Minutes

Minutes of the third meeting of the SIGL Board, held on Tuesday 18 July 2017, 9.30 – 11.25, The Marlton Hotel, 5W 8th Street (Between 5th & 6th Aves.) New York, NY 10011 , USA

Members: Donna Scheeder (SIGL Chair), Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, Deborah Jacobs, Gerald Leitner (Secretary General)

Invitee: Jessica Dorr (BMGF)

1. **Welcome and apologies**
   The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

2. **Adoption of agenda**
   The agenda was adopted.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 9 February, 2017**
   The minutes were accepted. **SB-17.08-7**

4. **Resolutions agreed before the meeting**
   The following resolutions were agreed since the last meeting and are recorded in the minutes of this meeting:

   4.1. **Addendum joint account agreement IFLA-Stichting SIGL for MPA expenses: SB-17.07-4.1**

   4.2. **Legacy Partners signed MOU 17 April 2017: SB-17.02-4.2**

5. Grant Agreement

SIGL has a workprogram and budget plan for 2017 and 2018 in accordance with the Grant Agreement with the BMGF.

In the second half of 2018 the SIGL Board will ask the IFLA Board to prepare a recommendation for a workprogram and budget for the next years for approval of the SIGL Board.

6. **SIGL Activities**

6.1. Vision:

The Global Vision is an activity outlined in IFLA's legacy grant proposal and part of the legacy grant project. IFLA Global Vision aims to bring together thousands of representatives

of the library field worldwide to explore how a united library field can meet the challenges of the future, in order to fulfil one of the true potentials of libraries: to build literate, informed and participative societies. While the legacy allows IFLA the ability to implement the vision over time, there is a real urgency to hold these discussions at the beginning of the legacy grant as they will serve as the basis for all the work that follows and will begin to unite the global library community.

It is a highly-coordinated effort, which includes a variety of ways for IFLA members and the larger library field to participate at the national or regional level or through IFLA unit involvement. In Phase 1, IFLA creates a global vision which will be implemented at the regional and national levels in Phases 2 and 3.

The objectives of the Global Vision are to:

1. Unite and connect the library field;
2. Inspire and motivate librarians for (a/the) vision;
3. Help participants understand their own role in this vision and that of others;
4. Help participants understand challenges in achieving the vision, now and in the future;
5. Build capacity to overcome the challenges.

The project has the following milestones for the year 2017:

- A kick-off meeting with representatives from IFLA's Professional Units in Athens.
- Meetings in Standing Committees facilitated by participants in Athens.*
- Regional sessions on all continents with Library and Librarian Associations.
- National and local sessions facilitated by participants of the regional sessions.*
- Sessions and interventions at WLIC with the wider library community.
- Digital interactions on a web platform for the wider library community.

* These meetings are only indirectly facilitated by IFLA, and part of the snowball effect.

Conclusions from those discussions and voting data will be gathered and analysed by IFLA. This unique material will provide a basis for the IFLA Global Vision report which will be published in early 2018. This Global Vision report is going to be used as input in a similar series of meetings in 2018 to translate the findings into concrete activities, programmes, etc. that shape the future of libraries and put the future into practice.

Additional to the concrete aim, objectives and milestones that have been mentioned above, the Global Vision project so far has also achieved the following goals:

- It has been a Membership Campaign with the aim to reach new members and bring them into the IFLA family.
- It has contributed to build relationships with our existing members and the library community around the world. IFLA has now gained experience in reaching out to members and has succeeded in improving the quality of our membership databases.

- It has been a very useful way to involve actively in the process people, who are involved in other IFLA's projects or work, such as the IFLA PAC centers and the IFLA Leaders Programme.
- It has been a very useful way to raise awareness for IFLA's other projects and work in general.
- Through Global Vision the actively involved IFLA Governing Board and staff members are setting up a new way of thinking and working with the library community, while changing the style to a more inclusive approach, according to which all voices are heard.
- It is more than evident how empowered, encouraged, impressed and excited the IFLA Global Vision workshop participants (members and non-members) are about this new way of IFLA working with them. Everyone who has been involved in the process or has heard about it, is sharing with the IFLA GB and staff members their enthusiasm, motivation and inspiration. This has also come out from the interaction with IFLA, the responses and the evaluation throughout the Global Vision workshops that IFLA has run in 2017.
- Through Global Vision IFLA has strengthened the ties among the participants and has helped create new regional activities and partnerships.

The Global Vision has reached its milestone successfully, completing the project's Phase 1. One kick-off workshop and six Global Vision regional workshops have been organised in six different continents and seven different countries.

6.2. Library Map of the World:

The Library Map of the World (LMW) is an activity outlined in IFLA's legacy grant proposal. It aims to address a critical and unmet need of IFLA and the library field to accurately collect and share basic information about the library landscape in each country. Advocacy efforts at the global, regional and national level are severely hindered by the fact that IFLA and many national associations do not have basic information about the state of libraries.

The purpose of the LMW project is to collect a small set of basic library performance indicators as well as stories on how libraries contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from as many countries as possible and to utilise the process of discussion, collection and visualisation of the data and SDG stories to encourage the participation and engagement of national associations in the programme. IFLA is making the data and SDG stories available via the LMW website that is to be launched during WLIC on 21st August.

The main short-term goals of the LMW are to:

- Create awareness of the state of the libraries in the world
- Communicate basic metrics that describe library service levels per country

- Inspire more countries to contribute data and stories to the site
- Provide countries with data and evidence for library advocacy

Data collection
Invitation letters and follow-up e-mails, containing a link to the online survey, were sent out to national associations and/or institutions in 223 countries around the world. Data contributors from 112 countries, representing all regions, actively engaged in the LMW project. 71 countries provided their library data; 41 countries confirmed their willingness to engage in the project and are in the process of collating data in their countries.
The Member Engagement Officer is following up with data contributors in countries to verify submitted data and to improve data quality before its display on LMW website. Data collection will be continued until the end of October, when the success of the first round of data collection will be measured.

SDG stories
It was decided to include SDG stories for display on the LMW to demonstrate how libraries in different countries around the world serve as partners to help meet local development needs and the UN SDGs. This decision was made because IFLA was also conducting the survey "Examples of how libraries contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda" to collect examples of libraries' contribution to SDGs from participating countries of the International Advocacy Programme (IAP) and others. Around 180 examples of libraries' contribution to SDGs from more than 70 countries have been collected, however these examples need to be developed into stories that are fit for advocacy. For example, many describe interesting events but are unable to articulate and evidence the impact of the services or programmes.

In partnership with Associates of the IFLA International Leaders Programme (ILP), as part of their IAP project "Stories that Matter", the Guidelines for SDG storytelling were created. Collected examples of libraries' contribution to SDGs were reviewed and selected stories were enriched for display during the launch of LMW at WLIC. The Member Engagement Officer is following up with IFLA LAC, ILP Associates, IFLA Legacy Partners, and selected libraries and library support organizations to prepare additional stories to be published on the LMW site.

After the LMW launch, the SDG stories' submission survey template will be improved according to guidelines and the collection of stories will be an ongoing process.

LMW website – visualization platform
Since April, during weekly calls with software developing company "Community Attributes Inc." (CAI) the designs of the LMW were finalized to fit the developing needs.

Three main sections of the visualization website (librarymap.ifla.org) are to be launched during WLIC:
- Data. Users will be able to see worldwide distribution of library performance metrics on a map, as well as explore and filter data by library type and selected performance metric. Data will be available as totals and per capita at national level.

- SDG stories. Users will be able to learn how libraries contribute to the 17 UN SDGs by exploring stories by selected country or SDG. It will be possible to either read online or print out the selected story that will consist of the short description of activity, project or programme and its impact on community as well as links to additional information, pictures and videos.
- Contributors. National library associations, national libraries and other institutions have collated existing library statistics in their countries to provide data on selected library performance metrics. Libraries and library support organizations have provided SDG stories on how libraries contribute to improved outcomes across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Contributors will be listed by country in a separate section on the LMW. This will provide recognition and a contact point for others from that country who may have additional data to contribute.

During WLIC the first feedback and suggestions for improvements of LMW website will be collected and later analysed to develop future use cases for improvement of existing functionality and/or development of new functionality of the site.

GL Legacy Partnership
The LMW was selected as the joint data project (milestone project) for all three GL Legacy Partners (IFLA, TASCHA, PLA) to demonstrate the capacity of joint action in data related work.

As part of the milestone project Legacy Partners engaged in the quality assurance of the scope and definitions (metrics, library types), data collection instruments, and content of the communication website. The milestones of this collaborative effort (input and feedback on definitions, survey instruments, and FAQ & website texts for LMW communication website) have successfully been reached.

IFLA will continue to work with TASCHA and PLA as part of the Legacy Partners *Data Strategy to Support Impact and Advocacy* that is the strategic framework outlining workflow integration between and among Legacy Partners projects in coming years.

6.3. DA2I

The Development and Access to Information (DA2I) report was launched on 17 July at a formal reception at The New York Public Library.
SIGL was represented by all board members Donna Scheeder, Gloria Perez-Salmeron and Deborah Jacobs and IFLA Secretary General Geald leitner. GL Deputy director Jessica Dorr and all Legacy partners joined the event among many high representatives.
This was the culmination of both an intense week of advocacy and engagement at the UN, and of many months of work by IFLA, in partnership with TASCHA, and contributing authors.
It was also the start of a process of further dissemination, intended to extend awareness among governments and intergovernmental organisations.

The DA2I report sets out to make the case for investing in access to information, and in libraries as a key provider of this. It argues that for access to be meaningful – i.e. that people can not only read, but also understand, apply, share and recreate information – an affordable

Internet connection is vital, but not enough. There also needs to be the right social and cultural environment, laws and freedoms, and skills to make full use of available information. The report therefore divides the concept of access into four pillars – information and communications access infrastructure, positive social context, capabilities in communities and their members, and a favourable legal and policy landscape.

Drawing on established, up-to-date datasets, it provides baseline indicators which give an insight into the current situation around the world, but will also allow for the monitoring of progress over time. It shows, therefore, that half of the world's population uses the Internet, but 80% are covered by 3G networks and so could potentially already connect. It underlines dramatic variations in Internet affordability (from 12% of average household income in sub-Saharan Africa to a fraction of a percent in developed countries).

It stresses the growing gender divide in Internet access – only six countries see a greater share of women using the Internet than men, with wealth seemingly not the determining factor. In parallel, high levels of poverty and inequality also tend to correlate with lower Internet use.

On skills, it becomes clear that people in developing countries tend to make less use of productivity-enhancing tools, and spend more time using social networks than those in richer countries. At the same time, they are more likely to have undertaken an online course.

Finally, while there is correlation between general freedom of expression and freedoms online, this is not always the case. In 106 countries, people have faced threats or prosecution for exercising their rights on the Internet.

The report highlights the specific role of libraries, as trusted institutions, with dedicated staff, a solid understanding of their communities' needs, the potential to act as a local hub, and a unique ability to manage and make information useful. Drawing on examples from around the world, it stresses what a library system with adequate resources and laws can do.

Finally, four expert authors provide insights and examples on how meaningful access to information makes a difference to the achievement of four SDGs which were particular themes at this year's High Level Political Forum – agriculture (Tom Baker, Ruthie Musker from GODAN), health (Simon Chaplin, Wellcome Trust), gender (Nancy Hafkin, formerly UNECA) and innovation (Kathleen Shearer, COAR).

The Launch
The launch event brought together Ambassadors, representatives of intergovernmental organisations, senior representatives of aligned NGOs, and journalists. Alongside the IFLA President and Secretary General, speakers included Maher Nasser, UN Acting Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, Vusumuzi Ntonga, Deputy Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe, Chris Coward, Director of TASCHA, and Nick Ashton-Hart.

IFLA organised two further events the previous week in order to reach out to further representatives of member states, UN headquarters and other civil society representatives. A first event, on 11 July, saw IFLA President Donna Scheeder speak alongside one of our authors, Nancy Hafkin, Deputy Executive Director of Article 19, Quinn McKew, with Maria Garrido of TASCHA dialling in remotely. The event offered a valuable opportunity to talk about the specific role of libraries in giving access at the community level, with Nancy Hafkin underlining the specific challenges faced by women in societies where they are not allowed to own phones or computers.

A second event, organised in partnership with the UN Library, focused on the contribution libraries make to knowledge sharing and development globally. The IFLA President and Executive Director of AfLIA spoke alongside Maria Garrido of TASCHA, followed by

testimonies from three UN Headquarters staff who discussed how they had been aided in their work by the Library.

Thanks to the presence of four International Leaders Programme associates, we were able to attend a large number of formal sessions and side events, with experiences shared through a daily blog. IFLA also took the floor in the plenary session, promoting the need for investment in access to information, and highlighting the urgency of the UN adopting an Open Access policy.

Communications for both the events and the report itself were planned by IFLA, in coordination with TASCHA. We established key audiences for the report, primary those with a role in setting or influencing development policy, and planned a strategy for communication before, during and after the events, to ensure awareness and interest in the report prior to its launch.

An introductory news piece about IFLA's presence in New York at the HLPF, the forthcoming events in New York and the launch of the report was published and shared in mailing lists in advance.

In addition, articles were published before and after each of the three events organised by IFLA. These and other news during the HLPF were shared in IFLA's social media, as well as a series of blog posts written by the International Leaders Programme Affiliates leaders present at the HLPF, and the announcements to download the report during the launch. We used hashtags strategically in order to maximise impact, both our own (#DA2I and #Lib4Dev), and those associated with the wider HLPF conversation (#SDGs #GlobalGoals and #HLPF).

The launch event and the side event at the UN Library were livestreamed through IFLA's Facebook and Twitter, to provide wider access to these important events to our members and the broader library community. This also allowed us to make the recording immediately available after the event.

The streaming on Facebook of the two parts of the launch event at The New York Public Library had a combined reach of 9989 people, 1971 video reproductions and 179 reactions, comments and shares. The streaming on Twitter had 6046 impressions, 38 views and 138 engagements (including likes and retweets) (Data from 17 July to 3 August). In terms of media impact, we have placed op eds and developed a list of relevant media around the UN, who were invited to the launch and received a press release and a link to the report once it was out. We also shared the report after its launch with permanent representatives to the United Nations, development institutions, UN agencies, civil society and other key stakeholders related to libraries and access to information.

Two op eds were published by the Inter Press Service News Agency and the Intellectual Property Watch about the report. In order to reach the development practitioners community, two blog posts were shared through the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) SDGs mailing list before the launch, and another one was published in the SDG Knowledge Hub as guest article, after the launch.

The website created specifically for the DA2I (DA2I.ifla.org) is the main source of information about the report, which is available to download and share (both the full version, as well as individual chapters and supporting materials). The statistics tell us that the website had 1486 unique visitors and the report and chapters were downloaded in total 1435 times (including 882 downloads of the full report and 553 of the chapters). The top 10 countries downloading the report are: United States, Australia, United Kingdom, Greece, Canada, Spain, India, China, Mexico, and Netherlands (Data from 17 July to 31 July). More

communications are still to come, particularly during the WLIC 2017 with news pieces about the DA2I, a presentation during the Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP) Session, and several Clinics at the IFLA booth. Moreover, a series of supporting materials are ready or in the pipeline, which will be used to keep the conversation going and ensure the message of the report gets through in different events, international days, and any other opportunity to disseminate it around the world.

Next Steps
A key priority now is to get the report and its contents into the hands of IFLA's members, and to support them in their advocacy work. There are rich examples that can help back up arguments in favour of strong libraries and better legal frameworks and the report should complement the broader International Advocacy Programme.
IFLA will seek opportunities to promote the report at international level – it has already been highlighted by IFLA representatives at the Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean Internet Governance Forums. We will look out for events where we can promote this work, as well as identifying partners for workshops. For example, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Germany is keen to organise a discussion next year, and there are signs of interest from the World Bank and Interamerican Development Bank.
We will also start reflecting on the focus for next year, reflecting on questions around how to present trends in data, the focus of the thematic chapters, and the possibility for digging into aspects of how libraries support development. A deeper look at the situation of a small number of countries could represent an interesting angle, especially when they are subject to voluntary national reviews (of their progress against the SDGs). Maintaining coherence with IFLA's broader data work will be a priority – SDG 11 (sustainable communities) will be up for review, which provides a particular opportunity.
Longer term, we will need to plan for 2019, which not only will involve a focus on two major library priorities – SDG4 (education) and SDG 16 (which includes access to information) – but will also see a review of the 2030 Agenda in general. A key objective, as well as maintaining a focus on meaningful access to information, will be to include more relevant metrics for libraries. At present, indicators of access to information focus only on freedom of information laws and attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, while indicators on safeguarding heritage focus only on the work of archives and museums.

7. Financial sustainibility/ Committees

A proposal for a Sustainability plan should be created till December 2017.

8. Any other business

A proposal for profiles of new SIGL board members should be produced, SIGL Chair Donna Scheeder will take the lead for this.

The meeting ended at 11.25