



## **Metropolitan Libraries Section of IFLA (formerly INTAMEL, International Association of Metropolitan Libraries, a Round Table of IFLA)**

### **BUSINESS MEETING minutes, September 30 2004, Singapore**

Reported by Stuart Brewer

#### **Present:**

Frans Meijer (Rotterdam) (Chair)	Dzidra Smita (Riga)
Aline Girard-Billon (Paris) (Secretary)	Davorka Bastic (Zagreb)
Ai Cheng TAY (Singapore) (Treasurer)	Tatiana Nebesny (Zagreb)
Stuart Brewer (UK) (Information Coordinator)	Christine Mackenzie (Yarra Plenty, Victoria)
Tomas Rehak (Prague)	Kathleen Bresnahan (New South Wales)
Ton van Vlimmeren (Utrecht)	David Jones (New South Wales)
Marta Clari I Padrós (Barcelona)	Alfred Pfoser (Vienna)
Hans van Velzen (Amsterdam)	Martin Hafström (Stockholm)
Sharon Kien San THIEN (Singapore)	Carola Schelle-Wolff (Hanover)
Arend Flemming (Dresden)	Christian Relly (Zürich)
Peter Fodor (Budapest)	Liv Saeteren (Oslo)
David Bradbury (London)	Vicki McDonald (Queensland)
Barbara Gubbin (Houston, Texas)	
Sharan Harvey (Brisbane, Queensland)	
Marja-Liisa Viikko-Hamalainen (Helsinki)	

#### **Apologies:**

Claudia Lux (Berlin), Patrick Bazin (Lyon)

#### **1, President's report**

Frans Meijer welcomed INTAMEL members and conference delegates. Now that INTAMEL was becoming a Section of IFLA, this meeting would be the last formal business meeting of INTAMEL.

#### **2. Secretary's report**

Aline Girard-Billon presented the minutes of the 2003 Business Meeting held in Amsterdam, September 25 2003. These were approved.

#### **3. Treasurer's report**

Ai Cheng Tay presented a statement of receipts and expenditure. This showed a balance at 31/08/2004 of Singapore Dollars 13,898.46. Ai Cheng explained that the donation for scholarships from Wiebke Andresen, the retired Director of the Hanover Library, was currently in a separate account at the Rotterdam library and that, following normal practice, the Singapore conference was handled in a separate account. The Treasurer's report was approved.

#### 4. Information Coordinator's report

Stuart Brewer introduced the *Officers' report, 2003-2004 - a transitional year* [<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s46/index.htm#2004>]. He commented particularly on the importance of the Section's e-mail list, INTLIB, for the dissemination of information, and on the Section's web pages on IFLANET, the IFLA website. Frans Meijer reminded colleagues of the decision at last year's business meeting to become a Section of IFLA. He also referred to the several meetings of the officers during the year, and to the Section's open session at the recent IFLA conference in Buenos Aires.

Ton van Vlimmeren noted that INTLIB could be used by members for discussion, etc. It would be good if this could be pointed out to list members.

**Action:** Stuart Brewer. The officers' report was approved.

#### 5. IFLA organisation, membership and elections

Stuart Brewer outlined the organisational structure of IFLA and the procedures for membership. Ton van Vlimmeren and Tomas Rehak asked that a dedicated email be sent to former INTAMEL members, giving brief, clear information about the steps now required for IFLA members and non-members to join the Metropolitan Libraries Section. **Action:** Stuart Brewer.

In response to a comment from David Bradbury, it was noted that one of the categories of IFLA membership was National Associations; these would be entitled and welcome to opt for membership of the Metropolitan Libraries Section and to send representatives to the Section's annual conferences. Nevertheless, most of the membership of IFLA and of the Sections was made up of individual library institutions.

Stuart also explained the procedure for the election of the Standing Committee (SC) of IFLA sections. The process would begin in the autumn of 2004, when IFLA HQ would seek nominations from the paid-up members of each Section, culminating in the first meeting of the new SCs at the IFLA conference in Oslo, August 2005. Points made during the ensuing discussion included:

- meetings of SCs were built into the timetable of each IFLA conference; it was therefore important that we identify potential SC members who would be able to attend IFLA conferences (Barbara Gubbin);
- INTAMEL has a long and successful history that should be continued. We should seek new members from other big cities, promote the value of membership of IFLA and spread information about INTAMEL among IFLA members (Tatiana Nebesny);
- it was important to identify potential SC members who would be willing to be Chair, Secretary etc. (David Bradbury, former Chair and Secretary of an IFLA Section);

- in future, the annual conference of Metropolitan Libraries Section would also have the status, in IFLA terminology, of a mid-term meeting; the status of the traditional INTAMEL annual business meeting was therefore a question (Aline Girard-Billon);
- perhaps the annual business meeting could become more of a forum for those attending the Section's annual conference/mid-term meeting (Stuart Brewer).

In response to the question of identifying potential officers, the four current officers indicated their willingness to be members of the new SC and to be elected as officers. **[NB: as a result of changed circumstances during the winter of 2004/05, Frans Meijer and Aline Girard-Billon are unable to offer themselves for officer posts.]**

Regarding other potential members of the Section's SC, a show of hands indicated that the following colleagues would be willing: Ton van Vlimmeren, Marta Clari, Liv Saeteren, Davorka Bastic, and (in absentia) Claudia Lux.

## 6. Metropolitan Libraries Section at IFLA Conferences

Aline Girard-Billon reported on the officers' meetings during the IFLA conference in Buenos Aires and on the Section's open session. Frans Meijer reported that the theme of our session at the IFLA conference in Oslo (14-18 August 2005) would be 'Managing Metropolitan Networks'. Ton van Vlimmeren suggested that presentations on this topic could also be made at the Section's conference in Riga (11-16 September 2005).

## 7. IFLA conferences and Metropolitan Libraries Section mid-term meetings

	IFLA	Metropolitan Libraries
2005	Oslo August 14-18	Riga 11-16 September
2006	Seoul August 20-24	Paris dates to be confirmed
2007	Durban August 19-23	Seattle to be confirmed
2008	Québec August 10-14	To be decided
2009	To be decided	To be decided

[NB: committee meetings are held on the two days before and the two days after the actual IFLA conference dates]

Ton van Vlimmeren stressed that the value of INTAMEL conferences included meeting people from all over the world, so perhaps we should aim for a cycle of conferences such as: 1) Europe 2) Americas 3) elsewhere, e.g. Asia/Australia.

Tomas Rehak agreed, and also indicated that he would like to offer Prague as a possible venue. Other suggestions included Hong Kong or elsewhere in China, and Australia in 2008 or 2009, e.g. Brisbane.

Barbara Gubbin pointed out that the IFLA and INTAMEL conferences were normally close together (August, September/early October) and suggested that this be discussed sometime in the future. Aline Girard-Billon sought views on the Paris 2006 conference: September, October, November?

Frans Meijer concluded that there would need to be further discussion in due course about venues for the Section's conferences in 2008, 2009, 2010 et seq., and in the meantime he requested more suggestions and potential offers of venues. He then invited comments on the best time of year for the Section's conferences. Several views and preferences was expressed:

- winter
- April or May
- May rather than November/winter
- there's no need to be too strict about the date — it should be *appropriate to the venue*;
- whatever the date, it is important that it be announced a year in advance.

Frans concluded by proposing that the arrangements for Paris 2006 be followed as now being planned, and that we should aim to switch to suitable times of year from 2007.

For the **Section's conference and mid-term meeting 2005**, Dzidra Smita confirmed the invitation for this to be held in Riga, Latvia, 11-16 September. The theme would be 'Libraries and Lifelong Learning' [**NB**: later amended to 'Libraries and lifelong learning: inspiring users and staff'.] Dzidra particularly wanted to counter the view within eastern European countries that INTAMEL was an organisation for rich countries talking to themselves.

Regarding **IFLA Oslo 2005**, 14-18 August, Liv Saeteren cordially invited us all to be there and gave an update on the proposed new Oslo central library for which there could be plans and a final decision by the end of 2004. If so, sketches might be ready by August 2005 and would therefore be available to the Library Building & Equipment Section's open session at the IFLA conference.

## 8. Metropolitan Libraries Section statistics

The meeting strongly confirmed the value and importance of the INTAMEL annual statistics, collated by Hanover City Library. Carola Schelle-Wolff agreed that Hanover would continue to work on the statistics and proposed that they be renamed 'Metropolitan Libraries Section Statistics'. This was agreed.

Carola also proposed a change in the statistics from Swiss Fr to US Dollars. Several views and preferences were expressed:

- retain Swiss Fr, a more neutral currency, making it easier to follow trends (Ton van Vlimmeren)
- keep to one currency, e.g. USD or euros (EUR) (Christian Relly)

- EUR would help to keep things simple for finance officers (Barbara Gubbin)
- EUR (Ai Cheng Tay).

Frans Meijer summarised and proposed that EUR be adopted, and this was agreed. **Action:** Carola Schelle-Wolff

It was confirmed that the questionnaire for the 2003 statistics should be returned by 11 October 2004, that the 2002 statistics would soon be placed on our web pages, and that the statistics used the exchange rate date of 15 April each year. Tomas Rehak asked if the statistics collation could note the actual exchange rates used, or provide a relevant web address.

## 9. Metropolitan Libraries Section scholarships

The officers reported that one scholarship of EUR 1500 would be given for attendance at the Singapore 2004 conference, and two scholarships each of EUR 1000 for Riga 2005.

## 10. Other business

### 10.1

Regarding the change of status and the **change of name** to 'Metropolitan Libraries Section', Tomas Rehak said that 'INTAMEL' had been a valuable trademark name for the organisation for 40 years and it should not be discarded. He asked if this could be taken up with IFLA? Some colleagues spoke in favour of 'INTAMEL'; others felt that 'Metropolitan Libraries Section' was clear whereas 'INTAMEL' had to be explained.

Frans Meijer concluded that the change had been made and it would not be good to try to go back. This was agreed.

### 10.2

Frans Meijer noted that a **new brochure** for the Section would be needed by the time of the Oslo 2005 conference.

### 10.3

Tomas Rehak reported that a CD presentation of **photos of the Singapore conference** would be shown at the dinner this evening. **[NB:** a small selection of Tomas's photos was used for the Summary and Photo Gallery of the conference <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s46/conf/singapore04.htm>]

## 11. Closing of the meeting

Barbara Gubbin thanked the officers for the work they had done through the transition period, and commended the wonderful tradition of INTAMEL and the new future for the group.

Frans Meijer thanked and congratulated the National Library Board Singapore for its excellent organisation of the conference, and commented on the quality of members' presentations.