

# IFLA - Information Technology Section

## Minutes of meetings

### Standing Committee Meeting – Milan, 22 August 2009

#### **Presiding Officers:**

Reinhard Altenhöner, Chair; Alenka Kavčič-Čolić, Secretary; Edmund Balnaves, Information Officer

#### **Standing Committee members present:**

Jonas Ahlberg, Emmanuelle Bermes, H. Frank Cervone, Patrick Danowski, Giuliana de Francesco, Lesiba Steve Ledwaba, Eva Müller, Zhixiong Zhang, Gwen Zilm, Gill Hamilton, Catherine Lupovici

#### **Apologies for absence received from:**

Kiran Kumar Doshi, Robin Fortelius, Alexeis Garcia Pérez, Belén Llera Cermeño, Andrea Marchitelli, Takashi Nagatsuka, Penny Robertson, Sue Stimpson, Hilde van Wijngaarden

#### **Other Standing Committee members absent:**

Noha Adly, Nazha Hachad, Cindy Hill, Karen Hunt, Vivekanand Jain, Jagtar Singh, Dawei Wei, Hee-Kyung Yoo, Elie Youmba

#### **Guests:**

Julio dos Anjos, Hasna Askhita, Antonin Benoit Diouf, Peter Burett, Tiina Ison, Annika Lund, Catherine Lupovici, Christian Lupovici, Anand Murugam, Sanjiv Saraf

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed the Committee members, especially the new ones, and guests.

### **2. Wrap-up participants: trends and figures**

Every participant was asked to introduce themselves and briefly describe their vision about the IT future trends and IT developments considered necessary in their local environment. Their initiatives would be a guideline for the IFLA IT Section activities with special regard to the 2010 program, to be discussed during the next ITS SC meeting. The topics and ideas presented are listed below:

- **Development of library services on mobile phones:**
  - o mobile computing and mobile services in libraries;
  - o mobile devices in learning environments;
- **Implementation of semantic web and web 2.0 solutions in libraries:**
  - o use of new technologies for the integration of cultural heritage in digital libraries, museums and archives;
  - o standardization for semantic web technologies;
  - o integrating metadata with the semantic web – “use and reuse”;
  - o need to describe content capture operations in digital libraries having in mind the access for the future semantic web. The authority files can be the basis for the semantic web;
  - o implementation of social networking tools by libraries in general;

- work in international projects like the next generation catalogues beluga, which are dealing with the same problems, as well as connections between different projects;
- building repositories for scientific information, considered not very successful from the science researchers point of view. More transparent networks are needed, including repositories with web 2.0 functionalities, which can provide more transparency of metadata and metadata guidelines;
- collaboration with subject and indexing and knowledge management sections is necessary - joint meeting and brainstorming for integrating people together – trust of information;
- cross-cultural linguistic data mining.
- **Digital Libraries**
  - Workflow
  - ICT infrastructure & services
  - linkages with digital preservation
  - Cultural heritage services
- **Digital preservation**
  - digital preservation workflows – organizational and technical point of view;
  - technologies integrating knowledge and workflows;
  - investment infrastructure costs and infrastructure development;
  - cost of mass storage;
  - merging data formats;
  - digitization from the point of view of digital preservation;
  - interfaces design and search technologies;
  - problem of merging data formats;
  - audiovisual archives.
- **Open source systems for libraries:**
  - need for implementation of policy free and open source in libraries in developing countries;
  - standardization in usage statistics and harvesting;
  - architectures for digital libraries and integration of commercial products with non-commercial cross-integration;
  - models for software development in libraries;
  - unexpected use of models for open source products.
- **Data interchange:**
  - standards for data interchange;
  - metadata standards and access technologies measures measurement in transporting;
  - geolocations and other metadata in digital libraries;
  - metadata cross-walking.
- **Information literacy in developing countries:**
  - promotion of awareness in the field of ICT in libraries with no resources;
  - assistance to libraries in using value added systems, tools, workflows;
  - support role for undergraduate and graduate level in IT;
  - global information for all and access to information and internet access for all – global consortia;
  - enforcing the knowledge of technology – more focus on technology – more data mining technology.
- **Management of IT:**
  - licensing, communication with management, copyright;
  - authority control – should we have to focus on legal structures or make sure that the content is preserved as digital heritage.
- **Change management.**

**Actions:** From all participants' ideas and suggestions, four important areas supported by the majority of present were defined and a working group was established for each of them. The

working groups will have follow-up meetings during the conference and discuss the ways of achieving some developments and goals in its specific area. These groups are:

- Open source group – organised by Edmund Balnaves
- Semantic web group – organised by Emmanuelle Bermes
- Digital preservation group - organised by Hilde van Wijngaarden
- Development of library services on mobile phones – organised by Patrick Danowski

Each working group will report on the second IT SC meeting on Thursday 27 August 2009.

### **3. Approval of Quebec Minutes**

The minutes of the 2007 ITS SC meetings in Quebec were adopted and approved by all ITS SC members.

### **4. Financial report**

The Chair informed the IT SC members that the low IT Section budget was used for covering the publication of two issues of the ITS Newsletter and for Alenka Kavčič-Čolić travel costs to Florence as part for the preparation of the satellite meeting in August.

### **5. Report on ITS activities in 2008-2009**

Alenka Kavčič -Čolić briefly reported about the activities accomplished last year which included:

- Organization of the satellite meeting “Emerging trends in technology: libraries between Web 2.0, semantic web and search technology”, Florence 19-20 August 2009.
- Organization of the IT core session: “New repositories: architectures interoperability and data exchange”

Reinhard Altenhöner stressed that during the last IT SC meeting, an initiative to establish a discussion group for IT in developing areas was given, but unfortunately there was not concrete action arising from this.

Patrick Danowski reported on the working group for Digital libraries. He mentioned that on Tuesday 25 August, they will try to get the participants’ ideas for developing guidelines for digital libraries. There were other initiatives too without any expected results.

Edmund Balnaves reported on the publication of two issues of ITS Newsletter.

### **6. Elections**

The members of the IT SC unanimously re-elected Reinhard Altenhöner as Chair and Alenka Kavčič-Čolić as Secretary of the IT SC.

### **7. Report from the Coordination Board**

Reinhard Altenhöner reported on the Final meeting of the Division VI Coordinating Board, which took place on Friday 21 August 2009:

- Change of division to Division III – library services.
- All delegates have to wear their conference badges at all times.
- The section has to recommend a paper to be published in IFLA Journal, without any assurance being given.
- The Newcomers Session will be held on Sunday 23 August from 13:45-14:45 in the Auditorium. Recommended for the new IFLA members.
- Briefly reported on the opening ceremony, Leadership forums, and the change of the location of next conference from Brisbane to Gothenburg.

### **8. No report was available for IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Digital Strategies (ICADS)**

**9. eIFLnet / FOSS (Free Open Source Software) activities and related topics around initiatives for developing countries**

Reinhard Altenhöner reported on the IC4D-conference on implementing ICT in developing areas – conference in March in DOH/A. Presidential gathering ICT strategic partnership between IFLA Presidential information society group, UNESCO and ICT4D will take place on Monday on 14 hrs. They will discuss what IFLA can do for developing countries.

Edmund Balnaves will discuss about FOSS at the meeting of the working group on open source.

**10. ITS- SIG “Library 2.0” – Libraries and Web 2.0 libraries SIG**

Patrick Danowski suggested having a meeting during the lunch or after for the discussion of web 2.0 guidelines in libraries. He will arrange advertising on it on Twitter.

**11. SC IT social event in Milan**

Alenka Kavčič-Čolić suggested having an informal dinner on Tuesday evening when the social event had been planned. Since delegates were told that they should book the restaurants for the social event by themselves, Alenka Kavčič-Čolić reserved the Bifi restaurant on Tuesday for 19:30.

**12. The Chair closes the meeting.**

The meeting will be continued on 27 August 2009 at 14.00 hrs.

## Standing Committee Meeting – Milan, 27 August 2009

### **Presiding Officers:**

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### **Standing Committee members present:**

Jonas Ahlberg, Emmanuelle Bermes, Patrick Danowski, Giuliana de Francesco, Lesiba Steve Ledwaba, Eva Müller, Zhixiong Zhang

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### **Other Standing Committee members absent:**

Nazha Hachad, Cindy Hill, Karen Hunt, Vivekanand Jain, Dawei Wei, Hee-Kyung Yoo

### **Guests:**

Hasna Askhita, Emanuelle Bellini, Antonin Benoit Diouf, H. Frank Cervone, Felicia Etim, Emanuela Grandi, Kristina Hormia, Tiina Ison, Annika Lund, Catherine Lupovici, Christian Lupovici, Christel Mahnke, Sally McCallum, Rose Okiy, Roberto Puccinelli, Brunella Sebastiani, Karolien Selhorst, Zeno Tajoli, Elie Youmba.

### **13. Report from the Information Coordinator** (including information Communication Infrastructure IFLA)

The new IFLA website has been launched and the information co-ordinator has access to maintain this site. The IT section site now includes an open source blog. Wiki services are also available. Wider editorial access to the site to standing committee members will be available later in the year/early next year.

### **14. RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) (position paper from ITS and follow-up)**

This paper was handed over to IFLA HQ and was given into the decision stream of IFLA. Until now no reaction was noted, the issue is pending, nevertheless S. Hamilton has repeated the request.

### **15. Workshop in Rome: "Leveraging Technology for Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services"**

Edmund Balnaves reported on the workshop he organized together with the Parliamentary Libraries Section in Rome, 19-21 August 2009. A virtual image of Koha (Edmund Balnaves) and Dspace (Flavio Zeni) was used for hands-on introduction to open source systems. There were 40+ participants from different developing countries (one IT manager and one Library manager from each institution). They were acquainted with the use of open source systems.

### **16. ITS activities in Milan 2009 &**

### **17. Highlights and experiences of the 2009 Conference**

The activities held during the conference:

- **Monday, 24 August - 09.30-12.45** - *Statistics and Evaluation, Information Technology and Preservation and Conservation: Statistics for the cultural heritage*. Reinhard Altenhöner chaired the session. Emmanuelle Bermes had a presentation. A brief overview will be published in the ITS Newsletter.
- **Tuesday, 25 August 2009 - 09.30-12.45** - *Knowledge Management, Library and Research Services for Parliaments and Information Technology: Social computing tools for learning and*

*knowledge sharing*. Frank Cervone chaired the session and in addition presented a paper. A brief overview will be published in the ITS Newsletter.

- **Wednesday, 26 August 2009 – 11:45-12:45** - *Libraries and the Web 2.0* – The Library 2.0 project showroom - organized and discussion moderated by Patrick Danowski and the SIG Libraries and Web 2.0. The number of participants exceed all expectations. Next year, a bigger conference room will be needed. Additionally a more detailed planning for preparation is expected. A brief overview will be published in the ITS Newsletter.

The proposed next stages for engagement by the IFLA IT Standing Committee were:

- Make the SIG topic for next year in the area of "m-library services". (Services of libraries that gets delivered on mobile phones).
- Work with the Scottish libraries and Information Council to promulgate Library 2.0 guidelines at an international level. To start working on this the guidelines of Scottish libraries can be a starting point (they will be published under a Creative Commons License).
- **Thursday, 27 August 2009 – 8:30-10:30** - *IT Section core session: New repositories: architectures interoperability and data exchange*: Edmund Balnaves was the Chair of the session. At the last minute we were informed that the second speakers (Video active – European television heritage online / Johan OOMEN, Vassilis TZOUVARAS & Marco RENDINA) would not take part at the conference. Since the information was given only at the last moment, it was impossible to replace him or to present a brief summary of the paper. Edmund Balnaves substituted a marvellous short presentation on open source, and wrapped up other presentations. The members of the SC congratulated him for such a good work.

## **18. Other IFLA Milan issues**

Due to the difficulties with the access to the Internet during the IFLA Conference in Milan Fair, a written professional resolution by the IT Section Chair and Information officer on behalf all IT SC members was prepared and sent in print and electronic form to every governing board member. It was published in the IFLA Express.

## **19. Paper nominated by the ITS SC for publication in the IFLA Newsletter.**

The ITS SC members selected the paper: Not (just) a Repository, nor (just) a Digital Library, nor (just) a Portal: A Portrait of Europeana as an API / Cesare CONCORDIA, Stefan GRADMANN & Sjoerd SIEBINGA for its publications in the IFLA Newsletter.

## **20. Plans for Gothenburg:**

The plans will take place in the field of the previously defined working groups. Brief reports of the follow-up meetings of the working groups were presented:

**Open source** – report by Edmund Balnaves (full report enclosed):

During the meeting, the attached EIFL-Foss update was presented, and a model for enterprise architecture for open source in libraries was presented by Dr Balnaves. Also discussed were the ways in which open source and open access initiatives can inter-act and the possibilities for open source publishing systems to interact with open source library services.

The meeting examined ways in which the standing committee had been engaged with open source initiatives. These actions focused on two areas:

- 1) direct activities of the IFLA IT section in promoting standards in open source and publicising open source frameworks for libraries
- 2) working with other agencies, actively involved in open source to encourage regional support initiatives for open source, recommend projects that facilitate adoption of open source and work with UN/UNESCO and EIFL-Net in their open source initiatives.

Arising from this discussion were the following recommendations for discussion in the final IFLA IT Section meeting:

- **Direct activities of the IFLA IT section**
  - a) Promote an enterprise vision of open source for libraries by:
    - Establishing an open-source sub-site with open source comparative reviews and enterprise open source architecture for libraries & with recommendations
    - Promoting the interaction between open access and open source and institutions as publishers
  - b) Communicate successful strategies, examples and standards in open source deployment by:
    - Documenting / Sharing experience in Integrating open source systems (LMS to Digital library. Publishing to Digital library) and promoting standardised interfaces
    - Publishing a special issue of the newsletter focussing on Open Source
  - c) Examining the possibility of one-day workshop on Open Source systems at the IFLA congress in Gothenburg.
  
- **Collaborate with other key institutions - UNESCO / UN /ICT 4D**
  - 1) Co-operate with organisations promoting information literacy
  - 2) Virtualisation approaches offer opportunities to implement “out of the box” examples of open source enterprise implementations (including LMS, Digital Library). Promote funding for a project developing a virtualised example of the Enterprise open source library service architecture.

**Semantic web** - report by Emmanuelle Bermes (complete report enclosed)

The working group identified several topics within the semantic web activities and technologies that are of the library community interest and that we are willing to promote as topics for IFLA. These are:

- data modelling and URI design – cooperation between different existing initiatives;
- software evaluation and benchmarking;
- success stories – existing projects using Semantic Web technologies should be encouraged to share their results within IFLA;
- trust issue – ensuring digital provenance of RDF data and qualification of authoritative datasets;
- licensing issue.

Possible actions envisioned by the IT section for the coming years were proposed:

- advocacy and awareness raising (starting in 2009);
- technology watch reports and list of projects (starting in 2009);
- providing best practice and possibly guidelines (starting in 2010);
- contributing the standardization effort (starting in 2010).

For Gothenburg 2010 IFLA conference the group proposes a training session, possibly 2 or 3 slots of 1 hour split over 2 or 3 days.

It is also important to cooperate with other IFLA sections like Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing, and Knowledge Management. Especially regarding the licensing of library data, cooperation is possible with Copyright and legal matters group and the entities related with national libraries (ICADS, National libraries Section, CDNL).

**Digital preservation working group** – reported by Alenka Kavčič-Čolić:

Digital preservation starts at the moment of ingesting the e-content in the library or at the moment of producing the digital material. But in most cases the digital preservation processes are included later, after the collection of digital material has been already stored in the library, and is undertaken separately. The most important question is how to integrate digital preservation in the library workflow from the very beginning. This topic addresses issues like:

- workflow modelling and design

- organizational change and decision making
- integration of different communities into digital preservation flows
- success stories or implementations in libraries.

Probably it would be expected from this group to cooperate with the Preservation and Conservation Section in a joint session and/or activities. But in doing so, there is a concern that at the end we shall not be able to put a complete emphasis on the processes from the IT perspective. As result, the working group proposed two different possibilities:

- o to organize the IT core session next year in Gothenburg dedicated to this topic. A title was suggested: “How to integrate digital preservation in the library’s workflow: mission impossible?”
- o to contact ICADS and try to organize some joint activities.

### **Institutional ITC-structure**

Another topic addresses the need to extend the capacity of data centres in libraries including organisational and financial issues. One suggestion is to have a small pre-conference workshop in order to join interested people for best practise presentations and professional exchange.

**Development of library services on mobile phones working group** – report by Patrick Danowski – they had several meetings but it was not enough for coming into a conclusion.

### **21. First steps to Puerto Rico: WLIC 2011**

A discussion took place on whether it was possible to organize a satellite meeting in Puerto Rico or not. The issue is still open.

### **22. Decisions on the SC website / information platform**

Edmund Balnaves gave a brief report on the new IFLA website and offered to share some administrative privileges with the web editors of the sites dedicated to different working groups/topics once access is opened more widely to standing committee members.

### **23. Update Strategic Plan**

Edmund Balnaves presented the main points of the Strategy. Most of it may serve for the next period. Due to the lack of time, the Chair suggested that all members of the ITS SC gave his/her written suggestions by mail.

**Actions:** All members of the ITS SC will be invited to give their comments and suggestions to the Strategic Plan for 2010-2011. The final strategy should be delivered to IFLA/HQ till mid November 2009.

24. The Chair closes the meeting.

Alenka Kavčič-Čolić  
Secretary, IT Section