

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
Government Information and Official Publications Section (Section 17)
Standing Committee Meetings
2016 IFLA World Library and Information Congress

Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC), Columbus, USA
SC I Saturday, 13 August, 12:30 - 15:00, Room C214 (Session 24)
SC II - Wednesday, 17 August, 12:30 - 14:00, Room C216 (Session 183)

Standing Committee Meeting I

I. Welcome and Introductions.

Jim Church called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. GIOPS members present: Cornelia Butz (Secretary), Richard Clement, Kay Cassell, Sanjay Bihani, Geoff Swindells. Guests: Michael Dowling (ALA), Heather Christenson (California Digital Library) Fred Zarndt (IFLA Division 2 leader), Pavel Kiselev (Government Libraries), Anastasia Drozdova (Russian Federation), Representatives from the U.S Library of Congress, US Government Publishing Office, and the National Library of Qatar.

II. Agenda and Approval of Meeting Minutes from Cape Town

No objections, the minutes were approved.

III. Announcements and Conference Updates

1. The paper section is scheduled for Monday from 11.45 to 1.45 in Room: C210-212. The keynote speaker will be Mike Furlough from Hathi Trust. Other speakers include Ramona Kohrs from the UN Dag Hammarskjold Library, Sherry Aldis from United Nations Publications, and Sophie Vandepontseele on the Organization of an Electronic Legal Deposit, by the Royal Library of Belgium.
2. Fred Zarndt, Chair of IFLA Division 2 entered and introduced himself. The IFLA Trend Report should be studied by all as well as IFLA key initiatives and strategic directions. The GIOPS action plan should support the IFLA key initiatives and annual report. Jeff volunteered to help on the action plan.
3. Jim Church noted that other sections have interesting paper topics including one on digital humanities, big data, and UNESCO. On Tuesday the Government Libraries Section paper session will be on supporting communities with best practices.

IV. GIOPS Recruitment

GIOPS is fully staffed (for the first time ever) even though many members are not present due to funding. Next year ten GIOPS members will go off so recruitment is important. Nominations can be done by library associations, institutions and individuals, who can self-nominate. Each year the chair

writes to library directors to seek nominations. The section minimum is 10 people. Members are not automatically published on the IFLA web site if they do not sign the IFLA privacy waiver.

V: Professional Publication

Kay Cassell introduced the GIOPS publication in progress entitled “The Continuing Need for Government Information Professionals in Libraries.” Kay has been designated as the editor. The publication will be organized geographically and will address how government information is gathered, how access is provided, and the emerging role of the government information professional. National level government is important, but in the United States, Germany and other countries state government information is critical also. GIOPS needs additional contributors as IFLA wants many regions of the world to be represented. Potential regions include Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, Western Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Canada, the UK, and the USA, and indigenous governments. GIOPS members are encouraged to attend caucus meetings to recruit people.

VI. United Nations Depository Libraries

Jim Church distributed the [ALA Resolution on the Restoration of the United Nations Depository Library System](#). In 2012 Hurricane Sandy caused damage to the UN printing facilities and the UN suspended its local printing operations. As a result the over 360 UN depository libraries around the world are no longer sent print documents and publications. Subsequently the UN partnered with the OECD to create the UN iLibrary database at subscription price of \$12,500 to provide access to UN digital publications. This is in contrast to the 1200 dollars depository fee developed countries paid previously. The UN still sells its print publications via an outsourced facility in Virginia. The UN Dag Hammarskjold Library (DHL) is also in the process of releasing a new UN Digital Library, but without access to priced publications.

Jim Church has been working with IFLA HQ to communicate our concerns to the UN publications office. There will be a meeting with the UN and IFLA advocacy officer Stuart Hamilton on Monday. Jim noted there is no UN depository library council (as in the case of the United States) and options for feedback and communication with the UN are limited.

Discussion: archiving needs to be looked into. There is no official archival policy at the UN. The DHL has a system to access publications, but only for internal use. Publication policy is determined by Publications Board of the UN Department of Public Information. Currently the DHL does not have much influence on the board. Jim Church also noted the existence of an IGO Creative Commons license used by the World Bank for open access to International Government Organization Publications. The UN still claims copyright for its publications. Cornelia also described the collection strategy of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, which collects works from all fields, languages, time periods and countries for research purposes. Pavel from the Government Libraries Section asked about US state department and other library associations, like law libraries. Jim will go to the IFLA American Library caucus to inquire.

VI. Round Robin

Germany: Cornelia Butz noted that laws are not always published properly and in a timely manner.

Russia: get access to laws cost money. Official publications can be difficult to find and access to the latest information somewhat limited. There is an official gazette that comes out from time to time. The vendor East View publishes Russian statistical information. Presidential laws are easy to find. On the lower level (local) information is still difficult to find and not always published on websites.

India: There has been substantial digital progress. All ministries publish information on their websites. Statistical information, census data and speeches are all online. The ministry of Foreign Affairs does not make use of the commercial Indiatat database due to the expense.

Indigenous communities: little is online, including images. Tribal government documents can claim copyright.

Government libraries: Preservation is important. If there is a disaster in one country, countries need a trusted repository to retrieve information. Digital information is vulnerable.

US Government Printing Office: Congressional Research reports are important. Commercial providers make it available and you can request the information from a member of Congress.

California Digital Library: Web archiving format stability is important and web archiving is expensive. One terabyte of data typically costs 10,000 US dollars.

Government Publishing Office: There is a Federal Harvesting group: its main goal is to determine what the US federal agencies are harvesting. Websites themselves are government information projects, which means all website content needs to be archived. There is an end of term harvest that is going on.

Jim Church adjourned the meeting at 13:53.

Standing Committee Meeting II

I. Welcome and Introductions.

Jim Church called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. GLOPS members present: Cornelia Butz (Secretary), Richard Clement, Kay Cassell, Sanjay Bihani, Geoff Swindells. Guests: Ramona Kohrs, UNDL.

II. Paper session evaluation and United Nations Depository Update

Jim Church summarized the paper session. There were 90 people in attendance and overall the session went well, but there was not enough time for discussion, especially in regard to the UNDL. There was some debate on whether three or four speakers should be scheduled in the future.

Ramona Kohrs (UN DHL) explained the DHL policy of print distribution. Depository libraries affiliated with the UN regional offices (e.g. Latin America and Africa) still get selected paper documents and publications from regional offices. But the main printing office in N.Y. sends nothing, which is about 70% of total publications. Sanjay noted that in India only 20% of the people have internet access. In many developing countries, the internet is slow and there are not enough computers. No reliable power supply. In Cambodia children go to the National Library and there is only one computer.

There was further discussion about advocacy. Jim asked Sanjay to reach out to UN depository centers in India and noted the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals specify access to information. The Germany Library Association sent a letter to Parliament and South Africa Library association did as well. There needs to be a working group of UN librarians and the UN Office of Publication Information to discuss this.

III. Brainstorming for WLIC 2017 Paper Session

After a lengthy debate it was decided that the Section would propose and open paper session with an emphasis on international and EU legal institutions. There are many such organizations with this expertise in Europe: Council of Europe, European documentation Centers, etc. Cornelia Butz will lead the recruitment for speakers.

More Round Robin

A librarian from Lesotho at the election management commission spoke of voter education and electoral law reform. The Constitution has loop holes, international observers will be there, the opposition does not accept the results, and the management of election was not professional. The OAU helps and the Commonwealth are assisting. The Uganda Development Library is working to better coordinate ICT. The Government Libraries need help in recruiting new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:00.