



**IFLA Standing Committee on Law Libraries. Minutes of Meeting.**

**Milan, Italy, Saturday August 22, 2009**

Present: Claire Germain,; Franck Hurinville; Blair Kauffman; Holger Knudsen (Chair); Radu Popa; Donna Scheeder; Jules Winterton.

Absent: Richard Danner; Angeline Djampou; Rubens Medina; Pedro Padilla; Martin Vorberg

**1. Welcome**

Holger Knudsen, Chair, welcomed the new and continuing Standing Committee members, and presented the regrets of those unable to attend.

**2. Congratulations to SC member Donna Scheeder**

The Chair congratulated Donna Scheeder on her election to the Governing Board. All present concurred with their best wishes.

**3. Declaration of officers for the term 2009-2011.**

Chair Holger Knudsen announced that there was one nomination for each office, and that according to IFLA Procedure IFLA rule of procedure 18.35 (<http://www.ifla.org/files/hq/ifla-rules-of-procedure-en.pdf>), these persons were declared elected. The following officers were elected for a second term: Holger Knudsen, Chair; Claire Germain, Secretary; Franck Hurinville, Information Officer; and Donna Scheeder, Treasurer.

**4. Approval of Agenda, Last Minute Changes**

The agenda was approved, with one added agenda item: Collaboration with other IFLA groups, satellite meetings and joint programs with other sections. This will be discussed under Item 14.

**5. Report on the Activities of the Past Year**

Chair Holger Knudsen, mentioned the two successful courses delivered at the 2008 Quebec meeting, and the reception and hospitality of colleagues in the legislative library of Quebec. He thanked Secretary Claire Germain for coordinating these events with the Quebec local committee. He mentioned that the Law Libraries Section had

grown this year to 45 members, that it was still a young section, and that much work was done by Franck Hurinville, Information Officer this year.

#### **6. Report on the Constituting Session of the New Coordinating Board of the Former Special Libraries Division ( Now New Division I)**

Holger Knudsen reported on the constituting session of the new Constituting Board of the Special Libraries Division, and the Leadership Forum meeting. IFLA changes its structure every so often. Every section belongs to a division. Ours was called special libraries. Our Section now belongs to Division I, Library Types . Holger said that he would attend the Leadership Forum on Sunday and ask questions about paying for speakers and other matters.

#### **7. Presentation of our new page on IFLANET**

Franck Hurinville, Information Officer, presented the new page of the Law Libraries Section on IFLANET. IFLA has just come out with a new website, with a content management software, which Franck can edit directly. Franck mentioned the creation of flyers advertising the Section in English, French, Italian, and Arabic thanks to a colleague in Lebanon. Holger Knudsen asked about the German version, and mentioned the desirability of adding a Chinese version, and possibly other languages ,such as Russian, one of the seven languages of IFLA. Franck intends to add links to texts of lectures done in past. He will keep up to date information sent by Section members.

Franck discussed the issue of the Listserv. Previously run by David Byrne, the decision was made in Quebec for the Section to take over the Listserv. Franck had to ask headquarters several times for this to happen, and was finally successful as the new coordinator of " <law-l@infoserv.inist.fr> ". It is not moderated, and has no archiving capabilities. Holger will inquire as to archiving possibilities. In the mean time, the Secretary was asked to keep archived messages. The Listserv is a closed mailing list, with only subscribed members. It currently has 248 subscribers to the list. Franck brought a copy to the chair and to the secretary. The list may date back to the 2002 IFLA Glasgow meeting. Franck will cross this list with our section members. He will invite members of the section to subscribe, with a December 2009 target date.

Blair Kaufmann noticed a problem, that the list is old, and that many people are no longer at the institutions listed. Franck received twenty requests from new subscribers in the past two months. Blair used the chair's copy to change the email addresses that he knew about. The SC discussed whether they should have a separate Listserv for the Section, but decided that email messages sent to all SC members serve the same purpose efficiently.

**Newsletter.** Franck proposed a sample template for the Section Newsletter. He suggests two issues per year, in December and June. It could include some pictures. Holger was enchanted and complimented Franck on the excellent sample newsletter draft. Donna Scheeder mentioned that it could include information on other meetings. It was also suggested that it could use the link from the IALL calendar, with the addition of IFLA specific information, and activities of other sections of interest to law librarians, e.g., from the parliamentary section, and news from other library organizations, such as AALL and IALL.

**Facebook.** Franck presented the question of the value to create a Facebook presence for our Section. Opinions varied, from skepticism to enthusiasm. It was mentioned that it would stir traffic to our website, and that people who look at facebook could find us. Some institutions of note are on Facebook, e.g., Yale law school and the Law Library of Congress are on facebook

Claire asked Franck to give us a time table and deadlines to contribute to the Newsletter. Holger thanked Franck for his work, and noted that his performance is very important for the Section.

## **8. Finances. Report of Treasurer**

Donna Scheeder, Treasurer, reported that the Law Libraries Section receives \$350 per calendar year (January through December), based on the number of section members. The money was used this year to pay for the day registration of one speaker, and for two gifts for the two speakers. The money does not turn over. Donna also mentioned that additional funding is available for projects, guidelines, issue paper. The process involves applying to the professional committee, made of all the heads of divisions. They have project money, but no travel money, and the funding is mostly allocated for publications and research work.

## **9. Report of the secretary**

Claire Germain, Secretary reported that in the past two years, the new Law Libraries Section has grown from 18 to 45 members. A mission statement was written and posted on IFLANET, together with annual reports, minutes of meetings, and other documents.

The Law Library section worked hard and successfully in sponsoring two programs at the 2008 IFLA World Congress in Quebec City, August 10-14, 2008. Over 40 librarians attended the Law Library Section sponsored session addressing "Quebec Law and Digital Publications," with a special focus on law in mixed jurisdictions, which led to lively discussions with the audience. It featured Daniel Boyer, of McGill University, and Dominique Lapierre, of Laval University. The second program, co-sponsored with two other sections, "Authentication of Law in Digital Formats," attracted a large audience of over 100 attendees, with simultaneous translations. Mary Alice Baish provided an

excellent summary of the work that AALL has done in reviewing and promoting authentication of digital legal information in the U.S. Pascal Petitcollot, General Secretariat of the French Government, generously sponsored by AALL (\$1,000), provided an overview of authentication in Europe, with a special focus on born-digital legal documents. Sasha Skenderija and Claire Germain, Cornell Law Library, respectively addressed the need to preserve digital objects cited in court decisions, and the Law Library of Congress's Global Legal Information Network. The reception, financed through a contribution from AALL (\$500) and IALL (\$300), was held in the beautiful Quebec Legislative Library Reading Room, and deemed a great success by all.

The Secretary also reported that new initiatives this year may be somewhat hampered by the global financial crisis. Plans were well under way for our Section to co-sponsor a Satellite meeting in Sydney, Australia, on the future of government depository libraries in the digital age, just before the 2010 meeting in Brisbane, Australia. However, in July 2009, IFLA decided to cancel the meeting in Australia and move it to Gothenburg, Sweden, for financial reasons.

#### **10. Events in Milan**

Holger mentioned the two good speakers for the Law Libraries Section program who were going to address different facets of Italian law, and encouraged members to attend. Franck asked if he could get the text of their presentations to put on the IFLA web site. Franck offers to translate the texts into French.

#### **11. Events in Göteborg (Gothenburg) 2010**

The quickly put together Conference has a different schedule from the normal one. It starts on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, and the Standing Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10. The Conference closes on Sunday, August 15. Several program proposals were entertained and debated, including a program presenting the ideas of the upcoming IALL book on international information management, edited by Jules Winterton and Richard Danner. It was decided that a program proposal centered on the Section's international information agenda might incorporate some of the elements of the book. Claire proposed a second program to be co-sponsored with other sections, on the role of librarians in preserving trial evidence and documentation in a multi-media age, using different case studies throughout the world (e.g., sustaining the legacy of the Rwanda genocide, etc.). It was decided to hold a mid-term meeting at the upcoming IALL meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in October 2009 since a number of IFLA SC members attend that meeting. The Chair asked the Secretary to coordinate the programs and present ideas for discussion at that meeting.

## **12. Events in Puerto Rico 2011**

Maria Otero, Director of the University of Puerto Rico Law Library, is going to the Max Planck Institute next year and will work with Holger and SC Committee member Pedro Padilla on the events for the 2011 Puerto Rico meeting. Holger suggests the same successful program held at the 2008 IALL program on the legal status of Puerto Rico, a controversial and interesting topic.

## **13. Development of the membership**

The Chair mentioned that it is difficult to gain more members, in part because the membership fee is high and there is a question of value for the money. The total membership is 1,600 organizations. Donna Scheeder stated that the real value lies in the representation of librarians on the global sphere, international copyright, the voice of librarians in high profile issues; to be able to influence policies, very successful. She mentioned the voice of library profession in areas such as digital preservation; Authentication; International standards and platforms. Blair Kauffman and others concurred that Donna had articulated the big issue, and that we should grow more members, and draw on current IFLA members to join our Section, because Law is central to about every major issue. He stated that personal networking might enlist more members than email messages that are often left unread. Jules concurred that IALL gives funding to IFLA because it is the voice of information policy, and encouraged the group to make contributions to copyright and other committees. Radu Popa mentioned that it is hard to cover travel for institutions. Donna replied that many members cannot come, hence the importance of the IFLA website and of the Section newsletter to highlight some issues. All SC members were encouraged to look around to see which institutions we could tap into which could add a law library section membership.

**Collaboration with other IFLA groups, satellite meetings and joint programs with other sections.** The SC members agreed on the importance on disseminating news about IFLA to other associations. The Secretary thanked Blair Kauffman for the report he wrote which was published in *23 FCIL SIS Newsletter 9* (Oct. 2008), a subgroup of AALL (American Association of Law Libraries) where he states that "truly IFLA offers a unique opportunity for law librarians to expand their networking and knowledge base in the global arena of information management, and with its new section on Law Libraries, the time is ripe for more law librarians to become active in this organization." The goals for this year are to continue to grow the membership of the Section, plan programs with other sections, and disseminate information through the IFLANET website.

Several SC members stated that IFLA provides the essential forum to participate in international information policy-making, and it creates the opportunity for libraries to

influence information policy. This is particularly important as the world shrinks and globalization affects our profession.

Jules Winterton, IALL President, reminded the group that IFLA Law Libraries Section should not engage in activities which might be perceived as competing with IALL. An example would be to hold a separate pre conference at the time of the IFLA meeting.

Blair mentioned a few ideas about leveraging our very small section by doing programs with other sections. He feels that for every program there a logical co-sponsor, and that building relationships with other sections would improve our visibility. Radu added that in doing so the section could get more members from the inside of the IFLA community, as the economic crisis would it make it difficult to get too many new members from outside.

#### **14. Any other business**

The Chair mentioned his intention not to hold the second SC meeting on Wednesday. The Chair thanked the SC members for their attendance and participation, and closed the SC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cl. Germain". A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

Claire M. Germain

Secretary, Law Libraries Section

Milan Convention Center. Left to Right: Radu Popa, Blair Kauffman, Jules Winterton, Holger Knudsen, Claire Germain, Franck Hurinville

