



IFLA SECTION FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

CHAIR'S REPORT 2013-2014

Our Section had a very busy, exciting and productive year beginning with the notable introduction of our new section name. During the IFLA Conference 2013 in Singapore there was once again an increase in the number of people joining us for our two Standing Committee meetings compared to previous years. The collaboration between our Section and Section for Information Literacy resulted in a 3-hour joint session, *School Libraries and Information for Civic Literacies*, which was well attended.

WLIC 2014 in Lyon, France continued our increasing attendance trend with standing room only at our Standing Committee meetings. This is gratifying and encouraging. Our Standing Committee can comprise 16 members and we currently have 13 standing committee members and 4 Corresponding Members.

Our committee work is done by the officers, in conjunction with active participation from our standing committee members, usually by email and via Skype, and twice a year in person. Our spring Midyear Meeting in London was hosted at the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) Headquarters in Bloomsbury, London and included a personal development opportunity in Oxford, hosted by Oxford University Press and provided to us compliments of the School Library Association (UK). We were welcomed by CILIP CEO Annie Mauger, and focused our attention on the revision of the School Library Guidelines. We also introduced our revised logo and revised section brochure. We recognized Lesley Farmer for her innovative conversion of the newsletter to a blog. Our sincere thanks to Tricia Adams, our Web Editor, for coordinating the meeting and welcoming attendees: Barbara Schultz-Jones, Chair, Dianne Oberg, Secretary, section members Lisa Åström, Randi Lundvall, Danielle Martinod and corresponding member Diljit Singh.

The Joint Agreement on collaboration between IFLA and the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) ended in 2012 and the process of renewal culminated in approval from the IFLA Governing Board. The agreement has been signed by both organizations for a period of 4 years.

Our joint 2 year-project with IASL, *School Library Advocacy Worldwide* under the IFLA *Building Strong Library Associations program (BSLA)* ended this year under the superb chairmanship of Dianne Oberg. In Kuala Lumpur 24 August 2013 there was a joint Satellite Meeting as a workshop on School Library Advocacy, post IFLA, pre IASL. An advocacy workshop was also held at the annual IASL conference in Bali in August 2013. The project materials include additions to the trainer's manual for advocacy workshops and three case studies of school library advocacy. The information that the project has provided is published on IFLA's webpage.

Our session at the WLIC 2104 in Lyon built on the efforts from the BSLA project to highlight the dimensions of advocacy: *School Libraries on the Agenda: Advocacy Initiatives from Around the World*. This session was a huge success with 185 attendees in a roundtable format that encouraged participation and discussion.

Our progress on revising the IFLA/UNESCO School Library Guidelines began with a well-attended workshop off site at the National Library of Singapore on Tuesday, 20 August 2013,

followed by our work in London at the midyear meeting, and subsequent distribution of the draft for review and comment to our standing committee members and executive members of IASL. Feedback from these constituents was incorporated into a new draft presented at a session in Lyon at WLIC 2014: *IFLA/UNESCO School Library Guidelines: Review and Recommendations*. Further feedback was received at a workshop during the annual IASL conference in Moscow, Russia 26-30 August 2014. The feedback is in the process of final editing for submission following the new IFLA Standards Guidelines to our Division Chair and the Professional Committee of IFLA for consideration and adoption.

Following our session at the WLIC 2014 in Lyon we jointly organized and participated with the Section on Libraries for Children and Young Adults, Scéren-CNDP, and IASL for the Paris Satellite Meeting: *Young Adults: Why and How to Lead Them to Reading*. The full day session was interesting and informative.

At the Singapore conference, IFLA's publisher De Gruyter, invited the School Libraries Standing Committee to propose a new book. The proposal for a joint IFLA School Libraries/IASL book, titled *Global Action on School Library Guidelines* was accepted. The call for proposals was distributed in June and September 2014 with many submissions received. Accepted first submissions are due 15 November with planned publication in June 2015 as part of the IFLA Publications series.

We are in the planning stages for WLIC 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa with a preconference satellite session proposed with the Section for Information Literacy, LIASA and the Department of Education for South Africa, a joint session proposed with the Section for Health and Biosciences Libraries, and a single session proposed to introduce our new School Library Guidelines and highlight how standards and guidelines influence school libraries internationally.

Our upcoming midyear meeting is scheduled for 13 April 2015 in Austin, Texas, USA with a professional development opportunity and invitation to the regional IASL meeting on 14 April and the annual Texas Library Association Conference 14-17 April, 2015.

We look forward to another productive and rewarding year, and thank our membership for their continued participation and support.

1 November 2014

Barbara Schultz-Jones, Chair