



Newsletter, June 2006

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Newsletter compiled by Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Secretary with thanks to all contributors

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

In a short while we will meet again at the IFLA annual conference in Seoul. We have planned an exciting program session on the theme of "National Libraries: dynamic partners for the knowledge society." The papers of our four distinguished speakers are already on the IFLA website (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm>) and some of them are accompanied by translations thanks to the work of our section members. In addition, the Section is cooperating with other IFLA sections in putting on joint programs; fuller details follow in this issue of the newsletter.

The agenda for the two meetings of the Section Standing Committee is included in this issue of the newsletter. I would like to point out two items for discussion which I consider to be very important for the work of the Section: the first is to build closer ties between the National Libraries section of IFLA and the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL); the second is the continuing discussion on benchmarking possibilities among our members. National libraries have specific characteristics that set them apart from other types of libraries, and through a comparison of similar activities and identification of best practices, all national libraries can benefit and improve their services. If you have any comments on these topics, either before or during the IFLA conference, I would be pleased to hear from you. Observers are very welcome to attend the Standing Committee meetings of the Section in Seoul.

I hope to see you in large numbers at the annual conference; have a safe trip.

Ingrid Parent, Chair/Treasurer

IFLA Seoul 2006

In line with IFLA recommendations, the Standing Committee has sent out a call for papers for Seoul with the programme theme: National Libraries: Dynamic Partners for the Knowledge Society, indicating the following:

„National libraries are evolving fast, opening up to change, making their collections available nationally and internationally to a wider population, seeking out partnerships with other institutions, including libraries, archives and museums, adopting and integrating new technologies. As the role of the national library evolves and its partnerships broaden there is a need for new approaches. The IFLA National Libraries Section invites colleagues to express their interest in making presentations at the section's programme in Seoul on one of the following topics:

- the role of the national library in the information economy
- new partnerships for national libraries and their impact
- new users, new technologies, and their impact on human resource requirements for national libraries”

10 papers were proposed and it was hard to choose given the excellent quality. After discussion, the Standing committee selected the following for the session (number 117 in the programme):

Tuesday 22 August 2006, 13.45-15.45

National libraries: dynamic partners for the knowledge society

Distribution of standard catalogues and improvement of nation's information competitiveness - LEE CHI JOO (National Library of Korea, Seoul, Korea)

New customers through new partnerships - experience in Scotland and elsewhere - MARTYN WADE (National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK)

The role of national libraries in the information economy - VIKTOR FEDOROV (Russian State Library, Moscow, Russian Federation)

Dynamic Transformation of the National Diet Library: From the Researcher's Library to the Library for All - KENJI UETSUKI (National Diet Library, Tokyo, Japan)

In addition, the Section will take part in the following sessions:

Monday 21 August 2006, 13.45-15.45

[91] Information Technology with Audiovisual and Multimedia and National Libraries (part 1) : New Access Technologies: Exploring the Heritage

Multilingual access to moving image collections - MARWA EL SAHN (Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt)

DAISY, a better way to read, a better way to publish: libraries using accessible multimedia to serve people with reading disabilities - HIROSHI KAWAMURA (National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities Research Institute, Tokorozawa, Japan)

Living memory: combining different access options for image databases - MARTIN LEUENBERGER (University of Applied Science (HTW), Chur, Switzerland)

Pushing the boundaries of traditional heritage policy: maintaining long-term access to multimedia content by introducing emulation and contextualization instead of accepting inevitable loss - GRÉGORIE MIURA (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France)

Monday 21 August 2006, 16.00-18.00

[97] Information Technology with Audiovisual and Multimedia and National Libraries (part 2) New Access Technologies: Tomorrow's Retrieval (ITS)

Global Memory Net - CHING-CHIH CHEN (Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston (MA), USA)

New innovative access to educational and cultural multimedia content - TAKASHI NAGATSUKA and YUKA EGUSA (Institute for Educational Policy Research, Japan)

Challenges in automated classification using library classification schemes -KWAN YI (University of Kentucky, Lexington, USA)

Towards constructing a Chinese information extraction system to support innovations in library services - ZHANG ZHIXIONG, LI SA, WU ZHENGXIN, LIN YING (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China)

Thursday 24 August 2006 08.30 - 10.30 and 10.45 - 12.45

[151] Information Technology with National Libraries with Academic and Research Libraries and Knowledge Management : Institutional Repositories: policies, implementation issues, an overview of the technologies

The repository movement: advancing from institutional portal to institutional commons to institutional enterprise - JAMES NEAL (Columbia University, New York, USA)

Institutional repositories and stewardship in an historical and ethical context - WALLACE KOEHLER (Valdosta State University, Valdosta (GA), USA)

Directories of international repositories: research results and recommendations - KATE OLIVER and ROBERT SWAIN (John Hopkins University, USA)

A national framework supporting local creation: New Zealand's institutional repository story - PENNY CARNABY (National Library of New Zealand, New Zealand)

Institutional repositories and open access - JEAN-CLAUDE GUEDON (Montreal University, Montreal, Canada)

Towards building a Federated Institutional Repository for Chinese scientists - ZHANG ZHIXIONG (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China)

Institutional repository collaboration - WARWICK CATHRO (National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia)

Institutional repositories: a review of content recruitment strategies - KATHLEEN SHEARER and TIMOTHY MARK (CURL, Canada)

The Section Standing Committee will meet twice with the following agendas:

Saturday 19 August 2006 from 08.30-11.20

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agendas for SC I and SC II
3. Approval of minutes from Oslo meetings
4. Officers' reports
Professional Committee
Financial report
Section Review
Strategic Plan
5. Information activities
Newsletter, list and leaflets
Representation at IFLA Booth
6. Review of programmes at Seoul
7. Discussion theme I: performance indicators for national libraries and ISO TC 46/SC 8 – Roswitha Poll
8. Discussion theme kick-off - CDNL – SC cooperation (paper distributed to SC members)
9. News from SC members and observers (please register beforehand with Genevieve)
10. Any other business

and

Friday 25 August 2006 from 14.00 - 16.50

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Review of agenda
3. Evaluation of Seoul General Conference and NL sessions
4. Programme of the 73rd General Conference and Council, Durban August 2007
5. Satellite meeting for 2007
6. Selection of papers to be published in IFLA journal
7. Discussion theme II: CDNL- SC cooperation follow-up – introduced and moderated by Ingrid Parent
8. The European Library update – Elisabeth Niggemann
9. Any other business

Observers are welcome: please come along to hear our plans and give suggestions for our future sessions.

Please check the programme at the IFLA Seoul website at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm> for details of the rooms, and any changes to dates and times of these sessions and help support our Section.

Update of Librarians' Association of Malaysia (PPM) report of mission to Aceh, 2-5 August 2005.

Introduction

The Library Association of Malaysia (PPM) Report of its Mission to Aceh, West Sumatera, Indonesia in August 2005 following the devastation caused by the tsunami of 24 December 2004 was submitted to the Malaysian Government, National Library of Malaysia, IFLA, CONSAL (Congress of South East Asian Librarians), Library Associations, Badan Perpustakaan Provinsi (Central Provincial Library) Aceh, Mercy Malaysia and Aceh Relief Fund (ARF) Cornell University, New York. The Report was also published in The Newsletter of the RSCAO (Regional Section for Asia Oceania) and also in *Alexandria: The Journal for National and International Library and Information Issues*.

2. Developments

There has been encouraging response to the recommendations made in the above Report and positive developments in PPM's efforts to assist in the rebuilding of library services in Aceh. Action taken so far are as follows:-

2.1 Special Fund Set up For Aceh Libraries

A special Fund named the *PPM Aceh Libraries Fund* has been set up to facilitate Fund-raising for redevelopment of Aceh libraries. A special account for this Fund has been opened at Malayan Banking Berhad, Malaysia's leading commercial bank. The fund was launched at the Annual General Meeting of the PPM in April 2006. Contributions to the fund was kicked off by a donation of RM30,000.00 from the Negeri Sembilan State Government in Malaysia. An on-the-spot collection at the PPM AGM on 24 April 2006 contributed a further RM1,100.00.

2.2 Appreciation for Acting Head of Central Provincial Library

The CONSAL (Congress of South East Asian Librarians) Executive Board unanimously agreed to award a certificate of appreciation to Ibu Yusnidar, the Acting Head of Badan Perpustakaan Provinsi (BPD) or the Central provincial Library, for her leadership and untiring efforts in clearing and cleaning the library in the months immediately following the tsunami, rescuing rare books from the rubble and keeping staff morale high despite the tragedy.

2.3 Training of Library Personnel

The Director and four other library personnel from Badan Perpustakaan Daerah (BPD), the central provincial library in Aceh, have been invited to attend and have confirmed their participation in the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) for 3 courses conducted by the National Library in 2006 as follows :-

(i) *Leadership Workshop for Directors of National Libraries* (26-29 June, 2006. (1 Participant)

(ii) *Library Visits and Attachments for library professionals*, August 2006 (2 participants).

(iii) *Basic Course for Library Assistants*, August 2006.

(2 participants)

All participants of the above programme are fully sponsored by the Malaysian government.

Ibu Yusnidar, the Head of Library Services will be invited to present a paper on library developments in Aceh post-tsunami at a seminar for participants of the *Library Visits and Attachment Programme* in August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur.

2.4 Book Donation

PPM Council has agreed that all contributions received for the fund would be utilized for providing assistance to Aceh libraries, especially books.

A book selection and purchasing team will attend the Jakarta Book Fair, 3 –9 July 2006 specially to select Indonesian language books for Aceh libraries and literacy projects.

A book donation presentation ceremony is scheduled for August 2006 in Negeri Sembilan.

2.5 Strategic Partnerships for Delivery of Assistance

PPM External Aid Committee has held meetings with the President and Vice-President, Aceh Relief Fund, Cornell University, New York, in February and March this year in Kuala Lumpur and Seremban, Negeri Sembilan regarding cooperation in delivering assistance to literacy projects in Aceh. It has been agreed that the Phi Beta Learning Centre in Banda Aceh, ground coordinator for Aceh Relief Fund, Cornell University would also act as coordinator for PPM in delivery of reading materials to literacy projects especially in the rural areas. The PPM will also be talking to Mercy Malaysia regarding cooperation in the provision of reading materials for housing projects developed by Mercy Malaysia in Banda Aceh.

2.6 Video of Aceh Mission

A video presentation of the PPM Aceh Mission will be produced. The PPM has hired a professional scriptwriter to view about 10 hours of footage of the Aceh Mission to prepare the script.

3. Appeal

Redevelopment of library services following a catastrophe as massive as the one caused by the December 2004 tsunami requires a long-term and continuing effort.

Libraries often have to concede to other more urgent development priorities such as housing, water and electricity supply and other basic amenities. Much needs to be done for libraries in Aceh. Help or contribution in whatever form is still very much needed especially for books, computers, furniture and equipment.

The PPM would like to appeal for contributions and support for its Aceh Libraries Fund so as to be able to provide concrete assistance in the redevelopment of libraries in Aceh. Contributions can be made in the form of Banker's Cheques made out to PPM ACEH LIBRARIES FUND and sent to the address below :-

PPM ACEH LIBRARIES FUND
Account No.MBB514299129835
C/O Library Association of Malaysia (PPM)
P.O.Box 12545,
50782 KUALA LUMPUR,
Malaysia.

All contributions are greatly appreciated.
DATO' ZAWIYAH BABA
Immediate Past President/
Chairman, External Aid Committee
Library Association of Malaysia (PPM)

The Hon.Dato' Seri Utama Mohamad Bin Hj.Hassan, Chief Minister of the State Negeri Sembilan receiving a set of books from Dato' Zawiyah Baba, Head of the Librarians' Association (PPM) Mission to Aceh following the presentation of RM30, 000.00 cheque by the Chief Minister for the PPM Aceh Libraries Fund. (Higher resolution photos may be requested from the NL Secretary)



News from some Section members

Aruba

From May 28 - June 2 the annual ACURIL conference took place in Aruba. More information about the conference may be seen at <http://acuril.rrp.upr.edu/index.htm>

Canada

Toward a Digital Information Strategy for Canada

There is broad consensus across Canada concerning the need to ensure that Canada's digital assets are created, protected, preserved and made accessible both now and into the future. For example, a recent survey found that nearly all Canadians (96%) feel that it is important that Library and Archives Canada (LAC) stay current with the latest technology so that it can safely preserve Canada's documentary history in digital formats, and 93% feel it is important that LAC make as much of our collection and services as possible available over the Web.¹

Library and Archives Canada has assumed a leadership role in developing a national strategy to manage digital information, in collaboration with industry, government, heritage institutions, universities and research organizations, and the pan-Canadian network of libraries and archives. We recently completed a series of four thematic meetings across the country as part of this collaborative development process, and an invitational national summit will be held in late Fall, culminating in a strategy.

¹ The LAC-sponsored questions were on the *Ipsos-Reid Canadian Omnibus Express*, a survey of a nationally representative cross-section of Canadian adults, providing an overall margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points and statistically reliable results in each major region of the country. The survey was conducted from May 31 to June 2, 2005.

The meetings highlighted the need for a holistic approach in order to strengthen Canada's capacity to create, manage, and use digital information, and thereby ensure our competitive position within the emerging global knowledge economy. Participants talked about how to increase the digitization of Canadian materials to a truly national scale, so that those seeking information online can draw upon our nation's past intellectual output. They discussed how to ensure that both commercial and non-commercial digital information become as widely available, as flexible for various current and future uses, and as enduring as possible. And they discussed the need to build a robust, distributed network of digital information repositories, each capable of preserving access to their content over time.

These meetings were just a first step in exploring a complex set of new opportunities and challenges—opportunities to be embraced quickly, and challenges to address strategically. We have learned that there is a clear need to engage both the public and private sectors in order to influence practices throughout the digital information lifecycle. And we have seen that there is a great deal of interest in discussing the issues and responding strategically as a country, and that there is a sense of real opportunity for this country to achieve an unprecedented level of flow and access to Canadian information.

More information about the themes and outcomes of the meetings can be found on the LAC website at: www.collectionscanada.ca/cdis.

Lithuania

Cultural heritage in the virtual environment

In early 2005 support from the EU Structural Funds for the implementation of the project of Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania titled "Creation of Integrated Virtual Library Information System" was received in accordance with the 3rd Measure of the Single Programming Document. The project implementation was initiated on 1 September 2005 in association with project partners the Lithuanian Art Museum and the Lithuanian Archives Department. During the project the data bank of digitised cultural heritage objects of libraries, archives and museums will be created containing over 3,605,000 digitised pages of original manuscripts, newspapers, old books, metrics, chronicles and other especially valuable and historically important documents.

The list of objects selected for digitisation includes the old Lithuanian book [1547-1863]; the press of the Press Ban period [1864-1904]; Lithuanian books in Latin of the XVIth and XVIIth c.; Lithuanian books in Polish of the XVIIth and XVIIIth c.; Lithuanian press released until 1940s; legislative acts and other formal documents of the Republic of Lithuania of the Inter-war period [1918-1940]. Apart from the above mentioned documents the manuscripts and archival documents reflecting the identity of Lithuanian social layers and communities, i.e. parchments, documents from Synod Collection of Lithuanian Evangelical Lutherans [1413-1438], the collection of historical acts of the Lithuania Minor, etc., will be digitised as well. The total number of pages to be digitised by the National Library of Lithuania will amount to 3.327.654.

During the implementation of the project the Lithuanian Archives Department is going to digitise the church registers of births, deaths and marriages of the Roman Catholic Church [1599-1930]. The total number of pages to be digitised by archives will amount to 180.000.

The Lithuanian Art Museum will digitise works of graphics, watercolours and folk graphics, photo negatives, positives, and slides displaying the exhibits of historical and artistic photography. A number of maps, paintings, drawings, objects of bionistics and sfragistics, textile items and pictorial works will be digitised as well. The total number of pages and objects to be digitised by museums will amount to 98.000.

Virtual services will be available for Lithuanian and foreign users free-of-charge; there will be no necessity to go to museums, archives and libraries in order to get acquainted with some very valuable documents because they will be accessible via the virtual library. It is especially relevant to the disabled since having access to the virtual library information

system will allow them to learn, to get any data not only from libraries, but from museums and archives as well, and to perform professional training courses without leaving home. The prospective system will be created on the basis of the infrastructure of Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS), which combines over 70 Lithuanian research and public libraries.

The virtual library will contribute to the improvement of the image of Lithuania abroad because it will be oriented towards distribution of Lithuanian cultural heritage both in Lithuania and foreign countries.

Below left: Unknown folk painter of the middle of the XIXth C. St. John Nepomucen. 1850. Lithuanian Art Museum

Below right: The Registry of Births and Marriages of the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1669-1678



Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

Gedimino ave. 51, 01504 Vilnius; Regina Varnienė, Head of the Project Phone +370 5 239 8646, fax. +370 5 249 6055 ; E-mail: r.varniene@lnb.lt; www.lnb.lt

Quebec

At the end of January 2006, the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, after merging with the Archives nationales du Québec, became Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. At the same time, BAnQ, with the collaboration of the Cinémathèque québécoise, implemented the legal deposit of film and television productions, enabling it to offer the full range of Québec documentary production. The dissemination building, called the Grande Bibliothèque, has welcomed nearly three million visitors in one year. BAnQ is pursuing an ambitious digitization program, in collaboration with the document communities, particularly the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the libraries of the international French-speaking community. It intends to digitize, in compliance with copyright requirements, the entire documentary heritage published in Québec.

À la fin de janvier 2006, la Bibliothèque nationale du Québec est devenue Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, après sa fusion avec les Archives nationales du Québec. En même temps, BAnQ a mis en œuvre le dépôt légal des documents cinématographiques et télévisuels, avec la collaboration de la Cinémathèque québécoise, offrant désormais un éventail complet de la production documentaire québécoise. Son édifice de diffusion, appelé Grande Bibliothèque, a accueilli près de trois millions d'utilisateurs en un an. BAnQ poursuit un ambitieux programme de numérisation, en concertation avec les milieux documentaires, et plus particulièrement avec la Bibliothèque nationale de France et les bibliothèques de la francophonie. Elle compte numériser, dans le respect des droits d'auteur, l'ensemble du patrimoine documentaire publié au Québec.

Christianne Gendron ; Secrétaire principale ; Bureau de la présidente-directrice générale ; Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec ; 475, boulevard De Maisonneuve Est ; Montréal (Québec) H2L 5C4
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Russia

Unique Archives of The Russian Émigré Newspaper *Russkaya Mysl* come to Moscow from Paris

On March 27 – April 18, 2006, the Russian State Library held an exhibition of the archives of *Russkaya mysl*, a Russian émigré newspaper. The unique exhibits comprising the archives of the newspaper were gifted to the library by the editorial board of *Russkaya mysl*. For the first time these materials reflecting a 60-year period in the history of Russia and Russians abroad traveled from Paris to Moscow and were opened for viewing by the general public.

Russkaya mysl is the oldest Russian-language periodical in Europe. The newspaper has been published weekly in Paris since 1947, and its circulation now exceeds 50,000 copies. It also has about 6,000 subscribers, including some of the largest universities in the United States, France, Germany and Japan.

“It has always been the mission of *Russkaya mysl* to provide objective, unbiased information to Europe’s Russian-speaking community about what is really happening in Russia”, said Victor Lyupan, head of the editorial board of *Russkaya mysl*.

The editorial board of *Russkaya mysl* decided to transfer its unique archives to the Department for Russians Abroad, Russian State Library, where it will be permanently based. In the words of Victor V. Fedorov, “this is really a priceless gift not only to the nation’s main library but to the whole of Russia”.

The exhibition of the *Russkaya mysl* archives was held with the support of the Department for Mass Communications, Culture and Education of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation. The general sponsor was RAO “Unified Energy Systems of Russia” which traditionally pays much attention to charity work in the field of education, science and culture.

Some background on “*Russkaya Mysl*”

The weekly *Russkaya mysl* is at the same time a Russian, French and Pan-European newspaper. It has chronicled the life of the Russian emigration for over six decades. The Paris-based newspaper was first published in 1947 but it had a forerunner in the journal *Russkaya mysl* founded in 1880 by Vukola Lavrov (1852-1912), a renowned publicist and publisher. The journal described itself as a “scientific, literature and political journal” and over time became a publication in opposition to the then government.

Soon after the Russian revolution of 1905 *Russkaya mysl* was headed by Peter Struve, a renowned politician, right-of-center constitutional democrat, historian and economist, who was editor-in-chief of the journal for over 10 years. In 1918 the journal was closed. However, in 1921 Peter Struve re-launched the journal first in Sofia, Bulgaria, then in Prague (till 1924) and in 1927, in Paris. Nevertheless, publication of *Russkaya mysl* soon ceased.

The second birth of *Russkaya mysl* – this time as a weekly – dates back to 1947 and owes much to Vladimir Lazarevsky, the first editor-in-chief of the now famous *Russkaya mysl*.

International Conference "Rumyantsev Readings 2006" on the theme "Libraries, Museums and Archives Creating Information and Intellectual Space", Moscow, State Tretyakov Gallery and Russian State Library, April 11-13, 2006.

The Tretyakov Gallery is celebrating its 150-th anniversary this May, being the leading country museum on Russian arts and paintings

350 specialists from 25 regions of Russia and other countries participated in this event. The IFLA Coordinator on Professional Activities Sjeord Koopman was one of key speakers at the Conference.

General directors of the major archives and museums took part in the Plenary session, among them are State Archive of the Russian Federation, State Museum of Lev Tolstoy, State Historical Museum of Russia and of course the 2 National Libraries of Russia.

In addition to the plenary session, several Sections were held as well, including Research work on opening collections, historical and historiographical research, problems of creating and maintaining electronic libraries, researches as factors of innovation development of sociocultural institutions, and finally, the Interregional Committee on Cataloguing Plenum.

In memoriam of the founder of the Russian State Library Counter and Chancellor N.P.Rumyantsev, a new Reading room was opened in his former mansion outside Moscow (village Pavlino).

All the participants highly appreciated the conference which enabled libraries, museums and archives to discuss their common problems in a philosophical and cultural context.

IFLA Russian Committee [roscomifla@rsl.ru]

Singapore

The National Library of Singapore – Highlights of Developments Creating New Learning Experiences with Exhibitions at the National Library

The National Library held its first ever large-scale exhibition – the Zheng He & Maritime Asia exhibition, lasting over a period of five months from August 13 2005 to 12 February 2006.

The exhibition was organized to celebrate the opening of the new National Library at 100 Victoria Street and to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the famous voyages of Admiral Zheng He. It is the first of its kind large-scale exhibition undertaken by NLB to create new learning experiences for library visitors to the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library (LKCR). Through such exhibitions, NLB hopes to promote the LKCR as a place for reference services and research.



Occupying an area of about 700-sq metres, the Zheng He & Maritime Asia Exhibition besides creating awareness of the early history of Singapore and the region, also aimed to highlight and preserve Singapore's maritime heritage. The exhibition featured the various ports-of-call and highlighted cultural, social and political influences, which have, to some extent, contributed to Singapore's multi-cultural identity and entrepot status.

The Zheng He & Maritime Asia exhibition was a collaborative effort of the NLB and some 22 partners and sponsors, as well as a number of experts in the field. Supported by in-depth research, the exhibits included ancient publications, maps, photographs, videos, artifacts, replicas and literature, which were accompanied by detailed descriptions. Amongst the exhibits was a replica of a six-mast treasure ship based on recent research championed by the 'Friends of Admiral Zheng He'. In addition, the exhibits featured a total of 102 artifacts on loan from individuals and corporations, both local and overseas. They included 11 pieces of Tang Treasures salvaged from the Belitung Wreck from Sentosa Leisure Group.



To engage visitors in active participation, some interactive elements were included – touch screens to show the seven voyages via the ports of call and “treasures” traded. Visitors could browse or play the game. There was also a video of the treasure ship animated to sail pass the “Longyamen” or “Dragon’s Teeth Gate at Singapore’s Keppel waters. A reading area was also created to house the 300-title Zheng He and maritime-related collection used to support the research of this exhibition.



A virtual exhibition was created in NLB’s digital library to reach out to a wider international audience. At the same time a commemorative book in English and Chinese was also published to document the research contents for posterity. It is a comprehensive catalogue of key artifacts and images from the exhibition.

To promote the exhibition to schools, all secondary schools were invited to the weekly scheduled guided tours. We were very encouraged by the turnout of schools and feedback from the visitors. The total number of visitors from 13 August 2005 to 12 February 2006 is 138,880, including 47 school and organization groups.

In addition, a series of seminars and workshops relating to the “Zheng He phenomenon” to encourage discourse and discussions attracted a total of 754 attendees.

The success of the exhibition was due to the strong support and contribution of our partners, sponsors and our panel of experts in various aspects of Chinese Ming and maritime interactions.

The exhibition provided a new avenue drawing in visitors, both young and old. With the help of new technologies, the exhibition created new learning experiences for its various communities, giving library users some rather fruitful and memorable experiences. The new library building at 100 Victoria Street, Singapore, with its abundance of space means that large scale community learning spaces can be created to host either permanent or thematic exhibitions that can result in many hours of fun, entertainment and enriching learning experiences for those who cross its portals.

In the days ahead, NLB has in the pipeline two other large scale exhibitions to showcase the “Evolution of the Malay Manuscripts (EMAS) and the “Early Indian Influences in South East Asia”, respectively.

Taiwan

The National Central Library (NCL) and the Library Association of the Republic of China (LAC) is pleased to announce that one of the colleagues from the NCL will present in Seoul “Development of Chinese MARC format: its application and data exchange”.

Shiow-Man Liao

Bureau of International Exchange of Publications

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Libraries the Information Society in action / the World Summit on the Information Society

Last November the WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) process reached one of its important stages, when the second Summit was held in Tunis. As you remember, IFLA and libraries were successful in getting the importance of libraries included in the WSIS documents (see e.g. <http://www.ifla.org/III/wsis/WSIS-report27-01-2006.html> available also in French).

However, that was not the end of story! The WSIS work continues internationally, but also and especially on a national level.

Internationally, the most important elements for libraries are the eleven Action Lines. Regular meetings of the WSIS stakeholders (governments, Civil Society and the Business Society) are organised on each Action Line to put the WSIS results in practice. The first follow-on meetings were held in May, and the next round will be in autumn. (<http://www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/index.html>)

An IFLA post-WSIS workshop was held in Geneva on 1-2 June to plan how IFLA can help its members benefit from the WSIS results also in their countries. The participants agreed that "the aim of the IFLA post-WSIS work is to position libraries in the centre of the Information Society, this position to be given concrete effect in national and international IS policies, strategies and budgets."

To fulfill this ambitious target, the workshop agreed on the following actions:

- to set up the 'IFLA WSIS Contact Group' around the most high priority Action Lines, which from IFLA's point of view are:

C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

C3. Access to information and knowledge

C4. Capacity building.

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

One or more coordinators were named for each group. The coordinator(s) will contact the relevant IFLA groups for their Action lines. A regular representation of IFLA in the meetings of these four Action Lines will also be organised, primarily with the help of Swiss colleagues.

- to produce an IFLA document, combining arguments from the WSIS Action Line description texts and library targets, to be used to support library advocacy at a national level

- to hold WSIS sessions in the Seoul and Durban WLICs; in Seoul, this will be included in the President-Elect session "Libraries on the Agenda" on Thursday 22 August

- to strengthen efforts to get more cases into the Success Stories database (<http://fmp-web.unil.ch/IFLA/>), especially cases from developing countries are needed; a poster session on the Success Stories database will also be held in Seoul (poster session 80).

- to create a model for argumentation on the country level by collecting and analyzing the WSIS files country per country; this will be started with the French speaking countries, supported by Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

- to raise awareness about the WSIS themes and their potential in library advocacy by encouraging IFLA members to include WSIS presentations in their various conference programs and/or to organize WSIS-related workshops, meetings etc.

In its post-WSIS work, IFLA seeks active co-operation with UNESCO.

Tuula Haavisto has been contracted to act some hours per week as the general coordinator of the IFLA post-WSIS work. The contact information is below.

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