



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI
Office fédéral de la culture OFC
Bibliothèque nationale suisse BN



Overview of the IFLA Committee on Standards

Patrice Landry
Chair, IFLA Committee on Standards

IFLA Helsinki 2012, CDNL Meeting



IFLA: a standards organisation?

- IFLA standards since early 1960s – « Paris Principles » in 1961
- Many done in collaboration with UNESCO (mostly up to the 1990s)
- At least 20 IFLA professional units regularly involved in standards
- 5 to 10 standards publications issued on an annual basis
- Most IFLA standards are « guidelines »: set of proposals, suggestions (best practices)
- Generally international in scope



IFLA Strategic Plan 2010-2015

III. Transforming the profile and the standing of the profession

To sustain and to strengthen the role of libraries in the knowledge society / digital age IFLA works continuously on transforming the profile and the standing of the profession.

Key Initiatives: 1,2 & 4

To advance the profession through the development of standards and the promotion of specialised knowledge within the professional practice, IFLA will focus its activities on:

- 3a advancing professional knowledge through research and the activities of IFLA's community of practice;
- 3b supporting collaborative efforts to assure development of high quality library and information services through training and strategic initiatives;
- 3c developing, maintaining and adhering to the highest professional standards that support high quality practices;
- 3d asserting credibility through endorsed policies, standards and wider evidence-based research that demonstrate libraries' benefit to society.



CDNL and the IFLA Committee on standards (CoS)

- Long tradition of commitment of the CDNL in IFLA standards activities (UBCIM, ICABS, ICADS)
- CDNL involvement in IFLA standards is important for IFLA
- As member of CoS, CDNL is informed on standards development and can advice on the strategic direction of IFLA standards
- Many challenges in the coming years on the renewal of IFLA standards and support from national libraries is important



Proposal for a new unit for the management of IFLA standards

- In 2009, new IFLA professional structure: from 8 to 5 divisions
- More difficult to manage standards in the new structure
- Example of bibliographic sections in Division III – Library Services (11 sections)
- Need for an independent unit, not linked to any particular division
- Report by IFLA Bibliographic Standards Working Group (2009-2010)
- Development of the proposal (2010-2011)



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New IFLA Committee on Standards

16 January 2012

Announcement

New IFLA Committee on Standards

Purpose

The newly formed IFLA Committee on Standards will coordinate standards work within and beyond IFLA and support standards activities in IFLA professional units, principally in sections. The Committee on Standards starts up its activities in January 2012 and will conduct most of its work virtually with its first face-to-face meeting to take place during the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Helsinki, Finland. The IFLA Committee on Standards is a general IFLA committee, reporting directly to IFLA's [Governing Board](#).

Responsibilities

- ★ complete details [\[PDF\]](#)

Composition

Chair: Patrice Landry, Swiss National Library

- ★ Division I: **Tay Ai Cheng**, National Library Board of Singapore
- ★ Division II: **Françoise Pellé**, ISSN International Center
- ★ Division III: **Anders Cato**, Gothenburg University Library
- ★ Division IV: **Marian Koren**, Netherlands Public Library Association
- ★ Division V: **Chih-Feng P. Lin**, Shih Hsin University, Taiwan
- ★ Permanent UNIMARC Committee Chair: **Alan Hopkinson**, Middlesex University, United Kingdom
- ★ CDNL representative: **Anita Goldberga**, National Library of Latvia

Patrice Landry

IFLA Helsinki 2012

CDNL meeting



IFLA Committee on Standards Terms of reference

Purpose

- The IFLA Committee on Standards provides advice to the Board and IFLA units on the strategic and ongoing management of the Association's professional Standards. The Committee forms the central focus for standards in order to raise the visibility of standards within and beyond IFLA, and to manage the development, maintenance, storage and access for all kinds of IFLA standards documents.



Responsibilities

- The Committee will:
- Provide a central focus for standards in order to raise the visibility of standards within and beyond IFLA, eg. with ISO, AFNOR, DIN, etc.
- Ensure the maintenance of standards through a common approach for their creation, translation, version control; ensure procedures for the initiation, development, validation and publishing of standards are current and widely available;
- Coordinate the development, maintenance, storage and access for all kinds of IFLA standards documents;



Responsibilities (2)

- Monitor and propose to Governing Board the validation of standards; provide support for professional units in the standards development and validation processes
- Provide support for the work of professional activities, policies and communication at IFLA HQ in relation to standards;
- Support IFLA's strategic priorities, advocacy initiatives and any other IFLA ongoing activities; undertake strategic planning for standards;
- Manage the IFLA open access policy for IFLA standards documents;



Responsibilities (3)

- Ensure that digital versions of standards are accessible and stored in an appropriate IFLA website “portal” according to requirements as proposed by the current IFLA Namespaces Task Group, this to ensure compatibility of IFLA standards with the semantic web;
- Ensure that a listing of standards according to categories and purposes, ongoing standards work (WGs) and publication information is maintained on IFLA’s website;
- Provide advice to the Governing Board on IFLA representation in standards-related activities, including conferences, meetings, publications (inside and outside of IFLA)



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Responsibilities (4)

- Organize a “standards” open program during IFLA WLIC
- Promote IFLA standards through newsletter(s), IFLA website, ICBC, IFLA Journal and other means
- Any other matters that may impact on IFLA’s Standards that are referred to the Committee by the Governing Board.



What the Committee has done so far?

- Audit of existing of IFLA standards (through the compilation of a list of potential standards and reviewed by IFLA professional units)
<http://www.ifla.org/en/standards-committee/list-of-standards>
- New IFLA web page: <http://www.ifla.org/en/standards-committee>
- Liaised with IFLA professional units on standards issues and questions
- Supported PC in projects fund allocation
- Presentations and article on IFLA standards and Committee
- List of issues – Helsinki agenda



Issues?

- Definition and scope of IFLA standards
- Common IFLA procedures of initiating, developing, validating, managing versions and translations
- Publishing (format and presentation, open access vs « official IFLA publication De Gruyter)
- Safeguarding versions, including obsolete standards (archives)
- Access to documents (repository)
- Namespace issue (IFLA branding in semantic world)
- Announcement of work planned / work underway?
- Endorsement – Final validation by PC?



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Committee's work agenda for 2012-2013 (draft)

- Definition of IFLA standards
- Committee's coordination role with IFLA sections
- Maintenance of standards – frequency of updates / revision procedures
- Initiation of new standards – identification / request mechanism and autorisation
- Support of IFLA's advocacy / strategic initiatives
- Communication with external standards organisations
- IFLA Standards handbook



Other related IFLA issues

- Implementation of the new IFLA publications policy: Open access of IFLA publications – revenue vs open access considerations
- Repository of IFLA publications: work underway in developing a repository, with a special area for standards publications
- Implementing « IFLA namespaces »
- Financial support for IFLA standards



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Comments / Questions?



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Research project: How to measure the value of national libraries

- PhD candidate at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland
- Over 25 years experience in national libraries (Canada and Switzerland)
- Interested in working closely with members of CDNL (surveys, interviews, data analysis, best practices)



Research aims

Investigation into the best practice in the conduct of systematic performance and outcome assessment of national libraries

Objectives:

- Develop clear understanding of the use of ISO/TR 28118 indicators for national libraries
- Explore how NL performance indicators can be used in the process of outcome assessment
- Develop an assessment framework specific to national libraries in regards to the stakeholders / according to NL mandates



Support from CDNL members needed

- Need representative data from all kinds / types of national libraries (100 libraries)
- Initial survey planned for October / November 2012 on:
 - Use of the ISO/TR 28118 Performance indicators for national libraries
 - Activities not covered by ISO indicators
 - Mandates and key activities (functions)
 - Assessment methods used (activities and outcomes)



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Incentives for national libraries?

- Research on value of national libraries
- Source of information on potential assessment methods
- Assessment framework tailored to all kind of national libraries
- Discussions / exchange of information