

# Global statistics: getting ready for Phase II.



The project to reinvigorate the collection of national library statistics across the world took another step forward over the summer with a successful conference in Montreal and plans to carry the project forward into 2009.

The conference took place immediately after the Quebec IFLA congress and presented the results of the trial of the statistical questionnaire which took place in Latin America and the Caribbean in the second half of 2007. An overall 60% response rate from countries was achieved, with better results for public libraries than for academic libraries. Not surprisingly, data were available more readily for the 'traditional' figures than for the new measures. In presenting the UNESCO Institute

for Statistics report on the survey, Claude Akpabie said that 'The data gaps ... suggest the need to strengthen the culture of data collection in library systems at the national level. Countries might consider undertaking a systematic and gradual approach to mapping data sources in addition to refining definitions and collection methodologies for capacity building purposes.'

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We had reports from Trinidad and from Argentina from those who had actually responded to the survey and gather data in their respective countries. Cynthia Lisée of the École de Bibliothéconomie et des Sciences de l'Information (EBSI) at the University of Montreal presented an analysis using the indicators derived from the statistics.

We hope to publish the proceedings in the IFLA Publications series during 2009, and the presentations will be available on the City of Montreal website, <http://ville>.

One of the key requisites to emerge was the need to build capacity in developing countries to answer the questionnaire, and to embed the programme as a key element in the general advocacy of libraries and their worth. The project group met with Stuart Hamilton, IFLA's Senior Policy Advisor, in The Hague early in November, and is developing a strong case to put to funding bodies for investment in the programme. The intention is to organise workshops in target regions to encourage and advise on the collection of data, before running the questionnaire again in those regions. At the same time we shall be seeking to engage UNESCO more fully in support of the programme by the preparation of a library statistics manifesto. UNESCO Institute for Statistics has agreed to incorporate the data collected in the 2007 survey into IFLA's database for library advocacy being developed in Pretoria.







## Meetings in Quebec

IFLA Statistics & Evaluation Section  
Standing Committee

The first Standing Committee meeting was held 11:30-14:20 on Saturday, 9 August 2008, Session 30.

Present at 1st meeting: Colleen Cook, Michael Heaney, Roswitha Poll, Sherrrie Schmidt, Michele Farrell, Tord Høivik, Markku Laitinen, Pierre Meunier, Eric Davies, Elisabeth Lemau, Miguel Duarte (observer). Apologies had been received from Sue Henczel.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Members and observers introduced themselves.

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

#### 3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Standing Committee

meetings in Durban (published in the December 2007 Section Newsletter). Michele Farrell had registered her apologies for the meeting. Adopted with that correction.

#### 4. Report from the meetings of the Professional and the Coordinating Boards

Colleen Cook reported that there were 3200 preregistered delegates and another 400 day delegates were expected. Some IFLA members and delegates had failed to get visas. Everyone is urged to act early to obtain visas in future years and to notify IFLA officers and HQ as soon as possible if there are problems. Italy is tightening borders so early action next year is advisable.

Procedural advice for the conference was disseminated. Roswitha Poll reported some trouble with excursion bookings.

There are to be changes to the statutes. There will only be five Divisions. Statistics & Evaluation is in the new Division IV Support for the Profession. Other sections in the Division are Management of Library Associations, Management and Marketing, Education and Training, Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning, Library Buildings and Equipment, Library Theory and Research, and Library History. Current section officers may no longer be Division chairs, who will be elected from retiring officers. The

timing will be such that unsuccessful candidates for Division chair may if eligible put themselves forward for a further period as a section officer. Members are encouraged to attend the briefing session at 12:45 on 10 August (session 68)

Sherrrie Schmidt asked how many members step down from the committee in 2009. Michael Heaney undertook to circulate the information

[Note: Membership is as follows.

#### Membership until 2009:

Denis Cordazzo (eligible for re-election)  
Michele Farrell (eligible for re-election)  
Michael Heaney  
Pierre Meunier  
Roswitha Poll  
Sherrrie Schmidt  
Natalia Verbina (eligible for re-election)

#### Membership until 2011:

Colleen Cook  
Eric Davies (eligible for re-election)  
Sue Henczel  
Tord Høivik (eligible for re-election)  
Markku Laitinen (eligible for re-election)  
Elisabeth Lemau  
Christine Lindmark (eligible for re-election)

Total of 14 members, 7 retiring 2009, 3 of whom are eligible for re-election

#### Corresponding Members

Ellen Hoffmann  
Ludmila F. Kozlova  
Isabel Portales

Members are advised to be alert for good papers to nominate for publication in IFLA Journal.

#### 5. Treasurer's report

##### Section accounts:

The Section now receives €610 because the membership has risen above 75.

Two payments have been authorised: €143.65 to support the Secretary's planning visit for the satellite conference in Florence next year; and €203.22 to support attendance at this year's post-conference in Montreal by an invited speaker.

Agreed that remaining funds could be expended on a revised design for Newsletter and brochures.

#### Global statistics

The Global statistics project has received an additional €7225 making a total of 10,000 available. Expenditure has been as follows:

	Budget	Spent
Planning meeting in Montreal, Jan/Feb 2008 (as 2007); including a conference planning meeting with other participants	3000	2587.28
Continuing Data collection and entry, including reminders, data checking, data cleaning, data clarification: Will involve one full time staff for at least 6 months from UIS apart from Programme Specialists time from time to time during the project	0	
Analysis of results; (UIS/University costs: IFLA contribution €2500)	2500	
Satellite conference: conference to be mainly self-financing with UNESCO and Canadian municipal support for developing world participation	2000	683.22
Review of results and revision: by IFLA/UIS/ISO; (Post conference meeting) –	1000	
Publication of conference results: The cost will vary depending on the number of copies and languages. UIS will also release data on its website.	1500	

Noted that the analysis had taken place without cost to IFLA. Agreed that remaining satellite conference funding could usefully support attendance by the organisers from the Section

Sherrrie Schmidt asked about publication of the results. Pierre Meunier replied that we are still working with UNESCO Institute for Statistics on publication options.

Tord Høivik suggested looking at Google docs as a publication medium.

#### 6. Statistics and Evaluation Section events at the Durban Conference – Review

The committee noted that the Quality Issues in Libraries Discussion Group had held its last meeting. Agreed to discuss possible new Special Interest Group topics at the second meeting, including e-metrics and community responses.

#### 7. Activities of the Standing Committee

##### a. Projects

###### i. Global statistics – UNESCO

Roswitha Poll outlined the history of the project from the Buenos Aires meeting in 2004 when IFLA was seeking better library statistics for presentation at WSIS, through meetings with UNESCO Institute of Statistics in 2006-08, and the pilot survey in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2007, the results of which will be presented at the Montreal postconference. In January 2008 we looked at results, developed a set of Performance Indicators, and modified the data set slightly. The results show that the statistics are fit

for purpose, but UIS is not yet fully decided about whether to invest the resources to proceed.

Various options for continuing the programme were discussed, in case UIS does not proceed. Noted that the costs for UIS amounted to 2 FTE staff. Agreed that Sherrrie Schmidt should talk informally to contacts in the Gates Foundation and that Michael Heaney would check back to the contacts made in Seoul. Noted that a delegate from the Foundation would be attending the postconference.

All members are encouraged to attend the UNESCO session on 10 August

Michael Heaney noted that in discussions about book production statistics being led by IPA, the contacts have been with UNESCO in Paris not UIS in Montreal.

##### ii. Library schools

Agreed not to pursue the proposal any further at this time.

##### b. Publications

###### i. Newsletter

Colleen Cook was congratulated on the expanded Newsletter. She requested continuing member input. Agreed that she should ask her designer at TAMU to look at the design of Newsletter and brochures.

Tord Høivik asked for the table to be made available in Excel. Agreed that Michael Heaney should ask the Metropolitan libraries section. Agreed that membership notes (terms of office, end dates, etc) should be included in the next Newsletter.



**c. Programming for Quebec Conference - Housekeeping**  
*Michele Farrell volunteered to count attendance at the Tuesday count session and Sherrie Schmidt at the Thursday session.*

*Agreed to hold a Committee dinner on Thursday 7 pm at Poisson d'Avril 115 Quai Saint Andre.*

## 8. Strategic Plan – Progress report

*Noted that after much delay the Plan is now on the IFLA website.*

*Progress with the Status of the elements of the Plan was reviewed:*

### 1.1 Proceeding at the Congress

1.2 IFLANET: Roswitha Poll has moved the Impact and Outcomes bibliography onto the IFLA site. Agreed that Markku Laitinen should recheck the validity of the links section. Noted that the site was about to be redeveloped and this would increase the Information Coordinator's ability to manage the site

1.3 Members were reminded again to send material to Colleen Cook. Roswitha Poll undertook to report on the current status of all ISO standards relating to the Section's interests. Tord Høivik drew attention to more modern dissemination methods such as blogs or RSS feeds. Agreed that Markku Laitinen should set up a discussion list for the Committee members.

1.4 Noted that more could be done in this regard and the elections next year could be an opportunity to do so, using the discussion list which has over 200 members. Colleagues in South Africa were mentioned

2.1 The Section has abandoned the proposed updated report, but a session on education and training is planned for the meeting in Florence next year.

2.2 Several actions are in progress, including participation in an Expert Meeting on Book Statistics in Amsterdam, work on the Numeric project and on ARL statistics.

2.3 See the report on Global Statistics above.

### 3.1 Proceeding at the Congress

3.2 Michael Heaney is in discussion with the Libraries for the Blind Section on the possibility of running a workshop

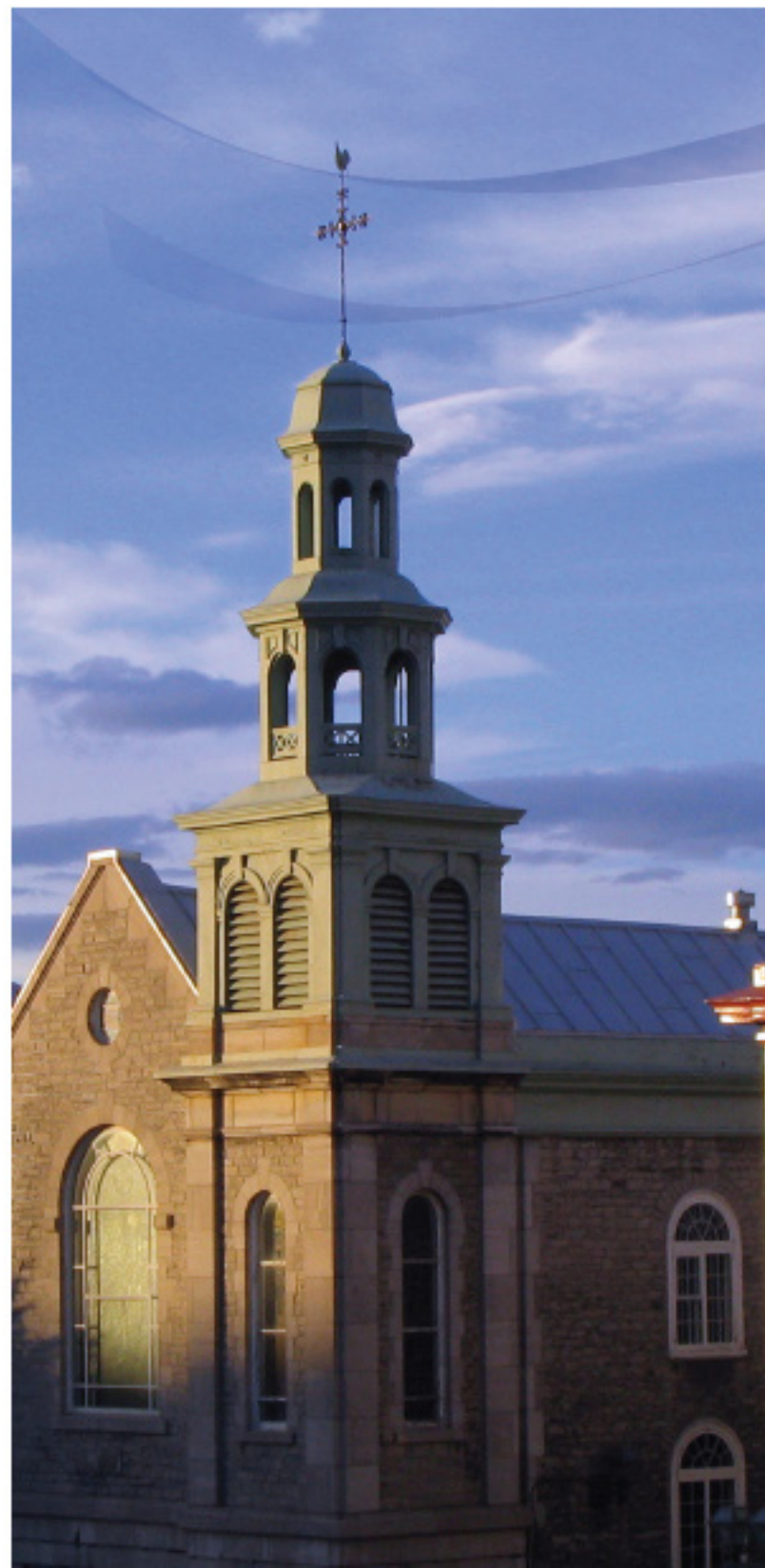
4.1 Agreed that Roswitha Poll should report on ISO activities at the first Milan meeting in 2009 and in the meantime provide an update to the Chair

4.2 See the report on Global Statistics above.

*Agreed that Michael Heaney should update the Status notes*

## 8a AOB

*Michele Farrell raised the question of satellite conferences reducing not increasing the attendance at the main conference. Conferences in the same city or nearby were thought preferable; or the introduction of a 'one-day workshop' approach to satellites.*



## Meetings in Quebec - 2nd Meeting

*IFLA Statistics & Evaluation Section Standing Committee*

The second Standing Committee was held 11:00-13:50 on Friday, 15 August 2008, Session 192.

Present: Michael Heaney (Secretary), Colleen Cook (Chair), Pierre Meunier, Tord Høivik, Elisabeth Lemau, Markku Laitinen, Sue Henczel, Michele Farrell, Sherrie Schmidt, Roswitha Poll Observers: Annie Dourlent, Miguel Duarte, Vesna Inja. Apologies had been received from Eric Davies.

Members and observers were welcomed.

### MINUTES

#### 9. Review of Quebec Conference

(a) Session 107, 'Managing libraries in a changing environment – legal, technical and organisational aspects' with Management & Marketing and Library Theory & Research.

This was well attended with ca. 700 people. Noted that two papers (those by Sebastian Mundt and Eduardo Orozco Silva) had been withdrawn, one due to IFLA publication policy. Agreed to raise this at the Co-ordinating Board meeting.

The paper 'Understanding public access to information through ICT: a landscape study of 24 countries' by Ricardo Gomez and others was singled out for its innovative approach.

(b) Session 160, National Libraries with Statistics and Evaluation, 'Ensuring quality in national libraries: performance measures and quality evaluation supporting cultural heritage and research'.

Attendance had been 120. All seven papers were of high quality and very positive feedback had been received; the contributions of the three presenters from the Section Committee were noted. Agreed to recommend 'Utilization of indicators in the National Diet Library (NDL): Efforts for activity evaluation' by Akiko Hashizume (National Diet Library, Tokyo, Japan) for inclusion in IFLA Journal.

(c) Section dinner

Pierre Meunier was thanked for organising the Section dinner which had been followed by a viewing

of the Image Mill, a forty-minute visual and audio 'megaproduction' projected against the huge grain silos in the Port of Québec.

## 10. Post-Conference Satellite Conference IFLA/ UNESCO Montreal 2008

*The meeting discussed next steps in the project. Roswitha Poll said that Simon Ellis at UIS had expressed an interest in Asia as a target region. The project needs a boost by aligning itself with other programmes of interest e.g. literacy.*

*Confirmed that Sherrie Schmidt will look to possible funding contacts, and that the locus should remain with UIS because of the supporting data it has available. Partial or matching funding could be a useful avenue to explore. Michael Heaney agreed to talk further with UNESCO in Paris, at the meeting on 18 September.*

*Agreed that we should await the outcome of the Montreal meeting and that approval should be given to any suitable continuation project emerging from the discussions.*



## 11. Program planning for Milan WLIC 2009

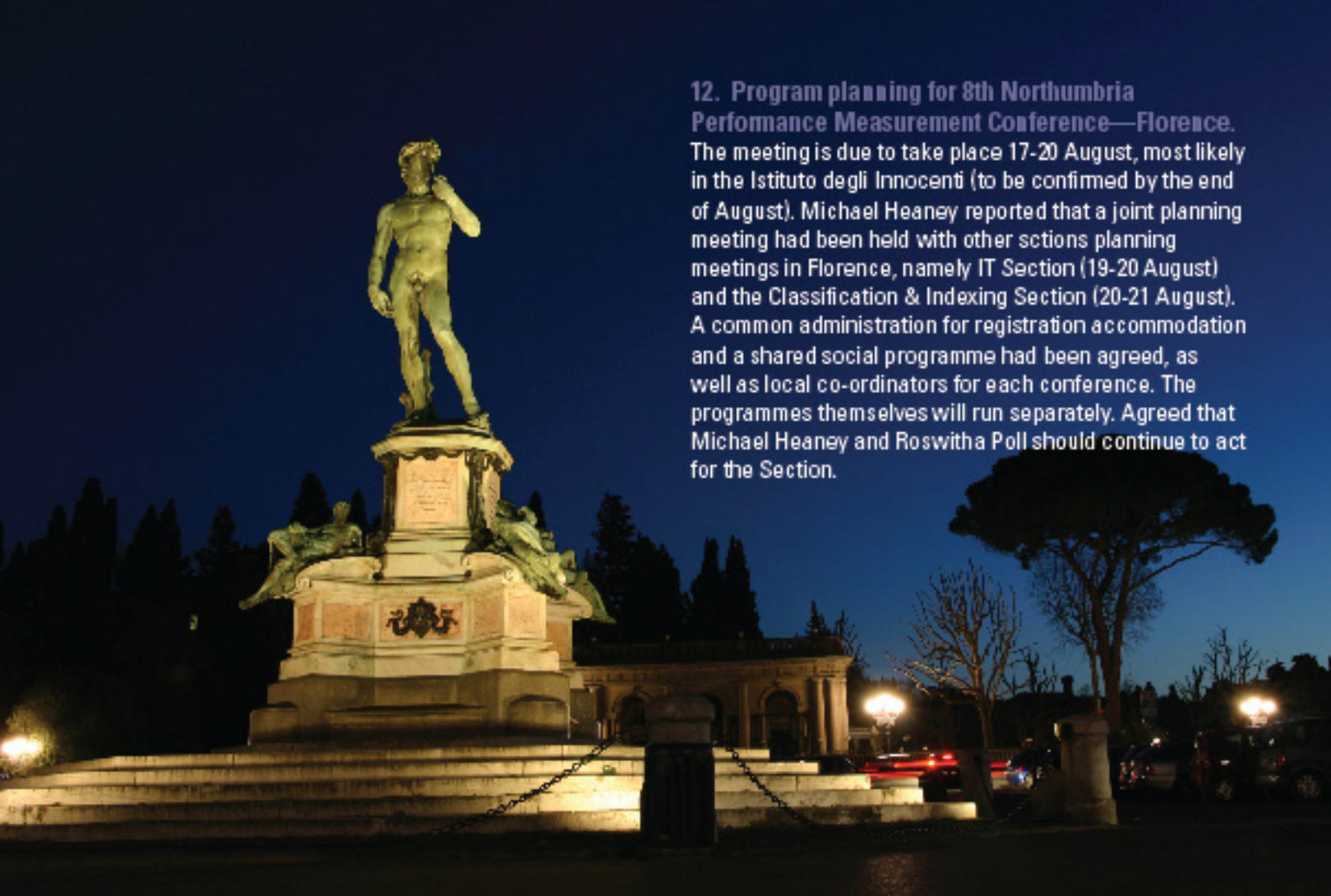
*Noted that the theme is 'cultural heritage' and the presidential theme is 'Libraries on the agenda'*

*Two topics were proposed: (i) Statistics on the agenda/for advocacy, (ii) Statistics for cultural heritage*

*Agreed to support 'Statistics on the agenda' for the guaranteed two-hour slot and to ask for an additional two hours. Tord Høivik to manage the programme, with support from Michael Heaney. Roswitha Poll will seek support from Academic Libraries.*

*Agreed to propose 'Statistics for cultural heritage' as an additional two-hour programme. Michele Farrell to manage the programme, with support from Roswitha Poll. Support may be sought from Preservation section.*





**12. Program planning for 8th Northumbria Performance Measurement Conference—Florence.** The meeting is due to take place 17-20 August, most likely in the Istituto degli Innocenti (to be confirmed by the end of August). Michael Heaney reported that a joint planning meeting had been held with other sections planning meetings in Florence, namely IT Section (19-20 August) and the Classification & Indexing Section (20-21 August). A common administration for registration accommodation and a shared social programme had been agreed, as well as local co-ordinators for each conference. The programmes themselves will run separately. Agreed that Michael Heaney and Roswitha Poll should continue to act for the Section.

**13. Preliminary planning for Brisbane 2010** Noted that the theme is *'Engaging, embracing, empowering'* while the President's theme is *'Libraries for access to knowledge'*. Sue Henczel suggested as theme statistics to support research communities, and bibliometrics.



#### 14. New business

##### (a) Special Interest Groups

Colleen Cook described the new rules for special interest groups. Agreed to propose a group on Emetrics and to seek support from the IT, Academic and Public Libraries sections. Agreed that Sue Henczel should act as convenor.

##### (b) Elections and officers

Colleen Cook reviewed the new arrangements for Divisions and the election of Divisional chairs. Noted that in consultation meetings the proposal that Information Coordinators should be elected officers had been supported, and this would now be discussed by the Professional Committee.

##### (c) New website

Markku Laitinen thought that the structure of the new web site will be much better, with easier navigation and the capacity for blogs, wikis, RSS feeds, filesharing, etc.

Noted that web-based training would take place in September, with the launch in January 2009. The significance of the Information Coordinator's role would increase in the new website.

##### (d) Membership

Agreed that Sherrie Schmidt will co-ordinate membership drive with assistance from Sue Henczel, both for membership of the Section and for elections to the committee: 7 members will retire in 2009 and only 3 are eligible for re-election. A membership toolkit is available on the website to help in the process.

##### (e) Brochures

Agreed that Colleen Cook and Michael Heaney would collaborate on the text for a new brochure. Noted that the audience should be defined and that it was important to coordinate it with website developments.

##### (f) Metropolitan library statistics

Agreed that Pierre Meunier should seek to liaise with Metropolitan Libraries Section and the colleague in Toronto in the further revision of their statistics

##### (g) Budget

Confirmed that the residue of the current year's budget should support brochure/ newsletter redesign. Agreed that 2009 funds could be used to support recruitment at perhaps provide a small amount of support for attendance at the conference by a colleague from the developing world. Noted the Education & Training Section bursary of €1800 to support attendance by an LIS student presenting a paper.

*New business*





## 15. Member activities of general interest

Observers at the meeting described their interests: Annie Dourlent (France): preparing a workshop for smaller libraries – in discussion with the Ministry of Culture to improve the national statistics which currently ignore smaller libraries, comprising 12,000 out of the 15,000 libraries in France.

Vesna Inja (Deputy Director National Library of Serbia, responsible for statistical reviews and planning, expressed satisfaction with the new draft ISO standard for performance indicators for national libraries. Is a member of the national standards committee and has translated many of the relevant standards

Miguel Duarte (University of Cadiz, Spain) Working on a new approach to evaluation using a business model.

### Actions:

- 4 MH to circulate membership details [in these minutes]
- 5 Section funds to be spent on newsletter /brochure design (CC/MH)
- 5 Project funds to support attendance by IFLA officers (MH)
- 7a.i SS to pursue Gates Foundation funding contacts
- 7b.i CC to arrange for newsletter/brochure design and to put membership details in next issue
- 7b.i MH to obtain spreadsheet from Metropolitan Libraries
- 8 (1.2) ML to recheck validity of links on website
- 8(1.3) ML to set up a discussion list for committee members
- 8 (1.3) ALL to provide material for Newsletter
- 8 (4.1) RP to provide a report on ISO
- 8 MH to update Status notes
- 8a MH/CC to raise issue of Satellite meetings at Co-ordinating Board [done]
- 9a MH to raise issue of publication of articles at Co-ordinating Board [done]
- 9b MH/CC to recommend Akiko Hashizume's paper for IFLA Journal at Co-ordinating Board [done]
- 10 MH/RP/PM to propose a further project on Global Statistics, depending on the outcome of the Montreal satellite

- 11 TH/MH to plan main session for Milan; RP to seek support from academic libraries
- 11 MF/RP to plan additional session for Milan and seek support from Preservation section
- 12 MH/RP continue with planning for PM8
- 14(a) SH to seek to convene Emetrics SIG
- 14(a) MH to send SH the statutes+rules
- 14(d) SS/SH to conduct a recruitment drive
- 14(e) CC/MH to prepare new brochure
- 14(f) PM to liaise with Metropolitan Libraries
- 14(g) MH to make funds available in 2009 to support the recruitment drive

