

Annual Meeting of CDNL
Wednesday 13 August 2008 - Delta Hotel, Quebec City

2nd revised DRAFT Minutes

PRESENT:

The Chair, Penny Carnaby (New Zealand), Vice-Chairs Erland Kolding Nielsen (Denmark) and John Tsebe (South Africa), and 72 other country members and country representatives.

Other participants:

- Invited guests from IFLA: Claudia Lux (President), Peter Lor (Secretary-General), Ellen Tise (president-elect) and Jennefer Nicholson (Secretary-General designate).
- Special guest: Marianne Scott (former National Librarian of Canada, and former chair of CDNL)
- Invited presenters on matters before the Conference: Caroline Brazier (Head of Resource Discovery, The British Library)
- Observer: Marta Terry (on behalf of the National Library of Cuba)

Minutes and Executive Secretariat: Winston Roberts (National Library of New Zealand/CDNL Secretariat)

OPENING OF THE MEETING:

The Chair, Penny Carnaby, opened the meeting at 8.50am.

She welcomed all members and other delegates to the annual meeting, noting that excellent work had been done by Libraries and Archives Canada (LAC) to prepare the facilities for the meeting, and that French interpretation services were available at the meeting thanks to a generous grant from Canada. She also noted the presence of Marianne Scott, former National Librarian of Canada and former chair of CDNL, and welcomed Ms Scott to the meeting as an honoured guest.

The Secretariat had noted apologies for absence from Wim van Drimmelen (Netherlands), Victor Fedorov (Russian State Library), Zhan Furui (China), Dolores Lamarca (Biblioteca de Catalunya, Spain) and Annette Wallace (Trinidad and Tobago), who had arranged to be represented by deputies. Ana Tironi (National Library of Chile) and Maria José Ramos (Angola) had sent apologies.

Ian Wilson extended a warm welcome to CDNL members to Canada and in particular to Quebec.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

There had been only one nomination for Chair: the re-nomination of Penny Carnaby, so she was declared re-elected by acclamation. Regarding the position of the Vice-Chairs, it was noted that John Tsebe's term continued until 2010, but Erland Kolding Nielsen had completed his term and was re-eligible. However Mr Kolding Nielsen had advised that he did not wish to stand again. One nomination had been received – that of Lynne Brindley, therefore she was declared elected by acclamation.

Mr Kolding Nielsen congratulated Ms Carnaby on her re-election, and on her leadership of CDNL. He wished her and Ms Brindley well. The Chair thanked him for his support as Vice-Chair and for his long-standing commitment to CDNL.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Chair noted that the draft minutes of the 2007 meeting in Durban (South Africa) had been circulated at the end of 2007, and posted on the CDNL website. As no requests had been received for amendments, she proposed that the draft minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. This was seconded by Mr Kolding Nielsen. The motion was carried.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising that were not already on the 2008 agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The Chair noted that the agenda would take a different form from previous years. It had been decided to take the fullest advantage of the opportunity of having the world's library leaders together in one room. The formal reporting included in the past had been removed from the agenda and annual reports had been posted on the CDNL website. There would thus be more time for discussion of strategic issues. The Conference would hear from IFLA representatives about positioning and relations with CDNL, and from Ingrid Parent (Chair of the IFLA Section of National Libraries) on the activities of that Section. The meeting would also hear from Caroline Brazier of the British Library about proposals for the future of ICABS (a joint initiative with IFLA).

The Secretary advised participants of the procedure for operating the breakout groups: results of discussions would be reported back to the plenary session by the group leaders and by the Rapporteur (Mr Kolding Nielsen).

The Chair thanked the colleagues who had kindly agreed to lead these groups, and thanked LAC for providing the note-takers. Mr Wilson noted that LAC had chosen promising young professionals for this task, to give them some exposure to the work of CDNL and IFLA.

The Chair advised that she wished to add one item to the draft agenda: the proposal for amendments to the Statutes of CDNL. This was agreed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES:

The Chair advised that she wished to take this item immediately, as it directly affected the participants at this meeting. The proposal document was in the papers before the

delegates, and had been circulated on the discussion list. The Secretary gave a brief explanation:

- the reason for the amendment to extend representation was that the Executive wished to make participation in the work of CDNL more inclusive, and take advantage of the intellectual resources available from the range of official national-level library organisations existing within countries, with the proviso that such extra (and non-voting) representation would have to be agreed at country level and this agreement notified to the Secretariat of CDNL before the annual meeting.
- The reason for the second procedural amendment was to clarify the participation of liaison organisations at CDNL meetings.

The Chair emphasised that the responsibility for notifying the Secretariat would lie with the Director of each country's National Library (i.e. the CDNL member) of each country concerned.

The Chair asked if there were questions about the proposed amendments. There were none. The Chair then put the proposal to the vote. The proposal was approved with one vote against.

STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR CDNL

The Chair proposed to change the order of the next items on the morning agenda. They would be taken in the following order of speaking:

- before the break: L. Brindley
- after the break: speakers on behalf of IFLA
- C. Brazier speaking on ICABS
- N. Varaprasad speaking on the Global Digital Library

PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED CDNL VISION STATEMENT:

[The following notes relate to Ms Brindley's powerpoint slides.]

[Slide 1]

- The draft vision statement had arisen from discussions in Durban, where Lynne Brindley had offered to set down a first draft of thoughts. This text was only a draft framework, not a measuring stick, and ways would have to be found to achieve the goals indicated. Care had been taken to ensure that the vision was consistent with the key points of the IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto for Digital Libraries.

[Slide 2]

- Below that level is proposed a set of themes, shared aspirations and activities toward the achievement of a digital library. Collaboration is important because we are seeing many different types of collaboration among different types of institutions not only libraries. But no one library can do this on its own; so a second point: promote digital collections to open up holdings. This is an aspirational statement.
- Cultural diversity is also important. Standards are vital, also in the context of ICABS and preservation. As ICABS broadens its remit, we need to help each other share the tools developed, for activities on the larger digital agenda.

[Slide 3]

- These points are a guide to the agenda of future CDNL meetings, particularly point (e) about sharing our knowledge of what has worked as well as what hasn't.
- Point (f) underlines that our increased digital capability requires that we help national libraries in the developing world: we all have the digital agenda in common, we don't want a new kind of divide in the digital world, we want a wide range of countries to benefit from these advances.
- Point (g) underlines that we are engaged in a serious battle around IP issues in the digital age; copyright and IP in general are very difficult in relation to print works and even more critical and contested in the digital world. We need to position ourselves as advocates.

[Slide 4]

- Point (h) is similar: we need to seek solutions to IP issues, maintain a balance between rights and access, promote fair dealing; without this balance, creativity will not be able to flourish.
- Point (i) is important: we need to obtain regulatory support e.g. through legal deposit regimes, and financial support. But regulatory and legislative support for legal deposit is vital and we have to advocate for and work toward that – some countries have legislation and are implementing it – other national libraries find governments are slow in passing legislation.
- Regarding point (j) on strengthening collaboration with other cultural institutions and providers, Ms Brindley noted that she had spoken the day before during the conference at a session about collaboration between public and private sectors – her message: real strategic collaboration is not a soft option, it is difficult, cf. collaboration with the publishing industry.

Ms Brindley then requested reactions from colleagues, asking if they subscribed to this vision.

Comments and discussion:

- P. Carnaby (New Zealand/Chair): glad to see that the draft vision statement made reference to cultural diversity; she noted that a proposal was being put to IFLA for a SIG on Indigenous Matters and this question would continue to figure on the IFLA agenda; it would also be appropriate to take account of Traditional Knowledge (and cultural intellectual property rights) in global digital libraries;
- K. Ekholm (Finland): we know some digital libraries are more universal than others, eg BNF, Library of Congress, British Library; it is difficult to create universal collections; glad that IP rights are included, in view of proposal by EU Commissioner McCreavy to extend rights to 90 years.
- M. Nagao (Japan): another important matter is how to handle e-journals, to preserve science knowledge; we have organisations in Japan which handle journals: this is duplication, perhaps we can discuss this matter in CDNL;
- L. Ngian (Singapore): need to find out users' experiences, this is critical;
- A. Green (Wales): one of the interesting things about IFLA is seeing how topics grow in interest: this year there has been remarkable interest in the

session on digital preservation: we should lay more emphasis on this issue in the vision statements;

- I. Wilson (Canada): a good vision around library services; long-term preservation should be added; also: citizens don't care if requested material comes to them from a library or an archive, let us not perpetuate old institutional forms in the new digital world. Can we open up dialogue, combine book and archival material with maps, etc., be open to others and not make collaboration too complicated?

The Chair noted that these points could be discussed during the afternoon group session; and asked Ms Brindley to respond to the comments.

Responses from Ms Brindley:

- Agree with comment on indigenous knowledge, and also see links with relevance of oral traditions;
- Europe is deeply concerned about the way copyright legislation is trending;
- agree with comment from Japan on journals; that also leads to consideration of institutional repositories and open access publishing, that is a large agenda item;
- regarding users: yes, we have to find out more about what users want and need, whether younger generation or others: some don't use libraries at all and we need to know why;
- regarding digital preservation: under point E [of the draft Vision Statement] we need to 'unpack' the core themes and add more detail, including digital preservation; it is true that users don't care where a document comes from, but we also need to look at authenticity of source, quality and longevity. The web is 'a glorious mess', we need to ensure quality.
- Thanks to all for these rich additions to thinking.

The Chair encouraged delegates to think about the issues raised and what CDNL's action agenda should be, what members' role should be as strategic leaders.

It was agreed that the CDNL Vision Statement on Digital Libraries should be updated to include comments from CDNL members and then adapted as a working manifesto. [Note from the Secretariat: this was picked up later by discussion Group A – see report below.]

IFLA PRESENTATION

On the resumption of the meeting, the Chair welcomed Claudia Lux, President of IFLA, and asked her to introduce her colleagues. Ms Lux expressed her thanks for having been invited to attend the meeting, then introduced:

- Peter Lor, Secretary-General, who would be retiring in September
- Ellen Tise, IFLA president-elect whose presidential term would begin in August 2009
- Jennefer Nicholson, Secretary-General designate who would take over from Peter Lor in September.

Ms Lux noted that CDNL supports IFLA in many ways, through support for the Core Activities, and through ICABS. She wished to recognise the support of many national libraries, including the National Library of Australia, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek [of

the Netherlands], the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the British Library, the US Library of Congress, the National Diet Library and all members of CDNL for their support of IFLA in so many ways. Without this support IFLA would struggle to carry out its essential work.

Ms Lux referred also to the work of IFLA on Guidelines for Digital Libraries, noting that:

- The Manifesto had been approved by the Governing Board (GB) of IFLA. It had been circulated at the conference in Quebec, and comments would be welcome, however it had been forwarded to UNESCO for approval as it was intended to be published as an IFLA/UNESCO manifesto to reach out for political support for digital libraries, to raise politicians' awareness of digital developments.
- The idea of the IFLA Working Group on Guidelines had arisen from a visit by Deanna Marcum to an IFLA GB meeting, where she had spoken about a proposal by the Librarian of Congress, James Billington, to set up a world digital library. The GB saw collections as a focus, the interests of all libraries, and the need to develop a manifesto and then guidelines. IFLA set up a representative working group, with the support of the Library of Congress. The group was working on a draft but it was not ready for publication yet.
- IFLA saw the Guidelines as not exclusively for national libraries but for all libraries, especially those who had begun with digital library initiatives – it was important to share best practice; the text would cover: purpose and definition, content issues, metadata, technology issues, organisation and management.
- input received during the open conference session in Quebec would be taken into account and a draft published as soon as possible on the IFLA website for comments.

The Chair invited Peter Lor to address the meeting. He commented that he would give his Secretary General's report at the IFLA Council session the next day. He noted the following important developments:

- improvements in communication, with work on a new website;
- new revised Statutes, in which IFLA seeks to remedy shortcomings, move detail into the Rules of Procedures, and streamline the governance of professional units. There would be an opportunity to discuss and vote on these at the Council. There was also concern that the Council had not had a quorum recently: IFLA wished to schedule the Council on the Wednesday in the middle of the conference week in future, as it was critical to the functioning of IFLA. IFLA was grateful to CDNL for accommodating that change.

Penny Carnaby thanked Peter Lor on behalf of CDNL for his outstanding contribution to IFLA and CDNL.

John Tsebe (South Africa) expressed his warm thanks to Peter Lor for his tremendous contribution to the development of the profession in South Africa and the new building of the National Library. Mr Tsebe also saluted the election of a South African, Ellen Tise, as the next president of IFLA.

The Chair invited Ms Tise to address the meeting. She informed the meeting that her presidential theme would be 'Libraries - driving access to knowledge': that linked with the themes of previous IFLA conferences and to Claudia Lux's theme of 'Libraries on the agenda'.

Ms Tise was concerned that others had taken a leadership role for too long in driving access to knowledge; this theme also recognised the role of others e.g. archives and other organisations.

The Chair congratulated Ms Tise on the theme of access and knowledge creation: CDNL would support her presidency.

PRESENTATION ON IFLA SECTION OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES

Ingrid Parent (Library and Archives Canada), Chair of the IFLA Section of National Libraries, then spoke about the initiatives of her Section in collaboration with CDNL.

She had had several conversations with the Chair of CDNL about how to develop relationships. CDNL worked at the strategic level while the Section of National Libraries aligned some of its activities with CDNL and then went on to practical follow-through. In that perspective, Ms Parent noted three initiatives:

- a) work on a comprehensive online directory of national libraries: there were various lists by type of library but nothing comprehensive, so the Section had got funds from IFLA, had looked at hosts and chosen Wikipedia to host its list (as that was free and easy to update). The Section would next develop an interface on Wikipedia for members (of IFLA and CDNL) to update their own entries. Further information would be circulated to CDNL members about this process.
- b) the initiative to set up a discussion group on international relations in national organisations: within national libraries, national associations and other bodies. This could look at such matters as: policies, protocols for receiving visitors, partnerships, etc. The open meeting to discuss the proposal had been attended by 85 people: it endorsed sending the proposal to the Professional Committee of IFLA in December. If it was approval, national libraries would be invited to send representatives.
- c) an initiative with the IFLA Section on Bibliography – (Ms Parent noted that this idea had originally been proposed by Mali and supported by Sweden and France, so thanked the CDNL members from those countries). There would be a workshop in April 2009, for which support and ideas from CDNL members would be welcome.
- She invited CDNL members to attend the Section's open session at the conference, on the subject of performance indicators for national libraries.

The Chair thanked Ms Parent for the Section's initiatives and for the useful distinction between the role of the Section of National Libraries and the role of CDNL. She observed that there was a good collaborative relationship.

PRESENTATION ON ICABS:

Caroline Brazier (The British Library – Chair of ICABS) then addressed the meeting:

- The original role of ICABS had been to support the core activities of IFLA and the efforts of national libraries to become digital libraries; and it had focused on standards including professional standards of IFLA;

- There had been a feeling for some time that a new emphasis was needed: all libraries wished to become digital, not just a few; and there was a need to build infrastructure and capacity, so the discussion this year had been about how to take ICABS forward;
- Three themes had emerged:
 - o building digital collections, including digitisation activities;
 - o digital archiving initiatives, legal deposit, collaboration with publishers
 - o management of digital collections including ingest, long-term storage, and provision of access to digital collections: digital resource discovery.
- At this conference it had been agreed to change the name to ICADS (IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Digital Strategies): but the focus on digital strategies did not mean less emphasis on the value of standards;
- ICADS would continue to work in two ways: it would use the PADI website of the National Library of Australia for communication (and encourage libraries in ICADS to put up strategic information on the PADI website); and it would continue to work with a range of IFLA sections on digital library initiatives;
- The new model gave the opportunity to consider new forms of membership: e.g. people could participate through the website, the only criterion for membership being that they had relevant content to contribute. There would be some editorial control of material on the website.
- Future options for governance would be considered, and a recommendation put to the ICADS advisory board at the 2010 conference (this would parallel changes in IFLA's governance structure).

The Chair thanked Ms Brazier for her presentation, commenting that the change of name was significant: ICADS existed to provide advice, and the PADI website would be a treasure trove of advice to libraries.

PRESENTATION ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES:

The Chair then invited N. Varaprasad (Singapore) to make a presentation on a trial initiative representing one way in which CDNL members could join in the creation of digital libraries – she referred delegates to the leaflet and CD on 'National Libraries Global' that was distributed in the room.

N. Varaprasad commented that:

- 'national' and 'global' might seem to be contradictory, but by working together national libraries could increase their impact;
- libraries were digitising copyright-free material but needed to provide access globally;
- libraries were already doing it but needed to find a way of joining up the results, with seamless access to a single user interface;
- the National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) was leading work on a prototype; on this model there would be no need to create new material, this model would be based on what libraries already had.
- The NLNZ and the NLB of Singapore had done the proof-of-concept, they now needed to find out if the prototype worked;

- This had been taken to the prototype stage with 4 national libraries using test metadata: NLB Singapore, NLNZ, NL Australia, and Library and Archives Canada.
- Testing the prototype would help to assess resource requirements.
- The project would combine national libraries' collections into a useful global collection, in a faceted way;
- Users would have immediate access to items, with innovative search and browse features;
- The prototype would be completed from the end of August, then a decision would be taken on its future.

Dr Varaprasad concluded by suggesting to delegates that they consider if this was a project that they wanted to take part in, and if so, to contact Mr Steve Knight at the National Library of New Zealand.

[Note from CDNL Secretariat: the email address for correspondence on this subject is: steve.knight@natlib.govt.nz.]

Comments from delegates:

- Ms W. Hudson (Jamaica) commented that she had a sense of the loss of the library as a place.
- The Chair commented that 'digital' is important in that it is an obvious way to work together, but it also has the potential to create a democratic civic space.
- Ms Lise Bissonnette, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, noted that the 'National Libraries Global' initiative, in its current form, applied only to English-language national libraries. She pointed out that six French-language national libraries (France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Canada and Québec) had just launched, in Québec City, at the IFLA conference, a digital portal bringing together French-language national libraries numbering 14 already, including many present at this CDNL meeting and participating in it thanks to support from the Organisation internationale de la francophonie. The portal, called the 'Réseau francophone des bibliothèques nationales numériques (RFBNN)', was already online and could be visited at the following address: www.rfbnn.org.
- The Chair noted that that was an excellent example of what can be done.

The Chair then summed up the morning's discussions as follows:

- CDNL Vision Statement for digital libraries: challenging greater collaboration between National Libraries, providing access to the cultures of the world via the national libraries
- The division of labour between CDNL and the IFLA Section of National Libraries: between strategic issues and practical/operational matters: this close collaboration was valuable and should be pursued;
- ICADS, a practical example of collaboration; and the PADI website would be a valuable communication tool;
- IFLA's Manifesto for Digital Libraries reflects the focus of CDNL;
- The theme proposed by Ellen Tise was also very important for CDNL;
- Dr Varaprasad discussed the prototype we have been working on – demonstrating one way that digital collections could be joined up.

[The meeting then adjourned for lunch.]

The first part of the afternoon was taken up with discussions in breakout groups. The leaders of the groups later reported back in plenary session.

SUMMARY OF POINTS REPORTED BACK FROM THE BREAK-OUT GROUPS:

Group A (Leader: Jan Fullerton):

- The group drafted a vision statement, as follows:
 - o *A vision statement for CDNL:*
The purpose of CDNL is to promote, facilitate and advocate for long-term access to the cultural heritage, in all formats, preserved in the national libraries of the world. CDNL is committed to cultural and linguistic diversity. It promotes mutual understanding as well as the sharing of best practices, mutual support and professional networking. CDNL seeks to facilitate the collaboration of national libraries, and the integration of access to collections for the benefit of the global community.

Group B1 (Leader: Lynne Brindley):

- noted the key role of advocacy;
- the need to prioritise in digitisation, we cannot do it all;
- digital services on their own are not enough;
- users needs, sharing best practice;
- a global digital library should not be monolithic; some were confused about so many networks; what were the business models?
- how to run advocacy campaigns?
- also comments on the preparation of meetings, and the need for pre-reading before the meeting.

Group B2 (Leader: N. Varaprasad):

- noted the importance of multiculturalism and diversity among CDNL members;
- the digital divide still persists, what progress since WSIS?
- copyright issues
- preservation: the digital black hole; the fate of print materials.
- the lack of access to scientific knowledge is holding back progress in developing countries

Group C (Leader: Ingrid Parent):

- A key issue is exploring new partnerships: governments are primary partners of national libraries, which need to do more to get governments to understand better the role of national libraries in the 21st century;
- suggestion: a set of general principles: CDNL should show us how to work with partners, based on best practice developed by the national libraries represented at this meeting;
- the aim of partnerships should be to ensure that capacity is maintained in national libraries;
- CDNL should have a stronger voice alongside IFLA and other bodies;
- external and internal partnerships;

- internal: sharing best practice among libraries, especially through the CDNL website.

Group D (Leader: Deanna Marcum):

- The most important thing is for every national library to develop a plan for the digital heritage of that country, to articulate its digital strategy;
- born-digital material must be integrated into collections;
- copyright legislation in each country may be the greatest barrier; we should press our governments for copyright law reform;
- build partnerships with non-traditional partners;
- help new younger national libraries in developing regions to become full digital partners;
- become advocates for solutions that national libraries can provide in the digital environment, to preserve the intellectual and cultural heritage of their country;
- importance of staff development, to have staff who can participate fully in the digital environment;
- work with educational institutions to get staff who can participate in this way.

The Chair thanked the groups for their reports, and invited the Rapporteur Erland Kolding Nielsen to offer his practical suggestions and recommendations.

Mr Kolding Nielson made recommendations at various levels, as follows:

- a) At the **strategic** level:
 - need to further develop mission and vision, we have some basis for that now;
 - need to build relationships, develop the advocacy role (vis à vis governments and international bodies)
- b) At the **operational** level:
 - partnerships;
 - is the idea of a world digital library a chimera?
 - explore the practice and economics of digital libraries
 - press for the modernisation of legal deposit within countries so that born-digital heritage is included
- c) At the **business** level: recommendations for the organisation of the CDNL annual meeting:
 - a. written reports should be circulated 3 months in advance before meeting
 - b. explore a new structure for the meeting.
 - c. regional organisations of national libraries to advise the Executive on what could be done;
 - d. Group discussions should not be as wide as now but all discuss the same theme.
- d) at **institutional** level:
 - a. vital that we do it at own institutional level and not leave it all to others
 - b. partnerships for digitisation, preservation, access between big and small institutions

- c. develop plans for a digital strategy within institutions and within countries
- d. digital output of countries
- e. share best practice

The Chair thanked Mr Kolding Nielsen warmly for this overview.

She then called for any final comments on any other matters. Lynne Brindley (UK) commented that the student rapporteurs at the discussion groups were good examples of the type of keen professional library staff that were needed. Elisabeth Niggemann (Germany) wished to salute Wim van Drimmelen for the contribution he had made to national libraries. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to him on behalf of CDNL.

The Chair noted that the outcomes of this meeting would be reflected in actions over the next few months. As outcomes, she noted in particular:

- The new role of ICADS (including the use of the NLA's PADI website);
- Strategic orientation providing clarity about the role of IFLA and the Section of National Libraries in relation to CDNL, and showing how libraries could leverage off each other's efforts;
- A good vision statement;
- A clearer vision for global digital libraries.

The Chair advised that the Secretariat would circulate a strategic summary in 6 weeks time of where CDNL was going, and an evaluation questionnaire about the meeting to find out what had worked and what had not.

She noted that the annual meeting had been a team effort by many people, and she wished to thank the Canadian team, the discussion leaders and rapporteurs/note takers, the Vice-Chairs Erland Kolding Nielsen and John Tsebe, the Executive Secretary, and the interpreters. John Tsebe expressed thanks to Penny herself for her leadership.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.30pm.