 IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Section  
 <http://www.ifla.org/metropolitan-libraries>

IFLA MetLib Standing Committee  
Business Meeting  
August 24, 2018 15:45 – 17:45

Present: Corrado Di Tillio, Barbara Lison, Carolyn Anthony, Jeff Barber, Louise LaHatte, Emily Plagman, Margaret Allen, Ajay P. Singh, Abeer S Al-Kuwari, Shuqing Chu, John Spears

Absent: Siobhan Reardon, Carme Galve Montore, Etienne Mackiewicz

Chair Corrado Di Tillio welcomed attendees including Standing Committee Members and observers and noted apologies from Siobhan Reardon (Philadelphia) that she could not be present for the meetings.

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes from the MetLib Conference in Belgrade May 15, 2018 were approved.

Corrado made announcements from the IFLA Professional Committee and Division I.

Corrado gave a brief report on the MetLib Conference in Belgrade, Serbia. Results of the MetLib Conference Review Survey will be sent out in the fall. Some highlights include that the majority like the timeframe of April/May for the Conference; it is important to have a theme; programming is important, especially panel discussions; library visits are good, but not archives and special collections; people like cultural site visits; the welcoming reception and closing dinner are favored; preference is for morning programs and afternoon visits.

Corrado reported on follow-up to the Global Vision exercise and stories regarding Sustainable Development Goals.

The upcoming programs and activities of the Section at the WLIC Kuala Lumpur were reviewed:

Main Program “Sanctuaries in the City: The Public Library as a Safe Space” August 26, 13:35 – 15:45

MetLib Short Film Award Screening, August 27, 15:00 – 15:45

Awards Presentation, August 27 12:45 – 13:45

(With Public Libraries and Library Buildings) Public Library of the Year Award, Aug. 28 9:30 – 11:30

(With Acquisitions & Coll. Development) “Being Guided By Our Users” Aug. 29, 10:45 – 12:45

Poster Sessions for the Short Film Award, Aug. 26 and 27, 12:00 – 14:00

Division I and IV program on “Social Networks” Aug. 26

E-Lending Working Party with Public Libraries Aug. 29

Corrado gave a report on the MetLib Short Film Award for 2018 and plans for the 2019 award which will again be sponsored by the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Pikes Peak Public Library. The Film Award for 2018 will be given to the Shaar Zion Library in Tel Aviv, Israel, for “Books in the Cloud,” submitted by Beit Ariela.

Carolyn Anthony presented a proposal that MetLib consider encouraging the use of outcome measures in metropolitan public libraries as there are already several systems in use including Project Outcome from the Public Library Association, the Community Impact Measurement System advanced by the Gates Global Library program, and the Guidelines, Standards and Outcome Measures for Australia Public Libraries adopted by the Australian Public Library Alliance, and perhaps others. She suggested that outcome measures by the focus of the MetLib program in Athens or perhaps in Utrecht. The proposal was discussed and it was approved as the topic for the primary MetLib program in Athens, with the suggestion that the program be sponsored together with the Public Libraries Section and the Statistics and Evaluation Section. The proposal was approved.

Emily Plagman from PLA/ALA made a presentation to the Committee on Project Outcome, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She talked about measurement of “the good you do” as evidenced by patron reported learning as reflected in gains in knowledge, skills, confidence, and behavior. The surveys also allow for open-ended comments about what was good about the program and what could be improved. Project Outcome offers a toolkit with the surveys and custom data reports and dashboards. The surveys are available in English, French and Spanish. The purpose is to understand the impact of programs; enable design of new programs based on community input; encourage development of new partnerships; and obtain increased funding. To date the surveys are used by about 1200 libraries in the U.S. and Canada and over 160,000 surveys have been completed. PLA is now working on a toolkit for academic libraries. They are also exploring international opportunities. Libraries outside North America now can use the surveys, but can’t enter data or get dashboards as yet.

Margaret Allen of the State Library of Western Australia presented on “Better Beginnings Family Literacy,” started in 2008. See [www.better-beginnings.com.au](http://www.better-beginnings.com.au) and [www.slwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au) the project has created an index of children’s skills with literacy and numeracy. Reading Packs for babies begin at 8 weeks. The intent is to engage parents in reading, singing and talking with babies, toddlers, and 4 year- old kindergartners. There is a special program for Aboriginal children for whom English may be the 4th language. Partnerships have been developed with local governments including health departments and departments of education as well as child care centers. The Health Service helps distribute packets. The corporation Rio Tinto has given $2.8 million to the project as they want a literate work force

Kikiki Spoke briefly about a customer service project in Tempere, Finland, at a regional library responsible for about 750,000 people.

**Business Meeting II** was held August 26 at 10:45 for only one hour due to the conflict with Poster Sessions.

Corrado announced the Satellite Conference for WLIC 2019, to be held in Rome prior to WLIC in Athens. The Satellite Conference will by on library buildings and will be sponsored together with the Public Libraries Section, the Library Buildings Section and the Academic & Research Libraries Section.

Corrado introduced a proposal from the Information & Technology Section for a co-sponsored/co-organized program at WLIC Athens on the topic of Smart Libraries-Smart Cities and Block Chain Technologies. There was no call for papers. The Cities involved are Cardiff, Singapore and Barcelona (Cataluña). The proposal was approved.

Plans for the MetLib Conference in Helsinki, Finland, in May, 2019 were discussed. There are plans to merge the MetLib Conference with the ReShape Conference, a gathering that has been held for several years to help design the new Oodi Library. It is proposed that attendees could partake in both conferences for one fee.

It was announced that MetLib 2020 will be held in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Jeff Barber reported on the Annual Statistics Survey with updates about the 2016 data collection. It was agreed to continue the Annual Statistics Survey.

Corrado reported that the proposed special issue of the IFLA Journal with proceedings of MetLib 2017 on partnerships was not approved as the editorial committee found that the content is not based on “empirically based research” and would not get through peer review. Instead, the content will be edited and published on the IFLA website.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Anthony  
Standing Committee member for Siobhan Reardon, Committee Secretary

Reviewed at MetLib Conference in Helsinki – 10 May 2019. Minutes were accepted as amended.