



**IFLA Section for Public Libraries Standing Committee
Meeting held in Milan, Italy**

**Draft Minutes of the Meetings held on Saturday,
August 22 and Tuesday, August 25, 2009**

Time and Location:	Meeting 1: Saturday, August 22 14.30 – 17:20 Milan Convention Center Room Yellow 2	
Time and Location:	Meeting 2: Tuesday, August 25 16:45 – 18:15 Milan Convention Center Room White 1	
Members attending meeting 1, and 2	Olga Ustinova (OU) Lorraine Jackson (LJ) Kent Skov Andreasen (KSA) Libuse Nivnická (LN) Annick Guinery (AG) Ruth Ørnholt (RO) Suzanne Payette (SP) Marian Morgan-Bindon (MB) John Lake (JL)	Gloria Pérez-Salmerón (GPS) Torny Kjekstad (TK) Barbara Gubbin (BG) Mònica Medina-Blanes (MMB) Mats Hansson (MS) Rebekka Pilppula (RP) Marja Malminen (MM) Neil Davies (ND) Ian Stringer (IS)
Members attending meeting 1 only	Joyce Jelks (JJ) Ljiljana Sabljak (LS)	
Members attending meeting 2 only	Klaus-Peter Böttger (KPB) Hanna Vogt (HV)	
Apologies	Karlien de Klerk Jingxia Li	Yuk-man Lee Deming Zhou
Absent	Anna Torfadottir Victoria Okojie	Magdalena Reyes
Observers Meeting 1	Steve Witt, Chair of Division I Oumou Ouedraogo Maria Zamora	Kari Bjørlelid Steve Bergen, Gates Award Martin Gomez
Observers Meeting 2	Corrado di Tillio Raquel Flores Bernal	Marine Bedel

1. Greetings and apologies for absence. (Lake)

John Lake asked everyone to introduce themselves and to say which library they represent and if they are a member of the Committee or an observer. Barbara Gubbin sent round a sign-in sheet. John welcomed Steve Witt, the new Chair of Division I, the Division which the Public Libraries Standing Committee now belongs to. He noted we needed to include him on our email list and send him our newsletter. He also welcomed Steve Bergen from the Gates Foundation who was attending to report on the Access to Learning Award. JL noted that he had received apologies for their absence from Yuk-man Lee, Jingxia Li, Klaus-Peter Boettger – his new library building is opening today! – and Deming Zhou. He had not heard from Committee members Magdalena Reyes, Victoria Okojie or Anna Torfadottir.

8 (v) Programs at the WLIC 2009 in Milan.

JL moved to this section on the agenda to allow Steve Bergen from the Gates Foundation to report on the Access to Learning Award; the award will be announced for this year at an event on August 25. Mr. Bergen asked the Committee members to spread the word of the \$1 million Award which is given to enhance free access to computers and the Internet using creative and innovative approaches to achieving this. The award is for libraries serving the underserved and applications must be completed online; he passed out a brochure with more information. Suzanne Payette noted that the application had to be completed in English and that she and Torny Kjekstad had served on the selection panel in the past. JL hoped that the Gates Foundation would continue their working relationship with the Public Libraries Standing Committee.

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

Barbara Gubbin reviewed the documents which had been sent out prior to the meeting including the agenda, minutes of the mid-year meeting, and the strategic plan.

3. Approval of the agenda. (Lake)

The Committee dinner has been re-scheduled to Wednesday, August 26 from Monday, August 24 and it was noted that the title of the officer in charge of public relations is Information Coordinator. There were no other changes made to the agenda.

4. Approval and Follow-Up of the minutes of the mid-year meeting held in St. Petersburg, Russia on Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27, 2009.

The only change made to the minutes was to note in section 9 that the Leadership forum would be held in the morning on Sunday, August 23 and not in the afternoon.

JL reviewed a variety of items from the minutes:

No one on the Committee, including JL had received any communication from Anna Torfadottir, Iceland since her election to the Committee. She has attended no meetings or sent apologies for her absence, or communicated in any other way with members of the Committee. KSA had been asked to serve as her mentor; he has tried to reach her by mail, phone and email without response including telling her that her lack of attendance and communication had been noted and would be discussed at this WLIC meeting. JL noted that last year the Committee had removed a member for lack of attendance and involvement. LJ agreed that there is too much important work to do to have committee members who do not participate. There was consensus on the Committee that Ms.

Torfadottir be removed from the Committee and the next highest vote getter in the recent election, Ian Stringer be appointed in her place. JL said he would write formally to both Ms. Torfadottir and Mr. Stringer about the Committee's decision.

Action Item: JL

Under Section 9 KSA reported on the work of Elena Boretti of Perugia, a former member of the Committee who had assisted in translating the Public Library Guidelines leaflet and the brochure on the Committee into Italian to distribute at the Congress. Elena could not attend the Congress but KSA publicly thanked her and also noted that the Odense Public Library had paid to print the brochures. IS noted that we now have the section brochure in 4 languages (French, English, Spanish and Italian.)

JL had requested time for a poster session on the Public Library Guidelines at this conference but his application had not been approved.

BG encouraged new members of the Committee to consider joining the working group on the new edition of the Guidelines and to submit examples of best practice documents for the publication. JL noted that the appointment of mentors for the new members of the Committee needed to be considered on the agenda.

5. Chair's Report – John Lake.

JL had been closely involved in planning a pre-conference held in Turin immediately prior to the WLIC in Milan on "Libraries as Places and Spaces"; it was very successful. The new Chinese Language Center has translated the Committee's 2008 report on Public Libraries, Archives and Museums into Chinese. Steve Witt from the University of Illinois at Champagne Urbana had been elected to chair Division I. JL noted that some of the Committees which used to serve with Public Libraries in Division III are now operating in different divisions; he hoped that our relationship with these committees will continue given the commonalities we share in serving the general public. JL commended the Committee for Library Services to Multicultural Populations on their leaflet and compact disc which comprises many documents related to their work – the Multicultural Manifesto, their newsletter and so on. He suggested that our Committee consider something similar to move away from print; this provides a middle ground when so many librarians can still not readily access the web.

6. Nomination and Election of New Officers – Chair, Secretary, Information Coordinator and Treasurer.

JL said he had sent notice of the need for these elections to all members of the Committee prior to the meeting asking for nominees. He had received two responses which nominated Suzanne Payette for Chair and Barbara Gubbin to continue as Secretary. He asked if there were further nominees. There being none TK asked that the two nominees speak to their qualifications and interest in serving. SP said she was the director of a small public library in the town of Brossard (population 70,000) near Quebec City. She has attended IFLA congresses since the one in Buenos Aires. She served on the organization committee for the conference in Quebec City and has also served on the selection panel for the Gates Access to Learning Award. BG told everyone that she was the director of the Jacksonville Public Library in Florida; had been serving as secretary for the Committee for 2 years and would be willing to continue to serve in this capacity if elected. There was consensus to

elect these two Committee members to these offices. JL said that he and SP had agreed that he would chair this the first Committee meeting and SP the second.

JL noted that IS had been filling the Information Coordinator role for the Committee and since he would be re-appointed to the Committee and was willing to continue serving as Information Coordinator that appointment would be made soon. RO agreed to assist with this work. TK noted that a lot more communication could take place on the new website.

Libuse Nivnická had indicated that she would be willing to serve as Treasurer taking over from KPB who is leaving the Committee. JL noted that officers, especially new officers should attend the officers briefing on Monday.

Action Item: JL

7. Report on pre-conference Libraries as Places and Spaces held in Turin; pre-conference P3 Conference: Better library services for print-disabled people through partnerships with publishers and public libraries.

KSA reported on the first of these which he had attended and said it was most successful, and, in that it addressed adapting library facilities to the new demands put on them it was very relevant. He said that both academic and public librarians attended which provided a good opportunity to exchange ideas. He also noted that there was discussion of changing the physical library into a virtual library and RO agreed that the discussion of the “Unlibrary” was very informative. JL who had also attended said that 200 people attended and there was good media coverage. TK recognized the great job JL and his colleagues with their Italian counterparts had done in organizing this conference. No one present had attended the P3 conference but JL reported that about 120 people attended the conference held in Belgium, including IFLA President-elect Ellen Tise. As a result of the conference a resolution will come forward for consideration by the IFLA membership. JL said he would make copies for the Tuesday meeting. It addresses the need to offer adequate opportunities for people with print disabilities to have access to print.

8. Programs at the WLIC 2009 in Milan, Italy.

8 (i) BG encouraged people to attend the program which had been organized by the Metropolitan Libraries Committee. She reviewed the key speakers and topics.

8 (ii) BG also noted the program to be held in the afternoon following the Metropolitan Libraries program. She will be a speaker on children and teen spaces, their design and use.

8 (iii) the Leadership Forum had been mentioned earlier in the meeting; new officers are encouraged to attend. JL announced that there would be a web editors meeting at the conference and both IS and RO said they planned to attend.

8 (iv) KSA reported that staff from Odense Public Library will be hosting a poster sessions “Read It! Show It! Promote It!”

8(v) JL noted that Steve Bergen had spoken to the Committee earlier in the agenda. SP noted that the program was scheduled for the same time as the Public Libraries SC meeting and said that she would communicate with IFLA/Gates to see how this could be avoided in the future.

Action Item: SP

8 (vi) The day of the Committee’s dinner together had been changed JL announced; it would be held on Wednesday, August 26. The restaurant and its address were passed around and everyone was encouraged to attend.

JL informed everyone that there would be an off-site conference within a conference on Tuesday, August 25 on Digital Libraries of the Future. GPS will represent the Public Libraries Committee and RO among others said they planned to attend. He also encouraged Committee members to take time to attend the brainstorming session sponsored by incoming IFLA President Ellen Tise on Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m.

9. Report from Governing Board and Professional Committee.

TK reported from her last meeting on the Governing Board which had met on Friday. The new board had convened and discussed the upcoming conference, the finances approved by the Professional Committee for special projects including the funding of Public Libraries' projects, and training in the new Leadership Forums. Members of the Committee expressed interest in the Governing Board's decision to change the location of the 2010 WLIC from Brisbane to Gothenburg. TK explained that at the December 2008 meeting of the Governing Board it was reported that the National Committee organizing the WLIC in Australia was having problems raising the E 600,000 needed to host the conference. This had put the GB on alert. At the same time the staff was conducting site visits for a location in 2012. Prague withdrew and the other sites were Gothenburg and Helsinki. Gothenburg was "ready" to host a conference having just completed the bid for 2012. As a result of this experience the GB established a committee to review IFLA's policies of how a conference location is chosen; its preliminary recommendations were reviewed at the GB meeting and adopted in principle with the full, new Board to vote on it shortly. TK noted that a conference currently costs E2 million to put on and with fewer delegates able to attend and fewer vendors, we should expect changes in IFLA conferences. She also noted that a new contract for conference planning will need to be awarded soon.

Committee members expressed concern saying that the change in location has a negative impact in terms of conference attendance and awareness of libraries and IFLA in the parts of the world where no conference is held. JL noted that the Malaysian delegation planned to meet to discuss this as Kuala Lumpur had been in contention as a conference site. MB said that Australian librarians were very disappointed as a lot of work had already gone into planning the conference. However, it was clear that Australia/Brisbane could not raise the funds and IFLA could not afford a major loss as the Milan conference was not expected to break even. She noted that the MetLib conference held in Brisbane in the spring only just broke even. LJ recommended that the Governing Board consider holding a virtual conference.

JL asked how pre-conferences which were in the planning phase for 2010 would now be handled. RO volunteered to attend the planning meeting to be held on Sunday for the pre-conference Public Libraries as Community Builders. This conference had been planned for New Zealand. SP volunteered to attend the pre-conference planning group for Next Generation Users. SP also commented that IFLA needs to become more politically connected on the international stage to obtain government support for its activities.

Agenda items 11. Financial Report and 12. Strategic Plan were deferred until the second meeting.

Oumou Ouedraogo was attending the meeting to report on the Caterpillar Box Project – Agenda Item 16 (d ii) IS asked that she report before the meeting ended as she could not be at the second

meeting. She explained that in January 2009 the project had begun and the first box had been taken to a village 30km from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital. It contains about 200-300 books, both adult and children's and they are being used by the villagers. They need to build more boxes. JL asked how many people have used the collection; Oumou said about 1,000 people have used it.

Before the meeting ended JL passed out certificates of appreciation to Marja Malminen and Joyce Jelks for their service on the committee and said he would let SP present a certificate to Klaus-Peter Boettger when he attended the Tuesday meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to be re-convened on Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

August 25, 2009.

The meeting was re-convened with Suzanne Payette as the new chair.

SP made an announcement regarding plans for the Committee's dinner that evening. She presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Klaus-Peter Boettger for his service on the Committee and congratulated him on both the opening of his new library and his new position as the director of the Essen Public Library.

13(c) IFLA WLIC 2010: Public Libraries Program in Gothenburg.

A number of topics had been discussed at the meeting in St. Petersburg and others had come to people's attention since that time including the topics touched on during the Metropolitan Libraries program the day before. It was recommended that the program topic for the 2010 conference be "Collections in Public Libraries" addressed from a number of different angles including management and delivery of different formats, the merging of the physical and virtual collections, audio-visual materials, their role in the collection and how it is changing, cooperative collection building, outsourcing of selection of materials, the impact of fewer financial resources on collections and promoting library collections. It was recommended that the Acquisitions and Collections section be approached to make it a joint program; however, a member of that section had joined the meeting and he commented that their focus was very much on academic libraries and with limited time it would be difficult to address all the important issues faced by public libraries. Marian Morgan – Bindon and Ruth Ornholt agreed to co-chair the program committee. They will encourage people to submit papers which will be shared on google.docs; criteria for selection and a title for the program are also needed.

11. Financial Report.

KPB provided a report on the financial status of the Committee. One last request needs to be made to pay for the Caterpillar project and they need to be committed to the Ghana Caterpillar project this year. LJ will be managing this project. IS asked if additional funds could be sent to the project in Burkina Faso to move the boxes from their current location to be used at another location. It was agreed that the Caterpillar funds are seed money to get a project started and then it was up to the recipient to manage the equipment and materials. LJ said it was understood that the people in Ghana would move the Caterpillar boxes around.

12. Strategic Plan for 2009-2010.

With a new edition of the Guidelines anticipated next year it was decided that new translations of the brochure were not needed until the new edition is published. We need a new title of the publication. Ideas included Guidelines for the 21st century; Improved/Updated Guidelines. A meeting was scheduled for the next day to review the current draft of the Guidelines and make any additional changes.

With regard to “Meeting User Needs” MMB reported that the project had ended. There is a long resource list with 22 pages online with best practices and practical guidance to public librarians on services, staffing and analyzing trends among other topics. MMB will review the list and if an item is still a good practice transfer it to the new IFLA best practices database.

With regard to programming in 2010, RO had been serving as the Committee liaison to the Building Strong Communities pre-conference. This group has decided not to move the conference to Europe and will hold it in New Zealand in February 2011 but with IFLA endorsement. RO and MS had decided that the topic is so important and relevant that they plan to work together to plan a pre-conference prior to the WLIC in Gothenburg on the same topic. SP will approach Metropolitan Libraries to see if they want to partner with us. Submission deadline for the forms is November 15.

Action Items: RO, MS, SP

SP will attend the meeting of the Reference and Information Services section to discuss the pre-conference on Global Librarian to find out what they have decided about re-locating this conference in 2010.

Under Section 4, LJ asked that there be a strong statement about literacy. She had attended meetings on the Reading Manifesto and the group has decided to begin work on a completely new document; given that we are operating in a digital age it has to be a Manifesto about more than just reading. She was not certain of the next steps or timetable.

Section 6.2: Mentoring Program.

SP assigned the following Committee members to serve as mentors for the new Committee members:

Gloria Pérez-Salmerón – Hannelore Vogt
Lorraine Jackson – Rebekka Pilppula
Ruth Ornholt – Matts Hansson
Ian Stringer – Neil Davies
Libuse Nivnická – Ljiljana Sabljak
Barbara Gubbin – Marian Morgan-Bindon
Mònica Medina-Blanes – Deming Zhou

She asked that the mentors and mentees follow up over the next few months so that new members of the Committee can become active as soon as possible.

Action Item: GPS, LJ, RO, IS, LN, BG and MMB.

Other changes were made to update the Strategic Plan which BG will reflect in an updated copy which will be sent out to all SC members.

17. Website, Newsletter and Section Brochure. There was discussion if this should be the time to put the newsletter on the website and do away with a print version. RO said that there should be one print version produced just before the conference so it could be picked up and read by those at the conference. She recommended that it include a letter from the Chair, an editor's letter, information about the new edition of the Guidelines and be used as a membership development tool.

18. Mid-year meeting of the Committee in 2010.

LN invited everyone to come to Brno, Czech Republic for the meeting; Brno is the second largest city in South Morelia and not far from Prague, Bratislava and Vienna! It was tentatively decided that the meeting should be held at the end of March but final dates are yet to be decided and will be shared with the Committee. The meeting will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

There was no time to address programs for the 2011 conference in Puerto Rico or the Mobile Library Guidelines. These will be put on the agenda for the mid-year meeting.

The Committee endorsed the Resolution: "People, Publishers, Public Libraries" sponsored by the IFLA Section Libraries serving Persons with Print Disabilities as passed out by SP.

Raquel Flores Bernal asked if she could serve as a corresponding member.

Action Item: SP

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara A. B. Gubbin
Secretary