



## Meeting Notes

IFLA Standing Committee on Law Libraries SCII Second Meeting

Tuesday August 14, 2012, 15:00-16:30, Room 206, Convention center (Session 144)

IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Helsinki, Finland

Chair: Claire Germain

Present : Marisol Floren-Romero, Claire Germain, Yolanda Jones for Virginia C. Thomas, Blair Kauffman, Dominique Lapierre, Elizabeth Naumczyk, Robert R. Newlen, Radu D. Popa, Donna Scheeder

Absent : Valérie Alonzo, Jeong-Kwon Cho, Angeline Djampou, Lilia (Lily) F. Echiverri, Henning Frankenberger, Pedro Padilla-Rosa, Pascal Sanz

Observers : Edita Bacic (Faculty of law, University of Split, Croatia), Stuart Basefsky (Cornell University, United States), Sally Holterhoff (Valparaiso University Law Library, United States), Osborne Oh, Bard Tuseth (University of Oslo, Norway), Rachel Scott Halls (City University, London), Sonia Poulin (Alberta Law Library, Canada), Christian Sifaqui (Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile), Marjut Kokko (Supreme Court of Finland), Soledad Ferreiro (Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile), Violetta Bottazzo (Library Association of Slovenia)

Guests : Patrice Landry, chair of the Committee on Standards and Lynne M. Rudasill, chair of Division I

### **1. Call to order and welcome**

Claire Germain welcomed all. A sheet was sent around for participants to fill out with their information.

### **2. Visit of Patrice Landry, Chair of IFLA Committee on Standards**

The IFLA Committee on Standards is a new committee. The Governing Board at his last December meeting created it. It is one of IFLA strategic program committees, reporting directly to IFLA's Governing Board. It coordinates standards work within and beyond IFLA and support standards activities in IFLA professional units, principally in sections. A representative from Division I represents us. The composition of the committee includes a representative from the five division, the chair of the UNIMARC Committee and a CDNL representative It started its activities by doing a list of all the standards. The Committee on Standards is encouraging us to look at any needs from the professional community at an international level. The Standard committee is hoping throughout his activities to give more guidance about the standard process, a “guide for guidelines”. The first step of the Committee during his first meeting will be getting some consensus around what is a standard for IFLA. Patrice

Landry strongly encouraged the members to the open forum on Thursday at 10:45 in room 5 to help the committee identifying issues for the action plan for next year.

Elizabeth Naumczyk commented that law libraries used to have standards, but they weren't implanted or perceived to be useful and international organizations needs precise guidelines in order for them to be used. Patrice Landry mentioned that other sections have looked at what kind of guidelines should be developed for a specific kind of library, for example what are the minimum requirements for a law library to actually conduct its business correctly. A good project could be examining how it is done in different countries and in different type of organizations.

Stuart Basefsky asked how the concept of standards is related to the process of advocacy. Patrice Landry answered that the Committee on standards fits within IFLA in supporting all the actions that IFLA actually promotes. Patrice Landry was asked by the people who do training sessions for IFLA how the Committee could integrate standards into the advocacy world that IFLA is doing in the training sessions.

Claire Germain asked if a section wants to propose a standard, to whom should it be presented. The answer was that the current purpose of the Committee is to come up with the basic guidelines about guidelines.

### **3. Report on Helsinki, Finland, Events**

Robert Newlen commented there was a good attendance and there were good questions. Claire Germain mentioned it was great that we were able to cosponsor programs with three other sections. The chair of the parliamentary section said that a lot of his members were at the Law Libraries Section program. We counted 130 persons.

Soledad Ferreiro, director of the Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional from Chile, said that even though Chile had a strong history of access to legal information, at the moment there is no authentication of the legal database. She entered in contact with the speaker Aki Hietanen, Director of Information Services, Ministry of Justice in Finland, after the session. He will provide her with the study of the all the authentication processes in the countries of the European Union. That is helpful for her when she goes back to say what is the IFLA perspective, in order to make changes. Soledad Ferreiro also commented on last year session in Puerto Rico. She said the session was very good and it was such a good idea to put the transparency act in each country and if they had legal databases. Teresa Miguel, one of the speakers at the 2012 San Juan IFLA Congress had said that the database of Chile was the best in terms of

information but that the interface was not very attractive in term of usability in comparison with the Mexican interface. Since then, Soledad and her team have studied the Mexican interface in order to improve their own and now the use of their database is constantly increasing. She then remembered the Congress held in Quebec in 2009. There was an issue with the crown copyrights, which led them to put their material with the creative commons copyrights. It was from the meeting in Quebec that they started thinking about the authentication of the digital legal database. Claire Germain thanked Soledad for sharing her stories showing how the IFLA programs were effective.

Claire Germain reminded the group of the programs that the Section is co-sponsoring on Thursday and the reception held on Wednesday.

#### **4. Review of the strategic plan**

Claire Germain mentioned that the strategic plan for 2010-2015 was done in Gothenburg in 2010 and she also restated the objectives which were chosen last year. The members reaffirmed that they want to continue working on goal 1.

Marisol Floren-Romero added that in the context of promoting free access to legal information, we were mentioning a standard regarding authentication. The concept of promoting access should also be to establish an action plan in countries where there has not been any type of actions regarding access to legal information.

Donna Scheeder pointed out that it is not just the information that comes out of the legislative bodies that this section is interested in, but also the courts. So there is another topic we could examine at a global level, which is the transparency of the proceedings of the courts, starting with the highest courts. It might be interesting to look at some examples from different places to see what others are doing that some could learned from, not only about the documentation, but the actual proceedings itself (can people participate, etc.). Blair Kauffman supported the idea. He wondered if we should have a second program that address this issue.

Yolanda Jones wondered after hearing the chair of the Committee on standards, about whatever course of action we decide to take it could lead to the production of a standard in that area.

Christian Sifaqui added that promoting this idea is very difficult and very different from country to another. The range of possibilities we can find is very huge and maybe it could be more helpful when we

set for a standard to benchmark different countries and comment on the good and less good practice, rather than setting only one standard.

#### **5. Visit of Lynne M. Rudasill, Chair of Division I**

Lynne M. Rudasill, chair of Division I, let us know that during the next four months the officers from Division I will be meeting on Skype. She encouraged the members to tell their officers about any issues that concerned them.

#### **6. Review and decide preliminarily on Law Libraries Section programs and Program Chair and Committee for Singapore**

Marisol and Sally did not have time yet to talk with the people from FAIFE. Dominique Lapierre, Marisol Floren-Romero and Radu Popa committed to work on the program. Radu Popa will especially find people, show them the previous methodology and explained to them what the expectations are. Blair Kauffman will help with the drafting of the call for paper. Claire Germain appointed Lilia (Lily) F. Echeverri to work with them because she might have some contacts and she had shown interest to participate.

Sally Holterhoff, with the help of Marisol Floren-Romero and Dominique Lapierre, will work on the feasibility of a standard. They will work on the index part and see if that converges with a standard.

Robert Newlen said that John Pullinger, Chair of the Parliamentary Libraries Section, appointed Solidad Ferreiro to explore a joint program with the Preservation and Conservation's section and our section. There will be a call for papers and Robert Newlen will continue to act as liaison.

Dominique will contact both the Information Technology and Acquisition and Collection Development sections to see if collaboration is possible.

Stuart Basefsky wondered if there was any possibility in putting programs together to try to encourage more people from Asia and the Pacific area to get on the standing committee or to be further engaged. Claire Germain said that we would address this further in the agenda.

#### **7. Review and decide preliminarily on Law Libraries activities in 2013**

Valerie Alonzo mentioned in her report that we could manage to publish a newsletter in a light version. Something between a newsletter and a flyer. We could produce it with information posted on the

website. It will be redundant, but it might be interesting because that is something we can disseminate: IFLA-L, papers copies distributed during the annual conference, etc. Any member's articles or proposals will be welcome. The newsletter could include for example :

- A presentation of the Law Libraries Section : about Law libraries section, a list of standing committee members (names and countries), a map and photos ;
- Something about the past conference (event, session, etc.);
- Program of the up coming conference.

Donna Scheeder said that the New Professionals section has a [blog](#). It might be an easier way than trying to produce a document newsletter. People could add things as they happened and it could be an easier way to have people to contribute.

The section decided to organize a working group to examine the feasibility of different ways to increase the Web presence. Valerie Alonzo, Elizabeth Naumczyk and Robert Newlen will look at this issue. Claire Germain would also like the working group to find ways to memorialize the history of the section.

## **8. Membership, recruiting and involvement**

The members discussed the membership process. The members agreed that, with the upcoming election, we are at a time of expanding the standing committee. The section decided to organize a working group on publicity and recruiting. Pascal Sanz and Yolanda Jones volunteered to take on this task.

In addition, the members proposed several strategies to increase the membership with a broader geographical representation. Marisol Floren-Romero proposed for Solidad Ferreiro to become a member and that she contact her colleagues in latin America. Robert Newlen proposed to ask to members Parliamentary Libraries Section to put them in contact with their law librarians colleagues, especially in Asia or Africa. Donna Scheeder proposed to contact the leaderships of the regional sections to get their ideas about the recruiting of law librarians.

Stuart Basefsky mentioned that the main problem with getting people to join IFLA in the first place or be part of a section is whether there is a continuing financial support to attend the meetings. He wondered if there are not some cultural differences in the way we approach different parts of the world. For example, in certain part of Asia, it might be wise to put an invitation to the head of the institution that the librarian serves, saying we welcome the head of the institution accompanied by the librarian.

Osborne Oh's boss said that the main difficulties for Asians to engage in such activities is that: 1) such activities are new to them, 2) the culture and 3) the language. They could help to extend to the law faculties of South East Asia to convince them to share our common platform. **9. Other follow up actions, timeline and responsible parties**

Dominique Lapierre will send an action list to the members after the meeting. Members are expected to send some progress reports about what the activities they are involved in by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **10. Petition**

Claire Germain discussed the petition that the officers of the section have received. Liz Cooper, Chair of IFLA Social Science Libraries Section, sent out a petition to put forth a resolution for IFLA to announce the future WLIC conference location at the beginning of the conference instead of at the end of the Congress in order to facilitate the work planning satellite conferences (and other events).

Claire Germain asked Lynne M. Rudasill her opinion about the petition. Lynne M. Rudasill felt very positive toward the resolution. It would be very good for the section to know before the meetings in order for them to organize pre-conference. The drawback would be that most people go to the closing ceremony to find out where the next conference is going to be and that does not need to change. The closing session will still be a celebration and an introduction to the country that will pursue the conference.

Donna Scheeder would have to be sure there are not any financial or legal implications before she voices any opinion.

## **11. Adjournment**

*Respectfully submitted by : Dominique Lapierre, Secretary, revised August 2012*