



MLAS Standing Committee Meetings

Minutes of the Zoom conference

Time: Thursday, 18 April 2019

Participants:

MLAS SC members:

Amy Burke, Michael Dowling (chair), Susan Haigh, Halo Locher (secretary), Alicia Cristina Ocaso-Ferreira, Pascal Sanz

***Ex officio* members:**

Antoine Torrens (New Professionals SIG co convenor), Mathilde Koskas (Women, Information and Libraries SIG co-convenor)

Apologies:

Amadine Jacquet, Karin Linder, Rauha Maarno (information coordinator), Mariann Schjeide

1. Welcome

Michael Dowling welcomes 8 participants.

2. Athens Congress MLAS Program und Meetings Update

No one from the Open Session organizing group was able to participate in the call, but the session will be on August 26, 2019 from 16.00-18.00. The session seems to be well developed, and further updates will be provided. Samia asked if Michael would agree to facilitate and moderate the session and he has agreed.

Michael calls on all SC members to participate in Athens if possible and to register before May 15th (early registration). The MLAS sessions will take place on Saturday (13.30-15.30) and Wednesday (13.30-16.00) at the WLIC.

Halo informs about the Satellite Meeting in Alexandria on August 20th and 21st. The call for papers was successful and is currently being evaluated to finalize the program. The flight connections to Athens, however, are problematic - only at night direct flights on single days.

Antoine reports about a meeting on 22 and 23 August in Athens. The SIG New Professional organize it together with a local library on the beach and there will be a very strict order with ties forced there...



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Mathilde informs that SIG Women, Information and Library together with Librarians without borders is trying to invite a librarian from a Syrian refugee camp to the conference. An application is currently underway with IFLA for funding.

Michael announces the next WLIC newsletter and asks all SC members to distribute it in their countries so that as many participants as possible can be registered in Athens. He mentions that the WLIC in Kuala Lumpur made a modest profit of 150,000 Euros.

3. IFLA April GB Meeting Debrief and Strategic Plan Update

The WLIC in New Zealand has to be postponed by two years and will take place in 2022 under the same conditions. The reason is a delay in the completion of the congress building in Auckland. The GB must now find a new solution in the short term for 2020, which will be announced at the end of June.

The GB also dealt with the question of the long-term financing of the IFLA, or possible sources of finance (after the Gates Foundation's support expires). One idea would be an IFLA Academy for Education and Training. MLAS should be included in these considerations. With a surplus, IFLA's 2018 ending financial statements are more positive than budgeted.

Michael explains that the IFLA New Strategic Framework, that was sent to the SC in advance of the Zoom call, is the version that resulted of the consultation with all the professional sections. There were many feedbacks similar to that of MLAS, such as the simpler language. So the changes in this final draft were primarily for simpler language and clarity. The IFLA GB discussed as an exercise how the success of the strategies can be measured in two or four years.

Pascal, Susan and Halo point to the following points, which are to be understood as fundamental and which should be supplemented:

- The understanding that the IFLA is first and foremost an association of associations
- The aspect of the intercultural and interlingual challenge of an international organization
- The management of the IFLA itself - including its complex structures

Halo is commissioned to present these topics at the IFLA Strategy Workshop in June on behalf of MLAS. **If other SC members miss any basic points, they are requested to send an e-mail to halo.locher@bibliosuisse.ch by 31 May.**



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4. June Sections Meeting and MLAS Action Plan

(See above under 3)

5. MLAS and Library Map of the World Country (LMW)

So far, only six countries have provided a report on the library community as a whole in their countries to go along with data. IFLA HQ is very interested in getting many more countries to contribute a report on their country. Michael appeals to the national associations to ask again to submit contributions.

In addition, IFLA HQ is continuing to look for stories of libraries and the SDG's from around the world. IFLA HQ heard from MLAS and others on the challenges on completing the story form, so HQ is being proactive in working with those who would like to tell their stories. They will work to help develop the stories instead of just asking for submissions. The HQ will provide a handout because different expectations regarding the stories have made participation difficult. Pascal pointed out that some are not able to create video as requested. Pictures are certainly welcome if that is the case as more attractive than pure texts.

6. Association Memberships

Michael points out that we have a large part of library associations as members already. MLAS could help to win back lost members for the IFLA or help to found new associations in countries that do not have them. For this purpose, it would be useful to arrange a reception/advertisement for them, which we could also make available to other sections.

This includes considerations such as benefits of being part of IFLA (the Key Initiatives) and also the needs that national associations have. IFLA should also have a marketing plan to attract and persuade associations to become members, which is not the case at the moment.

The list of member associations by continent and country drawn up by the HQ can be particularly helpful for the recovery of resigned members. Halo contacted an association in Switzerland and found out that they would like to join again and apparently a communication problem with the HQ caused the non-payment of the membership fee.

He puts the document on Basecamp

(<https://3.basecamp.com/3833672/buckets/5150644/uploads/1747783361>) with the idea that SC members can register there, which country or which association they could contact.



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7. Other Items

Halo wants to have clarified from when the minutes of SC meetings may be sent to all MLAS members, so that they are more informed about our work and considerations. The decision is as follows: Once the SC has been able to comment on the minutes, they can be sent out at a meeting before they have been officially approved.

Mathilda would like to know why the SIG were not invited to the workshop on the IFLA strategy in June. Michael will send a note to the HQ.

8. Adjourn

Intercultural further education - we learn:

English: Happy Easter

German: Frohe Ostern

French: Joyeuses Pâques

3th of May 2019

For the minutes:

Michael Dowling, chair

Halo Locher, secretary