

## Reference & Information Services Section Committee Meeting 2 18th Aug 2014

### Present (SC Members/Countries)

Judy Ng (Chair & Treasurer/Singapore), Philippa Andreasson (Information Co-Ordinator/Sweden), Sara Gube-Josefsson/Sweden), Jane Weller (Secretary/UK), Rania Shaarawy/Egypt, Elena Lindeman/Russia, Zhong Yonheng/China, Christine Brown/Canada, Julie Biando Edwards/USA, Najwa Hendrickse/South Africa, Marydee Ojala/USA, Trude Færevaaag/Norway.

### Present (Observers/Countries)

Janet Hocken/Australia, Emelie Barthet/France, Julian Bultcom/n.k., Laverne Page/USA, Nikki Potgieter/South Africa, Angela Dressen/n.k., Murat Nina Mater/France, Dalia Rehan/n.k.

**Welcome.** The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them all for attending.

1. We discussed the very successful Session, held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August, which had a staggering 680 attendees! All the speakers were good, and a group photo was taken of them afterwards. Thanks to everyone who took photos, especially Elena Lindeman. We scored well in having a French speaker presenting in French, but with overhead slides in English, all our other speakers presenting in English. As IFLA do not offer translation services free, it is up to each SC to arrange their own, and Rania kindly agreed to translate Silvere's paper from French into English.

### **Action: Rania (now done) and Philippa to upload to website (uploaded Nov 2014)**

The papers and presentations are on the IFLA site as well as links from our webpages. IFLA no longer need papers for their journal, as everything now is being put online.

Again we had use of a screen/ohp that was available in the room, but the general feeling was that the Congress rooms were too large (and gloomy!) and prevented the easy exchange of ideas and discussion that a smaller, less formal seating arrangement would have had.

2. Pre-Congress Satellite session for 2015. Unfortunately Mijin was not present, as she has been leading on this proposal for a pre-Cape Town satellite, to be held in Botswana. Mijin had done some planning documents, so she would be asked to provide these asap. In the meantime, Christine offered to email the Botswana University Library. Christine suggested as Keynote Speaker, John Wood from "Room to Read" and will follow this up.

**Action: Christine and Mijin (subsequent to this, planning has moved on and the satellite conference is now approved by IFLA and being organised. Julie has pulled together the Call for Papers, see <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla81/node/981>**

3. Our main session in 2015. The Congress theme is *Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development & Transformation*. We discussed our theme and possible topic headings and decided upon:

Theme Title: *"Surprise Yourselves! New Models of Reference and Information Services"*

Topics of interest could include:

- Transforming reference services during a time of budget restraint

- The benefits of the human interaction as we balance access to both print and digital resources
- Sustainable development of reference services
- The reference librarian as a partner in community service (career advisor, tutor, local Government information, homework coaching, etc)
- The role of the reference librarian in the development of discovery services

There were many other topic headings suggested – **see appendix** – which we could offer up in the Call for Papers, but it was felt that too many would be counter-productive. The above 5 were chosen when Christine subsequently pulled together the Call for Papers. However a few more could be added, so if there are any strong contenders from the list below, please let Jane and Christine know asap.

**Action: Christine and Jane (both now done – awaiting approval confirmation from IFLA)**

**Action: All, to decide upon adding any more topic suggestions, from the appendix listing.**

4. Mid-year meeting. It was agreed not to have one in 2015, because of the Botswana and South Africa meetings, but everyone was very enthusiastic when Rania offered a Committee meeting venue, Alexandria, for Spring 2016!

**Action: All, to help Rania by suggesting dates as soon as possible and to let her know how many will be attending? (Judy has subsequently said that those members staying on the Committee for 2015 onwards should decide this).**

5. During the Congress, Judy and Christine attended a Divisional session on IFLA guidelines and standards and reported back to the Committee. It was agreed that RISS should contribute towards updating our standards and guidelines as part of Division III. A sub-group will tackle this, over a three-year plan, including translating into other languages.

**Action: Julie, Trude, Najwa, Elena L and Rania. (Subsequent to this meeting, Rania has provided excellent translations into French and Arabic). Philippa to upload to website.**

**Action: Philippa (completed Nov 2014 - Chinese, Turkish, Swedish, Latvian, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, Greek, German, French, Dutch, Arabic)**

## **Appendix**

### **Other topic headings discussed at the SC2.**

The Human and Technology aspects of reference services for research and sustainability development

The use of Reference Apps

How reference services can promote themselves

Back to basics – access to ref and information services with developing technologies

The reference librarian's role in partnering on the local level

Discover hidden gems – exposing the content of your collections

Partnering with schools to offer ref services / ref and info services in a school setting

Something focussing on African Public Libraries

Cultural sensitivity or Colonialism 2.0