



**Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS)  
Standing Committee Meeting I  
Glasgow August 17, 2002**

**Minutes**

**Present: Gnassi, B., (Chair); Sundholm, E.; Anderson, P.; Sato, J.; Schaubman, D.; F.; Voskanyan, E.; Wu, J. (Secretary) ; Yrjola, H. Guests: Hyland, N.; Zepf, R.; Brian, R.**

1. Review and approval of agenda.  
The Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes of SCII, 2001 (Boston)  
The Minutes of GIOPS SCII 2001 were approved following the approval of the following written text provided by F. Kirkwood:

After Directory Subcommittee Report, insert the following:  
**Eastern Europe Subcommittee Report**

**The successful GIOPS Moscow seminar of 1999 produced four resolutions and called for future professional activity by GIOPS to help promote public access to government information, as a tool for democracy building in Eastern Europe. To this end a subcommittee for Eastern Europe was created at the Bangkok IFLA conference that same year, including GIOPS SC members Frank Kirkwood as chair, Emma Voskanyan, Eli Popova, Kalina Muehlfeld, corresponding member Irina Andreeva (Russian Parliamentary Librarian), and other interested parties. The four resolutions, on cataloguing in publication of government information, on interfacing between legislative databases, on virtual electronic exchanges of official publications between countries, and on programs of training and exchange for government information specialists, were approved by the GIOPS SC and by the IFLA Divisional Co-ordinating Board of Collections and Services and were passed up to Professional Board as a resolution of the Bangkok IFLA conference; on 8 December 1999 the Professional Board formally endorsed them and invited all IFLA sections and core programs to collaborate in their realization. In particular, the Parliamentary Libraries section agreed to co-operate in this field at its second SC meeting of the Jerusalem IFLA conference in 2000.**

**In May 2000 Frank Kirkwood was invited to represent GIOPS as a speaker at the St. Petersburg International Conference on Government and Democracy organized by the Russian Library Association and co-chaired by Irina Andreeva. As subcommittee chair Frank also attempted in**

**1999-2000 to develop a model for a financially independent East European library agency headquartered in Moscow which would be funded by Western foundation grants and would co-ordinate training and exchange programs with the West in the field of government information and official publications librarianship. The attempt foundered, however, on the barriers posed by national incorporation law to funds management by non-profit international agencies.**

**The chair convened a meeting of the GIOPS Eastern Europe subcommittee on Thursday, 23 August 2001, within the present Boston IFLA conference, at which Margareta Brundin of the Swedish Parliamentary Library, Eleni Mitrakou of the Greek Parliamentary Library, and Margarita Angelova of the Bulgarian Parliamentary Library were also present. It was agreed that the four resolutions of the Moscow seminar were being addressed within the region and that the GIOPS subcommittee and the proposed co-ordination agency should be dissolved. However, Frank Kirkwood would represent GIOPS at the 2002 Crimea conference as a speaker, as he had in 1999 following the Moscow seminar, and would explore further possibilities in the region for a conference of government information specialists for democracy.**

(4) Under the heading Newsletter, Paragraph 2 should read:

**On a related newsletter matter, Frank Kirkwood apologized for still not having mailed the back issues of previous years' newsletters to section members who had missed them, as there was no budgetary provision at his library for him to do so. He would try to do so soon by shipping them through Helen Sheehy, and she would forward copies to IFLA HQ to fulfill our deposit obligation.**

3. Business arising was for the most part covered in the present agenda.

4. Report from the Coordinating Board.

Highlights:

- Participants were reminded to wear badges at all times
- Open sessions were in future to be reduced to two hours to try to keep the Conference at optimal length. GIOPS members expressed concern about this and suggested the Officers return to the next CB meeting with a proposal for IFLA to strengthen collaboration between groups and coordination of programs. -Newsletter print or electronic or hybrid was discussed and GIOPS, noting the cost and delays of mailing in this electronic age proposed a survey or recipients to see whether electronic was sufficient. -All Division V programs were presented and all seemed very interesting, however all are in time conflicts with each other. There also seemed to be overlap between form, function and content. GIOPS members suggested more coordination even within our own Division V.

5. IFLA Booth

P. Anderson and J. Wu agreed to staff the IFLA Booth between 2-3pm on Wednesday August 21.

6. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Conferences Subcommittee. Paul Anderson reported on the excellent GIOPS program at SECC and Napier. He noted that Pierre Alain Tillette and Jesus Cortes deserved special thanks for the translations. All GIOPS members applauded and thanked them and especially Paul Anderson for his unstinting dedication to the tasks.

The Prague Pre-conference proposal was shelved as due to circumstances it was not possible to support or approve it at this time.

b. Publications Subcommittee. Elisabeth Sundholm and Debbi Schaubman had collaborated in producing an excellent text and brochure design. In addition Debbi provided some copies of French and English brochures for distribution at the Booth and with contacts. Both were thanked for their excellent work.

Annual Report. The Chair noted that he would begin preparing the Annual Report soon after the Conference and the Information Coordinator noted she would be using a Summary of it for the Newsletter.

c. Directory update.

This publication has been on hold. It was agreed the Chair would try to obtain the electronic file and work on an action plan with Subcommittee members

d. Seminars Subcommittee.

The Chair and Subcommittee members noted they would pursue the options for South African and South American seminars at this conference and report back at SCII. With respect to the Moscow Seminar, Emma presented a CD with the Russian version and it was agreed this project could now be termed completed.

e. List-server

It was agreed to try to follow IFLA procedures for IFLA list-servers.

7. Position Paper.

The Chair agreed to investigate with the Chair of Division V how to take the GIOPS position paper forward.

8. Definition of Official Government Publications.

The Chair agreed to investigate with the former Subcommittee Chair on the statue of this Definition and to obtain it in electronic form. The Secretary GIOPS noted that there was considerable interest in this from the Italian Government sector which could lead to possible new participants in this group.

9. Copyright Position Paper.

The Chair agreed to investigate the status of this and whether and how to move forward.

10. Eastern European Development Committee.

After some discussion it was agreed this Committee was now defunct.

11. Depository Libraries Discussion Group.

After some discussion it was agreed to form a new group based on people's participation in government, e-democracy, information to the people issues. J. Wu agreed to lead the discussion group. At the same time it was noted that these were timely issues for an open session or workshop at the Berlin Conference and this could be discussed along with the Conference planning issues.

12. More GIOPS members and Standing Committee Members are needed, especially as there will be a big turnover in 2003. Members were urged to establish contacts and invite others to participate.

13. Treasurer's Report.

Discussion was deferred to SCII to allow members time for review.

14. Other business.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

## **GIOPS Standing Committee Meeting II Glasgow August 23, 10:15-12:15**

### **Minutes**

**Present: Gnassi, B., (Chair); Sundholm, E.; Anderson, P.; Sato, J.; Schaubman, D.; Voskanyan, E.; Wu, J. (Secretary) ; Yrjola, H.; GUEST: Zepf, R.; Brian, R.**

1. Review and approval of agenda.  
The Agenda was approved.

2. Review and approval of Minutes of SC I.  
The minutes of SC Meeting I were approved.

3. Business arising.  
Individual items were included in the present agenda.

4. Report on the IFLA Booth  
P. Anderson and J. Wu had agreed to staff the IFLA Booth between 2-3pm on Wednesday August 21. B. Gnassi was also present. Although E. Sundholm and D. Schaubman had collaborated in producing excellent text and design for the brochure and sufficient copies there was confusion at the IFLA booth as to what was allowed. Action: The Chair will clarify at the CB II Meeting.

5. Sub-Committee Reports  
a. Conferences Subcommittee.

#### **GLASGOW 2002: GIOPS Open Session**

P. Anderson reported on the three excellent papers at the GIOPS Open Session and indicated he would write and thank the speakers. He also proposed nominating at least two of the papers for further publication in the IFLA Journal. He reported however that the venue was far from ideal and while the Open Session was well attended the attendees were lost in the huge room as it was intended for the plenary session.

#### **GLASGOW 2002: GIOPS Workshop**

With respect to the Workshop P. Anderson noted again the three excellent speakers but however expressed great disappointment in the few attendees and noted he would have to write letters of apology to The Stationery Office who had provided the bus and to Napier University who had provided the facility. GIOPS members were unable to determine the reasons for the few attendees despite every effort at publicity, particularly on the U.K. list-servers. GIOPS members agreed with P. Anderson on his assessment and supported the proposal for further publication of the papers. All thanked P. Anderson for his superb work in organizing all sessions.

#### **BERLIN 2003:**

The GIOPS Chair and the Conference Sub-Committee Chair reported that they were actively pursuing the idea of collaborating with other IFLA Standing Committees for both the Open Sessions and Workshops. A number of exploratory meetings had been held with other groups in view of the Berlin and Buenos Aires conferences. While there was definitely interest it was felt that GIOPS should plan its own Open Session and Workshop.

The theme arrived at after consideration of the Berlin theme of a future oriented library in the global network and group brainstorming was centered upon open societies, democracy, governmental freedom and access to information.

For the Workshop a practical elaboration was planned around best practices as they relate to the theme. They could answer such questions as the following:

How do professionals create outreach programs? Why? How? Tools? What is needed to support a knowledgeable citizen? To support and foster an empowered citizen?

It was suggested to try to get speakers from each continent to get as wide a perspective as possible.

**Possible Pre- or Post- Conference:**

While the Prague Pre-Conference proposal had been shelved, E. Voskanyan made a special plea that the idea of an Eastern European seminar not be totally shelved. There was a great need for this type of seminar and many librarians in the Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria and other previous USSR countries who would benefit but who could not afford to travel to the West for the this kind of seminar. It was agreed that she and Jane Wu would investigate to see what might be feasible.

b. Publications Subcommittee.

Annual report. The Chair reiterated that he would prepare the annual report soon after the Conference.

Newsletter.

The Information Coordinator noted she would be using a Summary of it for the Newsletter.

After the problem and confusion regarding the brochure, a GIOPS bookmark was suggested and agreed upon.

c. Directory update. The Chair will try to obtain the electronic file and work on an action plan with Subcommittee members

d. Seminars Subcommittee. The Chair and Subcommittee members reported on various meetings regarding South African and South American seminars.

e. The Information Coordinator had attended the IC meeting and reported she was now aware of IFLA procedures for IFLA list servers.

6. Position Paper.

The Chair confirmed he would investigate with the Chair of Division V how to take the GIOPS position paper forward.

7. Definition of Official Government Publications.

The Chair again agreed to investigate with the former Subcommittee Chair on the statue of this Definition and to obtain it in electronic form.

8. Copyright Position Paper.

The Chair agreed to investigate the status of this and whether and how to move forward.

9. Eastern European Development Committee.

After some discussion it was agreed this Committee was now defunct.

10. Treasurer's Report.

Discussion was centered on the funds received from CIDA and whether they should be considered in the GIOPS report to IFLA. It was decided in the affirmative and the report was approved with a motion by D. Schaubman seconded by E. Sundholm. The Chair noted he was going to request the Treasurer to establish some guidelines and rules on financial management.

11. Other business.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

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**Home page of Government Information and Official Publications Section:**

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s17/sgiop.htm>