

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017

Introduction

It's been a spectacular year for the Public Libraries Section and it has been a delight (and an absolute privilege) to hold the position of Section Chair. The accountability for offering compelling evidence demonstrating that public libraries have the agility and responsiveness to remain at the heart of the communities they serve has been very much a shared one.

Success for delivering on the PLS action plan is due to the sustained team effort of the Section members, harnessing their many skills and partnerships across the world to achieve IFLA's goals. I would like to extend a very special thank you to each and every one of the Standing Committee, and our partners.

The Section remains as committed as ever to demonstrate and position the world's public libraries in the everyday of our communities, and this very united Section will continue to leave the field strong.

Please enjoy reading our measures of success.

Marian Morgan-Bindon
Chair IFLA Public Libraries Section



International
Federation of Library
Associations and
Institutions

Public Libraries Section



Report on progress and activities

Objectives <i>What do you want to achieve? Use your list above</i>	Project or activity <i>What project or activity are you going to do?</i>	Progress <i>Report here the progress of your work, at least every month</i>	Risks
1. Support the sector through the sharing of best practice	Undertake a review of IFLA <i>Public Library Service Guidelines</i> .	<p>A review of the <i>IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines</i> 2nd edition 2010 was undertaken by the working group and identified significant issues that needed to be addressed due to the rapid evolution of the public library sector..</p> <p>Unfortunately the SC's submission for funding to work with a consultant on this project was unsuccessful though discussions with the Professional Committee in April resulted in greater understanding. A funding application will be re-submitted in October 2017.</p>	<p>There is a significant risk that the requisite funding will not be obtained to undertake the review of the Guidelines. Given their size and scope the SC does not believe that this can progress only utilising the volunteer capacity of the SC and the wider public library network.</p>
	Continue partnership with the Danish Agency for Culture's Public Library of the Year Award	<p>The Danish Agency for Culture has decided not to continue their support of this initiative. PLS will work with the sponsor, Systematic, to offer this as an IFLA Award from 2018 on, probably in partnership with IFLA Buildings and Equipment Section and with MetLib.</p>	<p>There is a small risk that momentum will be lost due to the year without the Awards. It is generally agreed that this can be overcome through engagement with the sector and the proposed partnership arrangements.</p>

<p>2. Advocate for equitable access to information and knowledge for communities world-wide that supports the democratic process, shared understanding and community well-being</p>	<p>Monitor, record and share initiatives that support equitable access to information and knowledge</p>	<p>Guest Blogger working well. Almost all members have responded to the request with variations in style and approach providing a fresh approach.</p> <p>YouTube and Twitter have been added to the suite of Social Media being used by the Section.</p>	<p>Relies on active engagement by all SC members</p>
<p>3. Build capacity for public libraries and public librarians internationally through an agile and engaged Section</p>	<p>Ensure the delivery of strong and relevant conference programs</p>	<p>A successful satellite was held in Bergen prior to the WLIC in Wroclaw with 120 delegates. The organisers were complimented on the excellent and relevant program which was delivered in partnership with IFLA's Management and Marketing Section.</p> <p>Sessions were held at the WLIC in Wroclaw in partnership with a number of IFLA Professional Units.</p>	
	<p>Encourage public librarians to participate in IFLA conferences through the presentation of innovative papers or posters</p>	<p>Members are encouraged to spread information about opportunities within their own networks.</p> <p>Members of the SC attend various public library focused sessions at Wroclaw and reported back via the blog and social media.</p>	

<p>Provide mid-term meetings which include a professional development opportunity for local and regional public library colleagues</p> <p>Participate in the promoting and sharing information using PLS Social media platforms, web and national networks</p>	<p>Mid-term meeting in Sydney delivered. 9 members in attendance.</p> <p>Professional opportunity met with great interest by Australian and New Zealand library community. Available spaces 'sold out' in 4 hours with extensive waiting list.</p> <p>Sessions available on You Tube and Report produced by Australian Library and Information Association. Guest Blogger working well. Almost all members have responded to the request with variations in style and approach providing a fresh approach.</p> <p>YouTube and Twitter have been added to the suite of Social Media being used by the Section.</p>	
<p>Encourage active participation in the Section</p>	<p>Welcome/Orientation kit was prepared and distributed to all new members.</p>	

Results

Completed project or activity	Output	Communications	Impact of the completed project or activity
<p>1. 2017 Satellite in Bergen delivered</p>	<p>The IFLA Public Libraries satellite in Bergen Managing Change: Library Transitions was organised in partnership with IFLA’s Management and Marketing Section and hosted by Bergen City Library and Hordland County Council.</p> <p>The two day program offered delegates opportunities to hear from speakers from around the world on ways in which to accept the challenges that confront today’s library professional.</p>	<p>The outcomes of the satellite have been promoted through the PLS Blog and Facebook page with papers from the event available on the satellite web page and in IFLA Library.</p> <p>Individual SC members also communicated the outcomes through their own networks.</p>	<p>The program provided a dynamic range of speakers from Norway, USA, Australia, Finland, Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, Turkey and Uganda.</p> <p>Feedback from the 120 participants was highly positive.</p> <p>There was also the opportunity to participate in Library visits.</p>
<p>2. Develop the IFLA 2017 program sessions in partnership with :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Sustainability and Libraries SIG. • School Libraries Section Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section • Division 1 • Metropolitan Libraries Section and on Acquisition and Collection Development Section 	<p>Successful sessions with other IFLA sections were held during the WLIC in Wroclaw. All attracted a large number of participants and offered individual SC members the opportunity to work with colleagues from other sections in developing these programs</p>	<p>PLS communication platforms (web, email, blog and Facebook) were used in distributing information about these sessions including the call for papers and promoting the program. The considerable power of the public library networks in SC member home countries was also utilised successfully.</p> <p>SC members attended all sessions in which the section was represented and reported back via the blog. A review of relevant poster sessions</p>	<p>A rich public library relevant program was available to WLIC delegates.</p>

<p>3 Development of a Welcome Kit to orient new Standing Committee members</p>	<p>In order to ensure active engagement by Standing Committee members and being mindful of forthcoming elections a Welcome Kit was developed to be distributed to all successful candidates for the Public Libraries Standing Committee. A working party met to develop this, using reflections from all other members.</p>	<p>that focussed was also undertaken The kit was sent to all new Standing Committee members following the election results together with an email welcoming them.</p>	<p>Feedback from new members was that this kit helped them understand the Section and the wider IFLA environment.</p>
<p>4. Participation in IFLA's Global Visioning Process</p>	<p>The Public Libraries Standing Committee took a virtual approach to the request to participate in the Global Vision discussion and held a facilitated discussion using Survey Monkey.</p> <p>Together we represent in excess of 360 years of library experience. Participants were drawn from 11 countries across 4 continents.</p> <p>The SC was represented at the Global Vision Workshop in Athens by Marian Morgan-Bindon, Jane Richards and Jane Wee.</p>	<p>The survey was conducted using Survey Monkey with the answers collated and scored to arrive at the agreed top 5.</p>	<p>Answers were surprisingly uniform regardless of the location of the respondent, all of whom work in the public library sector.</p>

Professional Unit meetings or conference calls

Date	Location or type of meeting
14-17 March 2017	Mid-term meeting, Sydney Australia
Main Outcomes	
 <p>For four great days in March public librarians from around the world converged on Sydney to learn about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) as part of the IFLA Public Libraries Standing Committee’s mid-term meeting.</p> <p>It has become traditional for the Standing Committee to offer a seminar program for colleagues from within the host country and these are always popular. The 2017 program <i>STEAM into Sydney</i> was no exception. With inspirational speakers and best practice examples on offer plus tours to some of Sydney's newest and most beautiful libraries is it any wonder that the program was booked out in 4 hours! Delegates were drawn from eleven countries including all states of Australia. We were also delighted to welcome a sizeable contingent of library professionals from neighboring New Zealand.</p> <p>The topic for the seminar was selected in response to the demand for such a program within the Australian public library community and the success of this decision to proceed was demonstrated by the overwhelming interest in the event. The program was a careful mix of curated content and a call for papers. Given the richness of programming delegates were encouraged to read the papers in advance (available on the website) and then engage in facilitated discussion which maximised participation.</p> <p>The papers and PowerPoint slides are available on the STEAM web site. We also live-steamed the seminar program and this is available on our YouTube channel. Finally (and most importantly) the Australian Library and Information Association have created a full report on the event which is available to download. <i>STEAM into Sydney</i> was the impetus for a raft of initiatives around Australia and international partnerships and information sharing.</p> <p>The Standing Committee also devoted a day to reviewing the Action Plan and looking to the future. This included a presentation from Deborah Jacobs from Global Libraries.</p>	

Date	Location or type of meeting
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19 – 24 August 2017	WLIC Congress, Wroclaw, Poland
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Main Outcomes

During the 2017 WLIC Congress in Wroclaw the Standing Committee conducted two meetings. In an election year we said goodbye to outgoing members and welcomed new colleagues. The cross over gave us a chance to review our Action Plan 2016-2017 (which is reported in this document) and to work collaboratively on our 2017-2018 [Action Plan](#)



The [Minutes](#) of these meetings were posted on the Section’s web page with Section members notified of their availability through email.