



**Rare Books and Special Collections Section
Mid-term Business Meeting
Wednesday 11 April 2018
Venue: National Library of Norway, Oslo**

1. Welcome and introductions.

Standing Committee Members present: Helen Vincent (chair), Danielle Culpepper (secretary), Frédéric Blin, Claudia Bubenik, Adelaida Caro Martin, Daryl Green, Hege S. Høsøien, Beth Kilmarx, Krister Östlund, Meg Philips.

Excuses: Fabiano Cataldo, Mark Dimulation, Naïma Keddane, Rémi Mathis, Mohamed Soliman, Tan Huism, Anthony Tedeschi.

Standing Committee Members not present: Maria Aurora Dias Banos, Maria Ermakova, Stanislav Ermolenko, Marijana Tomic.

2. Approval of the agenda.

The agenda was approved with the addition of item 4.5 to include discussion of the Oslo program on 12 April.

3. Standing Committee Membership Matters.

a.) Standing Committee attendance. In addition to some members with legitimate health or other reasons to miss meetings, which have been communicated to the officers, a few SC members have neither attended any meetings nor been responsive to email communication with the committee. We discussed reaching out to such members and asking them to give up their membership on the committee in order to free up space for potentially more active members. If membership positions were freed up, the committee would likely go down a list of runner-up candidates from the elections in 2017 to fill those spots.

b.) Information Coordinator. Daryl Green has recently become IFLA representative to the UNESCO Memory of the World register subcommittee and thus will be stepping down as the SC Information Coordinator. Daryl will be in contact with the social media and communications subgroup before WLIC 2018 to see if someone from that group is interested in standing as Information Coordinator.

c.) Corresponding Members. Anthony Tedeschi has been installed as a corresponding member from New Zealand. Helen Vincent has reached out Hyo Kyoung Kim of the National Library of Korea, a runner-up for membership to the SC last summer, to see if she would be interested in joining as a corresponding member, but has not yet had any response. Similarly, Helen planned to reach out to Xingyue Cao from the Hubei Provincial Library in China, who presented as part of the SC's full-day programme in Wroclaw, to enquire about her interest in becoming a corresponding member of the

committee. The committee is allowed up to five corresponding members, and we discussed inviting members from places where we know IFLA will be in a few years (e.g., Athens).

4. Updates from IFLA HQ.

a.) Global Vision. We discussed the IFLA Global Vision Report and Danielle Culpepper and Helen Vincent gave an update regarding discussions held during the officers' Global Vision meeting in Barcelona in March. IFLA HQ had spent the past 1-2 years assimilating a survey, rankings, and section comments to create this vision statement with its 10 highlights and opportunities. The RBSC section easily maps onto the vision, in particular regarding highlight 9: "We are the guardians of the memory of the world." The work of the RBSC is not only focused on the past, but also necessarily looks to the future; highlight 9 states that "we are uniquely good at preserving and organising knowledge for future generations." Danielle and Helen discussed exercises from the officers' meeting to generate "bold ideas" building on the vision statement such as producing guidelines for preservation and description in order to enable access, or engaging data archivists to carry out a gap analysis of the materials not being preserved. IFLA intends to build on the Global Vision Report, and will require action from sections in the next few months to identify goals and activities building on the vision.

b.) Website Updates. IFLA is in the process of updating its website, which will require some input from standing committees. After an initial evaluation of section website content, SC Information Coordinators will be asked this spring to review website content and work with officers to approve what content will be migrated to a new site, what will be archived, and what may be removed.

4.5 Discussion of Oslo program, "Libraries in the Sky: large-scale collaboration strategies and infrastructures to enhance the use of digital heritage collections."

Frédéric, as program chair, and Hege, as our host at the National Library of Norway, delivered updates regarding the program to be held the following day. Approximately 70 people were expected to attend, plus additional library staff. Clarifications about the schedule were made and we designated chairs and moderators for each session. Proceedings would be live streamed in Norway at the National Library website *Stomming av arrangementer*, the program could be tweeted using the hashtags #skylibraries and #iflarbcs.

5. Updates regarding program planning for 2018 World Congress in Kuala Lumpur.

a.) "Fragile! Careful Handling Required: Manuscript housing, conservation and metadata documentation for access." This is a joint session with the Strategic Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC), which is taking the lead in organizing and recruiting speakers. The session will focus on preservation and storage, as well as description of and access to, manuscripts and palm leaf manuscripts in particular.

b.) "Collection Development of Genealogy and Local History – Challenges and Opportunities." RBSC is lending its name to this two-hour session organized by the

Genealogy and Local History Section. No call for papers had been issued yet; Meg, as liaison from RBSC to this session, planned to be in touch with the Genealogy section to learn more about the program.

c.) “Digital scholarship and knowledge management: building confidence in the digital world.” This is a joint session with Knowledge Management and Academic & Research Libraries, and is being organized by the Knowledge Management section. The planning has been very organized, with a good selection of proposals from different global perspectives in response to the call for papers.

d.) “Knowledge Café: Standards, guidelines, and practices for rare materials cataloguing.” Adelaida is chairing this informal one-hour session, which will include an overview of RDA and then present the results of the section’s survey on rare materials cataloguing and the implementation of RDA in various settings and regions of the world.

e.) “Meeting the evolving challenges of digital scholarship: new roles and competencies for research libraries and cultural heritage collections.” Little planning has taken place thus far for this RBSC session, and we discussed targeted speakers whom we could invite to participate in the session, who might provide perspectives from academia, senior management, smaller libraries, library schools, &c. Keeping in mind the challenges in finding academics at this late date who could travel to Kuala Lumpur without funding, we also discussed ways to identify individuals working in digital scholarship in Asia, who might be able to travel to Malaysia more easily.

f.) Lightning Talks. IFLA has issued a call for proposals for lightning talks, and is interested in experimenting with this new, shorter format in Kuala Lumpur.

6. Future programme planning.

a.) 2019 Mid-Term Meeting. Members present agreed regarding the usefulness of a physical mid-term meeting, which, if planned strategically, gives the SC more exposure globally. It would not be feasible to convene both a mid-term meeting and a satellite meeting before WLIC 2019 in Athens. Members focused on four main options for a midterm meeting location in spring 2019: South America (likely Brazil); Alexandria, Egypt; Washington, DC (and Charlottesville, VA), USA; and Toronto or Montreal, Canada. After a vote by members present, the committee decided to pursue a 2019 mid-term meeting in South America, with a Washington, DC location as a fallback plan; Egypt and Canada remain options for the 2020 midterm meeting. The committee will use its business meeting in Kuala Lumpur to determine the program content for a midterm meeting.

b.) 2019 World Congress, Athens, Greece. Discussion of programming for 2019 WLIC was deferred until the committee’s next meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

c.) Future meeting suggestions. In past years, RBSC has followed general themes in its conference programming, e.g. metadata, digitization. Possible themes for programming in 2019 and beyond include UNESCO World Heritage; collaboration and partnerships between library sector and other sectors; funding stories of success and failure (seeking a truly global conversation with speakers from different various

positions); diversity in collections building; and promoting and calculating the value of heritage collections.

d.) Other sponsored meetings or activities. Discussion or other meetings or activities was deferred until the committee's next meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

7. Cultural Heritage

a.) Preservation and Conservation Centres. Steven Wyber forwarded documents from the IFLA Governing Board regarding Cultural Heritage initiatives. The Cultural Heritage Programme is developing a roster of preservation/conservation experts to be called on by Preservation and Conservation Centres. They are seeking experts who can respond quickly, within a two-week window to respond to legislation. With a brief description of expertise needed, RBSC could query its list to ask for the names of experts to be included in this roster.

b.) Digital Reunification Working Group. Helen is a member of this group, which has been founded to explore issues in digital/virtual repatriation of documentary cultural heritage content. The working group will be putting out a survey soliciting information regarding digital reunification project. It will use results of this survey to offer guidelines and suggestions for ethical, legal, and logistical issues regarding the work of digital reunification.

c.) Risk Register and Heritage at Risk. The IFLA Risk Register was launched in 2015, allowing holders of cultural heritage materials to register their collections. IFLA is implementing a survey on disaster risk management to determine how the Register could best be used and where it would complement existing projects. To advance its work documenting heritage collections at risk, IFLA is involved in the work of the Blue Shield (an initiative established by IFLA, the International Council on Archives, the International Council on Museums, and the International Council on Monuments and Sites).

8. Break for lunch in working groups

9. Action Plan Items

a.) Communications plan. RBSC has established a twitter account, and has 450 followers to date. So far, the feed has mostly forwarded other content of interest, but the feed will be more active during the WLIC and Daryl planned to live tweet the midyear program in Oslo. Daryl indicated that he is rarely on Facebook and it would be good to have a committee member more native on Facebook to maintain presence as administrator (the Facebook group has c.430 members). New content for the section blog remains an issue and there has been no new content for a while. Daryl will forward information regarding visits to the blog page.

b.) Metadata standards, ISBD Review Group. Adelaida has been formally appointed to the ISDB review group. There has been no activity from group yet, which is why RBSC been interested in moving forward on our own. Adelaida and her working group have developed and disseminated a rare materials cataloguing survey regarding the implementation of RDA in various regions. RBSC members should share comments with Adelaida regarding the survey by April 20. The working group is planning the

Knowledge Café at WLIC in Kuala Lumpur.

c.) Collaboration with ILAB regarding reporting of stolen books. New proposed legislation in the EU, designed to counter trafficking in cultural objects, has had a significant impact on European booksellers. The proposed legislation follows museum standards for describing cultural objects, which requires full provenance in order to prove authenticity. IFLA could propose amendments advocating for proportionate evidence for different objects (e.g., printed books) to establish legitimacy. ILAB proposes submitted a joint open letter with IFLA regarding the damaging impact of legislation; however, rather than get bogged down by the logistics that would be required for IFLA HQ to agree, Helen proposes that RBSC work with HQ to issue a separate statement regarding the difference in application of the proposed legislation for printed books. With its focus squarely on the new legislation, work to set up the ILAB/IFLA Working Group has been stalled. Helen will write to the ILAB chair to suggest Daryl will work with them to move this forward. Upcoming ILAB congresses in Los Angeles (2018) and Amsterdam (2019) might be appropriate venues for collaboration.

d.) Competencies for Rare Books and Special Collections librarians. Joanne Yeomans confirmed that IFLA standards does not need to pre-review any competencies guidelines before RBSC begins its work drafting a statement. This competencies work will set standards for individuals handling materials through the lifecycle of the object, and allow RBSC to consult with outside groups and peer organizations. The working group plans to examine the sections of the proposed guidelines and to conduct much of its work virtually before coming together in Kuala Lumpur the day before the RBSC business meeting. Huism has offered to host the working group at the National Library of Singapore, or to help explore meeting options in Kuala Lumpur, which may be easier logistically for travelers.

e.) Programming relating to the collection and management of digital and born-digital materials. The programme in Oslo, “Libraries in the sky: large-scale collaboration strategies and infrastructures to enhance the use of digital heritage collections,” reflects RBSC activity regarding the management of born-digital materials.

10. Tour of Special Collections and Comfort Break

Nina Korbu of the National Library of Norway provided SC members a tour of the highlights of the library, including the spectacular 12th-century Kvikne Psalter with runes on the original binding.

11. Continuation of programme planning

Potential presenters for the section program in Kuala Lumpur were suggested, and next steps were decided.

12. Any other business. Meg shared an announcement from the International Council of Archivists that the Forum of National Archivists is being reinvigorated with a shift in priorities to digital record keeping and the sharing of resources to be reused across archives. Fabiano submitted a report after last fall’s conference in South America, which

was very well received. Fabiano is working with colleagues in Brazil to explore future meetings in the region. Action items and communications to be shared the entire SC were outlined and distributed later that evening (see 11 April 2018 email appended below).

Submitted by Danielle Culpepper, Secretary