

IFLA Express 8

The final Chapter from Oslo

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WLIC continues to be successful!

Almost 3000* participants from 133 countries attended the World Library and Information Congress, the 71st General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, which was held in Oslo from 14-18 August 2005.

The theme of this year's Congress was *Libraries – A Voyage of Discovery*.

*Due to a new system of definitions statistics are not comparable to previous years and may seem less positive than they actually are.

Country Representation

We are very pleased to announce that Norway was the country with the largest representation, 383 delegates!

Runners up were:

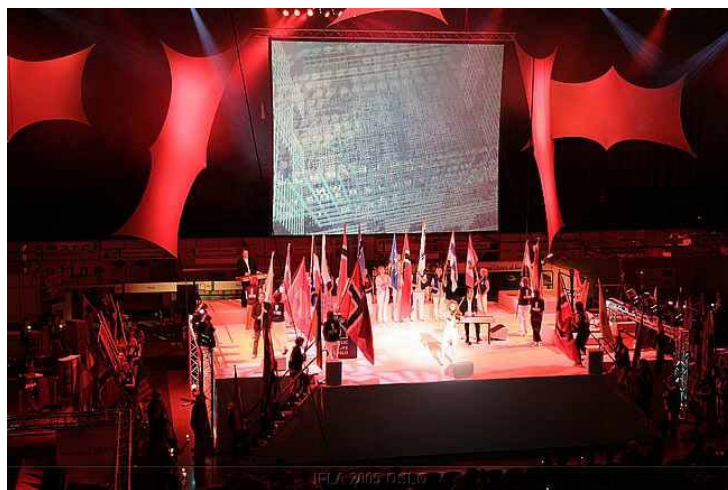
USA	382
Sweden	227
China	162
UK	161
Korea, Rep of	128



Facts and Figures about the conference

2983	Total participants
2287	Full time delegates
329	Day registrations
171	Accompanying persons
181	Exhibition visitors
202	Volunteers
1000	First timers
133	Countries represented
75	grantees thanks to generous grants
404	Speakers and Presenters
94	Exhibitors combined to an exhibition of
1373	square metres
216	Meetings
40	Meetings with Simultaneous Interpretation
79	Poster Sessions
20	New members joined IFLA

200	Papers
173	Papers in English
116	Papers in French
28	Papers in German
22	Papers in Russian
19	Paper in Spanish



Flags at the Opening Session

The Professional Committee, 2003-2005

In the past, it has been the custom for the Chair of the Professional Committee to give an account of his or her two years' term of office at the closing ceremony of the conference. This year, as last, when there used to be an overview of the conference mid-term by the Chair, it was decided that it would be preferable to provide an account in writing, in order to allow more time for other matters.

I have been a member of the Professional Committee for a total of six years, during which period there have been many changes. In the period from 1999-2001 we spent a great deal of time in developing IFLA's Professional Priorities which have now been incorporated into all the activities of the Federation as a means of their justification. The 2001-2003 Professional Committee (as it had become for the first time – before then it was the Professional Board) paid a great deal of attention to restructuring the conference programme and shortening the way in which the conference itself was organized. This meant that everyone, officers, committee members and conference participants had had to accustom themselves to many changes. No longer did each Section have the possibility of an open session and a workshop, but instead was allocated one two-hour slot. In addition, the structure of IFLA itself had undergone a series of changes. The statutes and rules of procedure had been revised and the President now was elected for a two year period, and similarly there was a President Elect who also held office for two years prior to becoming President.

So, at the beginning of the 2003-05 period, there was a new President, a President Elect and Ross Shimmon, who had been Secretary General for five years, was about to retire the following March. An unforeseen event was that nine months later, in December 2004, the recently appointed Secretary General resigned and Peter Lor was appointed to replace him. Therefore, I was in office over a period of considerable change, both in personnel and in the structure of the conference and IFLA's activities. It did not seem to be an appropriate moment to introduce yet more changes, as participants in IFLA's work felt that everything

was being altered at a great pace. Rather, it was time to take stock and examine how successful the changes that had taken place over the past few years had become.

The interests in which IFLA had traditionally concerned itself within the profession were also becoming more diverse, and this was particularly evident in the cessation of such long established Core Activities as UBCIM and UAP and the increasing emphasis on such Core Activities as FAIFE and CLM. This emphasis was made the more urgent with the active participation of IFLA in the World Summit on an Information Society which held its first session in November 2003 at the United Nations in Geneva and will hold its final session in Tunis in November 2005.

The Professional Committee has therefore concerned itself with streamlining the conference and with ensuring that the various programmes are in tune with the conference theme. There has been encouragement for more joint programmes between Sections and Divisions which both improve the coherence of the whole and enable a longer period in which to develop an interesting session. Members of the Committee have spent considerable time in seeking to ensure that both the programme for the conference and the various projects undertaken by Sections and Divisions harmonize with the overall core values and intentions of the Federation. Careful consideration has been given to carrying on the tradition established at the Glasgow conference of a "red thread", a linking strand of relevance, permeating the programme. This was very evident in the titles of many of the Oslo programmes which incorporated the "Voyage of discovery" from the overall conference theme into their presentations. The titles of proposed programmes have in the recent past shown a much greater awareness of the need to present a coherent approach to the overall conference theme.

The past two years have seen a greater professionalism in the papers presented and a higher standard in quality. There have also been great advances in quality in both the poster sessions and the content and presentation of the newsletters. This last is undoubtedly assisted by the easy access to computerized techniques which enable

attractive publications to be produced at a comparatively low cost, but that does not account for their content which in many cases is excellent. All members of the Professional Committee have participated with enthusiasm in the various discussions and documents that have been generated with a view to improving the professional programme of the Federation.

At its final meeting, the Committee also requested that all Sections should in future issue a call for papers for future conferences. This is to address the feeling in some quarters that it is difficult to have a paper accepted unless one is part of the “inner IFLA” body – an entirely misleading impression and one which hopefully this system will address. Much time is spent in the Professional Committee in consideration of what IFLA represents and how the conference and the activities of the diverse Sections can be made to appear more relevant. Also of great concern is how to spread the small amount of funds round the diverse range of projected activities. This is an exceedingly difficult task, since IFLA means a great many different things to different people with totally different interests. This should not be regarded as a weakness, but rather as one of its strengths because IFLA is what it is simply because it has such a variety of appeal.

One of the activities that has been begun over the past two years and which will continue into the next one is the review of all IFLA’s professional activities. The Core Activities and all the Sections are in the process of evaluating themselves. FAIFE and PAC have already completed their evaluation and been scrutinized as has one Section in each of the eight Divisions. However, many remain to be looked at and this will occupy both the Sections and the former Chairs of the Professional Committee who are charged with undertaking the assessment over the next twelve months. Each Section is, among other things, asked to consider how it can collaborate with other Sections and to make any proposals it wishes with regard to the reallocation of the various Sections within Divisions. It is hoped that the eventual outcome of this process will be a more coherent and professional structure for the various elements within the IFLA family.

In addition to devising the questionnaire and examining the results of the pilot reviews and making appropriate adjustments as the result of the data provided, the Professional Committee has during the past two years put in place new proposals for the distribution of Administrative Funds to Divisions and Sections. In the past, the changeover of office holders on a two-yearly basis has resulted in a great deal of waste of both time and money in the transfer of funds from one currency to another and in bank charges subsequent on the opening and closing of accounts. This year, when the annual accounts are submitted each Section and Division has been requested to return all outstanding administrative funds to Headquarters and, in future, to submit invoices, or estimates, for running expenditure. This should be kept to the level of not less than 50 euro for each request to save the time of headquarters staff. The same criteria for the distribution of funds will be used as before, but instead of having numerous bank accounts in equally numerous currencies, monies will be administered centrally on the basis of need at a given time.

Sections should not feel that they are being deprived of their money – there is no change in the amount allocated which, as has always been the case, is regulated by the numbers of members in a Section, but the expense of transactions and changing into different currencies will be greatly reduced.

It is a difficult task for anyone to describe what they feel they have achieved, and as Chair of the Professional Committee nothing could be achieved without the support and ready assistance of all the members of the committee. I greatly appreciate having received that and wish the incoming Committee and its chair, Jacinta Were, the first chair to be selected from Division 8, every success in the forthcoming two years when they hold office. I felt as chair that there was a need to create some feeling of stability during changing times and not to attempt too ambitious a series of reforms, but at the same time to streamline and clarify some of the procedures and activities undertaken as part of the professional programme. I hope that I have had some success in this intention.

I.C. McIlwaine

Lost and found at the Conference in Oslo

The following items were dropped of at the lost and found desk during the conference:

- Nokia 2100
- Siemens A52
- Sunglasses
- Earring
- Leather businesscard holder
- Photocamera -cover (cover only)
- Glasses

(Not all details have been disclosed)

If you think any of these items is yours, please send an e-mail to WLIC2005@congrex.nl

IFLA Express credits

We especially want to thank the all the volunteers working on IFLA Express again, especially Lars Egeland and Stephen Parker, co-editors.

IFLA also wants to thank the teams coming from the 4 other working languages of IFLA, French, German, Russian and Spanish!

Your hard work has brought daily information to all delegates during the conference!

Did you enjoy yourself?

Come to Seoul next year!

After an inspiring drum and dance performance, Mr. Ki-Nam Shin, member of the Korean National Assembly and President of the Seoul National Organising Committee, invited all delegates to Korea to attend the WLIC in 2006.

The 2006 conference has the following theme:

"Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society"

See you in Seoul in 2006!

Call for Poster Sessions WLIC 2006

This year in Oslo there were 79 Posters which combined to a very interesting and well-visited exhibition.

The Call for Poster Sessions for the 2006 World Library and Information Congress in Seoul can be found on IFLANET:

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/call-poster-or2006.htm>

IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship program 2006

During the Press Conference, Phyllis B. Spies, Vice President, OCLC Collection Management Services announced the IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellows for 2006. They are:

- Ms. Maria Cherrie, Librarian, Trinidad & Tobago National Library and Information System Authority, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
- Mrs. Janete Estevão, Head Librarian, O Boticário Franchising S/A, São José dos Pinhais, Paraná, Brazil
- Mr. Festus Ngetich, College Librarian, Kenya Highlands Bible College, Kericho, Kenya
- Mr. Roman Purici, Director, Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy, Chisinau, Moldova
- Mr. Salmubi, Head of Library, The State Polytechnic of Ujung Pandang, Makassar, Indonesia

The IFLA/OCLC Fellowship supports library and information science professionals from countries with developing economies. The fellowship program, hosted by OCLC at its headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, USA, provides advanced continuing education and exposure to a broad range of issues in information technologies, library operations and global cooperative librarianship. Since the first class arrived in 2001, 28 fellows representing 23 different countries have participated.

For more information see:

<http://www.oclc.org/education/earlycareer/default.htm>

IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2005

IFLA/FAIFE are pleased to announce the launch of the IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2005 on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries titled '**Libraries, National Security, Freedom of Information Laws and Social Responsibilities**'. The Report will be launched at the World Library and Information Congress press conferences on Tuesday 16th of August 2005 in Oslo.

The IFLA/FAIFE World Report series is unique. It is the only source based on a systematic data collection process that provides an overview of how libraries around the world are tackling barriers to freedom of access to information and freedom of expression. This year's edition includes 84 country reports submitted by IFLA members. The main findings of the 2005 World Report are that the state of intellectual freedom in many parts of the world remains fragile, and that libraries are striving to do their best to provide access to information to their users, even if this is extremely problematic in some countries.

In particular, the 2005 World Report finds that:

- While Internet access across the international library community is slowly increasing, many parts of the world, especially Africa and Asia are still struggling with the problems of the digital divide
- The use and acceptance of Internet filtering software in libraries is increasing, fuelled by the problems of providing safe Internet access for children. Since the last World Report the use of filtering software has increased and more library associations are in favour of using it
- Although anti-terror legislation is not currently a problem for libraries in the countries of many IFLA members, the consequences of the war against terror are affecting library users in places such as the USA, the Netherlands and Syria. Librarians in other countries around the world are concerned about the possible future effects of anti-terror legislation
- Violations of intellectual freedom that affect library users continue to occur around the world. Censorship, restrictions of press freedom and governmental restriction and surveillance of Internet use were reported in many countries including China, Egypt, Italy, Nepal and Uzbekistan. In Turkmenistan it was reported that libraries

have been closed under presidential order, on the grounds that 'no one reads'

- Libraries are making laudable efforts to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS and women's access to information in many parts of the world, although in many countries the library service is yet to engage in these important areas
- IFLA/FAIFE's World Report Series is an extremely important instrument that helps the international library community move towards providing more equitable access to information for our users. The World Report 2005 helps measure our progress in tackling barriers to accessing information and identifies the outstanding issues that must be confronted if libraries are to play a full part in the information society.

New Members who joined during the WLIC

IFLA welcomes the following new members:

Institutional members

Public Enterprises Evaluation & Privatisation Agency (PEEPA), Botswana
 Panafrican Institute for Development, Burkina Faso
 University Library of Stavanger, Norway
 University of Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, United Republic of
 Dept. of Computer and Information Sciences, United Kingdom
 Southern Methodist University, United States
 The Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums, Virgin Islands, U.S.
 National Archives of Zimbabwe Library, Zimbabwe

Personal affiliates

Andrew Stephenson, Australia
 Robert Pestell, Australia
 Ahmed al Mukhaini, Oman
 Brian Michael Hall, United Kingdom
 Ms I.C. McIlwaine, United Kingdom
 Ms Nancy Bolt, United States
 Michael R. Leach, United States
 Ms Catherine Guarcello, United States
 Ms Ellie Valentine, United States

Student affiliates

Asif Shahzad, United Kingdom
 Abdul Rashid, United Kingdom
 Tatiana Nikolova-Houston, United States

A selection of photo's. More can be found at:
<http://strand.no/IFLA2005/ifla2005.htm>

