

Reference and Information Services Section Committee Meeting 1  
13<sup>th</sup> of August 2016  
Columbus, OH 3:15pm-5:15pm

## Attendees:

**Present:** Chair Christine Brown, Canada; Marydee Ojala, USA; Jane Sanchez, USA; Edwin Qobose, Botswana; Laverne Page, USA; Trude Faerevaag, Norway; Rania Shaarawy, Egypt; Hongya Jin, China.

**Apologies:** Secretary Najwa Hendrickse, South Africa; Information Coordinator Julie Biando Edwards, USA; Jooza Al Marri, Qatar; Mijin Kim, Canada; Melissa Miller, USA; Philippa Andreasson, Sweden; Lilianna Nalewajska, Poland.

**Absent:** Carme Fenoll Clarabuch, Spain.

**Observers:** Luigina Orlandi, Italy; Zukiswa Ketiwe, South Africa; Amy Rodda, USA; Dean Giustini, Canada; Mahmoud Khalifa, Egypt; Brian Hickam, USA; May Chang, USA; Dao Aminata, Burkina Faso; Muneera Albuainain, Qatar; Kristine Alpi, USA; Liya Deng, USA; Stan Trembach, USA.

## Business:

### 1. Welcome remarks and apologies:

The Chair welcomed section members and observers and outlined the agenda. Each attendee introduced themselves by name, country and profession. Committee member Trude Faerevaag took the minutes.

### 2. Adoption of agenda

Chair presented the agenda for the meeting, and specially welcomed May Chang from the IT section to observe the meeting. RISS is going to plan a satellite meeting next year in Poland together with the IT section.

There were no additions to the agenda.

### 3. Review of past minutes:

Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 were approved.

### 4. Coordinating the RISS Session (Aug 16th 9:30am)

*Action:* Tasks were distributed:

- a) Introductions by Chair and Edwin Qobose;
- b) Gifts to speakers: Marydee Ojala;
- c) Timekeeper, Jane Sanchez;
- d) Visitor count: Laverne Page and Trude Faerevaag.

### 5. RISS response to libraries impact and development:

The Information Officer has developed a preliminary draft to the IFLA Reference and Information Services Section Statement on Libraries and Development. The response is intended to detail the ways in which reference and other information services support the UN's 2030 Agenda, commonly known as the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Action:* This matter will be addressed at the next meeting.

## **6. RISS Draft of Standards**

Jane and Rania have developed a draft RISS standard document and made two different proposals. The proposals are out for comment and will be edited for a final draft to be re-submitted to the committee.

*Action:*

- a) Jane volunteered to resend the draft she wrote.
- b) Christine will circulate Jane's draft post-meeting.

## **7. Reports from Executive (Chair, Secretary, Information Officer)**

### *a) Submission for the session:*

We had 21 responses to our call for papers for the RISS session during IFLA WLIC 2016 in Columbus. Six papers will be presented on RISS open session on Tuesday 16 of August.

Marydee has done an excellent job preparing everything for this session, and Christine praised all committee members that evaluated and ranked the papers. It will be a great session, and we hope many people will come.

### *b) Satellite meeting in Poland:*

We must begin making plans for our Satellite Meeting next year before the 83<sup>rd</sup> IFLA General Conference and Assembly in Poland, Wroclaw 19-25 August 2107. It will require substantial work and preparation. Cooperating with the IT section will make this an especially timely meeting. Planning must begin almost immediately. Exact dates has not been finalized, but we suspect it will be 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of August. University of Warsaw will host the satellite meeting and they offer facilities and practical assistance. Lilianna Nalewajska in Poland is our contact.

*Action:* Volunteers should contact the Chair.

### *c) Relevant issues under consideration:*

Impact on development, webinar, publications, the future of the reference librarian, future of the reference services, the future of the information desk. What about cataloging? Electronic resources, do the users prefer print or e-book? We had a rousing discussion around the topic of the reference librarian's role now and in the future. What's happening around the world? Information desks are disappearing - who finally stands behind the information desk? Good discussion about physical versus digital resources. What about the value of the physical reference collection?

*Action:* It was proposed that the section have further discussion on the satellite meeting.

### *d) IFLA news:*

New secretary general: Gerald Leitner. Chair referred to Leitner's speech in discussing IFLA's unique role due to its global reach and representation. He believes that in the face of rapidly-growing globalization, a powerful, worldwide IFLA is more important than ever. Therefore, IFLA must increase engagement with members to take the lead in new, and more inclusive ways that reach all regions and sectors. He especially underscored the

importance of the Officers meeting in Athens. He asked sections to discuss these ideas and provide input to the IFLA vision.

*Action:* Chair will give information and details later on.

e) *Projects:*

We must think about what we want to do with the IFLA objectives in our action plan. We need to look at the strategy of IFLA with a view to developing projects for the group.

*Action:* It will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

f) *IFLA Standards:*

In support of quality library and information services worldwide.

g) *Report on Satellite Meeting in Botswana*

The report was discussed, and it was an accurate account of the meeting. Comments from Edwin: The entire budget was spent. All publications from the Botswana meeting will be in the IFLA library. No questions or comments to the report. Good work.

h) *Finalize attendance at group dinner*

Eight section members will attend a group dinner Wed Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm – Location TBA.

**8. Other ideas/issues**

- a) How many libraries are there around the world? IFLA wants to keep statistics of all libraries and librarians worldwide.
- b) Is anyone interested in a virtual conference/unconference meeting?
- c) Call for new committee members in October/November. In 2017, nearly half of the standing committee members end their appointments. We will be looking to renominate members

*Action:* Anyone interested or who cannot continue should contact the chair.