IFLA National Libraries Section

Newsletter, November 2006

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

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

This issue of the Newsletter contains information about our very successful meetings in Seoul as well as some preliminary information about our plans for program sessions in Durban in August 2007. Also, as background for next year's annual conference, there is a summary report from Al Kagan of a workshop on the politics of digital initiatives concerning Africa. In our library news section we can learn about digital initiatives in the Philippines; from Russia, there is an article about a collection and translation of legal materials concerning national libraries around the world; and from Singapore, a report on publishing and legal deposit seminars and web archiving processes and policies.

I would also like to remind members of the Section that 2007 is an election year. Those Standing Committee members who have served one term of four years are eligible for re-election for a second term of four years, but they must re-apply. New members are also welcome to apply!

My thanks to all who contributed to the Newsletter; your news is always welcome. Please share your innovations and activities with us.

Ingrid Parent, Chair/Treasurer

IFLA Seoul 2006

The Section Standing Committee met twice during Seoul, and in addition to its usual business, discussed the following points: performance indicators in national libraries and co-operation between the Standing Committee and CDNL. The full minutes are available on IFLANET at: http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/annual/s1-SCminutes2006-1.pdf and http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/annual/s1-SCminutes2006-2.pdf .

Performance indicators

Dr. Roswitha Poll Former chief librarian of Münster Regional and University Library, Germany Chair of ISO TC 46, SC 8: Information and documentation – Quality - statistics and performance evaluation Officer of IFLA Section 22: Statistics and evaluation presented performance indicators and national libraries.

Ms. Poll informed the group that voting is being carried out on a proposal to set up a working group within ISO TC46/SC8 to discuss performance indicators for national libraries. Initial responses are very encouraging. A draft has already been written with some ideas, looking for example at information in national libraries' annual reports, and is attached to the minutes. The working group should start discussion based on the draft by the end of 2006 with the goal to provide a technical report (not a standard) including methods and indicators for National Libraries. Experts are needed from each country; most work will be done by email. SC members and observers were very supportive of this proposal and a lively discussion followed with many ideas about the types of indicators that could be included to cover the special needs of national libraries. Suggestions for indicators relating to digital collections, remote access and usage were particularly requested. The problem of ephemera and how to measure its collection was discussed. The digitization of the national heritage was also considered a useful indicator. The list of possible indicators, taken from the new draft of the standard ISO 11620 and from practical examples tested by national or regional libraries is available at: http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/pub/s1-PerformanceIndicators2006.pdf

Co-operation with CDNL

The group discussed potential areas of overlap and co-operation with CDNL, based on a paper drawn up by Jasmine Cameron. It was agreed that both groups have their own role and should continue and explore areas in which they could work together. The Chair proposed to report to the CDNL that the groups are exploring areas of cooperation and that the officers of each group would work together to define these, arranging to meet in Durban 2007.

During the discussion the problem of managing a full list of national libraries was raised: the CDNL has some names, IFLA others, CENL, CDNL-LAO and Abinia others but there is no complete list. The Chair proposed that the creation of such a list could be a useful project to submit to IFLA and that she and the Secretary study the feasibility of this with a view to submitting a proposal in Autumn 2006.

Seoul evaluation

There was strong praise for the conference organisation and hospitality. Members also noted the following positive aspects of the conference: good attendance from the Asian region at the conference shows that IFLA's policy of holding the conference in different regions is successful; the exhibition hall was centrally located and therefore well patronised; collaborative two-hour sessions are successful in creating diverse and interesting programs. Approximately 160 people attended the National Libraries' session and 13 evaluation forms had been completed. Positive comments were received about the focus on non-European libraries but comments were also made about the lack of a coherent theme and the fact that speakers concentrated largely on what was happening in their own libraries. Suggestions for future sessions included human resources, digital preservation and the economic benefits of libraries. It was suggested commented that guidelines should be provided to future speakers to encourage them to keep to the selected theme.

The Standing Committee and Observers, Meeting 1, Seoul

Plans for IFLA Durban 2007

The Section will hold a two-hour session in Durban on the theme: The future of national libraries: convergence and partnerships. There will be a mixture of invited papers and some selected from a call for papers to be sent out in Autumn/Winter 2006. The Section is also investigating some extra sessions in co-operation with other sections: more details in the next newsletter. In addition, there are plans for a 'best practices' workshop.

Promoting national libraries

The editor of Alexandria has asked for proposals for articles from national libraries: please contact Ian McGowan. [mailto:i.mcgowan@btinternet.com]

Elections in 2007

2007 is an election year: Standing Committee members having served one term are eligible for re-election but must re-apply. New members are welcome. Please look at the guidelines for serving on a Standing Committee at http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/serve.htm which underline in particular the need to be reasonably sure to be able to attend the annual meeting and to contribute to discussions.
The deadline for nominations is February 7th 2007.

News from some Section members

Philippines

Your access to the most comprehensive libraries in the Philippines and the world…

www.elib.gov.ph

The Philippine eLibrary Project is one of the first eleven egovernment funded projects. Formally launched on April 19, 2005, the Philippine eLib is now operational. The Project has more than one

hundred access points/kiosks from selected The National Library of the Philippines (TNL) Public Libraries, Commission on Higher Education-Zonal Research Centers (CHED-ZRC's), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Research Institutes, University of the Philippines (UP) Campuses and Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Offices nationwide. Organizational structure includes a Steering Committee which is composed of executives from each agencies that sets the policies and decisions for the Project.

The National Library of the Philippines houses the Data Center and is also the Project Management Office (PMO) with the Director as the Project Manager. The Philippine eLib is the country's first public electronic library. It has the most exclusive and up-to-date information about the Philippines and other related resources. Philippine eLib at present holds a collection of more than 800,000 bibliographic records, 25 million pages of digitized Philippine materials such as rare books, serials, government publication, maps, photos and online databases of 29,000 full-text journals.

Users can log on at www.elib.gov.ph and search for materials or sign up as a member and gain access to more resources. The Philippine eLib as a national information resource-sharing consortium is the most ambitious project because it pools together the writings and distinctive materials of the participating agencies and their sub-agencies for nationwide use. One of the aims of the consortium is to share this national heritage materials locally and globally.

As the first public electronic library in the country, Philippine eLib is seen to represent the evolving culture and modernity of the Philippines. The Project offers: *foreign databases, *local databases of partners, *Filipiniana theses and dissertations, books, periodicals/magazines, documents * bibliographic and full text records * online public access catalog (OPAC), * union catalog of partners, *selective dissemination of information, * reproduction of services (print, microfilm, CD).

The Project provides access to information to citizens for life-long learning, enrich local content in digital format, provide library and information services network to academic and government institutions for optimum use of resources, promote and accelerate the exchange of knowledge resources among various sectors of society, including regional and international users and establish a mechanism of income generation and other means to sustain the eLibrary.

Contributor: Prudenziana C. Cruz, Director, National Library Of The Philippines

Russia

Russian State Library, Moscow
"Legislation on National Libraries in Foreign Countries (Collection of reference and abstracting materials)"
Законодательство о национальных библиотеках зарубежных стран (Сборник справочных и реферативных материалов)
Moscow, Paskov House, 2006
From the compilers

A clear-cut legal regulation of the library activities is one of the essential conditions of the successful operation of the libraries. Due to the broad spreading of new information technologies in the recent decades the necessity of a profound renewal of the library legislation becomes apparent. Many countries are presently engaged in revising the valid normative legal acts with regard to the libraries and preparing new ones.

It is all the more necessary in the light of the trends towards the approximation of the library legislation in various countries owing to the globalisation process in culture and information sphere.

In the 1980's the Russian State Library set off to gather texts of the laws and bylaws on the national libraries of the world for the purpose to meet information needs on the foreign library legislation among the Russian librarians. The project was done within the framework of the IFLA Section of national libraries. Printed and copied texts of different normative legal acts in the field of the librarianship were gathered and translated into Russian. After some intermission the Russian State Library took up again the accumulation of this information massif but this time on a broader scale on the electronic technologies basis.

It embraces laws and bylaws of different countries abroad wholly dedicated to the libraries, excerpts from laws of a wider scope as well as laws governing general cultural issues and adjacent fields (copyright, publishing, informatics and archives) whose activities affect the libraries.

Anxious to make the access to the content of foreign legislative acts easier for the library researchers, librarians - practitioners and other interested users the Russian State Library has compiled a collection of reference materials regarding the legislation on the national libraries abroad. The choice of themes for the collection has been picked out on the basis of leading national libraries role within national library systems.

Separate publications in the periodicals of the Russian State Library and independent collections of full texts of translations of foreign legislative acts with regard to the libraries were issued before the given collection.
The collection contains approximately 80 valid (as of July 13, 2005) laws and bylaws from 19 countries: Australia, Belgium, Austria, UK, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, France, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden, the South African Republic, Japan.

As the copyright holders' consent is necessary for publication of the texts' translation into Russian, the decision has been taken to present the content of the legislative acts in this collection in abstracts form.

In translating laws from different languages we meet certain terminological difficulties due to differences in their historical development. For instance, the notion of the "document" anchored in many Russian legal acts is expressed by the words "publication" and "printed materials" in other countries. For that reason the compilers, out of deference to the national traditions in other countries, are not out to unify similar variants of the terms.

The material is arranged in the alphabetical order of the countries. Under each country a brief analytical reference on the history of the corresponding national library and on its mission is given in the first place, followed by data on the normative legal acts to wit its appellation in the original language and a Russian translation, presence of subsequent wordings, alterations and additions, connections with other acts; with the content of the legal acts being conveyed in short. The main content of the key sections of the legal acts is given with the number of the section and of the paragraph indicated at the end in brackets. Thereupon the data on the source of receipt of the original text as well as their sites are presented.

The publication "Legislation on National Libraries in Foreign Countries" has been prepared under the priority research undertaking of the Russian State Library "Library legislation of the countries of the world" with the Director General of the Russian State Library V. V. Fedorov being its research leader.

Please note that one of the compilers Irina Bagrova, Doctor of law, is known in IFLA: she acted in 1970-1980's as the Secretary of the Section on bibliography, the member of its Standing Committee and the member of IFLA Professional Board. She is as well the author of monography **"National libraries and problems of library development abroad at the end of the 20th – beginning of the 21st century. Reviews, abstracts and translations of English-speaking countries literature" – Moscow, "Pashkov house", 2004**.

The collection was published in order to acquaint Russian libraries with ideas, problems and achievements of the world library and information science community.

It presents concentrated information on tendencies and ways of development of the main library activity spheres in foreign countries.
The collection consists of the following parts: national libraries: achievements and problems; collections; national bibliography; services; research; legal basis of library activities; library management and fundraising; library building and reconstruction; index of national and international library institutions and organizations.

Russian Literary Heritage On-Line
A project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and managed by the British Council, Moscow.
Start date: April 2006 End date: March 2007
Russian Literary Heritage on-line is the first attempt in the Russian Federation of a partnership between a library and a literary estate. The project **overall goal was to develop and implement an**

on-line joint catalogue, which offers integrated access to the bibliographic catalogues of the Personal Library of Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy and of other related collections, held by the Leo Tolstoy Literary Estate, in Yasnaya Polyana, as well as to all related the bibliographic records and a selection of digital resources in the Russian State Library.

The Leo Tolstoy Literary Estate, called "Yasnaya Polyana" is located in a state memorial and natural preserve in the Tula Region, 200 kilometres south of Moscow. Founded in 1921, the museum has conserved almost intact its appearance of a country estate of the 18-20th century.

The **Personal Library of Tolstoy** includes the books collected by the author during his life, still displayed in the original bookshelves in the house-museum. With its **22,000 volumes** covering the period from the XVII to the XX century, the Personal Library of Tolstoy is one of the largest libraries of its kind in the world. Besides the fact that the collection includes many **rare editions with autographs,** its unique value comes from the presence of **hand written notes** made by Tolstoy in many of the books in preparation of his works as well as of dedications by famous contemporary writers on books, which they donated to the author.

The Russian State Library holds **an outstanding collection of Leo Tolstoy's works** published in Russian and foreign languages as well as a wide range of publications, **theses, newspapers' articles** and critical studies related to the author's works, in addition to **photo albums, maps** etc.

All the above mentioned resources will be available via the project portal in April 2007.

Project Activities
The project includes the following main components:
- **Preparatory work.** Analysis of existing catalogues in print and electronic format and digital materials for provision of access via the joint gateway; development of technical specifications
- **Retroconversion and procurement of equipment.** Conversion in electronic format of the card bibliographic records of the two partner institutions.
- **Development of a joint web portal and the Literary Estate's LAN infrastructure.** Creation of a joint web gateway to the integrated resources of the Russian State Library and the Leo Tolstoy Literary Estate.
- **Training and dissemination.** Organisation of a workshop on retroconversion, creation of electronic resources, portal development and management; dissemination of project's results.
- **Digitisation of a selection of key works by and about Leo Tolstoy** (funded by the Russian State Library).

Singapore

Publishing and Legal Deposit Seminars

The National Library Board is putting in place several proactive programmes aimed at creating awareness and educating local printers and publishers, especially some of the smaller ones on the law governing Legal Deposit and its implications for them and for preservation of our literary heritage. In so doing, NLB aims to enlist their voluntary support to comply with the statutory requirements of the Legal Deposit under the National Library Board (NLB) Act 1995 and thus to ensure that a comprehensive collection of Singapore's published heritage is acquired and made accessible to future generations of Singaporeans.

One of these is a series of quarterly seminars, entitled "Publishing and Legal Deposit", which targets different groups of Singapore publishers. The first seminar was launched on 3 April 2006, to share on the importance of legal deposit, as well as to provide information on the ISBN and ISSN. Its aim is to inform and engage the publishing community. At the same time it also provides a platform for disseminating information on NLB's plans in meeting the challenges of collecting new formats, viz electronic resources.

Two other seminars were held on 7 July 06 (in Chinese) and 14 September 06 respectively. The three seminars have attracted a total attendance of 200 publishers. The last of this quarterly series is scheduled to be held on 3 November 2006 and will target government agencies.

Feedback from participants has been positive. Publishers said that they were grateful for the opportunities to interact with NLB and to learn about their own obligations and roles in the building up of Singapore's literary heritage.

A Roundtable Discussion with producers of moving images held on 7 June 2006 to explain the importance of including this format in the Legal Deposit collection of published cultural and intellectual heritage for the use of present and future generations was also very well received.

Web Archive Singapore   The .Sg Time Capsule -

"There is nothing that solidifies and strengthens a nation like reading the nation's history, whether that history is recorded in books or embodied in customs, institutions and monuments."

Joseph Anderson (1836-1916)

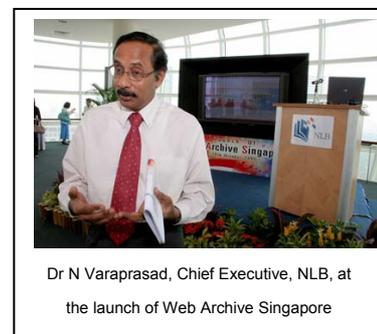*American Congregational clergyman and author*

Website of the Web Archive Singapore

The National Library Board (NLB), Singapore officially launched Phase 1 of its Web Archive Singapore on October 18, 2006. The aim is to archive "*.sg websites*" of national and historical significance. This is the National Library's initiative to record and keep alive the nation's web heritage and its many cyber-memories for posterity.

The National Library embarked on the project of archiving Singapore websites in 2005. The goal was to create an initial archive of 1,000 websites reflecting various aspects of Singapore life and heritage, in order to achieve a sense of community, national identity and rootedness among Singaporeans. This is achieved through the archiving of information that shapes the national identity.

The Web Archive Singapore has exceeded its original target and currently holds some 1,200 Singapore-related websites that showcase various social and historical facets of Singapore life. Coverage ranges from the official to the academic to the quirky; from government administration and education, to popular topics like arts and recreation, carefully selected to be part of the nation's documentary heritage.

The web is increasingly used as a tool of social communication and interaction. Over time it forms a record of events that capture the milieu of a nation, and tracks the evolution and development of our national identity. Archiving these records will provide an invaluable source of documented heritage for Singapore's present and future generations. This understanding of our past will impact our future. It will create a sense of community and belonging, communal feelings commonly fostered by a good and strong archive.

Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive, NLB, at
the launch of Web Archive Singapore

Identification and Selection
Phase 1 started out as a trial and test-bed. We identified and selected 1,000 sites for archiving covering the websites of the following institutions:
- Government and government related agencies
- Schools
- Registered societies, including sports and arts groups, and clan associations

- Trade unions
- Cooperatives
- Mutual Benefit Societies
- Voluntary and Welfare organisations

Criteria for Selection

The following criteria were used in selection:

a. *Content of websites are authoritative and has research values*
   These are sites that document and give first hand account of the organisation's functions, programmes and activities. Examples include: Government agency or society sites.

b. *Content has national and historical significance* These websites or webpages record events of national significance. Examples include: Four Million Smiles and General Election 2006.

c. *Content has social and cultural significance*
   These are the websites that provide insights into the social and cultural life of Singapore. Examples of such sites include those covering the arts and heritage festivals, societies and associations.

Web Archiving Process

It is very important that we adhere to standards used by the others in the community to ensure long-term accessibility and interoperability. NLB decided to use tools recommended by the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC). This would allow us to leverage on their research and development outputs.

Web archiving comprises 3 basic processes:

- Harvesting - to harvest a copy of the website directly from the Internet for archiving
- Indexing – to make the contents searchable
- Viewing – to present and display the archived materials

The Internet has become a new playground for a new generation of authors and publishers to unleash their creativity. Web technologies are constantly changing and evolving. So also has the web archiving technology. NLB will be closely monitoring the development of the web archiving community around the world, especially that of the IIPC, in order to keep abreast with the latest development in this field.

Future Plans

In Phase 1 of the web archiving project, we have succeeded in archiving some 1,200 publicly available sites/pages. This however, represents only a small percentage of what is available in the Singapore Websphere. In the next phase of our development, the NLB will be looking at "whole domain archiving", and at the same time, we will also be identifying overseas sites of relevance to Singapore for archiving.

Web Archive Singapore is accessible from the NLB website at:

http://www.nlb.gov.sg/CPMS.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=CPMS_page_eResources_eArchive

Workshop on the politics of digital initiatives concerning Africa

Although the National Libraries' Section was not involved in the workshop described below, we are pleased to include a summary in the Newsletter at the request of the organizer Al Kagan since the issues arising are pertinent for many of us. For more information about the workshop and the considerations that gave rise to the decisions below, please contact

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Technology, funding, selection, free accessibility, partnership models, power/political relationships, priority setting, who decides, who benefits, who carries out the work, how used, how organized, what

is included—these issues and many related topics were recurring themes during discussions over the two days of the workshop.

The workshop participants made the following decisions:

1. To write a summary report for distribution in journals such as *CODESRIA Bulletin, African Research and Documentation, Africana Librarians Newsletter, College and Research Libraries Newsletter, IFLA Regional Section on Africa Newsletter,* and the IFLA National Libraries Section newsletter. To distribute the report to African publishers, the Association of Research Libraries Global Resources Project, and other areas studies organizations.

2. To establish a listserv for continued discussion of these issues.

3. To ask the ASA Board of Directors to include digital projects in an expanded revision of the "Guidelines of the African Studies Association for Member's Ethical Conduct in Research and Other Professional Undertakings in Africa" (adopted June 23, 2005).

4. The Digital Imaging South Africa (DISA) project has drafted guidelines for their strategic alliances. When these guidelines are finalized, help publicize them and bring them to the attention of the Association of African Universities (AAU).

5. Edit one or more special issues of journals with wide African readership on these topics. We already have an offer from *Innovation: Journal of Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in Southern Africa.*

6. Explore including these topics in the forthcoming Dakar meeting on African archives.

7. Ask DISA to approach the IFLA Regional Section on Africa to host a paper at their 2007 Durban meeting.

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