



Management of Library Association Section (MLAS)

Standing Committee meeting on 22 August 2013

Minutes

Time: 8.00 hrs – 9.15 hrs

Place: Suntec International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore

Participants:

MLAS members: Gerald Leitner, Barbara Schleihagen (minutes), Silvia Stasselova, Marina Koren, Maria Cotera, Jukka Relander, Randa Al Chidiac, Taro Miura, Vania Grashkina-Mincheva, Marijana Misetic, Kelly Moore, Michael Dowling, Janice Lachance, Sabine Stummeyer

ex officio: Beba Stankovic, Sebastian Wilke

Guest: Hans Ulrich Locher, Laurinda Thomas, Sue McKerracher, Gloria Perez-Salmeron, Amandine Jacquet, Muhammed Hossam Haider Chowdhury, Nazim Uddin, Bruo Vermeer, Loida Garcia-Febo, Suzanne Morin, Sue Henczel, Doug Newcomb, Bashu Dev Dhungana, Ujala Satgoor, Segametsi Molawa

IFLA HQ: Tatjana Hoeink, Fiona Bradley

MLAS chair Gerald Leitner welcomes all participants and starts the meeting at 8.05 hrs.

23. Access to Learning Award (ATLA)

Gerald announces a small change to the agenda: Terry Caton from the Gates Foundation will start with the announcement of the Access To Learning Award (ATLA) from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for public libraries. This is a one million dollar award for organisations from developed and less developed countries reaching out to minority groups by providing access to information. In 2013 the award winner is based in Sao Paulo, the award was received for setting up hundreds of high tech computer centres all around the state in various places (restaurants, underground etc). More information can be found on the website of BMGF. The application deadline for 2014 is 30 September 2013. Gerald suggests announcing the award next time on the IFLA mailing list already in May or June. This is agreed and will be done next year.

22. Evaluation of MLAS Session Programme:

The MLAS Programme during this conference is evaluated. It is regarded as an excellent programme, relevant and actionable. It fitted all of the set criteria. The speakers were all very good. Also the afternoon session was good, however, attended by far less people. Never before had MLAS so many participants (around 1500 participants) and during 2/3 of the session this number was stable. The time and the room suited very well. With the programme, awareness was raised about the issue of e-books. On the negative side it has to be noted that the session was too long and too heavy for those who did not have much knowledge beforehand, although the quality was excellent. It would have been better to have a break in between. It was actually organised as two sessions in one. There was no



break on purpose to avoid that people leave the room, however, it did not prevent people from leaving.

Action: Gerald has spoken already with Michael to ensure that the written presentations and the slides will be made available on the MLAS website.

Action: Unfortunately the programme and presentations of the midterm meeting in London disappeared from the CILIP website in the meantime. Therefore **Michael** should try to add this also to the MLAS website. **Maria** ensures that everything is archived at CILIP. She will liaise with Michael to make the content available on the MLAS website. Silvia agrees to add photographs from the London meeting. Some more links from the IFLA website to the CILIP website do not work and Maria will look into this as well.

24. MLAS expectations and goals for 2013-2015

Gerald invites especially the three new members to introduce themselves and to share some of their expectations.

Maria starts by saying that she took already part in the MLAS meetings in the past ex officio as convenor of the “Women, Library and Information” Special Interest Group (SIG). She now represents CILIP as SC member. As there are not many Spanish speaking representatives in MLAS, she will focus on distributing information to the Spanish speaking library associations and will link to the Latin American countries. In addition, she will continue to support the WLI SIG by giving advice.

Randa is now the president of the Lebanon Library Association AFLI. Her association took part in the BSLA programme. As one of the results the LA developed a strategic plan and increased their membership. They are offering many workshops for members. The association is now developing step by step. She offers to especially liaise with the Arab community. Currently there are two proposals from Libya and Tunisia regarding participation in the BSLA programme.

Jukka continues by stating that he will communicate with the Finnish community. In his opinion it would be good for MLAS to concentrate on the e-book matter. He stresses that library associations are much stronger when they negotiate with publishers when they cooperate closely and exchange their experiences.

Gerald welcomes now also all guests and invites their comments and ideas.

Hans-Joachim Locher from the Swiss Library Association takes part for the first time at an IFLA conference. He expects to get inspiring ideas to strengthen his own association. As he has a PhD in law, he offers to contribute to legal questions. With his additional master degree in communication science, he also offers to assist in the section communication and with questions on communication in library associations.



Gerald stresses that also the MLAS midterm meeting is open to observers and invites all guests to attend.

Sue Mckerracher is the Executive Director of the Australian Library Association and also a first timer at the IFLA conference. Regarding the new IFLA Trend report, she informs the participants that the Australian Library Association has been working on future 15 scenarios and three themes. She offers to feed in their results and discussions into the IFLA discussion.

Loida Garcia-Febo was ex officio member in MLAS SC for five years. She recommends that MLAS sticks with the e-book topic and with copyright questions. Things change continuously, however, both topics will stay as hot topics for a while.

Amandine Jacquet from the French Librarians Association (ABF) explains that the focus of her association lies more on changes in the work of librarians. However, the fees for the associations are so low that the main issue is currently funding. It seems even to be likely that the association will have to close in three years if nothing is happening. She would be most interested in hearing more about this issue from other library associations.

Bashu Dev from the Nepal Library Association will get more involved in future and hopes to learn from the meeting with other representatives from library associations.

Suzanne Morin from Canada informs participants about the efforts to find a solution for the multiplication of library associations in Canada.

Marian reminds participants of a MLAS satellite meeting where different types of associations were discussed. There is a difference between library and librarians associations. Associations might lose power for advocacy if they do not get the directors on board as library representatives. She recommends including libraries as institutions into librarians associations to have more money and power.

Gerald reminds participants of the brain storming session on the strategic plan in Berlin, which resulted in a long list of possible activities. Now it has become a question of time and energy what can be put into practice. Although it is still relevant how MLAS' role is defined, it would be better focus again on one topic as this was successful as one can see with midterm meeting in London and our session here.

The IFLA trend report is now on the table and it is a great resource for library associations, also for small associations. It would be excellent if many associations would organise workshops and discussions on the report. Gerald therefore suggests concentrating on the trend report as an inspiring source. It focuses on five topics which are all relevant for libraries. MLAS could cooperate again with IFLA HQ which confirms its important role within IFLA. MLAS could work with the trend report during the midterm meeting, invite speakers and bring in experiences of working with the trend report in various countries. In Lyon during the IFLA conference MLAS could organise a session on the future trends, invite



speakers on all trends and discuss with them what they mean for libraries. Gerald did not discuss his ideas with anybody so far as he wanted to hear first comments from MLAS members.

Michael agrees that it is necessary to push library associations to have discussions on the trend report, however, the questions around e-books are in his opinion not a one year act, therefore he suggests focusing on the trends that concerns e-books. There is no other group within IFLA which would do that.

Gerald agrees that e-books are a major problem for public libraries. However, the trend report can be seen as a kind of net, and e-books tackle questions of technology, content and media market. Therefore MLAS could broaden the discussion to clarify the framework. In principle, he agrees that MLAS should concentrate on e-books.

Gloria reminds the participants that during the national association meeting earlier this week, participants worked on this topic, it was one of the questions. It would be useful to check the answers as background information.

Action: Gerald confirms that he has received a scanned document of all answers. He will pass it on to MLAS members by adding it to the minutes, so that members could use it for the midterm meeting.

Kelly agrees that the trend report provides a good framework, however, she reminds everybody that development at WIPO are time sensitive. The Marrakesh Treaty and the work on exceptions and limitations are crucial and MLAS should make sure that this is incorporated in its work. Gerald replies that he spoke with Stuart: there is a possibility of a conference around the midterm meeting to develop further a BSLA tool on advocacy. He asks participants, whether MLAS should concentrate on WIPO or whether MLAS should broaden the activities.

Michael states that members can have multiple goals. With regard to WIPO all associations should contact their national representatives and explain to them the issues. This can be an immediate goal for the next four months. He thinks that it would be great if all the people in the room could help. Kelly confirms that this is actual activity right now. Gerald underlines that MLAS should inform all its members in the next four months on the WIPO discussions and necessary national activities. Amandine also confirms that this is an immediate topic for advocacy. Barbara says that Stuart already sent some advocacy material for WIPO activities. Gerald will ask Stuart to send this again to all library associations.

Sabine reminds participants that during the national associations meeting it was suggested to use the trend report in discussions with publishers.

Gerald proposes that MLAS should work with other institutions to make a session happen. E.g. it would be interesting to have publishers on board to hear their ideas, but also IT



companies. Kelly asks whether there are still IPA/IFLA meetings taking place. MLAS could recommend to GB to include this in their discussions with IPA. Susan suggests from her experience in Australia that it would be very useful to get outsiders views, e.g. telecom giants or banks, so librarians can see what others are saying about it.

Gerald summarises the discussion so far:

1. Library associations should focus on WIPO for the next four months until December. MLAS will use its channels to spread the information and work together with Stuart. In addition, MLAS will use the copyright question in a workshop on how to advocate
2. MLAS continues to work with the e-book topic.
3. MLAS will combine this topic with the trend report and IFLAs key initiatives.
4. IFLA conference in Lyon: MLAS will host a session and combine e-books and the trend report.

Marian adds that during the WIPO discussions, the topic of e-book could be used as an example where the existing exemption does not cover the use and that there is a need to update the existing copyright framework. MLAS could use the issue for demonstration.

27. Planning of the next MLAS midterm meeting 2014

Gerald suggests also taking up this item now as it is connected to the discussion so far. He suggests to deal with the topic “Financing of library associations” during the midterm meeting, and focus for the Lyon conference on another topic.

Michael asks Fiona what topics are planned for the BSLA programme. Fiona states that it could be financing or advocacy. She stresses that BSLA is not for developing countries only. Partnerships and finances are important for all associations. The budget is already spent, but often funds are left that could be allocated. BSLA would reserve this for Lyon rather than for the midterm meeting. Gerald stresses that it would be relevant to have a framework early, last time it was a bit late to organise the programme. It would be better to know by October whether BSLA could cooperate.

Fiona suggests that MLAS applies for PC funding and asks for an early decision. It would be useful to remind the PC of the successful meeting this year in London, and that no more than 3500 Euro are needed.

Michael suggests using the time at the midterm meeting to discuss how to promote the trend report so that we get a better audience at our meeting. Gerald confirms that it worked well this time in London also as a kind of training for the conference session in Singapore.

Gerald clarifies that MLAS will organised three events:

1. midterm meeting plus a mini-conference that could focus on the trend report
2. pre-conference satellite meeting on the future of library associations, their structure, and financial issues in Lyon
3. Session at the conference to focus on the trend report and e-books in Lyon

BSLA will concentrate on the Lyon satellite meeting.



Gerald agrees to apply for PC funds for the mini-conference in connection with the midterm meeting.

Maria asks whether the midterm meeting could be postponed to March, as this will give MLAS more time to plan the event. Furthermore, the PC will only decide on applications in December.

Gerald assumes that the PC would be happy to use our meeting as platform when we concentrate on the trend report, he works on the assumption that MLAS would receive the PC money. MLAS will work with Fiona and Stuart on the possible cooperation. He asks for volunteers to organise the midterm meeting and on the conference in Lyon.

Organising Team for the midterm meeting and the conference programme:

Michael, Jukka and Janice with Fiona's and Stuart's support.

Janice reminds participants, that the president's programme will only take place in May which is too late for a midterm meeting.

Fiona explains that BSLA programmes will be on 10 February in Ghana, in the first week of March in Indonesia and on 14 April in Brazil.

Gerald suggests either 17 to 22 February week or 24 February to 1 March. The meeting could either take place in Lebanon or in Spain, Sevilla. So far no invitation has been received. As there will be the NAPLE and EBLIDA meeting in Athens in May, Greece is no longer an option for 2014.

Gerald will sort this out during the next months and will stay in contact with Randa and Margarita, but also with Fiona. He will send more information in due course.

Organizing Team for Satellite meeting in Lyon:

Kelly, Silvia, Fiona, Gerald, Barbara

Amandine, ABF will assist for the **Lyon satellite** meeting regarding funding and restaurants.

Sue offers that Australia could be presented as a case study, the library association will have their results by early next year.

26. MLAS Listserv Coordinator's report

SLA will continue to host the mailing list. Gerald thanks Janice and Doug for that.

He points to a problem: the link on the IFLA website does not seem to work.

Action: Doug and Janice will check this

25. MLAS Information Coordinator's Report and planning of new MLAS Newsletter:

Michael will continue to work with the website, Kelly will continue to produce the newsletter. She is looking for ideas for a new format which should be more of a digest format.

Action: Kelly will outline her ideas after this meeting and will send it to MLAS SC members.



The newsletter should come out more frequently and should be less demanding for the editor. Kelly needs more support from all SC members. Jukka offers his support, he is also an author. It was suggested to convert the newsletter to a more electronic format. Kelly is looking into different systems, e.g. the American model and will also check the newsletter of the award-winning young adult and children section.

Maria reports on plans of the Women, Information and Libraries SIG for next year in Lyon. In cooperation with the sociology section a session is planned on “libraries as change agents. Finding, using and managing data for social change.

29. Closing statement by MLAS chair

Gerald thanks all participants for their lively participation and closes the meeting at 09.30 hrs.

For the minutes:

Gerald Leitner, chair

Barbara Schleihagen, secretary