



**Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS)
Standing Committee Meeting I
Berlin, August 2, 2003**

Minutes

Present: J. Wu (Secretary and Acting Chair), P. Tripp-Melby (Treasurer), C. Lecrubier, E. Frierson, E. Sundholm, H. Sheehy, J. Metz, S. Peterson, P. Raggett, P. Amonoo, J. Sato, I. Lynden, E. Voskanyan, F. Kirkwood, R. Brian

1. Review and Approval of Agenda.

Agenda approved.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes approved. Letter of thanks sent to Paul Anderson for all his efforts in arranging the Berlin GIOPS program.

3. Report from the Coordinating Board

- a. IFLA President Kay Raseroka is keen to have the themes of her presidency: advocacy and indigenous knowledge incorporated in the work of the Sections. In particular the strategic plans of the sections should reflect how they address these topics.
- b. Funds managed by Sections are to be managed as IFLA funds, even if they are acquired from outside sources via fundraising. If a Section ceases to exist the funds return to IFLA HQ or if a Section is unable to use the funds raised from external agencies for the purpose for which they were raised then the funds must be returned to the donating agency.
- c. Review of Sections and Core Activities will take place by 2007 to determine which activities and sections should continue to be supported by IFLA. Sections are encouraged to start a process of self-examination now. The review of FAIFE underway now will serve as a pilot for the process. It will be completed next summer and instructions will be issued to the Sections then on the process to be followed. Times will be assigned to each Section in order to avoid having them all under review in the same year. At this time it looks as if the process will include a self-

examination by the Section members, followed by a study by an external reviewer with expertise in the topic and a member of the Professional Committee. Usefulness of a Section may be defined by the size of membership, attendance at the Sections programs, its influence on the profession, its influence on IFLA. A Section may also define its own criteria for success in addition to those of the Professional Committee. There is no target number of sections to be reduced.

- d. Programming for Buenos Aires has changed from current procedure. Each Section may have an Open Session or a Workshop-like program but not both, in one 2-hour slot. Off-site workshops cannot be used to get around this restriction, however a Section could have a session off-site in connection with a tour but this would count as their one 2-hour slot. There is concern on the part of some members of the Professional Board about the proliferation of pre- and post-conferences but no restriction as of now. The theme of the Buenos Aires conference is Libraries: Tools for Education and Development. Sections are strongly encouraged to include Spanish and Portuguese speaking presenters even if there is no simultaneous interpretation.

4. IFLA Booth

Pamela Tripp-Melby, Peter Raggett, and Claude Lecrubier volunteered for GIOPS time slot on Monday.

5. Subcommittee Reports:

Conferences Sub-committee. Discussion of Crimea conference attended by Frank Kirkwood and Irina Lynden. Report written by Frank Kirkwood:

“REPORT ON THE 2ND IFLA GIOPS EASTERN EUROPE SEMINAR - CRIMEA 2003

The 2nd IFLA GIOPS Eastern Europe Seminar on Government Information for the People and 2nd International Conference on Government Information and Democracy was held on Wednesday 11 - Thursday 12 June 2003 as part of the Crimea 2003 regional library conference in Sudak, a gathering of 1700 professionals largely from the countries of the former Soviet Union. It was chaired by Frank Kirkwood of the GIOPS Standing Committee, who had also chaired the first GIOPS Eastern Europe Seminar at the Russian State Library in Moscow in May 1999, and by Vladimir Firsov of the Russian National Library, organizer of the 1st International Conference on Government Information and Democracy in St. Petersburg in May 2000. Emma Voskanyan from the GIOPS Standing Committee and the Russian State Library also took an important part in the sessions.

There were some forty participants in the second GIOPS Eastern Europe seminar, with twelve speakers drawn from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the Chuvash Republic, Great Britain, Norway, Canada and the United Nations (New York). Three authors from India also contributed papers to the proceedings. The languages of the seminar were Russian, English and Ukrainian, with simultaneous or consecutive interpretation for all sessions provided by the Crimea conference organizers. GIOPS subsidized the participation costs of four of the speakers.

The GIOPS program as published in the Crimea 2003 conference calendar is attached. The program unfolded much as planned, except that Evgeny Kuzmin from the Russian Ministry of Culture and the speakers from India could not be present. Kuzmin's absence was made up for in the Wednesday morning round table by the presence of Alexei Demidov from the Russian Foundation for Legal Reform and other representatives from our sister Crimea conference section on public centres of legal information. The Indian speakers were replaced by a group discussion of the IFLA press release of 5 June criticising the use of the U.S. Patriot Act to investigate library patrons, led by Paul Sturges of Britain and Robert Vaagan of Norway. The paper of Dalia Naujokaitis from Canada was read by Frank Kirkwood.

Presentations were diverse and interesting, with a great deal of audience involvement not only after the formal papers but in a talk-show-style round table on the first day. We also experimented on the second day with a small-group workshop on democracy-building activities of parliamentary libraries, chaired by Kirkwood of the Canadian and Komov of the Russian Parliamentary Library. In all the sessions the chairs were particularly successful in provoking lively and extensive discussion across language barriers, and Frank Kirkwood was nominated as one of the three finalists for best section chair of the entire Crimea conference.

Selected papers of the seminar were published in Russian or in English in the printed proceedings of the Crimea 2003 conference, and Kirkwood and Firsov are editing a complete collection of them, to be put on the IFLA GIOPS website and on the website of the Russian State Library.”

Issue of formal publication of papers from Moscow Seminar was raised. These were distributed at IFLA meetings in Boston and Glasgow as a CD-ROM. Not all members received copies. Agreement reached to provide copies to those GIOPS members who want them for their library's collections.

Publications Subcommittee. After much discussion, and upon the recommendation of the sub-committee chair, E. Sundholm, it was agreed to abolish the Publications Subcommittee and change it to an Information Subcommittee to be led by the Information Officer. The Information Officer will be responsible for the web site, where the newsletter, annual report, minutes, agendas, etc. will be posted. The officers can produce the newsletter itself, with assistance from appropriate members. It was noted that we need to locate the Spanish version of the GIOPS brochure.

Directory Subcommittee. The project to update the GIOPS 10-year-old a printed directory of government publication librarians has not made progress. It is recognized that it now needs to be in an online database. Efforts to identify a sponsoring agency have not been successful and it has not been possible for H. Sheehy to continue work on this. It was agreed to revisit the issue at the second Standing committee meeting.

Seminars Subcommittee. Plans to organize a Latin America regional seminar with a theme of e-government and democracy in 2004 were discussed briefly. The offer to host the seminar by the National Library of Brazil was described. New members of the Seminars Subcommittee are: B. Gnassi, J. Wu, J. Sato, E. Sundholm, I. Lynden, I. Peltonen, P. Amonoo, R. Brian, and F. Kirkwood.

GIOPS listserv. Jane Wu announced that it is now a requirement that IFLA HQ host all Section listservs. The Information Officer will assist Jane in making sure that the GIOPS listserv, which is currently hosted on a Penn State, USA server, is hosted by IFLA. Discussion on opening the listserv to people other than committee members centered on the advantage of broadening interest in the work of the Section. At the same time it was noted that the Committee needed a means to conduct business which would not be used also for professional exchanges.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that GIOPS has a total of \$2,170.46 in its Small Business Savings account in a bank in Washington, D.C. Of that total \$586.40 is in Administrative funds, \$1,102.43 in Workshop project funds, \$461.12 in Directory project funds and \$20.51 represents interest accrued on the account. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

7. Elections

Bruno Gnassi was re-elected Chair, Jane Wu re-elected Secretary, Pamela Tripp-Melby was re-elected Treasurer and Sandy Peterson was elected Information Officer. Eleanor Frierson agreed to take the position of Conference Subcommittee Chair to develop the theme and solicit speakers for the Buenos Aires conference.

GIOPS Standing Committee II Meeting Berlin, August 8, 2003

Minutes

Present: J. Wu (Secretary and Acting Chair), P. Tripp-Melby (Treasurer), C. Lecrubier, E. Frierson, E. Sundholm, H. Sheehy, J. Metz, S. Peterson, P. Raggett, P. Amonoo, J. Sato, I. Lynden, E. Voskanyan, F. Kirkwood, R. Brian

1. Agenda

Agenda approved.

2. Minutes of SC I meeting

Minutes of the Standing Committee I meeting to be submitted via email for approval.

3. IFLA Booth

Those who staffed the IFLA Booth for GIOPS allotted hour expressed dissatisfaction with the arrangement. The only person who came by the booth was looking for someone from the Copyright Section, and that Section had no representation there. The impossibility of leaving brochures at the IFLA booth for attendees to pick up at whatever

time they find convenient renders the brochures less useful and reduces all Sections ability to publicize their activities. IFLA has recently developed a single booklet with descriptions of all the Sections.

4. Subcommittee Reports:

a. Subcommittee on Conferences, led by Eleanor Frierson reported to the meeting. A working title for the GIOPS session was developed: Societies' information toolkit: the importance of government and official information to education and development. They anticipate a minimum of three, 20 minute presentations. Two potential papers have been identified from within the GIOPS section membership. E. Frierson offered to discuss effort by national libraries to make scientific information available via e-government listservs; C. Lecrubier offered to present on official commissions on access to official information with a focus on France, which has had such a commission for 25 years. It was agreed that if these two papers were to materialize then it would be necessary also to find a Spanish speaker for the third paper. There was some discussion of the appropriateness, in an international organization such as IFLA, of focusing on one language at a conference. It was noted that Spanish was one of IFLA's official languages. It was agreed that it was important to have the best papers possible, but preferably with at least one from the region. Several members offered to translate papers into Spanish or to locate volunteer translators.

b. Subcommittee on Seminars

Africa Workshop: Petrina Amonoo proposed the possibility of a follow-on seminar in Africa, 10 years after GIOPS first one. It was proposed that she approach the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for permission to add a library session to a conference already planned for March 2004 on Information for Governance. Since this conference will be attended by ministers for planning and economics from many countries this would be an opportunity for librarians to have access to decision-makers. It was proposed to make the seminar a workshop with both a strategic and practical approach. The strategic part would look at how to get librarians more visible in politics of information in the region. The practical aspect would focus on how to use the Internet as a tool for accessing worldwide government information. It was agreed by all that this would be an excellent opportunity and that Ms. Amonoo should explore the feasibility with the ECA authorities. Junko Sato asked about cooperation with other IFLA groups on seminars. She was approached by Bob McKee of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, i.e. the British Library Association) who is actively involved in FAIFE activities about the possibility of collaboration on a workshop with UN involvement. It was discussed whether or not the African seminar under discussion would meet this criterion and whether there would be time to arrange collaboration. Ms. Sato was authorized to discuss further with Mr. McKee.

Latin America Workshop: Elisabeth Sundholm stated that she was unsuccessful in making contact with the other parties interested in organizing this seminar in spite of efforts to do so and that, as Bruno Gnassi had made the initial inquiries in this regard, it would be most appropriate to have him follow-up on progress on the workshop.

Also of note is that the deadline to inform IFLA for Oslo pre or post conferences is March 2004. It was suggested that we approach FAIFE with the idea of a joint pre or post conference for Oslo.

Publications/Information Coordinators Subcommittee

It was agreed that Sandy Peterson would work with Helen Sheehy to close down the current IFLA listserv and create a new one on the IFLA server. It was also agreed that it should be open to anyone interested in the issues we discuss. Sandy and Jane, who attended the meeting for Information Coordinators noted that the IFLA is encouraging imaginative newsletters, with pictures, in PDF format. Also noted is that IFLA is interested in increasing quality content in IFLA publications and is looking for papers to be published in the IFLA journal, particularly in substantial reports on projects for which IFLA funds were used. It was suggested that the report submitted on the Crimea seminar might be of interest in this regard. Articles should be sent to the GIOPS Information Coordinator who will submit them.

Directory Project

A decision was reached that it was better to focus the efforts of GIOPS members on maintaining the GIOPS web site guide to government information. Helen Sheehy noted that the directory project would be a huge amount of work and that in lieu of continuing that project she was willing to take responsibility for the maintenance of the GIOPS guide instead. She solicited the assistance of all GIOPS members in finding new sites for the guide site. The group expressed its gratitude to Helen for all of her efforts on the directory project and its appreciation for her willingness to continue the guide web site.

In the interest of concluding the meeting within the agreed time, it was agreed that the agenda topics of Position Paper Review; Definition of Officer (Inter-) Government Publications; and Review of Copyright position paper would be discussed via email by Section members.

4. Other Business

Claude Lecrubier reported on her participation in the IFLA president's brainstorming session on advocacy and indigenous knowledge. The role she sees for our division could be related to civil education programs. Government information and publications are essentially a toolkit for the outreach and life long literacy efforts of other Sections. She noted that we could have many connections to national library associations, many of which have government information working groups.

Helen Sheehy noted that she could add links for the government relations offices of various library associations to the GIOPS Government information sources web site. She asked GIOPS members to send her the appropriate links.

Home page of Government Information and Official Publications Section:

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s17/sgiop.htm>