



IFLA Art Libraries Section

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s30/index.htm>

Minutes

1st Standing Committee Meeting

19 August 2006

Seoul, Korea

by Margaret Shaw

1. Welcome from the Chair

The Chairman, Olga Sinitsyna, expressed her thanks to the Minutes Secretary, Margaret Shaw, the Newsletter editor, Eila Rämö and Jeanette Clough for her work on the programme sub-committee.

She also noted that this year is the 25th anniversary of the SAL as a full IFLA Section and that this would be the subject of a presentation in the SAL Open Session.

She passed on greetings from Philip Pacey who saw his period as Chair of the Section as a highlight of his career during which he tried to emphasise and extend the international role of the Section and to encourage the formation of local and regional art library organisations.

She also emphasised the need to expand the activities of the section to include areas not currently covered by the SC: Asia, Africa etc. She stressed the importance of making contact with Asian, particularly Korean, colleagues while we are here and the need to make contact with South African colleagues in order to plan for the 2007 Conference in Durban.

2. Apologies from SC Members

Kerstin Assarsson-Rizzi, Véronique Goncerut Estèbe, Rüdiger Hoyer, Véronique Meunier, Cécile Arnaud, Isabelle le Masne de Chermont, Ken Soehner, Jo Beglo, Alicia Garcia Medina, Concha Huidobro.

Note: Margaret Young has indicated that she does not wish to continue on the Standing Committee. Under IFLA rules there is no mechanism for resignation but

this is not a problem unless it is necessary to fill the vacant position. John Meriton noted that de-selection automatically followed on sequential non-attendance.
Decision required at SC2

3. Calendar for Seoul Conference

Sunday 20th, 12.45-13.45: Special PC Hearing Session for SC members. All members were requested to attend. The Chairman reported that she had submitted the required review of SAL activities and that, in principle, she supported the proposals. See also Item 4.

Monday 21st, 13.45-15.45: IT with AV& Multimedia and National Libraries: new access technologies.

Monday 21st, 2.00-3.00: ALS on IFLA Booth – Olga Sinitsyna, Martha McPhail, Eila Rämö, Martin Flynn.

Tuesday 22st, 8.30-5.00 at main entrance to Coex: Rare Books and Manuscripts Section tour to Cheongju Early Printing Museum. €20, KW25.000. Those interested should give their names to John Meriton by Monday.

Wednesday 23rd, 10.45-12.45: ALS Open Session

Wednesday 23rd, sometime after Open Session: trying to arrange for an alternative visit to the Korean Art Library and Information Centre.

4. Special PC Hearing Session for SC members

This is, in part, a response to the high cost for IFLA in staff time and effort of maintaining small groups, particularly those which may have become fiefdoms for a small number of enthusiasts.

A review of IFLA's structure is being carried out with a view to possible structural changes, starting with a survey completed by Sections, supplemented with information from IFLANET. A PC Committee has produced a list of recommendations.

Those affecting sections are:

- increase of number of members required for Section status to 50 (the ALS currently has 87 members, down from 97 last year, but in no danger);
- increase minimum number of 5 SC members to 10 (the ALS currently has 21 but we need to think forward to next year's elections);
- establish clear rules for disbanding Sections;
- possible establishment of virtual interest groups.

Those currently under threat are: Geography and Maps Section, Mobile Libraries Section,

The problem may be at the Division Level e.g. for Special Libraries Division: Special Libraries c.f. Subject Libraries c.f. Special Collections.

There was general agreement that decisions need to be based on more than just numbers and ease of administration. There is a need for clear criteria with warning periods prior to elimination. There must also be a viable SC and Office Bearers with whom the Division can communicate. Some Sections may cover important collection areas or activities although they do are not large groups.

Membership may rise/fall with fashions and interests. There needs to be a mechanism to cater for changing emphases i.e. need to look at the future c.f. the survey tended to look at the past and to investigate causes of increase/decline of membership and activity.

There is a need to examine what groups have in common and ways to restructure to cover like interests so that new special interest groups [SIGs} absorb and represent numerically minor groups. At the same time it is necessary to ensure coverage e.g. mobile libraries could be absorbed by Public Libraries Section but with a guaranteed of representation e.g. by designated position/s on SC or by creating a mobile libraries SIG with the PL Section. This could result in a larger voice and audience for the smaller group.

Virtual discussion groups could be used to encourage broader cross-sectional interests.

Summary of SC view: Sections should not be eliminated without investigation of procedures to ensure interests are covered elsewhere with a designated voice and/or the formation of a Special Interest Group either under the umbrella of another Section or independently. Such restructuring may occur pre- or post- Section status.

5.1 Report from the Chair

- Difficulties in communicating with the Korean Conference organisers were reported in spite of approaches through official and alternative channels. Contacts made since arriving in Seoul are encouraging. Domi Kim has been particularly helpful
- Review of the ALS completed and submitted on time.
- Strategic Plan to be up-dated: bring ideas to SC2.
- 2 "Addresses from the Chair" included in the *Newsletter*.
- Presentation re ALS given at EIVA, Moscow, also in Florence and London, at the Annual Conference of Museum Librarians and ARLIS/UK.
- Article written for Russian IFLA magazine.
- Durban 2007: potential topics needed for discussion and final decision at SC2.
- 5 paper proposals received for Seoul of which 4 were accepted.
- Thanks to those who helped with translations: Véronique Meunier; Véronique Goncerut Estèbe; Alicia Garcia Medina, Irene Tolkacheva.

- Need to consider arranging more joint sessions.
- Need for all SC members to be involved, not just the core. Those interested should contact the Officers and offer suggestions
- Need to look at collection./location of ALS archives, to make them available to the Section and to researchers and to use them in putting together the Section's history.
- IFLA Journal has first call on all papers presented [need to select one for this year at SCII] but Gillian Varley, editor *Art Libraries Journal*, is keen to continue to publish a range of ALS papers.

5.2 Section membership

There are currently 87 members from 26 countries. The Section has 3 Corresponding members

5.3 Corresponding members report

- Report received from Elsa Barbarena
- South Africa still to confirm choice of new Corresponding Member [RSA has been in touch with John Meriton who will continue to seek a nomination. Anyone finding a possible contact should notify John Meriton]
- Gustavo von Bischoffshausen, Peru, has moved positions. Martha McPhail agreed to contact him regarding possible continuation as a corresponding member.

It was agreed that corresponding members can play a vital role in promoting the ALS in their regions.

5.4 Report from the Information Officer

A detailed written report was tabled by Eila Rämö, Secretary and the following points highlighted and discussed.

- Leaflet

The English language version has been updated relating to information on Conferences, Standing Committee members, and Membership fees, but the text itself needs to be updated. John Meriton agreed to update the text. After the update of the English leaflet all the other language versions need to be updated.

The Russian version is now available also in booklet form.

Questions to be decided:

- should we print on demand to avoid waste?
- do we need paper copies?

Suggested pattern for discussion:

- longer [booklet] version on the web for download and reproduction [PDF];
- shorter version on the web for download and reproduction [PDF] and may be printed on demand;
- possible HTML as well but IFLA prefers PDF.

A working group was set up to finalise plans: John Meriton [Chair]; Jeanette Clough; Olga Sinitsyna; Margaret Shaw; Eila Rämö.

- **Newsletter**

2 issues were published during the year in printed and online format. These were sent to all SC members.

Points for discussion:

- need to clarify content c.f. *Art libraries journal*
 - could include more detail of future conferences
 - for practical reasons, should not compete with *Art libraries journal*
- need to be consistent in content;
- IFLA has now approved online only newsletters with print-on-demand possibility
 - many libraries collect hard copy
 - many of IFLA's target libraries do not yet have online access
 - would the Getty continue to support an online only *Newsletter* - part of the contract is for printed copies [Jeanette Clough to check on receipt of formal request for information]
 - at present IFLA has no statistics available about online usage
- would it be possible to link up with another session for a joint newsletter?

Working Group set up to discuss :

- content
- mechanisms of content
- continuation if print version

Eila Rämö, Douglas Dodds, Hugh Wilburn, Martha McPhail, Anastasia Gay

It was decided that every member of the Standing Committee should identify or arrange a contribution from their region / country at least once during their SC term.

- **IFLAART**

The Moderator, Geert-Jan Koot, wishes to give up the position. Jeanette Clough expressed her interest to become the new moderator.

- **Website**

Points discussed:

- constant updating done during 2006
- how long should we leave material on the site? [largely a question of space]
- interactivity needed

- **New official languages**

- 2006 Chinese
- 2007 Arabic

- **2009 Conference short-list**

- Florence
- Milan (successful – announced at Closing session of conference)
- Portugal

5.5 Financial report

The Financial Report was tabled by John Meriton, Treasurer and accepted. [Moved Martha McPhail; seconded Jeanette Clough]

5.6 National reports

Delegates spoke briefly to national reports submitted in writing.

6 Project reports

6.1 Directory

The Directory is seriously out-of-date and the money available needs to be spent.

Véronique Meunier has produced a report: *International directory of art libraries: considerations for the future* after a meeting held in Paris on 31 May 2006.

Points discussed:

- transfer from Vassar College to IFLANET is technically not possible
- the V & A offered to help by hosting & updating - possible solution but need to assess the role of the SC and a system of national/regional co-ordinators; need to prevent it becoming a V & A project
- if we use a centralised pattern with links to existing websites, how do we add areas not yet covered on the web?

2nd Standing Committee Meeting

25 August 2006

Seoul, Korea

Comments from the Chair

- Thanks to all who participated in the ALS conference session
- Congratulations to Editor, Eila Rämö for 3rd place in Newsletter awards
- Greeting from: Jean Adelman, Elsa Barbarena, Rüdiger Hoyer, Alicia Garcia Medina

6.1 Directory [continued from SC1]

The Chairman welcomed the offer from the National Art Library, V & A, to assist with the Directory and requested clarification of what the offer entailed.

Martin Flynn, V & A, reported:

- the V & A has staff who could be paid to :
 - assess what needs to be done including contacting existing coordinators [i.e. those who originally helped Thomas Hill] and using the paper edited by Véronique Meunier
 - make suggestions
 - do work required to update the Directory
 - continue this work thereafter if resources are available
- the Directory could potentially be hosted by the V & A while the IFLA site remains unsuitable

Further points made from the meeting were:

- need recommendation on whether we link to existing lists or continue with the current format and content
- need to consider the audience and purpose/s of the lists
 - internal use to find contact details
 - use for visiting art librarians to plan itinerary etc.
- need to include library URLs
- should seek co-operation from other ARLIS organisations

A further review of the way forward was authorised by the Standing Committee with Martin Flynn detailing the V&A's offer to the reviewing group led by Véronique Meunier.

6.2 Imageline

John Meriton reported that he had acted on the SC recommendations of 2005 (Oslo):

- ARTSTOR is still interested to host Imageline
- Eila Rämö has send Branka's report, the guidelines and the original templates to ARTSTOR (after the meeting in Oslo)
- major libraries should become responsible for sending out templates and editing data e.g. BNF, V & A etc.
- entries to be submitted to ARTSTOR after screening by editors

Resolved that:

- John Meriton to draw up a "list of requirements" and list of participating libraries, Standing Committee members can help to identify local editors (Margaret Shaw to find ANZ etc.)
- entries to be submitted to ARTSTOR after screening by editors;

The Standing Committee authorised the Executive, to go ahead on work with ARTSTOR and requested a report on progress.

If *Imageline* is set up with ARTSTOR and there will be a panel of editing major institutions it will cease to be an IFLA project.

7. Future activities

The Chairman stressed the need from the Section and the Standing Committee to remain active between conferences. In particular we need new projects.

7.1 Twinning Project

Twinning is a general IFLA initiative. ALS not currently involved. Jo Beglo is interested in becoming so.

Suggested targets for twinning:

- Korea e.g. ARKO
- South African libraries

7.2 Section Archives

The proposed complete revamp of IFLANET (no timetable yet) will permit much better coverage for each section including the possibility of mounting sectional archives.

IFLA HQ has copies of all Newsletters and financial papers. IFLANET will host the material but will not undertake the digitisation. This will have to be done by the ALS.

Douglas Dodds will digitise Newsletters.

Olga Sinitsyna will write an article for the *Art libraries journal* based on the joint Sinitsyna / Shaw presentation presented at the Seoul Conference.

Margaret Shaw will revise the presentation for mounting on IFLANET. There may be copyright issues, particularly with images.

8. Selection of Paper for IFLA Journal

The following paper was selected:

- [Nepal Architecture Archive at the Harvard University: Using Library Technology to Preserve Cultural Heritage and Take It into the Future](#) HUGH WILBURN (Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge (MA), USA)

Hugh will send the revised article to Olga Sinitsyna, who will send it for IFLA Journal. This should be done as soon as possible, but not later than by the end of September.

9. Future conferences

Durban, RSA, 2007

The following topics were suggested as themes for the ALS:

"Developing and documenting contemporary indigenous and minority culture"

"Art library outreach - including partnerships and outreach to indigenous communities". This could include Portuguese and/or Francophone countries in Africa

These themes reflect the philosophical and practical sides of the same issue. It is also hoped to arrange a visit/s to libraries.

Attention was also drawn to the Conservation Section's plans for a session on the preservation of cultural artifacts.

Student Fund.

There was support for the suggestion that money be moved to the Student Fund to assist local participation. Funds could cover just registration or include some expenses.