

ANNUAL REPORT FOR DIVISION V

AFRICA

2013 Activities

Africa in 2013 got involved in many activities that helped to move the LIS profession forward. South Africa and Namibia were the main host countries for most of Africa's events for 2013. The University of South Africa Library, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Regional Office for Africa and IFLA Africa Section, hosted the second African library summit under the theme, "The Horizon and Beyond", from 2 – 3 July 2013. This event was hosted on the University of South Africa, Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria, South Africa. During this summit, many exciting workshops were organized and a project for emerging leaders was launched with many young African library professionals involved from different African countries and being the first of its kind. These leaders were sponsored to attend the summit. Another historic feature of the summit was the launching of the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA), African Public Libraries Network (APLN) and Conference of African National Libraries (CANL). Besides the Library summit in Pretoria, South Africa, a symposium was organized in Namibia. This was a rendezvous point for African Library professionals who had a great opportunity of enriching the LIS profession. The theme of the symposium was directly linked to the theme of the current IFLA President, which is, "Strong Libraries, Strong Societies". This symposium took place in October 2013. The Africa section held its midterm meeting in Abuja, Nigeria from 6 – 9 February 2013.

2014 Activities

The Africa Section midterm meeting was held in Kumasi – Ghana from 8 – 9 February 2014. This was immediately followed by a regional convening of the Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) co-hosted by IFLA and AfLIA in Ghana with 45 persons in attendance. This BSLA meeting took a regional form after a country form with Cameroon and Botswana being among the first of the beneficiaries. IFLA Africa Section and the IFLA Section on Children and Young Adults are working on cohosting an open forum in Lyon – France during the WLIC on the theme, "Libraries in Africa meeting the needs of children and young adults". There will be over eight papers to be presented if all goes as planned. Africa through the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), is currently working very hard towards hosting the IFLA WLIC 2015.

Rosemary Shafack, Ph.D
Secretary, IFLA Africa Section

REPORT OF THE IFLA AFRICA SECTION MID TERM MEETING HELD AT BEST WESTERN PLUS AJUJI HOTEL, ABUJA, NIGERIA 6-9 FEBRUARY, 2013

Introduction

The IFLA Africa Section Mid Term meeting held from the 6-9 February, 2013 at the Best Western Plus Ajuji Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria. Day one of the IFLA Africa Section Mid Term Meeting began with a workshop on Electronic Publishing sponsored by Emerald and facilitated by Rejaene Van Dyke, the Accounts Executive Manager of Emerald, Sub-Saharan Africa. It was attended by about 100 Librarians in Abuja. The IFLA Africa Section Mid Term meeting started effectively on Thursday, 7 February, 2013. The Chairperson, Dr. Victoria Okojie, welcomed very warmly members of the Section to the Mid Term meeting. 13 members, including the IFLA Regional Manager for Africa attended the meeting. The agenda for the meeting was presented and adopted. Minutes of the IFLA Africa Section meetings held in Helsinki during the IFLA General Congress were read and adopted. Matters arising from the agenda were discussed. Items on the agenda were discussed elaborately.

At the end of the meeting the following summary points and decisions were made:

- 1) The Chairperson of SC announced that there were two SC members whose tenures were coming to an end soon and informed that they will be recognized later.
- 2) The Chair announced that three corresponding members to the IFLA Africa SC had been appointed for a period of five years and these included, Drs. Helena Asamoah-Hassan and Buhle Mbambo-Thata and Mrs Jacinta Were.
- 3) Dr. Victoria Okojie presented her address which was appreciated very much.
- 4) One of the main matters arising from the minutes was the IFLA Honours and Awards. In line with this, it was recalled that in 2012 during the IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting holding in Bulawayo-Zimbabwe, it was agreed that Dr. Helena Assamoah Hassan's name be put forward for the IFLA Honours and Awards. The meeting was informed that

this was done, and in Helsinki – Finland during the IFLA Congress, Dr. Assamoah was given the award. The assembly was happy with this and intimated that Helena rightly deserved this award. The House went on to remark Helena's great contributions by describing her as a key player who had projected Africa greatly in the profession. It was equally informed that Mrs. Jacinta Were's name has been presented for the next award as had been agreed equally and members should pray that the proposal scales through successfully as the IFLA Governing Board meets to deliberate on this in May in the Netherlands. Members were equally informed that Dr. Salem Shockwy had received a similar award some years back. Mr. Christian Kofi took the floor and informed the standing committee members that the news of Dr. Asamoah's award was received with great honour by the Ghana Library Association and they celebrated with her in grand style.

5) A number of reports were presented for consideration by the SC, and these included the following:

- **The Chairperson's Report**

Dr. Okojie informed that with the help of the PC and administrative funds, members of the standing committee were able to attend the SCECSAL conference in Nairobi-Kenya and went on to inform that the PC and administrative funds for this year, 2013 have been approved. Some of the funds will be used for the summit in Pretoria – South Africa she added. The amounts approved included, €4000 and €300 as PC and administrative funds respectively. Dr. Okojie went on to state that the call for papers had gone out and in response 18 abstracts were received for study by the SC and that an application for the poster session billed for August in Singapore had been submitted for approval. Members were informed that the African Public Libraries Summit took place in September 2012 in Johannesburg. With respect to nominations for IFLA president-elect and GB she informed that about 20 nominations have been done for Dr. Mbambo-Thata, Ellen Namhila had been nominated for the position of GB, member and a number of persons from different countries have been nominated for the IFLA Africa Section SC membership.

- **Regional Office Manager's Report.**

The IFLA Africa Section Regional Manager reported on the activities of the office. The highlights of the report included the IFLA President,

Ingrid Parent's visit during the Africa Public Libraries Summit that took place in September, 2012. The renewal of the UNISA/IFLA partnership for a period of 5 years ending in 2017; with UNISA honoured to continue to host this office. She urged the standing committee members to submit articles for the IFLA newsletter and diary of events emphasizing that, members' submission will enable the newsletter to depict Africa as a whole and not just as a small region with articles basically from Southern Africa. The Regional Manager went on to inform that the Office will host the Annual Public Lecture on African Librarianship in the 21st century on 23 May 2013 in Pretoria, South Africa. Dr. Assamoah-Hassan from Ghana has been invited as Speaker at this lecture, she added. ICADLA – 3 will be hosted by Morocco at the end of May 2013 and in July 2013, the Regional office will in partnership with UNISA Library to co-organize the 2nd African Libraries Summit in Pretoria, South Africa. The Regional Manager concluded her report by requesting the SC members to familiarize themselves with the IFLA website and added that she was available to give a guide to members as to where to find what on the website.

- **ATINA SIG Report**

The coordinator of ATINA, Mr. Abraham Azubuike was called upon to report on the activities of ATINA. He reported that the former coordinator, Mr. Francis Kirkwood handed over the activities of ATINA to him in Helsinki, Finland in August 2012. He informed that things had not been quite smooth with ATINA but he will do all to rectify the situation. He informed that a review on the activities of ATINA has been done and will be submitted to IFLA. Mr. Azubuike went on to emphasize that access to information is important for Africa because it is the basis for quality education, good governance, etc. He said there are many persons that are interested in the activities of ATINA but that a formal list of the group members involved with the activities will be presented for endorsement by the IFLA Africa SC.

6) With respect to LIS Education in Developing countries SIG, the Chair informed that no information had been received from the chair.

7) Resignation of the Secretary of the IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee

Dr. Okojie informed the SC members that the Secretary of the committee Mrs. Rosemary Gitachu had written officially in August 2012 to resign as Secretary for personal reasons. As a result, Lindi Nhlapo and Rosemary Shafack have worked with the Chairperson of the SC since her resignation to do the work of the Secretariat. The Chairperson equally informed that since the Secretary did not attend the IFLA general congress in Helsinki, Finland, Dr. Rosemary Shafack was called upon to help do the work of the Secretary. She then requested the SC members to elect a new secretary to finish the term of office that ends in August 2013.

- 8) Dr. Rosemary Shafack was unanimously elected as Secretary to finish the term of Mrs Rosemary Gitachu, which ends in August, 2013.
- 9) SC members were informed of nominations to FAIFE by March 2013. It was recalled that Dr. Shawky was a member of FAIFE and later resigned but has expressed interest to join CLM.
- 10) The Chair informed members that she had sent E-mails to SC members to inform them that there were SC members whose term had come to an end. She equally said mails were sent to members who have come to the end of their first term calling on them to renew their term if they were still interested in the membership of the SC.
- 11) A talk with young Librarians was built into the IFLA Africa SC meeting agenda. This talk was delivered by Drs. Asamoah and Mbambo-Thata, veterans of IFLA.

12) AFLIA Update

Dr. Asamoah was given the floor to give an update on AFLIA. She started off by informing that the draft English version of the AFLIA constitution was sent out to be translated into French and Portuguese. The translation into French was to be coordinated by Mrs. Marietou Dioup of Senegal but so far nothing has been done while the translation into Portuguese has been completed, thanks to Mr. John Tsebe's support. She said quite a few reactions have been received from different countries that are in support of AFLIA and with proposed adjustments to the draft constitution. She went on to remind that in Helsinki, Finland, it was decided that an Interim Committee will be elected in Nigeria and inaugurated in Pretoria in July during the African Library Summit. Following this update, Dr. Shawky

indicated that he got the draft constitution translated into Arabic and sent it out to several Arab bodies but only got two feedbacks.

13) IFLA WLIC 2013, Singapore Update

It was informed that the theme of the IFLA WLIC 2013 in Singapore is “Future Libraries Infinite Possibilities”. The Congress will last from 17 – 23 August 2013 while the IFLA International Leaders will begin their activities on 15 August, 2013. SC members were encouraged to participate in many committees and meetings as much as possible. At this juncture, the Chairperson, Dr. Okojie introduced the President of the Nigerian Library Association as an observer to the Africa Standing Committee. Again, she informed that the key officers of the Nigerian Library Association will join the SC members on Friday (about 40 of them) for the Gala Night.

14) Poster Session

The theme of the Poster for Africa Section is “**Emerging Initiative in African Libraries**”. SC members were called upon to showcase their initiatives in the section’s newsletter. Key initiatives such as the ICADLA activities, Public Library networks in the different countries, AfLIA, etc were cited. That the Poster should show case Africa and not only Southern Africa. SC members were called upon to provide interesting initiatives in their various countries that can enrich the Poster. The Chairperson added that if the SC is determined, it can actually win the Poster competition in Singapore.

15) Open Forum

With respect to the Open Forum, the chairperson informed that 18 abstracts had been received and four will be selected the following day. She requested members to finalize the study of the abstracts in the evening to facilitate the selection process.

16) Africa Caucus

It was reminded that an African, Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata, was contesting for the post of IFLA President and it is important for SC members to do everything to support her so that it can come to Africa. The Chairperson added that this can only be done through voting. Thus, it was important for all member institutions to pay their dues or register with IFLA to be able to vote. The Chair equally informed that Mrs. Ellen Namhila was the African candidate for the Governing Board and needs all the SC members’ support.

17) IFLA HQ

The Governing Board member, Dr. Mbambo-Thata was given the floor to provide update on IFLA. Dr. Mbambo-Thata started by presenting the IFLA focus areas. These include:

- The IFLA International Leaders Programme.
She said this Programme is currently going on and started in Helsinki, Finland in August 2012 with 5 African participants out of 12 and with two advisers from Africa, Dr. Asamoah Hassan and Mrs. Were. At the end of the programme, IFLA will have these leaders as its advocates. The leaders programme was instituted to complement the Building Strong Library Association (BSLA) project, she added.
- The BSLA Project
With respect to this she said the the BSLA project is an IFLA project aimed at building strong library associations in developing countries. Two African countries benefited from this project from the on set, Botswana and Cameroon. This is a very useful project but unfortunately, funds are not available to enable more countries benefit. Notwithstanding, countries are called upon to use the BSLA resources (on IFLA website) to train. A good example of this kind of move is the Kenyan Library Association.
- Programme on Advocacy. IFLA considers this programme very important and sees the Beyond Access Programme as an important advocacy programme.
- There is equally the Public Libraries Project that is equally very important, she stated.
- The African Library Summit as a regional body is considered very useful in reinforcing IFLA activities.
- SCECSAL is now seen as an area for IFLA activities to be strengthened. As a result, IFLA encourages regional programmes which it considers as useful ways of strengthening IFLA activities. Dr. Mbambo-Thata went on to state that the issue of funding has been quite challenging and explains why there was no call for small projects in 2012. IFLA considers creating regional partnerships with governments and raising funds at regional level in order to sustain its activities and projects.

18) Africa Libraries Submit

- After the GB update was the presentation of the draft programme of the Library Summit for appraisal by the SC members. The Summit is billed for July 2013 in Pretoria, South Africa. It was highlighted that the Summit has a series of workshops that will attract a registration fee which stands at \$120

(2000 Rands) given that the workshops will be skill building events. Library leaders were encouraged to sponsor their young librarians in the public libraries to attend this Summit.

- With respect to national Library forum; it was observed that in some countries, national libraries and public libraries are one or just called National Library Service. As a result, it was suggested that one National Library Forum be held with different aspects of the Forum for the different sectors of national library or public libraries. That the public library group be allowed to discuss whether to merge with the national library forum. It was indicated that the workshop 3 of day one was an opportunity for this discussion to take place.
- It was added that the Public Libraries Network be put on the agenda of the Summit. After critical discussions on the Public Libraries Network, it was resolved that a strongly worded letter be written to the team responsible for the Public Library Network project explaining what Africa stands to lose if they do not live up to expectation. And if they cannot deliver, then they should say so and some other people will be gotten to do the project or if some skills are needed for the results to be got, then the SC will go ahead to provide such skills. Besides this, it was equally suggested that people willing to do the work of creating the public library network be identified and put to work so as to get results before the July Summit.
- Dr. Mbambo-Thata informed that the Gates Foundation is not giving much money for the Summit. She informed that these Foundations complained of spending money to bring people just to Chair sessions in the last Summit. The reason why some names are repeated to is cut down on costs. She requested for the Summit to be advertised widely for people to be able to bring themselves. She indicated that IFLA Africa Section will partly fund the launch of AfLIA. At this juncture, a 7th workshop was proposed for the Africa Section Strategic Planning. (See the corrected version of the draft programme of the Summit).

19) 2013 IFLA Africa Section Abstracts

- SC members settled down to study the 2013 IFLA Africa Section abstracts for the Forum in Singapore during the IFLA WLIC. The Chair informed that a total of 18 abstracts had been received and sent to members to study before this meeting. She went on to present the following criteria for the selection of abstracts.

1. Quality
 2. Relevance to the theme
 3. Projects must have been completed
 4. Regional and language balance.
 5. Projects should not have been presented elsewhere before now.
- It was suggested that, there was need to keep a database of the papers presented for about five years so that papers do not repeat themselves. SC members later settled down to study and select the possible papers. In the final analysis four papers were selected for presentation with a fifth one as a stand by paper.

List Paper Titles and Authors with addresses please.

20) Africa Section Strategic Plan

The IFLA Africa Section Strategic Plan was discussed goal after goal to determine the progress and those that needed adjustment or restructuring. Goals 7 and 8 were revised. (See revised strategic plan).

21) Election of the Interim Committee of AfLIA

- The Chair of the IFLA African Section sent out a call for nominations to the various positions of the AfLIA Interim Committee in good time. Unfortunately only about 60% of SC members reacted to this call, the Chair informed. She went ahead to read out the results of what she got from the call. She went on to inform that there was no funding available for AfLIA and thus people should nominate only person's whom they were sure will be able to attend meetings. The floor was then opened for discussions. After the discussions the following were nominated:

- 1) Dr. Helena Assamoah-Hassan as chairperson.
- 2) Mrs. Valentina Bamnerman.

Regional Representatives nominated include:

- 1) Dr. Shawky Salem for North Africa.
 - 2) Mr. Alim Garga for Central Africa.
 - 3) Mrs. Jacinta Were for East Africa.
 - 4) Kathy Matsika Southern Africa (Stepped down).
 - 5) Alh. Rilwanu Abdulsalami for West Africa.
- After discussion on the issue of the treasurer of AfLIA, it was concluded that, given that no funds existed yet, the Interim Chair could manage this

post concurrently with her Chair in the beginning as a search for a Treasurer continues. This view was generally supported by the floor.

- Elections of nominated members were done with all nominated so far, elected. Dr. Asamoah-Hassan was then given the floor to react to her election as the Interim Chairperson of AfLIA.
- It was informed that the term of office of the Interim executive of AFLIA was two years.
- Dr. Asamoah-Hassan informed that if the section wanted Ghana to host the AfLIA Secretariat, then there was need to write to the Ghana Library Association, the Consortium of Ghana Libraries and the Minister of Education of the Republic of Ghana. The Africa Section SC members promised to give Dr. Asamoah-Hassan and her team all the support they could. The other elected AfLIA members will be communicated. Thus the IFLA Africa Section meeting of February 2013 brought to birth AfLIA and an Interim Executive for a period of two years.
- **Next IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee meeting**
It was decided that given that the AfLIA secretariat was going to Ghana at its birth, Ghana should host the next IFLA Africa SC meeting. Notwithstanding, if there is a need for a change, members will be informed.

22) Any Other Business

Buhle, on behalf of the IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee members expressed appreciation for the excellent hosting and hospitality given to the Section SC members. She extended SC's gratitude to the government of Nigeria and to the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria and all who supported Dr. Okojie to do the excellent job. The Chair, Dr. Okojie, appreciated the opportunity given Nigeria to host the IFLA Africa Section under her leadership. She promised more entertainment and social activities in the evening. With these words the meeting was adjourned for Singapore with a move for adjournment by Kathy Mastika and seconded by Christian Kofi.

Dr. Victoria Okojie
Chairperson, IFLA Africa Section
Email: vicokojie@yahoo.com
Tel. +234-803-334-8817

Dr. Rosemary M. Shafack
Secretary, IFLA Africa Section
Email: roshafack@yahoo.com
Tel. +237-99-69-88-68

IFLA AFRICA SECTION MIDTERM MEETING REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2014, KUMASI – GHANA (ROYAL BASIN RESORT)

The IFLA Mid Term meeting for 2014 was held from 8th to 9th February, in Kumasi, Ghana. 19 persons (including the Regional Office Manager, 3 Corresponding Members and 3 Observers) attended the meeting. The Chair of IFLA Africa Section, Dr. Victoria Okojie welcomed members present and expressed her gratefulness, that people were able to take off time from their offices to attend the Mid Term meeting. The agenda of the meeting was moved for adoption and this was followed by the reading of the minutes and the items on the agenda were discussed.

By the end of the meeting the following discussions and decisions were reached:

1). Reports: The following reports were presented:

- **The IFLA Africa Chair’s Report was presented and touched on the following points:**
 - i) IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee Meeting, Singapore, August 2013:
 - ii). IFLA Standards Committee
 - iii). African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AFLIA), African Public Libraries Network (APLN) and Conference of African National Libraries (CANL)
 - iv). Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries Africa Advisory Committee
 - v). IFLA WLIC, Lyon, France, 2014
 - vi). LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG
 - vii). Namibia Library Symposium
 - viii). IFLA Awards
 - ix). IFLA Africa Section Newsletter
 - x). Beyond Access and ICTD Conferences
 - xi). IFLA ALP
 - xii). Africa Section Finances
- **The IFLA Regional Office Manager’s Report came immediately after that of the chair and summarized the office activities basically.**
- **Library and Information Services (LIS) Education in Developing Countries – SIG Report**
The members of the IFLA Africa Section SC meeting were informed that Philippe Martinez was the new Chair of LIS Education in Developing countries but that this was under the Education and training section of IFLA.
- **ATINA SIG Report**
The SC meeting members were informed that ATINA SIG is still under the IFLA Africa Section and chaired by Abraham Azubuike. Members were made to know that Abraham Azubuike was setting up an ATINA SIG programme to take place during the IFLA WLIC 2014 billed for Lyon-France. The programme has the theme, “Effective Access to Information as Key to Sustainable Poverty Reduction and Thriving in Africa”.
- **Other Reports (Country Reports)**
 - a) **Kenya Library Association (KLA): Report by Prof. Constantine Nyamboga.**

The SC Members of Africa Section were presented a report on the activities, partnerships and networks that the KLA have built and from which other Library Associations could draw inspiration.

b) The Namibia Workers Library and Information Association: Report by Ellen Namhila
Ellen Namhila reported on the Namibia Workers' Library and Information Association's activities and progress with a focus on the Namibia Library Symposium that took place in October 2013 that was directly linked to building, "*strong libraries, strong societies*", which is the current IFLA President's theme. The symposium attracted three IFLA Presidents; the current President, Sinikka Sipilä, Presidents Dr. Kay Raseroka and Ellen Tise. It was reported that the association in question is now strong after some period of weakness.

c) The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Report by Ujala Satgoor

Highlights of the report relating to LIASA centered on, South Africa's celebration of, "20 years of its democracy". Following this celebration, LIASA has embraced the theme of this celebration as its theme for the year and which is, "*20 years of Democracy*". LIASA will be celebrating its library week and this will be celebrated in all branches of LIASA with the same theme.

d) Cameroon Association of Librarians, Archivist, Documentalist and Museographers (ABADCAM) Report presented by Alim Garga.

The following points were gathered from the report on ABADCAM:

After the Building Strong Library Association programme that took place from 2010 – 2011, a new team was put in place. ABADCAM has succeeded in advocating the government of Cameroon which is now involved in most of its activities that relate to the LIS sector.

e) The Ghana Library Association (GLA) Report

The GLA report was presented by Valentina Bannerman in her capacity as the GLA Council member and the report was focused on the activities and successes of this Association.

f) The Nigerian Library Association (NLA): Report Presented by Victoria Okojie

The report was focused on the Association's activities with a focus on the progress made.

g) Library Association of Botswana

The Botswana Library Association in 2013 has been very visible and growing stronger following the Building Strong Library Association Programme.

2). **Update from AfLIA, APN and CANL**

The Chair of AfLIA presented a report which highlighted the following points:

AfLIA membership is increasing, has its account that has been opened, a website that has been created. SC members were called upon to sensitize their LIS communities about AfLIA. The Chair of AfLIA said she was very happy that many associations and institutions were responding positively to calls for membership. AfLIA will organize its first conference next year 2015 in Accra Ghana. Members were informed that AfLIA is co-hosting the BSLA regional meeting with 45 participants.

3). **African Public Library Network (APLN)**

It was reported that Gertrude Mulindwa who is the coordinator of APLN, has sent out information about the network. SC Members were informed that APLN was very active and working hard to recruit members.

4). **Conference of African National Libraries (CANL)**

SC members were informed that CANL had been created alongside APLN and launched alongside AFLIA and APLN during the Second African Library Summit in Pretoria, South Africa. John Tsebe is the current Chair of CANL and a database of 55 African National Libraries on Africa is covered in the database.

5). **IFLA WLIC, LYON – FRANCE, 2014**

6). **Update**

SC members were reminded of the early bird registration dead line for the IFLA World Library Congress (WLIC) in May 2014. .

7). **Poster Session.**

SC members were informed that a proposal was sent in for a poster session. The theme of the poster is, “**Libraries as Confluence of Knowledge for Emerging African Societies**”.

8). **Open Forum**

It was reported that there will be a joint open forum. The IFLA African Section is doing a joint open forum with the IFLA Section on Children and Young Adults. Members already had the Abstracts received to be studied the following day for selection.

9). **IFLA WLIC, Cape Town South Africa, August 2015**

The opening remarks highlighted the good attendance when Africa hosted the IFLA WLIC in 2007 in Durban, SA. There was a need to make the 2015 congress an African success again. The LIASA President then came in to provide an update with respect to the preparations towards 2015. She began by indicating that IFLA 2015 is an exciting expectation. A national committee is in place to plan and prepare for IFLA WLIC 2015, made up of the different stakeholders and the SC resolved to give the support needed for the Congress to be a great success.

10). **Africa Section Strategic Plan**

The Africa Section Strategic Plan was carefully reviewed to cater for the future. Each strategic plan was assigned a coordinator to follow up its implementation.

11). **Selection of Abstracts**

All abstracts received for the Open Forum Session were reviewed. 8 speakers were approved to make presentations at the Open Forum Session jointly organized by the Africa Section and the Section on Children and Young Adults, with two backups just in case someone may not be able to present. A total of 39 abstracts were received by the time of the SC Meeting.

12). **IFLA Head Quarters**

- IFLA Governing Board Update. SC Members were referred to the IFLA website for updates.
- **IFLA journal and key initiatives.**

(a) **IFLA Journal**

The IFLA Governing Board Member in the person of Ellen Namhila, representing the IFLA President reported on the above item.

(b) **Key Initiatives.**

On IFLA Key Initiatives, Members of the SC were informed that, IFLA Key Initiative 4 wants to establish a risk register by mid-2015 for heritage in danger. A questionnaire will be sent out soon to collect data on this. It was indicated that UNESCO was partly involved in this project.

(c) **Presidential Theme**

Ellen Namhila representing the IFLA President extended warm greetings and appreciation to the SC Members for taking a keen interest on her theme, “*Strong Libraries, Strong Societies*”. Ellen Namhila said the President apologized for not being able to attend in person.

15). ALP: BLSA Update

- **ALP Update**

With respect to ALP update the following information was received from Julia Brungs: that IFLA is actively involved at the UN on sessions dedicated to the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will follow the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the end of 2015. The new goals are being discussed by the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development.

The OWG has been holding a series of sessions focusing on different issues which will need to be represented in the UN’s new development framework scheduled to begin in January 2016.

Stuart Hamilton, IFLA Director of Policy and Advocacy, attended the 8th session of the OWD in February 3-7 2014. IFLA’s statement to the OWG was to discuss the importance of access to information as a fundamental human right and highlighted that in many communities that, the library is the only place for people to access information. IFLA’s other statements related to this topic, can also now be found on the UN website – a joint statement on access to information and post-2015 development agenda, *IFLA’s Statement on Libraries and Development*.

UNDP

Prior to the 8th session of the OWG IFLA Governing Board Member Loida Garcia-Febo attended a meeting organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on *Data Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. The meeting brought together various initiatives and key stakeholders active in the field to discuss how to facilitate the monitoring of the new development framework, improved data collection and use of data in evidence-based policy making; intermediaries in fostering transparency and participation. Loida Garcia-Febo presented the role of libraries in the data revolution and further promoted the central role libraries play.

Further readings were given to SC members as follows:

- Access Loida’s presentation ‘*closing the gap in the post-2015 Framework: Libraries as champions for the data revolution*’. All presentations of the event as well as general information around the event can be found on this title.
 - Read the paper submitted by *IFLA and Beyond Access* in support of the presentation here.
 - Read the IFLA article by Fiona Bradley on ‘*Information, access and skills will unlock the data revolution*’.

BLSA Update

The IFLA Building Strong Library Associations’ programme, has now been reviewed and it is shifting from a country focus to a regional convening. The first is to start in Africa and to be hosted by Ghana from the 10th to 14th February 2014. It is hoped it will now have a wider impact. This first regional convening will be managed by IFLA and AFLIA and will draw trainers, participants from different parts of Africa.

16). IFLA ALP: Engagement with UN Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Members were directed to Julia's updates above.

17). IFLA ALP International Leadership Programme

SC Members on IFLA ALP International Leadership Programme were informed that this programme is ongoing. The programme is on its second year and will come to a close in 2014 in Lyon, France during the WLIC, 2014.

18). IFLA Awards

Members were called upon to pay attention to the call for nominations for IFLA awards so that Africans who have done good and great work can be nominated.

19). Election of IFLA Africa Section Information Coordinator (IASIC)

Members were informed that the IASIC was responsible for doing the newsletter, communicating with IFLA HQ and the section's members. Members were informed that Kathy Matsika had volunteered to take up this position. Members were reminded that everyone is expected to provide information for the newsletter. Joyce Myeza was confirmed as the webmaster.

20) Standards Committee

Members were informed that Abraham Azubuike was elected into the Standards Committee of IFLA.

Dr. Victoria kojie
Chairperson

Dr. Rosemary Shafack
Secretary

REPORT OF THE IFLA AFRICA STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN LYON – FRANCE FROM 17 – 19 AUGUST 2014

Introduction

The IFLA Africa Standing Committee Meetings held in Lyon – France from 17 – 19 August 2014 with 144 persons in attendance was chaired by Dr. Victoria Okojie (Chair of IFLA Africa Section). In her opening remarks, she welcomed all SC members and observers and thanked all SC members who have finished their term in the Section for all the work they have done to keep the Section going. The agenda for the day was presented and adopted. The minutes of the IFLA Africa Section Mid Term Meeting of February 2014 held at Kumasi – Ghana were corrected and moved for adoption. Matters arising from the minutes were discussed elaborately.

The following summary points and decisions were made at the end of the meeting as follows:

1. The Chair of IFLA Africa Section informed that the certificates of colleagues whose terms had come to an end will be collected from the IFLA office and handed to them.
2. Concerning the IFLA Honours and Awards, members were informed of the following guide for nomination of a candidate: Someone who has been very active in the Section, and a person who have done very well in the profession in the continent.
3. Members were informed that there was a joint forum between the IFLA Africa and child sections and that the theme of the forum was; Libraries in Africa: Meeting the Need of Children and Young Adults. Everyone present was encouraged to attend and eight speakers were selected by the African Section with very exiting papers.
4. Following the IFLA Election, members were informed that next year is the year of elections and that they can belong to more than one section of IFLA. They were asked to look out for call for nomination next year for membership into the various sections of IFLA including the IFLA Africa Section. Further, members were encouraged to take interest in membership into other IFLA bodies like the Governing Board (GB), FAIFE, CLM, etc. They were directed to the IFLA website where they can have information on how to gain membership into the IFLA bodies cited above. There was a call requesting members of the African Section to enroll in the IFLA Section of Genealogy and Local History. There was great need for more participation from Africa so as to contribute to its activities even through the use of an e-mail if one is unable to attend meetings. It was stated that there is need to bring forward to Africa the issue on Multicultural populations. With this issue, members were called upon to attend the session on this subject in South Africa, WLIC 2015 and make contributions.

5. A number of reports were presented as follows

- **The Chairperson's Report**

Dr. Victoria Okojie presented her report with the following highlights:

- The Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) regional workshop was held in Kumasi – Ghana from 10 – 14 February 2014. Forty five (45) participants took part in the BSLA regional workshop. After the workshop, Associations were called upon to prepare and submit projects for funding to IFLA Head Quarters. The first to benefit is from Africa – Zimbabwe.
- The SCECSAL Conference held in Malawi in July, 2014. During this conference, the IFLA Trend Report was discussed and details will be gotten during the ALPS Cluster session.
- LIAS and IFLA held the 7th Annual African Librarianship Public Lecture with the theme: Africa Librarianship in the 21st century on 22 May 2014. The key note speaker was Peter Lor.
- Lyon WLIC: The African Section plans to have a joint session with the children and Young Adults Section on Tuesday, 19 August 2014 from 13:45 – 18:00 at the Auditorium Pasteur. The theme of the open forum is, Libraries in Africa meeting the needs of Young Children and Young Adults.
- The IFLA Africa Standing Committee II meeting will take place on Tuesday, 19 August 2014 from 9:45 to 11:15 at Bellecour I.
- The Africa Section Poster is no. 170, and you are please called upon to visit the stand.
- As far as finances are concerned, only a total of 310 US dollars has been spent on the production of a poster. No other funds have been accessed so far this year. A full financial report will be presented during the midterm meeting next year.

- **ATINA**

- The Africa Section Newsletter is available on the IFLA website
- Most National Associations have had or are planning to have their annual conference.
- IFLA WLIC is taking place in Africa next year. Everyone is welcome to Cape Town in August 2015.

- **IFLA Regional Office for Africa Report**

The IFLA Regional Office reported on the activities of last year August 2013 to 2014.

2013

- October 07 – 11, the office participated in the LISA Conference in Cape Town. This was important because it was an information awareness campaign for WLIC 2015.

- October 15, 2013 the Regional Office has a visit from Margaret Law from University of Alberta, Canada

2014

- In planning for Kumasi BSLA workshop, a Skype meeting was held between the IFLA, HQ, Regional Office and Buhle Mbambo-Thata, January 2014.
- The Office participated in the midterm meeting held in Kumasi, Ghana 06 - 08 February 2014.
- It facilitated few sessions at the workshop 09 – 15 February 2014 BLSA, Kumasi, Ghana.
- February 18, 2014 the Office Manager represented the Office at John Tsebe's farewell gathering which took place at the NLSA Auditorium. The Office also contributed a message of goodwill to the retiring National Librarian of SA, CDNL Chair.
- March 19, 2014, the manager presented a paper at the South Africa Library Week Workshop at Westonaria Public Library hosted by LIASA Gauteng South Chapter. The presentation was titled "**IFLA Liquorice: all sorts**"
- 20 March 2014 for the first time the Manager met with the newly posted Goethe Institute Head of Library and Information Services: Sub Saharan African, Brigitte Doellgast.
- As part of the BSLA, the manager facilitated the LIASA GP South meeting on 15 May, 2014 hosted at the Goethe Institute, Johannesburg. The theme was "**Librarians/Libraries as agents of social change, community development and democracy**"
- In May 22, 2014, Africa Month the Regional Office in partnership with Unisa Library Services hosted the 7th Annual Public Lecture on the theme African Librarianship in the 21st century. Prof. Peter Lor was the presenter on the title "**Understanding innovation, policy transfer and policy borrowing: implication for LIS in Africa**"
- Segmetsi Molawa from the National Research Foundation responded to the lecture.
- The office has been implicated with the creation of Africa-L and Africa-C listserves.
- The Regional Manager attended the SCECSAL XXI held in Lilongwe, Malawi hosted by Malawi Library Association, 28 July - 01 August 2014. On the last day of the conference during the Business Meeting, a session was dedicated to the IFLA Trend Report. A panel of three discussants presented on the five trends before the floor was opened for discussion. A work in progress, Library Associations present, 10 of them were requested to continue the discussion and submit reports to the Regional Office.

- **ATINA SIG – Report.**

Mr. Abraham Azubuike the Coordinator took the floor and presented a very brief report. He shared the efforts put in so far in ensuring that ATINA activities are carried out since its transfer from the convena. The ATINA mission and objective have been revised he informed. He stated that more emphasis is on access to information and development. He stressed the importance of having more people involved in the ATINA activities so that it can be more active and contribute to progress. He informed that there is a forum announced earlier by the chair in her report. During the forum (session 189) 6 papers will be presented. The 6 papers were selected from a total of 25. It was a difficult exercise because papers were very exciting. Members were encouraged to attend and share in the very good paper presentations. Again, members were informed of the ATINA business meeting, session 80 on 18 August 2014. During the business meeting people will learn more about ATINA. During the business meeting, people will learn more about ATINA.

- **AfLIA – Report**

The chairperson of AfLIA, Dr. Helena Assamoah – Hassan, presented the AfLIA report with the following highlights:

- AfLIA was launched in South Africa during the 2nd Africa Library summit last year.
- AfLIA now has 73 members from 24 countries in Africa.
- The AfLIA secretariat is being setup.
- The AfLIA strategic plan is on its website
- The first conference of AfLIA and the 3rd Africa Library summit will be organized in Accra – Ghana next 2015. Members were called upon to pick up copies of all papers for their individual countries and do well to sensitize their communities on this conference and submit.
- 2015 is an election year for AfLIA.
- Flyers on AfLIA were in circulation and members who are not yet members were called upon to read and know how to gain membership.
- The AfLIA website address is: www.afLia.info.

- **Conference of Africa National Libraries (CANL) – Report.**

The National Librarian of South Africa took the floor and informed members that, the conference of National Libraries that was billed to take place during the SCANULES conference in Malawi did not take place as a result of poor attendance.

- **Africa Public Libraries Network (APLN) – Report.**

Richard Atuti, the National Librarian of Kenya reported that although the chair of this network was not present, activities of the network were ongoing. He

reported that a website for the network has been developed and hosted by the Kenya National Library.

6. Comments on All Reports Presented.

The following comments were registered on the reports presented.

- Firstly, Jacinta Were took the floor to support the observation made on the failed conference of National Libraries in Kenya by the National Librarian of South Africa. She attributed the poor attendance at the conference to lack of funding especially given that national Librarians were funded in the past to attend conferences which is no longer the case and members are expected to fund themselves.
- On the issue of disaster management, it was emphasized that Libraries need more information on the guidelines on digitizing manuscripts and other documents. The guidelines are still a draft.
- On membership to AfLia, members were informed that banking details are provided as soon as one completes the application form for membership.
- On the Public Library Network, Ujala informed that, a lot of work went into setting up the Public Library Network. She went on to emphasize the importance of doing a survey on legislation on public libraries and to take public libraries seriously because this links to the development issues on the continent and needs to be more responsible to development issues.
- Members were informed that ICADLA has done work on digitization; members should contact Abraham Azuibuke for help. ICADLA is concerned with digitization and preservation. A note of warning was equally made on the care to be taken on preservation of digital records because this can lead to great loss. Members were called upon to attend the ICADLA Conference billed for June in Ghana during which they will acquire skills. Abraham A. was called upon to coordinate the conference on behalf of the IFLA Africa Section.
- There was an issue raised on difficulty in getting VISAs which has militated against people attending the international meetings, conferences and congresses. On this point, the Deputy Minister of Culture of South Africa present at the meeting promised to hold a meeting of Ambassadors to see what can be done to facilitate the VISA process.

7. IFLA WLIC 2014, France

Updates by the IFLA Africa Section Chair were done in her report.

8. Poster Session

Members were informed that the poster session will take place on Sunday August 17 from 16.00 – 18.00 and 20 August and the last day. The poster number was 170.

9. Africa Section/Child Section Session:

The Africa Section this year organized a joint session and the theme was, <<Libraries in Africa: Meeting the Needs of Children and Young Adults>>.

10. Africa Caucus.

Members were reminded of the importance of Caucusing for Africa and all were encouraged to be part.

11. IFLA WLIC 2015, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

It was informed that the Ministry of Culture has supported the organization of this congress with a substantial grant. A National Committee has been put in place and is working very hard to ensure that all goes really well. It is important for all to start preparing now for the Congress. Librarians will be first priority of the volunteers to be recruited. Application forms will be sent out. The Theme of the Congress is, <<Dianamique Libraries, Access, Development and Transformation>>. There shall be a pre-Conference with a possible theme being, <<Access to Information and Developing the Reading Culture>>.

12. IFLA Head Quarters (HQ)

IFLA Governing Board - Africa Section was called upon to contribute to the guidelines on the digitization of local manuscripts. The ICADLA convena was requested to ensure that Africa has a good input to the guidelines on the digitization of local manuscripts.

13. Division V Update

Members' attention was drawn to watch out for calls for nominations and elections into the different IFLA offices that are usually on the IFLA website. People were reminded of the Lyon Declaration that was just launched and were invited to get Institutions to sign this declaration.

14. The IFLA International Leadership Programme.

Members were briefed on the IFLA International Leadership Programme which started in 2012 for the first time with 12 members and 3 counselors around the world. Of the 12 leaders, 5 are from the African continent. These leaders are currently rounding up with their work which should come to an end by the end of 2014.

15. IFLA Africa Section Strategic Plan.

The IFLA Africa Section Strategic Plan was discussed generally with emphasis laid on members' execution of goals. Reports were given on how the goals were executed.

16. ALP

IFLA updates on strategic programmes were presented by an ALP team led by Fiona Bradely. After the presentations by the ALPs members, the chair of the IFLA Africa Section, called members to take advantage of all the IFLA ongoing programmes. She

called on people to apply for the BSLA support funds and take the advantage provided by IFLA to build a strong Library Associations.

17. Announcements

- ICADLA4. This will take place in Ghana May 2015.
- There will be the first AfLIA Conference in June 2015 in Accra Ghana and the third African Library summit.
- Kenya was announced as the venue for the next meeting which will be the IFLA Africa SC Mid Term meeting in February 2015 by the end of the first week

18. Any Other Business

- Division V meeting agreed on producing an officers handbook for the section. A first draft for this will be ready in February 2015.
- Egypt is building a data base on all libraries in Africa and this is about 80% gone. There was a suggestion to create a Wiki
- Member were called upon to organize discussions around the Trend Report and to get signatories for the Lyon Declaration.

13.0 Any Other Business

- Division V meeting agreed on producing an officers handbook for the section. A first draft for this will be ready in February 2015.
- Egypt is building a data base on all libraries in Africa and this is about 80% gone. Egypt was requested to send this across especially to the standing committee for inputs and this should be equally sent to the secretary SC and Regional Manager of Africa SC.
- There was a suggestion to create a Wiki
- Member were called upon to organize discussions around the Trend Report and to get signatories for the Lyon Declaration.

In her closing remarks, the chair, Dr. Okojie, thanked all for the active participation. She requested all to take all the information to their different countries, networks and push forth with the development of the LIS section. She wished everyone an enjoyable conference and safe journey back to their various countries. With this, the meeting was adjourned for February 2015 in Kenya.

14.0 Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The chair IFLA Africa SC, once again reminded members of WLIC 2015 to be hosted by Africa and employed all to be part of this very important congress and to be very active. She went on to thank all for the very active participation in the two meetings. She requested all to take all the information to their different countries, networks and push forth with the development of the LIS section. She wished everyone an enjoyable conference and safe journey back to their various countries. With this the meeting was adjourned for February 2015 in Kenya.

Dr. Victoria Okojie

Chairperson , IFLA Africa Section

Email: vicokojie@yahoo.com

roshafack@yahoo.com

Tel: +234-803-334-8817

Dr. Rosemary M. Shafack

Secretary, IFLA Africa Section

Email: