



## **Meeting Notes SCII: Standing Committee Session II.**

### **79. IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Singapore IFLA Standing Committee on Law Libraries Sections**

Tuesday 21 August, 2013, 15:00-16:30, Room 309, Suntec Convention center, Singapore  
Chair: Claire Germain

*Present:* Marisol Floren-Romero, Claire Germain, Edita Bačić, Sonia Poulin, Blair Kauffman, Robert R. Newlen, Radu D. Popa, Lilia (Lily) F. Echiverri, Margo Jeske, Sarah (Sally) Holterhoff

*Observers:* Karine Delvert, Caroline Ilako, Claudia Davies, Uma Narayan, Le TH HANH, John Bahrij, Rosyati Ahmad, Halijah Othman

*Absent:* Dominique Lapierre, Valérie Alonzo, Jeong-Kwon Cho, Angeline Djampou, Henning Frankenberger, Pedro Padilla-Rosa, Elizabeth Naumczyk, Pascal Sanz

#### **1. Call to order and welcome**

Claire Germain welcomed all. A list was sent around for all participants to fill out with their information.

#### **2. Report on Singapore events**

Claire Germain opened the discussion and expressed her opinion that Session 126 was very interesting and successful in all its diversity. Claire emphasized how satisfied she is that we managed to carry out our program co-sponsored with other sections. During the session, we counted about 100 participants. Some of the colleagues have commented that attendance was excellent as well as comments and questions after each presentation.

Radu D. Popa added that now is clear that Law libraries Section should continue to advocate for free access to official and authenticated legal information in terms of basic human rights and promote this attitude at the IFLA.

Lilia (Lily) F. Echiverri mentioned that copyright law is currently a very important issue in the Philippines, so she thinks that this content needs more attention. Radu Popa proposed a possible cooperation with IFLA Section for copyright.

Claire Germain thanked Marisol and Blair as well to other members of the Working group that worked on the preparation of this successful program. She also thanked all the speakers and participants for sharing their experience and knowledge with us.

At the end of the discussion, Claire Germain invited us to attend the program (especially session 166) and expressed very positive comments on the Opening Session. During the opening ceremony, we were reminded of the topical issues of communication in modern society and other issues related to the role of librarians in a global society.

Sonia and Edita reported to the Standing Committee about their participation in the IFLA Officers' training Session held on 20, August.

### **3. Review and decide preliminarily on Law Libraries programs and Programs Chair and Committees for Lyon**

Claire opened this agenda item with a question about ideas and conclusions proposed by the Working group that has been working on this proposal in the meantime (between two Standing Committee meetings). Unfortunately, Pascal Sanz was unable to attend SC meeting II because he had to attend another meeting which was taking place at the same time, but on behalf of the Working group Karine Delvert reported as follow:

#### ***Written Report to the SCII on the Working group meeting held on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – 8:30-9:15***

*Aattendees: Robert, Sonia, Marisol, Pascal and Karine.*

Pascal and Karine thank the three colleagues who agreed to meet with them to work on the theme for the next conference.

Aim of the meeting:

- To improve and clarify the wording of the first draft presented during the 1<sup>st</sup> SC Meeting (clarify the meaning of the word confluence and the kind of contributions that may fit in)
- To express as widely as possible the areas of interest voiced by the members of the Section (preservation, paper vs. digital acquisitions, professional challenges...).

Suggested title/theme: Digital law libraries at the cross roads: challenges and opportunities

Under the general theme/umbrella of Digital libraries, the idea would be to highlight both the opportunities and the challenges that libraries have to face.

- Opportunities for collaborative Digital library collection building :
  - o Collaborative collection building, and
  - o Collaborative issues in preserving law material (partnership with other libraries, with vendors in digitizing and providing access to digitized material
    - Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC in the US), French example of collaborative digitization scheme (BnF, Cujas Library),
- Challenges on libraries going increasingly digital
  - o Space management and choice to shift from electronic and paper collections
  - o Copyright issues related to digitization
  - o Professional issues: Open access and the idea that more or less everything is available online, which causes concern as to the added value of law librarians. Increasing need for librarians to prove their value (teaching digital information literacy for instance, need to explain the shift from paper to digital to patrons).

A call for papers on the following theme “Digital law libraries at the cross roads: challenges and opportunities” would be a good way to promote the section and its activities.

#### ***Discussion during the SCII meeting about mentioned proposal***

Robert highlights the fact that the idea of innovation is key and suggests the following sentence:

“Papers presenting innovative projects, experience, initiatives or services with a strong collaborative and/or cross-border and/or international dimension would also be appreciated.”

A more catchy title is also suggested highlighting the idea of innovation: “Law libraries at the digital cross roads: Innovative solutions to complex challenges”.

Uma Narayan added that we also had a suggestion by some member for the following title: „Law Libraries at Digital Crossroads- innovative solutions and complex challenges“ and all SC members had agreed to this title.

Wide consensus / Agreement on the idea of a call for paper to serve as a marketing strategy for the Section (although it is suggested that keynote speakers could be invited).

Co-sponsorship with other sections is also discussed. Section (3) « *Library and Research Services for Parliaments* » is suggested. *Bob who is to attend their SCII meeting will mention the theme we suggested.* Other collaborations may be suggested.

Call for paper committee will be in charge of the writing up and the evaluation of papers.

Members: Pascal, Valérie, Sonia, Carole, Caroline, Elizabeth, Karine.

Contact person for reporting to Claire is Pascal.

Draft call for papers to be written up by the end of September 2013.

*An additional session on the issue of authentication of official gazettes is also suggested.*

It could be co-sponsored by Section 3. The title could be "Official gazette authentication: French, Brazilian success stories". It would deal with technical and practical aspects. Stephane Cottin and Pascal Petitcollot could be contacted as far as the French experience is concerned.

Claire Germain reminded us that technology is evolving faster than law so that our Section must be involved in the various issues and IFLA's Key initiatives for our Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015:

1. Digital content Program: Driving access to content, and digital resources, for library users
2. International Librarianship Leadership Development Program: capacity building to raise the voices of the profession nationally, regionally and internationally
3. Outreach program for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession: connecting, collaborating, representing strategically
4. Cultural heritage Disaster Reconstruction Program: Culture is a basic need, a community thrives through its cultural heritage, it dies without it
5. Multilingualism Program: a multilingual IFLA website opens windows to the world

Claire said that our program best fits into the first and third IFLA Key initiatives. Because the development of technology raises lot of legal questions, the Law libraries Section will be at the center of the policy debate. Everything has to be dealt with in terms of legislative initiatives and regulations, so we have to work together with other groups, Copyright, FAIFE.

#### **4. Review and decide preliminarily on Law Libraries activities in 2013-14**

Most members agreed that free access to official and authenticated legal information is an important question and that we have to continue to work on it.

Radu Popa thinks that we have to continue on the same way as we started in Puerto Rico.

**Working Group on Access to Official and Authenticated Legal Information:** Marisol, Sally, Lily, Bob, Carol and Uma. Some of them will contact Stuart Hamilton to discuss the matter of standards.

Charge:

1. Continue collecting data to get more samples. No need to be exhaustive, but representative.
2. Look at the laws enacted by a number of countries on digital law.
3. Continue exploring the feasibility of proposing a standard to IFLA to adopt.

Claire said that great deal of interest was expressed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law, which deals with private transactions across borders. Access to foreign law has been a great concern. There is also interest from the European Union.

We also have to continue with work on issue of membership and involvement.

## **5. Membership, Recruiting and Involvement**

Claire pointed that now we have 45 members, the minimum is 40, but we need to recruit more members.

Sonia will examine the feasibility of different ways to increase the web presence. Claire Germaine would also like the working group to find ways to memorialize the history of Section.

Here are some strategies proposed at the meeting:

- every member of the Standing Committee should write an article about the Law libraries section and publish it in the local or national or regional library journal or newsletter
- contacting members from the Parliamentary Libraries section to put up in contact with their law librarians colleagues
- contacting the leadership of the regional sections to get their ideas about the recruiting of law librarians
- having Elizabeth Naumczyk identifying potentially interested international organizations

**Working group on newsletter (web presence), publicity and recruiting:** Sonia, Margo, Elizabeth, Caroline.

## **6. Other follow up actions, timeline and responsible parties**

Timeline for all activities: members are expected to send some progress reports about what the activities they are involved – in by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Award of Certificate.**

Claire Germain announced with pleasure the following agenda item: Award of certificate. Item was added to the draft agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Blair Kauffman with grateful appreciation and thanks for his contribution and services as a member of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Law Libraries Section.

Claire and all present members congratulated Blair.

## **8. Adjournment**

*Respectfully submitted by: Edita Bačić, secretary*