



Section 8, for Public Libraries Standing Committee

Draft Minutes of the Meetings held on Saturday 18 and

Friday 24 August, 2007 in Durban, South Africa

Time:	Meeting 1: 08.30 – 11.20 Saturday 18 August.	
Time:	Meeting 2: 11.00 – 13.50 Friday 24 August.	
Location:	Meeting 1 & 2: ICC Durban, South Africa	
Members attended meetings 1 & 2	Monica Medina Blanes (MMB)** Klaus-Peter Boettger (KPB) Barbara Gubbin, Secretary for Meeting 2 (BG) Annick Guinery (AG)** Joyce Jelks (JJ)* Karlien de Klerk (KdedK)** Torny Kjekstad, Chair for Meeting 1 (TK)* Gunilla Konradsson-Mortin (GKM) Lorraine Jackson (LJ) John Lake, Secretary for Meeting 1 and Chair for Meeting 2 (JL)	Marja Malminen (MM) Libuse Nivnicka (LN) Ruth Ornholt (RO) Suzanne Payette (SP) Gloria Perez-Salmeron (GPS) Mary Sherman (MS)* Kent Skov (KS) Ian Stringer (IS) Olga Ustinova (OU)
	*Meeting 1 only	**Meeting 2 only
Apologies	Karin Kitchin (KK) Yuk-Man Lee (YML) Jingxia Li (JLi) Victoria Okojie (VO)	Florence Ponce (FP) Magdalena Reyes (MR) Anna Torfadottir (AT)
Members not attended	Gonzalo Oyarzun (Chile)	
Observers Meeting 1	Birgotta Auren (Finland) Rashidah Bolhassan (Malaysia) Barbara Clubb (Canada) Lucie Dion (Canada) Lorraine Jackson (USA)	Patricia Lemieux (Canada) Pierre Meunier (Quebec, Canada) Rui Manuel Neves Karolina Zilliacus (Finland)
Observers Meeting 2	Margaretha Eriksson Nancy Achebe Joaquin Selgas	

1. Greetings and apologies for absence (Kjekstad)

TK welcomed all members of the Committee and observers to the meeting. Apologies were noted from members of the Committee.

2. Opening, Announcements and Documents Check (Kjekstad/Lake)

TK explained how the election process would work in relation to the meetings with TK chairing and JL taking minutes the first meeting. The new chairperson and secretary would take the second meeting.

The Co-ordinating Board representation from this Committee was also explained.

3. Approval of the Agenda (Kjekstad)

The agenda was approved subject to the addition of;
The Annual Report 2006 (Draft)
Programmes for IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Milan, Italy 2009
Mid-Year Meeting in 2008 – Location/timing

4. Approval and Follow-up of the Minutes of the mid year meeting held in Mulheim, Germany 9 – 10 February previously circulated (Kjekstad)

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record with the following amendment;

Page 4 – First paragraph, 2nd line – 47 should read 43.

The following matters arising were discussed;

Page 1. 1.Greetings and apologies for absence

The absence of attendance without apologies of Gonzalo Oyarzun from Chile from the last 3 Conference meetings and all mid year meetings since his election in 2005 was noted. In the absence of any communication from him following emails to him from both TK and JL, it was agreed to recommend to IFLA HQ that he be withdrawn from the Committee.

Page 2 The mentor list had been re-circulated.

Page 2 Canvassing of members for the Governing Board elections
BG and KS to do during this conference.

Page 2 TK reported that the Multicultural Manifesto had still to be approved by Unesco and that Mr Abid had recently retired from the organisation. This may slow the progress of the document down a little.

5. Chair's Report (Kjekstad)

TK said that she had greatly enjoyed working with the members of this Committee and thanked everybody for their good participation and good spirit of working together on the many projects achieved over 4 years. Several key changes had

occured during her term including the creation of the 3 Pillars of IFLA and her work on the GB had proved really interesting.

6. Election results for the Committee 2007 (Kjekstad/Lake)

a) New members joining the Committee

The new members of the Committee are;
Annick Guinery (France)
Lorraine Jackson (USA)
Magdalena Reyes (Uruguay)
Anna Torfadottir (Iceland)

Mentors were assigned to these new members as follows;
Gloria Perez-Salmeron - Annick Guinery
Ruth Ornholt - Lorraine Jackson
Monica Medina Blanes - Magdalena Reyes
Gunilla Konradsson-Mortin - Anna Torfadottir

b) Members retiring from Committee

The followings members of the Committee retired after the meeting;

Florence Ponce (1999 – 2007)
Mary Sherman (1999 – 2007)

It was noted that Gunilla Konradsson-Mortin had a new employment position and was as yet unsure whether she would be able to continue on the Committee.

c) Election of new officers – Chair, Secretary, Information Officer and Treasurer.

The following members of the Committee were elected to the officer posts unopposed;

Chairperson	John Lake
Secretary	Barbara Gubbin
Treasurer	Klaus-Peter Boettger
Information Coodinator	Ian Stringer

TK congratulated the new officers and wished them well with their work. JL thanked TK for 4 years of Chairing the Committee in an excellent way and was pleased to note that she would remain on the Committee for a further two years. (Following a meeting of the Governing Board it was agreed that TK would continue to serve as Chairperson for the Division III Co-ordinating Board as a special dispensation in light of the changing Committee structures and in the absence of any member of the new CB

willing to take on that responsibility. JL and GB would still represent Section 8 on the CB as Chair and Secretary of this Committee.

7. Programmes for IFLA 2007 in Durban, South Africa (Lake/Kjekstad)

JL outlined the important programmes and dates for the diary in the Conference from his previously circulated paper and encouraged all to come to the Divisional day programme on Social Inclusion (22 August) and the Section dinner on the evening of 19 August.

SP highlighted that there was a meeting following this one at 12.00 at the Hilton Hotel to discuss the Pre-Conference Satellite programme. IS/LN and SP to attend.

8. Annual Report – Draft (Lake)

JL introduced the draft Annual Report for 2006 and thanked everyone for the participation in making this another successful year. All Committee members to send additions to JL by the end of September 2007.

Action All

9. IFLA Professional Structure Review Committee Report and Recommendations April 25, 2007. Paper GB 07 - 028RRR previously circulated (Kjekstad)

TK explained the progress of the discussions on the structure of IFLA and the most recent paper which was available to comment on at the special meeting on Sunday 19 August at the Conference. Comments were welcomed and these included;

- Would there be room on the Conference agendas for Special Interest Group meetings/programmes? (RO)
- Concerns about the the number of Sections in each Division and that the "tail would end up wagging the dog". (GB)
- That IFLA need to spend less time on discussion on structure and get on with the work of the organisation around the world. (GKM)
- The Public Libraries Section as a representation of librarians around the world could be a Division on its own. Public Libraries are insufficiently represented on Governing Board. (KS/GKM)
- Smaller Sections could disappear and along with them their excellent work. (GB)
- The revised paper was much improved on the proposals looked at last year. It is a flatter structure without the role of the CBs. (RO)
- Would small libraries ever be well represented given the financial constraints on them and their ability to join IFLA. (JJ)

- Some placement of the Sections in the new Divisions was illogical. There were some "libraries" in Section b) and some library functions in Section a). (BG)

TK encouraged all Section Committee members to attend the special meeting and make their points there.

Continued in Meeting 2

BG reported on what she had learned at the New Officers Orientation about the changes to be made to the new Organizational Structure as a result of the hearing held at the beginning of the Conference. These included having five rather than the four divisions as first proposed; the appeal process for a Special Interest Group (SIG) which a Section wishes to disband; and that the minimum number of members to retain a section will be between 40 and 50. A postal ballot will be sent out to members to vote on the changes.

KS expressed the need for a SIG, which would include not only librarians but also their political representatives and would continue the conversations held previously as a discussion group called *Democracy and Libraries*. GK suggested a SIG was needed for Archives, Museums and Public Libraries. It was recommended that the issue of SIGS affiliated with the Public Libraries Section should be on the mid-year meeting agenda and that those interested in starting a SIG should draft a proposal to be considered at that meeting.

Action: KS/GK

BG also reported on the Membership Meeting, where votes were taken in support of the increase in membership fees and a change to the statutes of IFLA to allow the acceptance of grants such as the one from the Gates Foundation. There was uncertainty whether a quorum was present to make the votes valid.

Action All

10. Financial Report (Boettger)

KPB reported that the finances stood as they had in February this year and circulated a paper at the second meeting for information. He urged all projects to be spent up that we had current funding for.

JL reported that our membership had dropped to 301 and that this was a cause for discussion at the second meeting under item 17.

11. Report from Governing Board and Professional Committee (Kjekstad)

TK reported back items from the GB and PC for information.

Meeting 1 Finished at this point in the agenda

Meeting 2

Greetings and apologies for absence.

John Lake, Committee Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from Victoria Okojie, Nigeria and Torny Kjekstad, former Chair of the Section who could not join the meeting. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and sign an attendance list.

Agenda for meeting two

A revised agenda was distributed. JL noted that items 1 through 11 had been addressed at the first meeting of the Committee on the previous Saturday. Items added included a discussion of the conference recently completed and the proposed new Organizational Structure for IFLA; mentors for new Committee members; a change in Corresponding Members; and a replacement for Committee member Gonzalo Oyarzún, as discussed at the first Committee meeting.

Item 7 (Continued). Review of 2007 Durban Conference including best papers and discussion of the debate on revised Organizational Structure.

John Lake and the team who had so successfully planned the full day of programs on social inclusion were congratulated. Programs noted as being outstanding included a program on Book Clubs in Australia; the Paired Reading paper from South Africa; and the papers about libraries in Guangdong Province and Sarawak that show the dedication of librarians and communities to providing public library services in the most difficult of environments.

Other comments included:

- Positive reactions to the keynote address by Judge Albie Sachs and a desire to have this published in the IFLA Journal.
- Many commented on the technical difficulties encountered by presenters at every session.
- More work needs to be done to encourage IFLA to distribute programs of interest to public librarians throughout the conference and not to hold them all on one or two days.
- RO noted that the Section's call for papers for its programs had been successful with many strong papers submitted, contrary to earlier concerns that we would not receive the quality we need with this approach.
- There had not been enough information about how to use local transportation and the high level of concern about safety dissuaded delegates from exploring Durban as much as they might have wanted. This impacted some of the visits to local libraries as delegates had to find the library on their own and so many who signed up did not arrive.
- The venue for the Cultural evening was too crowded and while the musical entertainment was excellent it came too late in the evening with little to keep attendees occupied in the meantime. On the other hand, the Beach Party was a great success with "good vibrations from the beginning." (KS).

- It was very pleasing to be able to network with so many African librarians who have not been able to attend IFLA in the past. Many expressed the hope that funds could be raised to help librarians from developing countries attend the 2008 conference.
- SP enjoyed the opportunity to be on the selection panel for the Gates Award and encouraged anyone who might be asked to do this to accept.

Papers to be selected from the Division to be considered for publication by IFLA during the next year:

It was agreed that three (3) papers should be identified for possible publication. IS volunteered to write up his experience of the conference to be submitted to the IFLA Journal and this was agreed. The other papers to be submitted are the ones identified earlier in the discussion on book clubs, paired reading and library services in Guangdong Province and Sarawak.

Action: IS

Corresponding Members.

There are currently four (4) corresponding members, two (2) from Malaysia, and one each from Colombia and Estonia. JL explained that Corresponding members are not voting members of the Committee but represent parts of the world, which are not otherwise represented. Rashidah Begum from Malaysia is stepping down. The Committee agreed that Rashidah Bolhassan, the state librarian of Sarawak should take her place.

Replacement of Inactive Committee Member.

It was agreed that Gonzalo Oyarzún's position on the Committee should be filled by the candidate who got the highest number of votes in the recent election but was not elected to the Committee. JL will follow up with IFLA on how this is accomplished.

Action: JL

12. Review of Ongoing Projects

a) Meeting User Needs (Medina-Blanes)

MMB reported on the updates to the resource list on the IFLA website. She is always looking for new resources for the list and assistance with translation. She asked that public libraries serving over 250,000 people participate in Projecte Tibidabo, which is collecting statistical data from libraries to create a comparative database. (Contact Aina Roig at aroigm@bcn.cat) It was suggested that MMB contact the Metropolitan Libraries Section, which represents public libraries of this size and has a similar project to collect statistical data.

Action: MMB

b) Public Library Guidelines Guidelines

i. Translation and publications update (Lake)

JL reported that there are 43 translations of the Guidelines available.

ii. Marketing update (Lake/Payette)

In an effort to market the Guidelines further KS, KPB and IS assisted him with a Poster Session at the Conference and a Power-point presentation was sent to Costa Rica for a conference of public librarians earlier in 2007.

iii. E-book Revised Edition (Lake/Gubbin/Stringer/Ornholt/Jelks)

Some of the chapters have been updated and JL has reviewed and made some recommended changes throughout the publication but the committee had not found sufficient reason to publish a new edition of the book. However, JL had met with Sjoerd Koopman who made a case for a new edition which would include aspects of recent IFLA publications including Guidelines for Library Services to Babies; Building Guidelines; Multicultural Manifesto and changes in the area of legislation related to public libraries such as the updated Finnish Public Library Act. BG proposed that each chapter be reviewed by two members of the Committee who would make recommendations for revisions and updates including links to new web-based materials. The Committee would hire someone to take these recommendations and complete the re-write for the new edition. GSP asked that everyone read the entire book before the mid-year meeting. RO said she would contact the Research Section of IFLA to see if they could assist in finding a student or intern to do the work. Since the new edition will initially be published in English, members in English speaking countries were encouraged to contact library schools to locate someone who would be willing to work on the project. JL said that IFLA wanted to have the new edition published to announce at the Milan Conference in 2009.

Action: All/RO

The following Committee members agreed to review chapters:

Chapter 1: The role and purpose of the public library. GPS and RO.

Chapter 2: The legal and financial framework. KPB and SP.

Chapter 3: Meeting the needs of the users. IS and MMB.

Chapter 4: Collection Development. KS and KK.

Chapter 5: Human Resources. LJ and GK.

Chapter 6: The management and marketing of public libraries. LN and OU.

c) Public Libraries, Museums and Archives Research Project (Clubb)

SP reported that IFLA had agreed to publish this as a “greenback” report. Barbara Clubb has agreed to update it and will have this finalized by February 2008. It will be published in French and English and events are being planned at the 2008 conference to promote it.

d) Caterpillar Book Box Project (Stringer)

IS reported that as a result of his presentation at a program in Durban, four people had asked for additional information about the project for possible local implementation. He also plans to send the information to Victoria Okojie in Nigeria. He, RO and MMB will draw up criteria for applicants who want to obtain the blueprint to make a Caterpillar and look for ways to publicize this. It was generally agreed that the Committee did not have the resources to supply books and that books selected locally would be the best choice.

Action: IS/RO/MMB

**e) Public Library Manifesto Revision (Pérez-Salmerón/
Oyarzún/Skov/Boettger)**

KPB and KS will work with GSP to produce “10 out of the box ideas on services for libraries” which will assist in implementing the Manifesto. There had been discussion at the mid-year meeting in Germany about establishing a blog to get discussion going on the Manifesto but technological difficulties preventing IFLA from doing this, still appear to exist.

13. Website, Newsletter and Section Brochure (Stringer)

IS reported that the IFLA website is currently hosted by a French company pro-bono but that means there is limited space on the website. There is an effort to establish an updated, interactive membership database but it has not been completed. IS has put the newest issue of the newsletter, which he also passed out at the meeting, on the website and will shortly mail out copies to those who have indicated they want a print copy. The Committee approved IS’ recommendation that he produce two newsletters each year for the Section, one that is an e-newsletter only and one that combines this issue with new information and is mailed. Articles for the next issue are needed by the end of October.

Action: All/IS

14. Programmes for IFLA 2008 in Quebec, Canada

i. Pre-Conference Seminar update (Payette)

SP reported on the meeting she had chaired earlier in the week on the pre-conference, August 5-7 on services to youth. People from different sections of IFLA including Marketing and Youth Services attended and someone from their State Library is working on the program and logistics. The call for papers is on the IFLA website and papers are due by November 1. SP expects to bring an outline of the program to the mid-year meeting.

GPS said that the Hispanic Caucus had discussed ways to raise funds to bring young, Spanish speaking professionals to the conference.

ii. Section programme on Advocacy (Gubbin, Sherman, Skov, Lake, Salmeron, Stringer)

JL asked what progress had been made to identify a keynote speaker on advocacy, preferably a politician. People have been approached and expressed interest. These include Gene Tan, National Library of Singapore; Assumpta Bailac, (an ex member of this Standing Committee) who has been in the Ministry of Culture in Catalonia until recently; a librarian in Dubai recruited by IS. There was some concern expressed that Singapore is represented frequently in programs and there is a need to find new faces and new experiences to present. BG had not yet followed up regarding Mayor Daley of Chicago, but will do so shortly. There has been some interest expressed by both the Metropolitan Libraries and the Marketing and Management Sections to co-sponsor this or another program in Quebec with the Public Libraries Section. KS will follow up with Liv Saeteren, chair of Metropolitan Libraries and a committee of KS, SP and GK was formed to move these co-sponsorships and the program forward. There will not be a call for papers. KPB said that with so many partners, perhaps we should do a whole day of activities again. Others felt that programs should be spread out throughout the conference.

Action: BG/JL/IS/GSP

The Asia-Oceania Section had approached JL to do a joint program with Public Libraries on outreach and community libraries. They plan to do a call for papers. It was agreed that PL would give its name to the program but that we had sufficient commitments and would not get involved further.

Action: JL

15. Programmes for IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Milan, Italy 2009

JL stated that it was not too early to be considering programs for 2009. It was suggested that we partner with the New Professionals Section on a program on staff development. Another idea was to do a program on partnerships with Museums and Archives, to follow up on the publication to be released in Quebec.

MMB said that the President of the Spanish Library Association and the Catalan Library Association are proposing a satellite meeting in Barcelona before the 2009 conference in Milan entitled the "Mediterranean Connection" specifically for public librarians.

16. Review Strategic Plan for 2005 – 07 and discuss new plan for 2007-09. (Chair)

Time was limited for a review of the current Strategic Plan but the new Plan needs to address increasing membership in the Public Libraries Section, which is currently declining. There is a new Membership Toolkit offered by IFLA, which we need to put to use. BG issued a challenge to all Committee members to recruit one new member each in the coming year. Critical to this effort is knowing which libraries currently belong to IFLA in each country. She will work with JL to see if this information can be made available. Items to carry forward in the Strategic Plan include the Manifesto revision; the Guidelines for Services to Babies needs to be included; The Section should establish a Best Practices website related to the new edition of the Guidelines we are working on and we need to identify and implement new SIGS of interest to public librarians.

Action: BG/JL/All

JL proposed that the Section apply to the Professional Committee for funding to train Sri Lankan librarians in 2008. There had been discussion at last year's conference about assisting the libraries in Sri Lanka hard hit by the tsunami and in need of training for their staff.

17. Membership Toolkit

BG proposed that each Committee member take on the target of joining at least one new member to the Section by the next meeting. Agreed.

Action All

18. Mid-Year Meeting in 2008 – Location/timing (Chair)

The Committee considered locations in Denmark and Hong Kong. It was agreed to accept KS's offer to host the mid-year meeting in Odense, Denmark. Dates: February 28 – March 1; arrive Thursday, February 28, meeting Feb 29 and March 1 to include visits to local libraries and other cultural institutions. KS will send out a

proposed program by the end of November 2007. OU invited the Committee to consider holding the 2009 mid-year meeting in St. Petersburg.

19. Other Reports and Item

Budget.

KPB reminded Committee members that if they needed financial assistance from the administrative funds they should let him know.

There being no further business JL adjourned the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.

*Kjekstad/Lake & Gubbin
October 2007*