



**METROPOLITAN LIBRARIES SECTION MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2013; AMSTERDAM, THE
NETHERLANDS.**

Present

Claudia Lux, Qatar National Library (Chairman)
Tay Ai Cheng, National Library Board, Singapore (Secretary/Treasurer)
Hans van Velzen, Amsterdam Public Library
Josephine Siegrist, Pestalozzi-Library, Zurich
Jane Pyper, Toronto Public Library
Ismena Meic, Zagreb City Libraries
Davorka Bastic, Zagreb City Libraries
Tomas Rehak, Municipal Library of Prague
Corrado Di Tillo, Roma Capitale – Sistema Biblioteche Centri Culturalis
Anna-Maria Soininvaara, Helsinki City Library
Markus Feigl, Vienna Public Libraries
Jeff Barber, Regina Public Library
Judith Hare, Halifax Public Library
Haruki Nagata, Rikkyo University (Tokyo)
Dr. Greg Morgan, Auckland Libraries
Mirla Edmundson, Auckland Libraries
Dzidra Smita, Riga City Council, Education, Culture and Sports Department
Louise Guillemette, Labory Ville Montreal Direction Associee - Bibliothèques
Helene Roussel, Bibliotheque et Archives Nationales de Quebec
Hendrina Van Der Berg, Johannesburg City Library
Liv Saeteren, Oslo Public Library
Ine vander Meer, Amsterdam Public Library
Elisabeth Aldstedt, Stockholm Public Library
Stanley Tan, National Library Board, Singapore (Minute taker)

	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Membership Terms in METLIB Standing Committee	
1.1	Chairman noted that Jane Pyper's term on the METLIB Standing Committee (SC) had expired and should be forwarded with the renewal request. Chairman clarified that attendance of the METLIB Annual Conference was not exclusive to METLIB SC members and that interested individual was eligible to register as conference participant. Chairman added that the election of a new METLIB SC Chairman will be held at IFLA-WLIC 2013 in Singapore and urged SC members to attend the conference and the METLIB SC election.	Secretary
2	Minutes of METLIB SC Meeting held in Helsinki, Finland 2012	
2.1	On the Information Officer's Report (Para 4.1), Chairman clarified that	

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	<p>the request for particulars update was applicable to everyone who wished to be part of METLIB listerv. While the listserv was not restricted to SC members, two separate contact lists were maintained for committee and non-committee members. In response to Tomas' query about the need for two contact lists to be maintained, Chairman explained that a separate contact list restricted to committee members was required to facilitate sharing of IFLA/Committee specific information that was exclusive to SC members. An open contact list including non-standing committee members that wished to be included on the listserv for info-sharing was maintained to circulate updates on METLIB developments and information to interested parties.</p>	
2.2	<p>Chairman informed that updates on METLIB study - Digital Lending Project would be discussed in detail, at IFLA-WLIC 2013, in Singapore.</p>	
2.3	<p>Chairman informed that there were remaining funds to set up a future project and called for project ideas that were relevant to furthering the development of Metropolitan Libraries. Chairman asked interested parties to define their suggested projects and submit their proposals to the Secretary. Key ideas discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assisting individual libraries with leadership development to ensure that representations of these libraries were supported by structured succession planning. In response, Chairman informed that IFLA currently offered two programmes on leadership training hence was unsure whether IFLA would take well to the suggested project. Notwithstanding this, she agreed that it was a good suggestion that could be further discussed to position the project more favourably with IFLA. b) An international GeektheLibrary! Campaign could be considered. Hans added that Amsterdam and Utrecht could share their experiences with rolling out the campaign in the Netherlands 	<p>Members & Secretary</p>
2.4	<p>The minutes were approved with no further amendments.</p>	
3	Library Evaluation & Benchmarking Survey Project	
3.1	<p>Anna-Marie qualified that as individual library systems surveyed in the project were different and data sets may not be consistent or fully collected at some libraries, further study of the statistical results may still be required. In response, Chairman and Jane opined that the overall data presented in the project report was useful; particularly in</p>	

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	<p>justifying requests for budgets and that the project results were the best that could be produced given the limitations of the project. Moreover, the data was also sent out to all participants for review and clarifications</p>	
3.2	<p>Tomas further stressed the need for clear definitions of the data fields to be established in order for the data to be robust, especially when the data were used to argue for libraries or justify budget requests. In response, Aicheng qualified that while the definition of fields could be explained to facilitate robust data gathering, the accuracy of data collation and analysis is dependent on the individual data providers.</p>	
3.3	<p>Chairman seconded suggestions to overcome doubts over the accuracy and robustness of the data collected, by setting up workshops at future MetLib conferences (not part of business meetings) to discuss and guide various users on the definition of data to be collected. In support of the workshops, Tomas requested that participants should come prepared with their respective library's data to facilitate discussions so that the session will be useful.</p>	
4	Future Mid-Term Meetings	
4.1	<p>In response to suggestions for METLIB 2015 to be held in Qatar, Josephine informed that Zurich's willingness to host METLIB only in 2016 rather than 2015 (as earlier designated) could only be confirmed in 2014 as it needed more time to evaluate the feasibility of a postponement. Chairman added that she would also not be able to confirm the possibility for Qatar National Library to host METLIB 2015 until the next METLIB meeting in 2014, Auckland, when she would be more certain about her tenure in Qatar. Chairman opined that Zurich had been designated to host METLIB in 2015 and should not be postponed further.</p>	
4.2	<p>Louise indicated interest for METLIB 2017 to be hosted in Montreal when Canada would be celebrating its 100th birthday and the anniversary of Montreal's hosting of the World Expo in 1967. In response, Chairman noted Montreal's interest and suggested that it be put on waiting list for decision-making nearer to 2017.</p>	
5	IFLA WLIC 2013 Open Session; Singapore	
5.1	<p>Chairman shared that the session would be held on Mon, 19 Aug, session room no. 6 in a world café format and would focus on eBooks research and how they could be better used in the public libraries. The discussion topic had been confirmed by Chairman of the IFLA Public Library section and urged METLIB members who were</p>	

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	attending the session to prepare questions for discussion. In preparation for the session, Chairman asked members to find out more about what library users' preferences when utilising eBooks, for example, users' preference for downloading vis-à-vis streaming of information. Chairman urged members to read the IFLA article on realisation of eBooks in our daily practice.	
6	Schedule of SC meetings in Singapore	
6.1	Aicheng updated the committee on the dates of SC meeting in Singapore. Chairman added that there would be two meetings and a new METLIB Chairman would be elected at the first meeting. The newly elected Chairman would then helm the proceedings of the subsequent meeting.	
7	Proposed theme of IFLA WLIC 2014 Open Session	
7.1	Aicheng informed the meeting about the proposed theme for the open session for IFLA 2014 and urged the meeting to discuss and deliberate the matters for discussion.	
7.2	In response to the meeting's suggested themes for discussion, Chairman highlighted the challenge of making the services of Metropolitan Libraries more prominent as a potential issue that could be put up for further discussion. Chairman opined that SC could consider working with the IFLA Marketing and Publicity section to explore ways to improve the visibility of Metropolitan Libraries and suggested that METLIB could initiate discussions. In support, Jeff added that METLIB could leverage on the partnership with the IFLA Marketing section to better showcase what they have to offer and also illustrate the support that Metropolitan Libraries could receive as members of METLIB and IFLA.	Secretary
7.3	Hans further proposed that in line with IFLA2014's theme, METLIB could also discuss about the role of libraries as a social space. Other iterations of this proposed theme to be explored include (i) Metropolitan Libraries as an establishment versus a social space, (ii) the role of Metropolitan Libraries in engaging citizens, (iii) Metropolitan Libraries as Living Labs and (iv) the role of libraries in new citizen engagement.	
8	Secretary/Treasurer's Report	
8.1	Aicheng informed that the METLIB SC's finances remained healthy and iterated to the host libraries of METLIB 2013 and 2014 that excess funds that were unused in the organisation of the METLIB conference would need to be returned to METLIB funds to organise	OBA and Auckland Libraries

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	future conferences.	
9.	Information Officer's Report	
9.1	Corrado reminded members to submit their updated contact information to maintain the currency of the METLIB contact lists.	
10	Any Other Business	
10.1	Chairman thanked Aicheng and Corrado for their contributions as Secretary/Treasurer and Information Officer of METLIB SC, as well as Hans and OBA colleagues for the successful organisation of the METLIB 2013 Conference.	
10.2	There being no further matters, the meeting ended at 12.45pm.	

Recorded by: Mr Stanley Tan

Reviewed by: Ms Tay Ai Cheng

Approved by: Ms Claudia Lux

