



Metropolitan Libraries Section – Annual Report 2007

1. Highlights

- 1.1 The following office bearers for the Section were re-elected to office at the IFLA Annual Conference in Durban for another 3-year term, 2009-2011:

Chair

Liv Saeteren

City Librarian

Oslo City Library, Norway

Secretary/Treasurer

Ai Cheng Tay

Senior Director

Public Libraries Services Group

National Library Board, Singapore

Information Coordinator

Vicki McDonald

Director

Client Services & Collections

State Library of Queensland, Australia

- 1.2 New Standing Committee members were appointed while existing members were re-appointed for another term. The following member has retired from library service:

- Borge Sorensen

2. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- 2.1 The financial statement for the Section was presented at the Mid-Term Meeting held in Seattle, May 6 – 11, 2007.
- 2.2 To-date, the balance of funds after the allotment of funds to the various projects stood at EUR 4581.
- 2.3 We have a total of 51 registered members with the Section, of which
- 43 are Institutional members

- 1 International Association
 - 3 National Associations and
 - 4 Personal Affiliates.
- 2.4 A progress report and income-expenditure report for the following projects have been submitted to IFLA HQ in November 2007:
- Benchmarking Instrument
 - Section Admin & Sponsorship
 - Program of Excellence for Metropolitan Libraries
 - Online Collaborative Workspace
- 2.5 A new project request was also submitted to IFLA HQ to request for funding:
- History of INTAMEL

3. Annual Conference of Metropolitan Libraries Section

- 3.1 The Annual Conference of the Section was held in Seattle, Washington, USA from May, 6 – 11, 2007. The theme of the conference was: “The Changing Face of Metropolitan Libraries: Inventing the future, but anchored in the past”.
- 3.2 Presentations based on the following sub-themes were given:
- *Libraries and Architecture*
 - *Staying Relevant through Managing Change, Serving Special Populations and Providing Economic Impact of Libraries*
 - *Staying Relevant - New Services, Technology, Customer Service Orientation*
- 3.3 As a learning point from the Paris conference held in 2006, the last day of the Seattle conference was devoted to the sub-theme of “Bringing it all into practice” . Participants were encouraged to share their key learning points they have gathered from the past 4 days.
- 3.4 In addition to the conference paper presentations and lively group discussions, library visits were organized. These include tours to the Seattle Central Library and some of the new Seattle Public Library branches.
- 3.5 All the conference presentations are available online on the Section website. There are podcasts available for certain presentations. A good use of new social media is seen in the execution and delivery of the conference.
- 3.6 A new blog is created to publicize and capture the planning and organization of the upcoming 2008 Annual Conference to be held in Prague.

3.7 The conference attracted many participants from all over the world (Asia - Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore; Australia - Brisbane; S Africa; Europe - Paris, Prague, Zagreb, Riga, Stockholm, Copenhagen, London, Germany; Canada – Vancouver, Halifax, Ottawa and Toronto and USA).

3.8 Below are some pictures taken during the conference.



Deborah Jacobs, in her Welcome Speech on Day 1



Participants from Shanghai, Brisbane, Queensland, Halifax and Hong Kong



Lively group discussion followed each presentation during the conference



Tour of the Seattle Public Library

4. Mid-Term Meeting

4.1 The Mid-Term Meeting was held on Thursday, May 10, 2007. In addition to the presentation of the Treasurer's Report, an update of the Section's key projects that were identified in alignment with its Strategic Plan, 2006-2007 was given.

4.2 Members were informed of the 3-hour combined Open Session with the Marketing Section that was held on August 21, 2007 at the IFLA Annual Conference in Durban, S. Africa.

4.3 Below is a picture taken during the proceedings of the Mid-Term Meeting:



Liv, Chair of Section and Sharon (on behalf of Ai Cheng, Secretary/Treasurer) addressing questions from members during the meeting

5. Other Highlights

5.1 Formation of an online collaborative workspace (<http://203.24.110.40/ifla/>)

As part of the Strategic Plan for the Section, an online collaborative workspace was created for members of the Section to share resources, engage in online discussion and provide information about the latest happenings in our respective libraries, using a third-party commercial VBulletin software. Projects, photos, forms, documents were uploaded on this space for members' quick access. Threaded discussions on topics of interest were created.

As of April 2008, there were a total of 29 threads, 43 postings and 13 members.

5.2 Facebook Account

A Facebook closed group account was created for MLS members to keep in touch with each other as well as to provide an additional online means for others to get to know about the Section activities. It also demonstrates our commitment to align with one of IFLA priorities to represent libraries in the technological marketplace.

As of April 2008, there were a total of 16 members in this group.

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Secretary/Treasurer
Metropolitan Libraries Section