any invited speakers to let them know about the cancellation.*
- *As a rule, papers are not added to the IFLA Library unless they have been presented at WLIC and we do not anticipate adding material in 2020.*

Awards

If you are one of the Professional Units presenting an award during WLIC, IFLA HQ will contact you separately about this.

Options

A number of people have suggested doing a virtual conference. IFLA is not looking at holding a virtual WLIC as we do not believe it would be financially viable in the current environment.

You may consider whether the topic of your session is timely or was going to assist particularly the actions you are taking in line with the IFLA Strategy. In these cases, it may make sense to transfer WLIC material to a Webinar, or other published form. We will be offering Professional Units the use

of the IFLA Zoom Webinar platform and developing a webinar series that we can promote as part of IFLA's professional development portfolio. Please stay tuned for more information in May.

Therefore, we would not expect to hold webinars in August as a substitute for WLIC but to work with you to spread them over the coming year. We encourage you to contact IFLA HQ and discuss options if you feel this would benefit your Unit.

There is no obligation to work with your session material and your Unit may decide to concentrate on your Strategy actions instead.

The Professional Committee will consider the implications of the cancellation on the work of the Professional Units during their meeting at the end of April.

Questions

We've tried to think of many of the questions you might have but realised that there will be many more. Please contact professionalsupport@ifla.org by email or let us know if you'd like to have a call. We're happy to talk things over.

We've not been in this situation before but together we can find solutions. While the cancellation of the conference is a big loss, the Professional Units is much broader and continues throughout the year. It's been wonderful to see the activities undertaken as part of your action plans aligned with the IFLA Strategy. The impact you can make with your activities is also needed by the library field and your involvement in IFLA activities at this time is greatly appreciated.

Will the Standing Committee meetings take place virtually?

We will not expect to have Standing Committee meetings on the same day and virtually. Standing Committee meetings at WLIC provide an opportunity to meet face to face. Most Standing Committees meet virtually and regularly throughout the year to progress their business. They may decide to hold a virtual meeting but this will depend on their normal schedule of virtual meetings. With no Congress this year, there is no need to schedule these for a particular day or week, and indeed we discourage a focus on specific dates in order to preserve capacity. We will work with Sections to schedule these in an optimal way.

3. Any Questions:

Megan Price commented IFLA's position on Professional Units activity this year. She highlighted several options for sections and SIGs. Professional units should consider their plans for this year WLIC - if you think that something you planned is timely and it needs to be discussed now or it can be shifted to 2021 or 2022. If you think that some issues are timely and should be happened now then you might think about a webinar or professional reports that would specifically discuss items in your area focus. You can think about collaborating with other units to do a special issue for instance for IFLA Journal. This is another option. If you are interested in doing a webinar and you feel like you don't have special skills to do a webinar in May HQ will coming out with guidance document how to technically do a webinar and some best practices around good webinar presentations. Megan is ready to support professional units' initiatives.

Helen agreed with Megan and told that speakers are first. She recommended professional units to contact speakers and then plan further steps. She would be happy to give any support to Professional units.

Professional units' officers shared their plans about future work. Those professional units that already had virtual meetings after announcing news about cancellation of IFLA WLIC in Dublin reported about their plans. Some of Professional units are going to meet virtually in late April – May and will discuss their future plans.

Saif reported that LISEDC SIG received around 60 proposals for their open session. Since WLIC in Dublin postponed the SIG was considering giving virtual meeting (1-2 webinars).

Catharina reminded that speakers should be first people to discuss where they would like to present their papers at a webinar or postpone them at WLIC next year.

Gillian told that CPDWL's plans for the conference sessions at the 2020 WLIC in Dublin will be rolled over to the 2021 WLIC in Rotterdam since all CPDWL's conference sessions are face-to-face.

Janet Fletcher reported that LBES has no plans to run a web this year. It will have open session for Rotterdam.

Kerry reported that Library History SIG would have to look at the relevance of the papers the SIG accepted to see if they fit next WLIC. Maybe they will plan them for WLIC in Dublin. Library History SIG is not planning a webinar.

Anya told that M&M did not announce any call for this year. The Section is planning a webinar for June or the fall. Also it discusses marketing award for which it has a sponsor which is Press Reader.

Halo reported that MLAS will discuss how it will work during its Zoom meeting.

Krystina reported that LTR had a midterm meeting in Mexico City on March 6, 2020. It was organized in conjunction with the conference, "Bridging the Gap Between Research and Practice" at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Several LTR members attended and presented at the conference. LTR also offered a workshop, "Becoming a stronger researcher-practitioner: Research methods in library and information science." LTR also planned a two-day satellite conference, "International Research in LIS: Challenges and Opportunities" at the Trinity College Library in Dublin. It did a call for papers and reviewed the submission, but since the conference was cancelled, LTR invited the authors of selected submissions to present at the satellite in the Netherlands next year. It intends to reuse its plans for the next year Satellite.

Magda reported that NPSIG planned to organize music sessions – papers and competition. She will discuss with SIG members if they want to organize webinars.

IFLA Governance Review update

Catharina shared the latest of the IFLA Governance Review process. The Governance Review is the next step in IFLA's Development Roadmap, designed to continue our transition to being a more **inclusive, efficient and effective** organisation.

The professional structure

The PC has continued to work on the professional structure. The focus is to make it easier for more people to get involved in IFLA, to make it easier to get involved in different ways and to make the work more flexible. An important issue is also how do we get regional diversity?

Information on Change of statutes is available at

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/news/documents/governance-ballot-briefing-paper.pdf>

IFLA is working hard to become a more inclusive organisation. With the proposed changes to its Statutes, IFLA aims to ensure that when it makes important choices, the voice of every Member counts – not only of those who are able to attend the General Assembly.

The changes aim to make for a simpler and more inclusive process of decision-making by Members by:

- Allowing a resolution on important issues to be decided by either a meeting of the General Assembly or a ballot of all Members
- Ensuring there is a single timeframe for decisions on all resolutions by Members whether at a General Assembly or by a ballot

These changes, if accepted, will mean that the process of making amendments will be far quicker, and that on crucial decisions, the voices of all Members can genuinely be heard, regardless of their ability to attend a General Assembly or identify a representative.

Next step

There is a further survey and consultations planned in order to ensure that we have a set of proposals that reflect the views and priorities of the field.

Any other business

Catharina asked if officers of professional units would like to have a virtual meeting in June. Division IV members agreed to meet in August or September.

Close

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for contributing to such great work of the Division and of IFLA. It's impressive how quickly all units went on with the discussions on the WLIC after the cancellation of WLIC 2020. A huge thanks for that work.

Special thank you words should go to Megan and Helen who agreed to participate in the division virtual meetings.

Each Zoom meeting lasted for 1 hour and a half.