



Metropolitan Libraries Section – Annual Report 2009

1. Highlights

- 1.1 The following office bearers for the Section were elected to office at the IFLA World Library & Information Congress in Milan, Italy for a new term, 2009 - 2011:

Chair

Christine Mackenzie

CEO

Yarra Plenty Regional Library

Australia

Secretary/Treasurer

Sharon Kien San Thien

Assistant Director (Service Management)

Public Libraries Singapore

National Library Board

- 1.2 Our Information Coordinator was re-elected for another term, 2009 – 2011:

Vicki McDonald

Associate Director, Library Services (Client Services & Learning Support)

Queensland University of Technology

Australia

- 1.3 The following new members were appointed to the Standing Committee:

- Jane Pyper (Toronto)
- Inga Lunden (Stockholm)

- 1.4 The outgoing members of the Standing Committee (after serving 2 consecutive terms) were:

- Ai Cheng Tay (Singapore)
- Aline Girard (Paris)

2. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- 2.1 The financial statement for the Section was presented at the Mid-Term Meeting held in Brisbane, Australia on May 14, 2009.

- 2.2 The balance of funds after the allotment of funds to the various projects stood at EUR 13, 867.30 (as at March 31, 2009).

- 2.3 We have a total of 53 registered members with the Section.

3. Annual Conference of Metropolitan Libraries Section

- 3.1 The Annual Conference of the Section was held in Brisbane, Australia from May 10 – 15, 2009. The theme of the conference was: “Embracing the Future”.
- 3.2 Presentations based on the following sub-themes were given:
- Creative Community Spaces
 - Community
 - Collections
 - Capability & Careers
- 3.3 Visits to the following libraries in Brisbane, Gold Coast & Sunshine Coast were made:
- State Library of Queensland
 - Brisbane Square Library & Customer Service
 - Chermside Library, Brisbane Northern Region
 - Broadbeach Library, Gold Coast City Council
 - Southport Library, Gold Coast City Council
 - Bond University Library & Multimedia Learning Center
 - University of the Sunshine Coast Library
- 3.4 Three key areas of emphasis emerged from the several presentations at the conference:
- The use of library buildings
 - Staff development and workforce planning
 - Increasing use of research to inform decision-making and implement evidence-based practices
- 3.5 Despite the economic downturn, the conference attracted participation from Halifax, Ottawa, Christchurch, Wellington, Shanghai, Singapore, Zagreb, Riga, Oslo, Melbourne, Gold Coast etc.



Sharan Harvey & Vicki McDonald, our conference hosts

- 3.6 Below are some pictures taken during the conference:



Opening Day Session on May 11, 2009



Brisbane Square Library



Networking & bonding over lunch – Wang Shiwei (Shanghai) & Barbara Clubb (Ottawa) in the foreground



A leisurely stroll along the famous beaches of Gold Coast after lunch before the scheduled library visits in the afternoon

- 3.7 Venues for future annual conferences have been firmed up as follows:
 2010: Zagreb, Croatia
 2011: Queens, NY
 2012: Barcelona, Spain

4. Mid-Term Meeting on May 14, 2009 (Brisbane, Australia)

- 4.1 A progress report was given on these projects:

(a) Benchmarking Criteria for Library Evaluation

A project proposal for a web-based data collection system was tabled by Toronto Public Library costing an estimated EUR 6000 of which the bulk of the expenses would go into the employment of a web technician to maintain the system. The purpose was to:

- Ensure the survey reflects the expanding and changing role of metropolitan libraries
- Improve the usability and currency of the survey instrument
- Increase the number of participating libraries

The 2007 Metropolitan Libraries Section Statistics were presented and key findings were summarized as follows (based on submissions by 25 libraries, a significant drop from the 2006 survey):

- Circulation decreased slightly
- Library visits increased slightly

- Electronic holdings increased by 6 times

(b) Sponsorship Grant

The meeting agreed that future sponsorship grant will be given to bring someone from the same region as the host country to attend the conference.

4.2 The theme for the 2010 Annual Conference to be held in Zagreb, Croatia was confirmed as “Metropolitan Libraries: Enduring Values & Excellence” with sub-themes as follows:

- Communication (digital libraries, network services, social technology)
- Meeting Places (well designed buildings, cultural events, activities, community, info-points)
- Integration and Inclusion (library policies, equity of access, user education)
- Business Excellence (research, standards, benchmarking, human capacity building & advocacy)

5. Standing Committee (SC) Meeting & Joint Open Session in IFLA General Conference & Assembly, Milan, Italy

5.1 New office-bearers were elected. The Standing Committee also took the opportunity to thank Ai Cheng Tay for her contribution as Secretary/Treasurer of the Section since 2003.

5.2 The following pictures were taken during the first SC meeting and Open Session:



Liv, Chair, presenting a certificate of appreciation to Ai Cheng, Secretary/Treasurer for her contributions during her 2 terms of appointment



First Standing Committee meeting held on August 23, 2009 (Davorka, Claudia, Inga, Jens, Liv, Ai Cheng, Judit & an observer)



Michael delivering the keynote address on behalf of Christine Mackenzie at the Open Session. Other Metlib members present: Judit (Barcelona), Thomas (Queens), (Inga (Stockholm), Jens (Copenhagen), Sharon (Singapore), Ai Cheng (Singapore), Liv Oslo), Kathleen (USA), Hans (Amsterdam), Françoise (Paris)



Sharon Thien & Hans van Velzen

- 5.3 Together with the Public Libraries Section, an open session on the theme “Framing the future for a new agenda for public libraries” was held on August 24, 2009. The session was co-chaired and facilitated by Liv Saeteren and John Lake, Chairs of the two Sections.

A record number of presentations by our Standing Committee members were given:

- Christine Mackenzie, Bundoora Victoria, Australia (keynote presentation)
- Thomas Galante, Queens NY
- Inga Lunden, Stockholm, Sweden
- Jens Ingemann

6. Strategic Plan, 2010 - 2011

6.1 Online Survey

An online survey was carried out on September 29 among section members to obtain inputs for the Strategic Plan 2010-11.

Three key questions were asked:

1. What do members value most about Metlib
2. What are the major issues facing metropolitan public libraries
3. What are the key strategic issues that Metlib should focus on

Findings of the survey are summarized below:

1. What members value most about Metlib
 - Networking, learning from colleagues
 - Attending mid-term meetings
 - Collaborating and forming partnerships
 - Gaining a wider perspective
 - Statistics, benchmarking
2. Major Issues & Key Trends facing metropolitan public libraries
 - Keeping up to date with technology, including social media
 - Repositioning libraries to remaining relevant in an online world
 - Investment in buildings
 - Lack of funding, resources
 - Electronic publishing, digitisation
 - Advocacy
 - Staff development and skills
 - Leadership and succession planning, management skills
 - Planning in times of constant change
 - Meeting customer needs
3. Key strategic issues to focus on
 - Networking and Sharing of Information
 - Benchmarking
 - Section administration

6.2 Draft Strategic Plan

As an outcome of the survey, a first draft of the new Strategic Plan was circulated among Standing Committee members on 6 November 2009. The key outcomes identified from the online survey were:

Networking and sharing information	Benchmarking	Section administration
Creating a forum for sharing information: networking, co operation and partnerships among member libraries	Developing benchmarking tools, best practice and quality assurance that can be shared by member libraries	Administering section to ensure IFLA requirements are met
Support and encourage attendance and participation at mid-term meetings	Continue with Statistics Project	Update section brochure
Develop strong program for Open Meetings at IFLA	Create online spaces to post case studies, best practice examples	Promote section
Build online discussion forum		Submit all reports and papers in a timely way
Develop position papers on topics of interest to members		Administer Stuart Brewer Scholarship
Develop sister library relationships between members		
Initiate staff exchanges between member libraries		
Increase membership and promote Metlib		

Moving forward, the SC will discuss some of the proposed project ideas in greater detail at the next Mid-Term Meeting to be held in Zagreb, Croatia in May 2010.

7. Other Highlights

7.1 Open Session in Gothenburg, Sweden

A 2-hour Open Session for IFLA 2010 will be planned in lieu of the cancelled satellite event in Melbourne.

As the overall IFLA 2010 theme in Gothenburg, Sweden is “Open Access to Knowledge: Promoting Sustainable Progress”, the theme for this open session was suggested as **“Community Involvement and User-driven Innovations”**.

An interim organizing committee comprising the Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Standing Committee member, Jens Ingemann was proposed during the SC meeting in Milan.

The call for papers will be made once the session proposal has been accepted by IFLA HQ.

Prepared by: Sharon Thien
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by: Christine Mackenzie
Chair

November 6, 2009