



Metropolitan Libraries Section of IFLA (formerly INTAMEL – the International Association of Metropolitan Libraries – a Round Table of IFLA)

**Minutes of the INTAMEL Business Meeting, September 25 2003,
Amsterdam Central Library, The Netherlands**

Reported by Stuart Brewer

Present:

Ton van Vlimmeren (Utrecht, NL)	Tatiana Nebesny (Zagreb, CR)
Tomas Rehak (Prague, CZ)	Marta Clari (Barcelona, SP)
Hans van Velzen (Amsterdam, NL)	Assumpta Carbonell (Barcelona, SP)
Borge Sorensen (Copenhagen, DK)	Sharon Tien (Singapore)
Peter Fodor (Budapest, HU)	Wu Jianming (Shanghai, China)
Claudia Lux (Berlin, GER)	Hai Xia (Shanghai, China)
David Bradbury (London, UK)	Frans Meijer (Rotterdam, NL)
George Durnell (Saint-Louis, USA)	Aline Girard-Billon (Paris, FR)
Christian Relly (Zürich, CH)	Tay Ai Cheng (Singapore)
Liv Saeteren (Oslo, NW)	Stuart Brewer (Newcastle, UK)
Dzidra Smita (Riga, LT)	Ross Shimon (IFLA HQ, NL)
Davorka Bastic (Zagreb, CR)	Sjoerd Koopman (IFLA HQ, NL)
Tatiana Nebesny (Zagreb, CR)	

Apologies:

Maija Berndtson
Arend Flemming
Barbara Clubb

1, President's report

Frans Meijer greeted INTAMEL members and conference delegates, and also welcomed Ross Shimon and Sjoerd Koopman, Secretary General and Coordinator of Professional Activities of IFLA, who would be assisting the meeting in its discussion about the relationship between INTAMEL and IFLA.

The President noted the emergence of the SARS virus crisis earlier in the year. As a result, this year's conference was being held in Rotterdam, with plans for the Singapore venue to be postponed to 2004. He congratulated colleagues at the National Library Board, Singapore, for the great work they had done for the 2003 conference. Members were unanimous in thanking the President and Rotterdam City Library for taking on the organisation of this

year's conference, at very short notice and with great commitment and success.

Following the retirement this week of the Hanover Library Director, Wiebke Andresen, the President would be discussing the collection of INTAMEL library statistics with the new Director in 2004. Members again commented on the value of the annual statistics and thanks were expressed for the hard work done by the Hanover Library.

2. Secretary's report

Aline Girard-Billon presented the minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting held in Stockholm, September 5 2002. These were approved.

The Secretary reported that the INTAMEL Membership Directory had been revised in the autumn of 2002; it listed 96 institutional and retired members.

A scholarship (i.e. financial support) had been granted to Zagreb City Library for attendance at this year's conference. Davorca Bastic and Tatiana Nebesny expressed thanks for the grant and emphasised the value of financial support of this kind.

3. Treasurer's report

Tay Ai Cheng presented a statement of receipts and expenditure. This showed a balance at 31/08/2003 of Sing Dollars 5,833.85. The report was approved.

4. Information Coordinator's report

Stuart Brewer reported on his work as Information Coordinator for INTAMEL and as moderator/listowner of INTLIB, INTAMEL's e-list. He commented on the progress made with INTLIB and with INTAMEL's website, both of which were hosted free of charge on IFLANET and supported by the IFLA Web Manager.

He also proposed to work on a manual of guidelines on organising the annual conference for the guidance of host cities. This was approved.

5. INTAMEL open session at the IFLA 2003 conference in Berlin

The President reported on the INTAMEL open session 'New futures for metropolitan library services', that was held as part of the recent World Library and Information Congress/IFLA Conference in Berlin, August 2003. Over sixty delegates had enjoyed presentations by:

- Frans Meijer: 'The Rotterdam Library: knowledge center for city and surrounding areas';
- Christine Mackenzie: 'Brisbane City Council Library Services';
- Børge Sørensen: 'Virtual service in Copenhagen, and a new main library'.

The session, chaired by INTAMEL secretary Aline Girard-Billon (Paris), was attended by several INTAMEL members and by many other colleagues with an interest in major metropolitan libraries. It was a valuable opportunity to encourage new members and to reactivate former memberships.

This had been the first INTAMEL session to be held at the IFLA Conference for many years, and it was hoped to organize a similar open session at the IFLA Conference in Buenos Aires, 14-18 August 2004.

6. Upcoming INTAMEL conferences

Ai Cheng Tay and Sharon Tien confirmed the invitation for the 2004 to be held in Singapore. Full details would be announced shortly.

No further information has been received about the conference previously proposed for 2005 in Bucharest and Brasov, Romania. Meanwhile, Dzidra Smita invited INTAMEL to Riga, Latvia, in 2005. The officers would seek to clarify the situation and would finalise a venue for the 2005 conference.

Aline Girard-Billon confirmed the invitation to Paris, France, in 2006, and presented an outline programme for a conference with the theme 'La lecture publique dans une ville capitale'.

The President suggested that it would be good to return to the USA for the conference in 2007 and undertook to seek potential venues. Prague and Amsterdam were suggested as possible venues for the conference in 2008.

These plans were approved.

7. Relationship between INTAMEL and IFLA

Ross Shimmon outlined the recent reorganisation of IFLA, the removal of the category of 'Round Table' from the IFLA structure, and the options open to INTAMEL. These were mainly to become a Section of IFLA or to 'float free'.

Benefits of the first option would give INTAMEL an opportunity to influence programmes and professional development, in collaboration with the other seven IFLA Sections that also serve the General Public. This would apply both for activities and programmes during the annual IFLA Conference and for projects during the year. By being part of IFLA programmes, INTAMEL members would benefit from information exchange and exposure to the broad spectrum of librarianship.

As a Section, INTAMEL would still be free to organise its own annual conference, and other activities if it wished. Functioning as a Section would of course require INTAMEL to fulfil duties regarding elections, Standing Committee, financial reporting, etc.

If INTAMEL decided to 'float free', becoming an International Association member of IFLA or a Body with Consultative Status might be feasible choices. This would at least keep up the contacts and enable information exchange.

After considerable discussion, and a vote being taken, it was agreed that INTAMEL would apply to become a Section of IFLA (fourteen in favour, none against, two abstentions). Details of the transition process would be clarified by INTAMEL officers in due course.