

IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section – 2014 Business Meetings, Lyon

AGENDAS

Saturday, 16 August, 9.45-12.15 | Salle Rhône 1

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of the minutes from the business meetings in Singapore and the midterm meeting in Washington DC (Kristen Östlund)
3. Membership process: (distribute the membership list)
 - Elections are held next year for officers and new members
 - Welcome to: Fabiano Cataldo, Daryl Green, Helen Vincent
4. Summary of the RBMS events in Lyon; sessions, dinner, and tours (with Raphaële Mouren)
5. Newsletter, blog, Facebook, Flickr (with Daryl Green)
6. Digitization Guidelines: revised and submitted for approval
7. Future meetings:
 - Midterm, London, 11-13 March 2015 (Raphaële Mouren)
 - Cape Town Satellite Conference: 13-14 August 2014
 - 2015 World Congress, Cape Town, 15-21 August 2014
 - 2016 World Congress, Columbus, Ohio, USA
8. Update on the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (Jan Bos)
9. Satellite Meeting in Cape Town; decide on a theme and desired outcomes; volunteers for a program chair?
10. Proposals for program sessions in Cape Town
11. Proposal to change the name of the section (as time permits)

Wednesday, 20 August, 11:30 – 13:00 | Salle Tête d'Or 1

1. Finalize program sessions for Cape Town
2. Preliminary ideas for a satellite conference in 2016: within three hours travel time, airport-to-airport, to Columbus, Ohio. Ideas: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal.
3. Proposal to change the name of the section (discussion and potential endorsement)
4. Future activities and for the section
 - Update the webpage: International Organizations and Projects related to Rare Books and Manuscripts (<http://www.ifla.org/node/8413>)
 - Convert the printed brochures into webpages (<http://www.ifla.org/publications/leaflet-rare-books-and-manuscripts-section?og=59>)
 - Translate the Digitization Guidelines
5. Future directions or initiatives for the section
 - Advocacy for rare books and special collections at the international level
 - Security and theft issues
 - Education and training for rare book and special collections librarians; design a curriculum
 - National bibliographies
 - Publishing proceedings, standards, and/or guidelines
 - Best practices in collection development; how to go about building collections
 - Creating exhibits both physical and virtual

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR CAPE TOWN CONGRESS SESSIONS

1. The state of contemporary books (books arts?) in Africa, perhaps in collaboration with Jack Ginsberg and the Art Libraries Section.
2. Preserving African cultural heritage, in collaboration with Blue Shield and Preservation and Conservation Section

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR CAPE TOWN SATELITTE MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (possible collaboration with the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section).

UCT has collections related to contemporary African culture, and there is currently a five-year research initiative underway to study the Archive and Public Culture.

<http://www.apc.uct.ac.za/about/> Contact: Renate Meyer.

1. Exploring African Collections. What constitutes “special collections” in Africa? Compare collections from North Africa and the Middle East with those in the rest of Africa.
2. “Documenting and Preserving Contemporary African Culture.” Explore the concept of “cultural heritage” in Africa, including how African contemporary history is being documented in situations such as the Arab Spring, Sudan, etc.
3. Workshop: Defining, planning, and executing a documentary heritage program in the context of social and cultural challenges.

SESSIONS MIGHT INCLUDE:

- Best practices or case studies in selecting, acquiring, preserving, and making accessible documentary evidence of current events in all media, including, print, electronic, and time-based media.
- What are the considerations that go into defining a program; key components of the methodology; resources required?
- What are the institutional, political, and cultural considerations that inform decisions about documenting current events? How do contemporary documentation projects deal with "objectivity"?
- What is the impact of these collections? What is the measure of success?
- What are the risks to institutions and staff working in them, as well as to those involved in the event?

**IFLA WLIC 2013 / Singapore
Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
Minutes from the Business Meetings in Singapore, 2013**

First Standing Committee Meeting: Saturday 17th August, 12:30--15:00

Welcome and introductions.

Standing Committee Members present: Chu Shuqing, David Farneth, Edwin Schroeder, Garrelt Verhoeven, Isabel García---Monge, Krister Östlund, Maria Ermakova, Mark Dimunation, Raphaële Mouren.

Other attendees: Alex Tesh, Byambasuren Demed, Chhiem Kan, Hussain Ahmad, Irmhild Schäfer, James Chan, Margy Burn, Mony Chhuon, Munkhchimeg Tserendorj, Rebecca Hankins, Russell Lynch, Sharifa Al Faheem, Suon Sophy, Wallace Chan, Yao Junming.

Regrets from: Pilar Egoscozábal, Bente Grandrud, Pilar Moreno, Tatjana Subotin---Golubovic, Claudia Fabian, Angela Nuovo, Jan Bos and Olga Vega.

Approval of the August 2012 minutes.

The August 2012 minutes (Helsinki) were approved.

Digitization guidelines.

The RBM Standing Committee officially endorsed the Digitization Guidelines.

Officers election.

New officers were elected: David Farneth (Chair), Krister Östlund (Secretary and Treasurer) and Edwin Schroeder (Information Coordinator and Newsletter Editor).

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section sessions in Singapore Congress.

Raphaële Mouren and David Farneth presented the RBM program in Singapore.

- On Monday August 19th, off--site visit at the National Library of Singapore: "Rare and special collections in the Asian or Oceania context", with Asia and Oceania Section.
- On Tuesday August 20th, presentation of the Digitization Guidelines.
- On Tuesday August 20th, "Preserving for the future: Integrating physical and digital preservation" with Information Technology, Preservation and Conservation and Research Services for Parliaments.
- On Thursday August 22th, "Images, lost and found: Innovative approaches to discovery and use of visual material found in rare books, manuscripts, and special collections" with Art Libraries section.

Translations for Singapore Congress papers.

French translations and a substantial number of Spanish translations had been provided (the librarians from the National Library in Spain were thanked for their efforts). Other SC members will be contacted in order to get translations in German, Russian, Arabic and Chinese. Chinese attendees expressed their interest and would contact their colleagues for this purpose. The SC discussed the development of a network of translators.

Cooperation with other sections.

Raphaële Mouren stressed the importance of working with new sections during these last few years, such as with Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Information Technology, Research Services for Parliaments, and Art Libraries, in addition to those with which RBM usually cooperates, as Preservation and Conservation.

Financial report.

The 2012 allocation from IFLA for the section was 700 euros. IFLA approved an increase up to 874 euros for expenses related to the publication of the Anwerp Midterm conference, *Ambassadors of the Book*, as these publications are the kind of activities that IFLA encourages.

RBM members and activities.

Raphaële presented the publication of *Ambassadors of the Book*.

The 2013 midterm in Moscow was not held as many participants were not able to find funding.

The section has lost a few members. This year, Rare Books and Manuscripts Section has 110 members. Chu Shuqing became corresponding member of the Standing Committee. Daryl Green had joined the Section and would be interested in creating a blog for it. The importance of participation in the Section activities during the entire year was emphasized.

The next elections will take place in 2015.

Programme for Lyon 2014

There will be a satellite meeting in Lyon and the theme proposed is History of Librarianship.

For the Congress sessions some themes were discussed:

- Special collections and new libraries buildings; Edwin Schroeder will contact the Library Buildings and Equipment Section to try and develop a session together.
- Other subjects would be teaching the history of the book, or the management of rare books collections, including new ways of presenting and interpreting special collections for scholars and for the general public. The outreach to immigrant groups and how to document these groups, as part of local history, was also mentioned.

During the Congress some visits to libraries could also be organized.

2015 Congress in Cape Town.

Russel Lynch, Division II chair, visited the meeting and announced Cape Town as the location for the 2015 IFLA Congress.

The organization of this satellite meeting was discussed, as were the difficulties to prepare it. This meeting will be revisited after the distribution of a list of institutions offering to host these meetings. It would be interesting to prepare it with other sections, specifically with the Africa section.

Other Rare Books and Manuscripts section projects.

It was stressed that any projects or activities should work in line with IFLA's key initiatives.

The list of **International Organizations and Projects Related to Rare Books and Manuscripts** is still considered to be very useful as it provides contacts on these matters for small libraries, but it is obsolete and should be updated. Each country should send their information, including members of the section, not only SC members.

Leaflets.

Raphaële Mouren proposed to do without leaflets and substitute them for pages on the web site in different languages. David Farneth will draft a new text that will be translated into the other official languages.

National Bibliographies survey

It's proposed to ask Claudia Fabian about the results of the survey and relaunch it if necessary.

Communication Plan

The insufficient visibility of the RBM section website is a problem. There is also the question of creating and keeping an active social network. Chu Shuqing and his colleagues offered to disseminate RBM information through Chinese social networks.

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Second Standing Committee Meeting Wednesday 21th august, 9:45---11:15

Standing Committee Members and Corresponding members present: Chu Shuqing, David Farneth, Edwin Schroeder, Garrelt Verhoeven, Isabel García---Monge, Krister Östlund, Maria Ermakova, Mark Dimunation, Raphaële Mouren, Wiston Tabb.

Other attendees: Heather Brown, Iman Ezzeldin, Jinda Chotewattanakul, Mages Periasamy, Mitsuo Nitta, Mohamed Salim, Ornella Foglieni, Raphaële Bats, Russell Lynch, Shubigi Rao, Tanja de Boer.

David Farneth presented an agenda for this second meeting.

2015 Congress in Cape Town.

The possibility of a satellite in Cape Town was discussed further. In case of organizing a satellite meeting, David Farneth suggested doing it in the same city to prevent further expenses. As most participants will be local professionals, it would be interesting to address some subjects relevant for this area, such as what is considered special collections in Africa. Dr. Iman Ezz El Din Ismail, Director in the National Library of Egypt, pointed out the interest in comparing collections from North Africa and Middle East with the rest of Africa. Mark Dimunation proposed the analysis of the concept of cultural heritage in Africa, including the study of how African contemporary history is being documented in situations such as the Arab Spring. The preservation of this heritage could also be a subject, in association with Blue Shield. It would be a day and a half meeting. To prevent asking for a fee, Garrelt Verhoeven suggested addressing The Prince Claus Fund for financial support.

For the RBM section session during the congress, Mark Dimunation proposed the state of contemporary books in Africa, in collaboration with Jack Ginsberg (art books collector) and the Art Libraries Section.

Garrelt suggested contacting the University and the local committee to organize both satellite and session.

2014 Lyon Session with Library Buildings and Equipment Section.

Edwin Schroeder had a meeting with Library Buildings and Equipment Section to organize the session on new buildings for libraries which hold special collections. Ornella Foglieni, secretary of the Preservation and Conservation Section, declared that they are also interested in organizing this session with RBM. Preservation and Conservation is interested in the new uses of special collections. Edwin will organize the session with these sections.

2014 Lyon RBM Session.

This session could be an offsite visit. Raphaële will consult with the Director of the Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon as a possible venue. The subject could be the study of rare books and history of the book for those responsible of special collections, or teaching the history of the books in the digital era. The objective will be to establish a document for smaller libraries that have, or want to develop, a special collections program. Garrelt and Mark will shape the idea for this session.

Raphaële Bats, from ENSSIB, proposed to cooperate with the RBM section not only for the Lyon satellite meeting but also for the exhibition *Le livre, virgule* (The book, comma), which will include short text that members of the section could translate.

2014 Midterm meeting.

David proposed to organize a midterm meeting in the United States to discuss these ideas and Mark offered to host the meeting. Some visits could be included. The favorite dates are March---April. A significant number of the SC members present believe they will be able to attend.

Other RBM objectives and activities.

The group discussed several priorities for new and on---going initiatives:

-- The group felt that the publication of documents and guidelines should remain an important activity of the Section.

---The group discussed moving forward with a proposal to change the name of the section, and to bring to a close the discussions that started two years ago.

--- Different aspects of a communication plan were discussed, including the use of the two RBM mailing lists. It would be important to improve the contents of the web page, specially the outdated list of *Organizations and Projects Related to Rare Books and Manuscripts*. The development of contents for social media was proposed, but the time and dedication that it implies should also be considered. The objective of knowing and improving the visibility of the newsletter is still an issue and maybe should be disseminated through more lists. The section could ask IFLA for web statistics. It was argued that some of the contents are more appropriate for a blog but it was agreed that a newsletter as such is still convenient.

Officers that finished their terms were thanked for their work. The meeting is adjourned at 11:45.

----- Submitted by Isabel Garcia-Monge, Secretary

IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Minutes from the Midterm Meeting in Washington DC and Baltimore / 1-2 April 2014

Participants: Susan Allen, Mark Dimunation, Jeremy Dibbell, Christian Dupont, Claudia Fabian (via Skype), David Farneth, Isabel García-Monge, Raphaële Mouren, Amanda Nelson, Laila Österlund, Krister Östlund, Edwin C. Schroeder, Winston Tabb, Garrelt Verhoeven, Helen Vincent.

Tuesday, April 1 2014: Library of Congress, Washington, DC

9:30 Am–12:30 PM: Business meeting–Discussion and program planning for the all-day session in Lyon, *Brave New World: Teaching and Learning Special Collections Librarianship* (Monday, 18 August 2014 at the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon). The discussion was focused on 1) deciding on the topic/topics for the meeting, defining the goal and intended audience 2) planning the session components, content and speakers and 3) discussing venue requirements, logistics etc.

1:30 PM: Tour of the Library of Congress

3:30 PM: Tour of the Folger Shakespeare Library

Wednesday, April 2: Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

9:30-11:00AM: Tour of the George Peabody Library

11:30Am–3:15 PM: Business meeting: Continued discussion and program planning for the all-day session in Lyon, *Brave New World: Teaching and Learning Special Collections Librarianship* (Monday, 18 August 2014 at the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon). The discussion led to a suggested program for the all-day session in Lyon (see Appendix 1) and to the following statement concerning the intended goal, audience and outcome of the all-day session:

GOAL: To investigate different approaches to training special collections professionals and highlight future training needs

AUDIENCE: Library educators; Library leaders responsible for staff development; Library leaders who wish to start, expand or integrate a special collections program; Librarians interested in working in special collections

OUTCOME: We envision this session will lead to the development of a curriculum for training documentary heritage librarians and/or to the development of an online resource for developing documentary heritage programs in libraries.

3:30–5:00 PM: Tour of the Evergreen Museum and Library

Appendix 1

Session no. 84: Brave New World: Teaching and Learning Special Collections Librarianship

Sponsored by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
Monday, 18 August 2014 / 9:00 – 17:00

Off-site Location: Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon

PROGRAM

9:00 Welcome / *Gilles Eboli, Director, Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon*

Introduction / *Edwin C. Schroeder, Yale University, United States*
Brave New World: Special Collections in Transition

9:30 Session 1: What should we teach? (Competencies and curricula) /
Moderator: *Raphaële Mouren, Warburg Institute/ENSSIB, France*

- Core competencies for a variety of specialist practitioners / *Mark Diminution, Library of Congress, United States*
- Collection-oriented approach / *Simon Eliot, University of London, United Kingdom*
- Institution-oriented approach / *Garrelt Verhoeven, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
- The view from the library director's office / *Winston Tabb, Johns Hopkins University, United States*
- Panel Discussion: What is the ideal curriculum?

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Session 2: How do we teach? (Modes of delivery, purpose and intent, audience) / *Moderator: Angela Nuovo, University of Udine, Italy*

- Continuing education programs / *Simon Eliot, University of London, United Kingdom*
- Certificate programs / *Terry Weech, University of Illinois, United States*

- On-line and distance learning / *Helen Vincent, National Library of Scotland*
- Degree programs / *Raphaële Mouren, Warburg Institute/ENSSIB, France*
- Panel Discussion

12:00 LUNCH

1:30 Session 3: Using special collections to support education / Moderator:
Claudia Fabian, Bavarian State Library, Germany

- Case study: Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon / *Pierre Guinard, Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon, France*
- Case study: Uppsala University / *Peter Sjökvist, Uppsala University, Sweden*
- Educating the general public: Exhibitions, “laboratories,” storytelling, social media / *Daryl Green, University of St. Andrews, United Kingdom*
- Leveraging collections for promotion and marketing / *Mark Diminution, Library of Congress, United States*
- Panel discussion

2:30 Session 4: Future trends in leadership and management / Moderator:
David Farneth, Getty Research Institute, United States
(5-minute “lightning” presentations followed by 5 minutes of discussion)

- New types of physical collections / *Garrelt Verhoeven, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
- Open content and the democratization of information / *Krister Östlund, Uppsala University, Sweden*
- Sharing collections and metadata; uniting collections virtually / *Isabel Garcia-Monge, Spanish Bibliographical Heritage Union Catalogue, Spain*
- Managing digitized collections; Physical and digital: a complementary relationship / *Claudia Fabian, Bavarian State Library, Germany*
- Selecting, acquiring, managing, and preserving born digital collections.
David Farneth, Getty Research Institute, United States

3:30 Session 5: Responses from the audience: Future trends and educational requirements / Moderator: Krister Östlund, Uppsala University, Sweden

Note: We will also distribute a paper survey at the meeting and offer it on-line using Survey Monkey. It will survey current trends in special collections management and priorities for the Standing Committee.

3:45 Summary and insights / Jan Bos, National Library of the Netherlands, The Netherlands

4:00 BREAK

4:15 Tour of the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon
4 groups of 15 (2 in English; 2 in French)

**IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
Standing Committee Membership
August 2014**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Country</i>
2011-2015		
Dimunation, Mark	1	USA
Egoscozabal Carrasco, Pilar	1	Spain
Garcia-Monge, Isabel	2	Spain
Granrud, Bente	1	Norway
Holzenberg, Eric	1	USA
Mouren, Raphaelae	2	France/UK
Ostlund, Krister	1	Sweden
Venier, Marina	1	Italy
Verhoven, Garrelt	1	Netherlands
2013-2017		
Ermakova, Maria	1	Russian Fed.
Fabian, Claudia	2	Germany
Farneth, David	2	USA
Nuovo, Angela	2	Italy
Schroeder, Edwin	2	USA
Subotin-Golubovic, Tatjana	1	Serbia
Tabb, Winston	2	USA
Appointments from casual vacancies		
Vincent, Helen	2014-2015	UK
Green, Daryl	2014-2015	UK
Corresponding members		
Bos, Jan		Netherlands
Chu Shuqing		China
Kawa, M.		Sierra Leone
Vega Garcia, Olga		Cuba
Cataldo, Fabiano		Brazil
Resigned members		
Gendron, Celine	2011-2015	Canada
Hericher, Daniel	2011-2015	France

[80th IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 16-22 August 2014](#)

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section

Business Meetings

[Business Meeting -- Session 8](#) — *Standing Committee I* — Rare Books and Manuscripts | **16 August 2014** | 09:45 - 12:15 | Room: Salle Rhône 1

[Business Meeting -- Session 179](#) — *Standing Committee II* — Rare Books and Manuscripts | **20 August 2014** | 11:30 - 13:00 | Room: Salle Tête d'Or 1

Conference Sessions

[Session 69 — *Special Places for Special Collections*](#) — Library Buildings and Equipment with Rare Books and Manuscripts | **17 August 2014** | 13:45 - 15:45 | Room: Amphithéâtre | SI

[Session 84 — *Brave New World: Teaching and Learning Special Collections Librarianship*](#) — **18 August 2014** | 09:00 - 17:30 | Off-site at the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon

Special Events

Monday, August 18. Section dinner at Brasserie Georges. Details to be announced at the business meeting.

<http://www.brasseriegeorges.com/accueil.aspx>

Wednesday, August 20. Afternoon visit to the printing museum in Lyon (Musée de l'imprimerie Lyon). <http://www.imprimerie.lyon.fr>

Friday, August 22. All-day library tour to Bibliothèques municipales de Grenoble. This library hosts the library of the Grande chartreuse, the first monastery of the order created at the end of the 11th century, together with a collection related to Stendhal, born in Grenoble, including some original manuscripts of his novels. Details will be announced at the business meeting. <http://www.bm-grenoble.fr>

Satellite Conference

***History of Librarianship.* Monday- Tuesday, 25-26 August** | Ecole nationale supérieure des sciences de l'Information et des bibliothèques (enssib), just a short distance from the IFLA Congress Centre. The attendance is free but online registration is required: <http://histlibr2014.sciencesconf.org>

DRAFT

MEMO TO: IFLA Professional Committee
FROM: Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
DATE: 1 August 2014
RE: Proposal to change the name of the section

Executive Summary

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section is making a request of the Professional Committee and IFLA leadership to change the name of the section to Rare Books and Special Collections.

There are three overarching justifications for the new name:

1. The name of the section should better reflect the diversity of the collections, materials, and programs that we lead and manage
2. The current name is archaic. It no longer reflects how libraries are organized or the range of work that is done
3. The name of the section should better reflect the role of special collections in the changing library environment and their relevance in today's world

The new name accomplishes two things: it maintains a dedication to the importance of rare book collections while expanding the scope of collections and activities reflective of special collections librarianship.

Justification for changing the name

The name of the section should better reflect the diversity of the collections, materials, and programs that we manage

Putting aside a valid debate about the ambiguity of the word “manuscripts,” most of the section’s members have over the years simply accepted the old name with the understanding that “rare books and manuscripts” is meant to be taken in the broadest sense to include the full range of rare and valuable objects and collections that are managed by rare book and/or special collections departments. At the same time, we have seen that many library rare book departments have been re-organized and re-branded as “special collections” to better reflect the expansion of the collections, which now typically include diverse materials such as rare photographs, modern documentary photographs, comprehensive manuscript and archival collections of important people, archives of organizations and businesses, collections related to local history or popular culture, other visual materials (such as posters, prints, drawings, paintings, and other art works), printed ephemera and other historical printed materials, architectural records and drawings, artist books, three-dimensional objects, audiovisual materials in all formats, and, most recently, born digital materials such as electronic documents, email, websites, social media sites, etc. Perhaps the biggest shift has been a change in focus from “items” to “collections.” More and more, both the monetary and research values lie in the collection than in each object within the collection. This, in turn, has transformed all of the ways that we conduct our work .

The current name is archaic. It no longer reflects how libraries are organized or the range of work that is done

The outdated stereotype of a rare books and manuscripts librarian might look something like this: a white man wearing a bow tie and unkept academic garb, who identifies as a scholar first and a librarian second, and who is more interested in keeping the books safely on the shelves than in the hands of researchers.

Rare book and special collections librarians are now very different. We are frequently librarians first and scholars second. Special collection librarians do much more than manage rare and valuable collections responsibly. In addition to having the traditional competencies, thoroughly understanding the scholarly process, and undertaking scholarly work, we are also required to have a wide range of specialized skills in collection development, cultivating donors, marketing collections and services, preparing exhibitions, historical editing and publishing, digitization, digital preservation, expanding audiences, fund-raising, grant-writing, and managing large, inter-institutional collaborative projects.

The name of the section should reflect how rare books and special collections are viewed in the changing environment.

Practically every study about the future of libraries emphasizes an expanding role for special collections for three main reasons: they hold unique materials that no one else has, they support a broad range of teaching and research, and they often focus on local culture and history, which are directly relevant to the communities being served.

We look forward to assisting library leaders in reinforcing the value of libraries and keeping them relevant to our communities. We enjoy being engaged within the library, within the scholarly community, and within the general public. We are dedicated to expanding access and building audiences. We also join library leaders in taking an entrepreneurial approach to marketing, public relations, and fund-raising.

Justification for the new name

Early in our discussions we reached consensus to change the name, but finding a new name has been difficult. We tried to work with the UNESCO preference for “documentary heritage collections,” but for some this seemed too broad and could be seen as stepping on the toes of other IFLA sections. Other ideas such as Rare Materials, Rare Collections, or Heritage Collections, failed to attract much enthusiasm.

We admit that the new recommended name – Rare Books and Special Collections – is not a very bold step in a new direction. This is because although we thoroughly embrace the new, expanded world of special collections librarianship, we do not want to compromise the importance of traditional rare book librarianship, which, more than ever, is leading to new discoveries and deeper knowledge and understanding of our shared cultural heritage. The study of the history of the book remains popular and important, as does descriptive bibliography, the history of collecting, and the study of the book as a physical object that bears witness to history and transformed the world. We want to honor and support this tradition, not ignore it.

Therefore the new name does two things: it maintains a dedication to the importance of rare book collections while expanding the scope to include the collections and activities reflective of special collections librarianship.

History of the discussion

Beginning in 2010, the section identified a strong need to better define what is meant by “rare books” and “rare materials” as part of our strategic planning process, which pointed to the fact that the definition of “rare” was changing and that the scope of our “rare and valuable” collections had expanded considerably over the last 10-15 years. The group decided that this discussion fell squarely under two of IFLA’s key initiatives: the Digital Content Programme (initiative 1)

and the Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Professions (initiative 3). This led to an extended 2-hour discussion during our second business meeting in San Juan (2011) about whether to propose a change of name for the section and considerable brain-storming about what the new name should be, weighing the pros and cons of terminology that would have relevance to an international audience and would not overlap with the names and intent of other IFLA sections.

In an effort to educate others about the changing nature of special collections and to highlight the changing competencies needed by staff working with rare books and special collections, the section held an open planning session at the World Congress in Puerto Rico called “What is rare material in libraries, and what are the consequences for actions” (session 96 / <http://conference.ifla.org/past-wlic/2011/rare-books-and-manuscripts.htm>). At this session Jan Bos (National Library of the Netherlands) spoke eloquently to the topics at hand in a paper that was subsequently published as “All Books are Equal, but Some Books ... Towards a Modern Vision of Special Collections,” which then appeared as the first chapter in the IFLA publication *Ambassadors of the Book: Competences and Training for Heritage Librarians*, edited by Raphaele Mouren (IFLA Publications 160), Berlin/Munich: De Gruyter Saur, 2012.

At the Helsinki meeting, the Rare Books and Manuscript Section renewed its commitment to preparing a proposal to change the name to one that would be “oriented toward a more comprehensive vision of special collections.” The proposal would be endorsed by a vote of all section members. At the Singapore meeting, the section again “discussed moving forward with a proposal to change the name of the sections, and to bring to a close the discussions that started two years ago.”

This proposal was distributed to the membership in advance of the meetings in Lyon and then discussed during the section’s first business meeting on 16 August 2014.

[IF THE PROPOSAL IS ENDORSED, A SENTENCE WILL BE ADDED STATING THAT THE MEMBERSHIP ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL AND ASKED THE SECTION CHAIR TO SEND IT TO THE PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE.]



IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section

Annual Report 2013

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section provides a forum for discussion and exchange of information on matters of particular concern to rare book and manuscript librarians, including the collection, preservation, bibliographic control, and use of such materials, in all types of libraries. The Section is a part of Division II: Library Collections.

Membership

At the end of 2013 the Section had 110 members and also maintains a separate list of about 100 additional interested parties.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee currently has 17 members and 4 corresponding members. The countries represented in the Standing Committee are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States. The corresponding members are from China, Cuba, Sierra Leone, and The Netherlands. We are actively seeking better representation from Asia, South America, and Africa. A list of the current membership of the Standing Committee is maintained on the section's website: http://www.ifla.org/rareTbooksTandT_manuscripts/standingTcommittee

Officers

The following officers concluded their terms of office in August: Raphaële Mouren (Chair), Isabel GarciaTMonge (Secretary), and David Farneth (Information Coordinator). The following officers were elected in Singapore: David Farneth (Chair), Krister Östlund (Secretary), and Edwin Schroeder (Information Coordinator and Newsletter Editor). Contact information for the officers is available on the section's website: http://www.ifla.org/aboutTtheTrareTbooksTandTmanuscriptsT_section

Meetings

Two business meetings were held in Singapore, and we were pleased to welcome attendees from Singapore, Malaysia, China, Sri Lanka, India, and Egypt. Principal topics of discussion included:

- Introductions, approval of meeting minutes, financial report, election of officers
- Formal endorsement of the Digitization Guidelines
- Report on the publication of *Ambassadors of the book* (see below)
- Program planning for Lyon sessions and post-conference
- 2015 satellite meeting in Africa
- 2014 midterm meeting in the U.S.
- National bibliographies survey
- Proposal to update the section's brochures and change them from PDF files to webpages.
- Proposal to provide translations of object labels for an exhibition to be held at ENSSIB in Lyon in conjunction with our post-conference meeting.
- A review of the section's various communications mechanisms including mailing lists, website, newsletter, and the potential use of a blog and social media
- Three proposed goals for the section:
 - Gain IFLA ratification of the Digitization Guidelines; disseminate and translate them
 - Devise and implement a communications plan
 - Finalize discussion about the Sections' scope of work and decide if we want to request a new name for the Section

Publications

The section published two newsletters, in January and July. They feature a wide range of information of interest to special collections librarians including continuing educational opportunities, new standards and best practices, new publications, exhibitions, new digital collections and projects, and collaborative activities.

<http://www.ifla.org/publications/rare-books-and-manuscripts-section-newsletter>

The section continued to receive positive feedback for the IFLA publication that grew out of a midterm meeting in 2011 in Antwerp: *Ambassadors of the book: competences and training for heritage librarians* edited by Raphaële Mouren.

<http://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-publications-series-160>

Programs

The Section sponsored an impressive 17 hours of programming at the Singapore conference:

- On Monday, August 19, the section partnered with the Asia and Oceania Section for an allTday, offTsite session (Session 95) at the National Library of Singapore under the title “Rare and special collections in the Asian or Oceanian context.” Speakers from Singapore, New Zealand, China, Philippines, Canada, India, and the U.S. participated in the allTday session, which revealed a wealth of rare and special collections largely unknown outside of their countries. The session also featured a special set of poster presentations from Sri Lanka, Java, Iran, Scotland, and China. The staff of the National Library of Singapore provided excellent meeting facilities in the beautiful, new library, wonderful food and drink for breaks, lunch in the special events room at the very top of the building with stunning views of the city, and tours of the library and special collections.
- On Tuesday, August 20, the Section held a public session (Session 132) to present the draft Digitization Guidelines for comment. After a summary of the major sections of the guidelines, the audience of over 200 attendees participated in an enthusiastic 45Tminute discussion and Q&A period. A wide majority of the comments were positive, and the session underscored our feeling that guidelines of this kind are greatly needed by our international community.
- Also on Tuesday, the section joined Information Technology, Preservation and Conservation, and Library and Research Services for Parliaments in presenting a session entitled “Preserving for the future: Integrating physical and digital preservation” (Session 146). Speakers from Germany, France, Australia, Japan, Finland, and the United States provided case studies describing successful project in their home institutions on a wide range of collections.
- On Thursday, August 22, RBMS coTsponsored Session 202 with the Art Libraries Section entitled “Lost and found: innovative approaches to discovery and use of visual material found in books, manuscripts, and special collections.” Speakers from Sweden, Germany and the U.K. participated. The audience had the opportunity to compare and contrast two image recognition software applications still under development.

Ongoing Projects and Initiatives

- *Digitization Guidelines.* Over the past two years the Section has written digitization guidelines for cultural heritage librarians. These guidelines are intended to provide a broad framework for digitizing collections of manuscripts and rare books for the purpose of improving longterm research use, access, and dissemination. These principles can also be applied to any collection that an institution considers of special importance or to any item whose physical support has as much relevance as the images or texts it contains. The guidelines should also help professionals and nonT professionals create sustainable and adaptable digital collections that will continue to have research value into the future. The audience for the guidelines includes library leaders who are proposing projects, librarians who are planning and executing projects, and funding organizations that are considering supporting digitization projects. The projects have been submitted to the Standards Committee for review and comment.
- *Review of mission and section name.* The Section has embarked on a productive 2Tyear discussion about the mission and scope of the section, and if it should be expanded to include all kinds of rare and unique collections that are typically found in libraries. These are now commonly called “special collections” or “cultural heritage collections.” This discussion will soon be documented on the Section’s website. In the coming year we plan to bring this discussion to an end and decide whether to propose a change of name for the section.
- *Communication plan.* From September – December the section officers have been refining a communication plan for the section, which entails a careful review of the mailing lists and newsletter, updating our informational brochures, as well as proposals to become more active in social media and blogs. The plan will be presented to the Standing Committee at the midterm meeting in Washington for discussion and endorsement.
- *National bibliographies survey.*
- *List of International Organizations and Projects Related to Rare Books and Manuscripts*

This annual report was submitted to the Division II chair in January 2014.



Photographs from sessions sponsored by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Singapore, 2013.