

20 February '98

Press Release

IFLA HEADQUARTERS WELCOMES A NEW COORDINATOR OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Mr Sjoerd M.J. Koopman as IFLA's new Coordinator of Professional Activities, commencing 1 April 1998.

Upon announcing the appointment of Mr Koopman to the Professional Board, Sissel Nilsen, Chair of IFLA's Professional Board stated: "I am delighted to be able to welcome Mr Koopman on behalf of IFLA's Professional Board, and am certain that his knowledge of the library world, overall experience, and international connections will add a new dimension to IFLA's professional programme."

Mr Koopman comes to IFLA from the PICA Library Automation Centre where he has been Head of Marketing since 1995. He originally joined PICA in 1991 as coordinator of the RAPDOC Electronic Delivery project, before his promotion to his present position. Undoubtedly, his extensive theoretical and empirical knowledge of the automation, marketing and managerial aspects of the IT sector will stand him in good stead to advise IFLA's Professional Board and Headquarters staff on new ways in which we can develop our professional programme to best meet the demands of our members.



SJOERD KOOPMAN

Throughout the 1980s Mr Koopman held a number of increasingly demanding positions within the Royal Library of the Netherlands. His skills as a manager, communicator and above all mediator were carefully honed during this 11-year period. Starting as Reference Librarian in Political Science (1979-1982) he graduated to Management Assistant (1982-1988) and was eventually promoted to the position of Assistant to the Director ad interim (1988-1989). From 1988-1991 he was Secretary of the Governing Board of the Royal Library and, ultimately, Head of Policy Development at the Royal Library from 1990 until he left to join PICA in 1991.

Mr Koopman embarked upon his challenging and varied career within the Dutch library and information sector in 1980, having received a number of distinguished academic awards. Following a degree course in Business Economics at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam he went on to read Political Science at the University of Amsterdam. In 1979 he successfully completed a 3-year course in Library and Information Science (OWB-B) and obtained an MA in Political Science in 1981 from the University of Amsterdam.

A frequent attendee of IFLA's annual international conferences and former member of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Section for Document Delivery and Interlending, Mr Koopman is already well-versed with the aims and activities of IFLA. He is also in the unique position of being able to view IFLA objectively from a member's point of view and we hope that he will now translate his "impressions" of IFLA into tangible recommendations so that we might further improve our services to our ever-growing worldwide membership.

Alongside his solid background in library automation, Mr Koopman also possesses excellent linguistic skills: an essential quality for the position of Coordinator of Professional Activities. He has published extensively in both Dutch and English, is proficient in French and German, and has also reached a high conversational level in Italian and Spanish. We therefore feel most fortunate to be able to count Mr Koopman as one of our newest staff members and are confident that he will make a valuable contribution to IFLA's international team. We certainly look forward to working more closely with him in the near future and it is our hope that he too will find his years with IFLA to be refreshing, informative and inspiring.