



SCL News

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No. 55 May 2001

IFLA Section of Libraries for Children and Young Adults

Editorial

by: Elisabeth Lundgren

Dear members

Wow, it's summer in this hemisphere, at least this Sunday. Although the sun is shining I am working on my paper on picturebooks for this year's IFLA meeting in Boston. The winter season has been tough this year with the Kungälv 900-year Jubilee. That's why you haven't got the newsletter until now and maybe you will find some reports quite old. But don't give in, there are some new ones too. Anyway, in this issue you can read reports from the IFLA meeting in Jerusalem and from our Spring meeting in Zagreb where Ivanca was our very generous host. The main commitment are now to complete the new guidelines for children's libraries. We will present a more final draft at a workshop in Boston this August.

Read also contributions about children's library projects from the Scandinavian countries.

Rita Schmitt, our lovely and very sufficient secretary, has unfortunately left the section. She started a new job in February and was unable to continue being active in IFLA. We all miss you very much Rita!

Next newsletter will arrive this autumn and contain reports from Boston.

Contributions before 30 September 2001, please.



Kungälv 900 Years - Celebrations in the old Castle Children's Medieval Festival

Wow, what a party!



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IFLA Division 3, Section 10:

Libraries for Children and Young Adults

Annual Report September 1999 - August 2000

Scope

The Section's major purpose is to support the provision of the library service and reading promotion to children and young adults throughout the world.

The main objectives are to promote international co-operation in the fields of library services to children and young adults, and to encourage the exchange of experience, as well as education, training and research in all aspects of this subject.

The Section's concerns include the provision of library services to all children and young adults in different cultures and traditions, in co-operation with appropriate organisations, as well as to adults interacting with children and young adults.

Membership

Membership status July 2000: 114

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Meetings

Standing Committee - Jerusalem, August 2000

Numbers of attendees: 11 members, plus 5 observers

Projects

* ***Books for all***

On-going project in co-operation with UNESCO.

Project Leader:

Lioba Betten.

The project supports setting up libraries and library stock in developing countries by collecting money. The Advisory Committee, chaired by John Dunne, held one meeting during the Jerusalem Conference and received the annual report and discussed the fulfillment of the project by 2003.

* ***Children's Literature Abstracts***

On-going project. Leader: *Gillian Adams*

Magazine containing abstracts of periodical articles on children's literature. The handover of editorship is in progress.

* ***International Research Abstracts: Youth Library Services***

(IRAYLS)

On-going project. Leader: *Adele Fasick*

A database containing abstracts of international publications of children's libraries. The database is available on floppy disc and on the Internet.

Publications

- SCL Newsletter - two issues

- New Section leaflet

- "Guidelines for Library Services for Young Adults" translations into Dutch, Cuban - Spanish in progress.

- IRAYLS update on Internet and floppy disc.

- "Children's Literature Abstracts" - three issues per annum.

- Conference Programme

Open Session

The Open Session theme was multicultural services for children.

- *Children's Libraries and Literature in Israel.*

- *Jewish Heritage and Russian Children's Literature* - Olga Maeots.

- *Reading and Library Usage Habits of the Students in Vienna, whose mother tongue is Turkish* - Dr Bulent Yilmaz.

- *Workshop*

Half-day workshop to present first draft of the revised Children's Library Service Guidelines.
Number of attendees: 100

John Dunne (Chair/Treasurer)
December 2000

**67:th IFLA General
Conference and Council
16 - 25 August, 2001, Boston,
USA
Preliminary Programme**

Friday, August 17

Morning: Professional Board
Afternoon: Coordinating Board Meetings
Executive Board

Saturday, August 18

All Day: Standing Committees
Executive Committees
Afternoon: Caucuses
Evening: Reception for IFLA Officers
(by invitation only)

Sunday, August 19

Morning: IFLA Newcomers session
Discussion Groups
Afternoon: Council Meetings
Division Meetings
Evening: Exhibition Opening and Reception at
the Hynes Convention Center

Monday, August 20

All Day: Exhibition
Morning: IFLA Newcomers session
Division Meetings
Discussion Groups
Workshops
Open Forums
Afternoon: Opening Session
Plenary Session
Evening: Reception at Boston Public Library

Tuesday, August 21

All Day: Exhibition
Morning: Conference Sessions
Afternoon: Guest Lecture
Conference Sessions
Poster Sessions
Evening: Cultural Reception at Museum of
Science



Minutes**66th IFLA Conference, Jerusalem, Israel****Dates:**

Standing Committee I - Saturday, 12 august,

8:30 – 11:20 h

Standing Committee II - Friday, 18 august,

8:00 – 10:15 h

Present: Lars Aagaard (2), John Dunne (2), Kathy East (2), Viviane Ezratty (2), Rita Schmitt (2), Barbara Froling Immroth (2), Leikny Haga Indergaard (2), Elisabeth Lundgren (2), Olga N. Mäeots (1), Geneviève Patte (2), Lioba Betten (2)

Observers: 5**1. Welcomes**

John welcomed all SC members and observers of the meeting

2. Apologies

Susanne Krueger, Kuniko Kameda (on behalf of Kuniko, Hiroshi Sakamoto from the International Library of Children's Literature, participates at the SC meeting), Ivanka Stricevic

3. Conference schedule and programme of meetings

see schedule which has been circulated via e-mail before the conference

4. Minutes of the 1999 Bangkok SC meetings and of the midwinter meeting march 2000 in Berlin

The minutes have been approved

5. Matters arising

John goes through the minutes of the two previous meetings

6. Chair's report

John reports from the CB meeting

The Section has 114 members now

FAIFE: A letter from Alex Byrne / FAIFE has been received concerning the question of freedom of access to information in children's libraries; the section agrees that this is a major issue especially the aspect of a free access to internet sites

Reading Section: asks for cooperation concerning literacy, a joint workshop or Open Session in Boston should be discussed

7. Financial report

John circulates an interim report, he will do the final report in september because most of the expenditures and invoices will come after the conference.

The Section approves the interim report and waits for the final one.

8. Information Officer's report

Elisabeth reports: she published two Newsletters in 1999/2000, updated the Section's homepage (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s10/scl.htm>) and published a new Section's leaflet

Next issue of the Newsletter will be published in autumn, deadline for contributions is oct. 2000.

During a meeting for Information Officers IFLA HQ staff gave informations about changes of IFLAnet.

9. Revision of the IFLA-Guidelines for Children's Services

A half day internal workshop for the discussion of the chapters and a half day workshop for the public have been held. Both were very successful. 100 - 120 workshop participants during the afternoon had plenty of comments and suggestions for the

guidelines.

The following schedule for the next steps of our work has been fixed:

- Rita draws together the comments from the workshop (see e-mail from aug. 31, 2000)

- Each SC member updates his/her draft by mid october and sends the new version to Rita

- Drafts for the missing chapters (resources / Elisabeth; media promotion - reading promotion - programming / Rita makes headings, please send your ideas to me) have to be added

- Afterwards, Lars and Rita (and Elisabeth if possible) will meet and go through the papers and will propose a new order for the chapters

- After that, John and Kathy will have a look at the draft for better English!!!

- And after that the next draft will be ready for circulation the SC members and to all those who dropped their addresses during the workshop; this should be by the end of the year latest.

10. Budget 2000 - proposals for Project Money

There are no proposals for project money for 2000/2001.

12. Reports**- Books for All**

John reports the major items of the Advisory Board meeting (see minutes of the meeting). The SC approved Lioba's proposal for a conference for the conclusion of the Books for All project.

- Post-conference seminar: Informal programmes to support reading and libraries in developing communities – publication of the papers (Geneviève Patte)

Reports on the seminar have been published in "Bookbird", "La revue des livres des enfants", "GIRAFFE. Bibliotheken für Kinder und Jugendliche im Blick" and in the Section Newsletter.

A very detailed report from Judith Elkin has been published in the "New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship". John sends copies of this report to SC members.

By easter 2001, Geneviève will prepare her manuscript with papers of the current conference and an overview over the preceding seminars (Leipzig, Caen).

At midwinter meeting the SC will decide the way to publish it (IFLA professional reports, Saur, on CD-ROM or IFLAnet).

- CLA/IRALYS

Adèle Fasick reports (see also written report) about the difficult situation of the project. Problems turned up in finding a new editor as well as persons who do abstracts. If possible, Paul Gregorio, Portland/USA, should present his ideas concerning his potential editorship during the Boston conference; the SC will decide the future of CLA after that presentation.

Lioba will ask again at the International Youth Library in Munich if they are able to cover the non-english speaking countries.

John will write a letter of thank to Gillian.

13. Publicity materials for the section**Information leaflet**

see item 8.

Homepage

see item 8.

YA-Guidelines - translations

English version: must be reprinted for Boston

Dutch version: is translated, not yet printed

French version: will be distributed at a conference in oct. 2000; the rest will be available from Viviane's

Russian version: printed in a book, not separate

Danish version: available

Italian version: available

Swedish version: available

Cuban-spanish version: Adrian Pensado is working on the

translation

German version: printed in a book (Bibliotheksarbeit für Jugendliche Bd. 3, 1997) and published in the internet: http://www.dbi-berlin.de/dbi_ber/kiju/ifla.htm

Croatian version: Ivanka is working on the translation

14. Conference planning

SC Midwinter meeting spring 2001

The Section supports the idea to meet in Zagreb in March 2001; possible dates are march 22 - 25 or march 29 to april 1. (Note: Ivanka is happy to host the meeting!) If the meeting in Zagreb should not be possible, Lars offers to meet in Flensburg (Germany)

Main conference Boston 2001

Programme for the Open Session (150 Min.):

Draft programme (Form A) must be ready by nov. 15th

Children's Libraries and Early Years Services

1. *Current initiatives in children's librarianship in the US* (2 or 3 examples) - with a focus on the „Born to read“-project (Carole Fiore, Tallahassee / Florida - Kathy / Barbara will make contacts) - 30 Min.

2. *Early years initiatives in a developing country* (first choice: South American example - Geneviève cares; second choice: South African example - Olga cares) - 30 Min.

3. *Picture books in Sweden* (Elisabeth Lundgren) - 40 Min.

4. *Panel presentation with an overview over early years initiatives in Scandinavia* (Lars Aagard, Leikny Haga Indergaard) - 30 Min. Alternativ: France or Netherlands

Note: All time slots include time for discussion!

An outline of the programme has to be send to HQ by nov 15!

An exchange of materials and short information about early years projects is desirable; to be published in the Newsletter.

Workshop (1/2 day):

Guidelines for Children's Services - presentation similar to the workshop in Jerusalem

An internal pre-workshop for the SC must be scheduled; if possible not at the same day than the workshop for the public

Main conference Glasgow 2002

A proposal for a joint Open Session / Workshop with the School Section on cooperation between public libraries and schools has been made

15. Reports from SC members

Reports from Leikny/Norway, Lars/Denmark, Viviane/France are circulated; they will be published in the Newsletter.

Olga: the Children's Department of the Library of Foreign Literature celebrated its 10th anniversary and has a new homepage: <http://www.libfl.ru/win/children>

Hiroshi Sakamoto (Japan) reports from the opening of the International Library of Children's Literature“, a branch of the National Diet Library and circulates a brochure

16. 2000 conference evaluation

A busy conference with insufficient technical equipment. John reminds SC members, to fill in their evaluation forms.

17. Any other business

- *Reading Section:* the Section is working on "Guidelines for developing literacy"; comment from the Children's Section are welcome; an internal workshop will take place in Boston on the first friday morning of the conference (17 aug) - a delegate from

the Children's Section should participate

- *A 3 day preseminar* will take place in Boston on „Library Services for Children in Africa“; it is sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation and the African Section of IFLA

- *World Book Day* (april 23) - *Children's Book Day* (april 2): the Section recommends to IBBY to approach the World Book Day and to make sure that children's books are emphasized at that day

- *Multicultural literature:* In the UK an increasing demand for materials in eastern europe languages (especially former Soviet Union countries) is visible; libraries are looking for suppliers for those materials. Please send your informations to Elisabeth for publishing them in the Newsletter.

- *Elections for Standing Committees* in 2001: Rita will send a letter to all Section members to promote nominations for the Standing Committee.

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla66/papers/105-176e.htm> (Kathy's paper!)

John thanks all SC members for their work during the year.

Rita Schmitt / 15.11.00



Zagreb is a city of art and architecture

*Next page:
The Zagreb Meeting!*



Minutes from Spring Meeting in Zagreb, Croatia 29-31 March 2001

Participants

John Dunne (United Kingdom), Ivanka Stricevic (Croatia), Elisabeth Lundgren (Sweden), Leikny Haga Indergaard (Norway), Viviane Ezratty (France), Lars Aagaard (Denmark)

1. Boston Conference, August 2001**1.1 Open session**

Theme: Children's Libraries and Early Years Services

The first speaker of the Open Session is always from the host nation, and in this case Carola Fiore, Vice President/President Elect, Association for Library Service to Children, will give an overview of current trends in the United States, including the Born to Read programme.

Elisabeth Lundgren from Sweden will give a paper on Swedish picture books of recent years: Colours, Shapes and Philosophical Depths, with a strong focus on the early years.

The third element will be a panel looking at Early Years Development in Europe and Beyond, consisting of Genevieve Patte (France), Ivanka Stricevic (Croatia) and John Dunne (United Kingdom).

Shirley Fitzgibbon, former Chair of the section, will be contacted by John to arrange a children's library tour in connection with the conference.

1.2 Workshop

A Workshop to present the second draft of the revised "Children's Library Guidelines" will be held at the conference.

The workshop will be led by John who will give an overview of progress so far and introduce the three Section members who will give presentation on different parts of the Guidelines.

- Education of Children's Librarians – Susanne Kruger

- Organisation of Children's Library Activities within the Library Organisation – Ivanka Stricevic
- Internet Protection for the child – Lars Aagaard

John will invite the audience to comment on these presentations and notes will be taken by Lars and Viviane.

A list of all sections of the Guidelines will be available for the delegates.

1.3 Elections

John Dunne has been Chairman for 2 periods (4 years) and retires at this conference although he will still represent the United Kingdom for a further two years. Rita Schmitt has a new job and is no longer in IFLA. She has resigned as Secretary of the Section and her contribution will be missed.

The Section may in the future have four officers (Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Information Officer). John has offered to continue as Treasurer for two years if this is allowed by IFLA.

In Boston, the section will elect a new Chairman, Secretary, Information Officer and Treasurer, all of them for a period of two years.

1.4 Poster Sessions

Lioba Betten will be presenting two poster sessions on Books for All.

BTJ – a Swedish company, may provide a session.

2 Publicity**2.1 Children's Literature Abstracts**

The publications has changed from a core activity to an activity which is being overtaken by technology and the last issue will be published this year. The section will thank Gillian Adams (Editor) for her great efforts concerning the project.

2.2 Section Leaflet

The first edition in no longer available. Elisabeth

Lundgren will revise it and print 250 copies for the Section's activities in Boston. The leaflet in PDF-version is available on IFLANET, everyone is free to download and copy.

2.3 Newsletter

In future, the newsletter will appear in the autumn (October/November), summing up the Annual Conference, and in spring (April/May), promoting the results of the Spring Meeting.

The 114 members of the Section do not necessarily attend the conference, but need to know about the work of the Section generally.

2.4 Young Adults Guidelines

Available currently in only a few languages: Croatian, French and English (only a few copies of each). Published in magazines in Russian, Spanish, Portuguese and German. The English version will be reprinted this year.

The Croatian version will be promoted both locally in Zagreb, regionally by the county libraries, and nation-wide by Ivanka Stricevic. Croatia's first youth library is being created in Ivanka's own library, so we wish her well in raising the profile of youth libraries in her country.

3. Children's Library Service Guidelines

The first draft of the Guidelines was discussed and various changes in sections agreed. A second draft would be presented at the workshop in Boston.

4. Any other business

An interesting young American has put at reasonable question which, however, it is impossible to answer: How many independent children's libraries are there in the world, and which is the biggest.

In future it will be appreciated if section members bring a short survey of current trends in their home countries. These will be the basis of the Newsletters together with the results of the meetings. Multiple copies of relevant publicity materials are always welcome as well, and can be displayed at the Open Session.

Preserving today's children's books for the future generations : a growing concern for French children's librarians

By: Viviane Ezratty, bibliothèque l'Heure Joyeuse, Paris

It is everybody's responsibility, both in public and research libraries, to see that those books are not just thrown away, so that today's children's books are preserved for the future and that today's children are shown what their parents, grandparents and older generations read when they were themselves children.

On the 5th of October 2000 was organized at the National library in Paris a conference about **children's books conservation**. Over 200 librarians, publishers, searchers from France, but also from Belgian, Germany and Spain attended this conference.

A growing interest for children's books and their history is emerging. More and more institutions like the library l'Heure Joyeuse (Paris), la Joie par les livres (national children's book center), le CNBDI (National comic books center), municipal libraries, etc., are working on how to organize cooperation between libraries and various institutions interested in children's books conservation, in order to enable searchers, students, and also a wider public of adults or children to get access to those books and have a survey on the history of children's books. Children's books are more and more quickly out of print, some have not even been deposited as they should be at the National library, so it's important that, all over France, librarians must organize so that not only the most important books are preserved, but also children's newspapers, records, original drawings ... and even books which are not considered as good enough to be bought in libraries ... but who will be very useful for searchers in a few years.



The Library Action

By: Leikny Haga Indergaard, Norwegian member of the Section

In co-operation with various author, publisher and teacher organisations, the Norwegian Library Association has started an action which is aimed at focusing the authorities' attention on Norwegian public and school libraries.

The fact that Norway spends less money on libraries than any other Nordic country, and that library statistics also show less use of libraries, are the main reasons for starting the campaign.

The action manifesto is meant to persuade the authorities to amend their library policies so that our libraries may function as innovative and active centres for culture, information and communication. School libraries must be equipped and given the opportunity to fulfil the educational objectives that have been set.

A person has been hired full time for one year in an attempt to achieve the objective of strengthening our libraries. One important task is to actively lobby the Storting and the Government.

!Les

!Les¹ is the name of the newly established umbrella organisation which is aimed at promoting a love of reading in children and young people. Its background is the research on reading habits conducted in 1997, which revealed a 40% drop in reading among children between the ages of 11 and 16.

!Les will endeavour to promote reading, and will coordinate and initiate different country-wide reading initiatives, such as Aksjon tXt and Verdens bokdag. The framework of the initiatives is organised by !Les at the national level, but all activities and arrangements take place locally in the libraries for children and in school libraries all over the country.

The following organisations are behind !Les: the Norwegian Directorate for Public and School Libraries, The Norwegian Institute for Children's Books, The Norwegian Association of Booksellers, The Norwegian Association of Publishers, The Norwegian Association of Public Libraries, Norwegian Cultural Council, author organisations, and book clubs, etc.

This year the action has received a lot of media attention thanks to a sponsor venture with Coca Cola. It is quite unusual in Norway for such actions to have commercial sponsors.

Otherwise, !Les is an initiative for which the children's libraries have great expectations.



!Les is Norwegian for: !Read

Alfie Atkins opens the door

Uno Nilsson is a library advisor in Halland County Library (southern Sweden) and a former school- and children's librarian.

Yes, Alfie does so in a project with the same name that runs in Halland, Southern Sweden, and addresses immigrant pre school children as well as their parents. Children in high density areas in the two towns Falkenberg and Halmstad are targets. The parallel approach may give libraries and pre schools new methods to influence the language development of the children in a more accurate way as well as of their parents who, especially women, cannot talk Swedish good enough to participate in society. Run on two places, the separated parts will hopefully act as reference projects to each other.

The goal is obvious, to find new methods to enhance the children's communication abilities in order to integrate them successfully in the Swedish society.

The project is built upon one of the most popular Swedish picture book figures, Alfie Atkins by Gunilla Bergström. There are many reasons for that, one is that the books are translated into many languages, about 40 so far, and therefore can be used as a tool for common understanding even in a group where people originate from many different countries and cannot communicate very well.

Another reason is that Alfie has many very typical children's problems such as fear, cheating, feeling aside and many more. It is easy to identify with Alfie. Another rather unusual thing is that Alfie has no mother, just a father who is rather lazy and likes to sit in his easy chair, smoke his pipe and have a beer. For Alfie it is happiness to make the father take part in his games.

Methods used are story telling, fairytales, children's drawings, making one's own story and many more. To be able to communicate is the major objective both for children and their parents.

Pre-schools of course, but also all kind of natural gatherings via NGO's and other organisations and institutions are targeted in order to meet the children and the parents. They are invited to events like Alfie Parties where a lot of activities take place. A tasteful cake is always served at these occasions.

The project is planned for three years and will be evaluated after one year and half as well as in the end of 2002. Evaluation of Alfie Atkins is however a process that goes on continuously in order to be on target throughout the project, but also to make new ideas and experiences directly implementable.

The County Library of Halland is co-ordinating the project, compiles experiences, innovations and evaluations, and is ready to pass them on to everyone who wishes so.

E-mail address to project co-ordinator is:

un@lansbibliotek.halland.net

Children's libraries in Sweden

2000, the first year of the new millennium

By Elisabeth Lundgren

What's new in this millennium? Is the era of the child going to continue? We must not only hope for, but also work for that.

The interest of reading in Sweden is increasing, and so is the effort of making people read books again, especially children and young adults.

Read 2000 is a network for reading promotion, which is focusing on children, especially in schools and libraries. The idea came from the famous author Lennart Hellsing (who is now 82 years old and still going strong). The Swedish Institute for Children's Books is running the project in co-operation with libraries and schools. One of the goals is to create networks between children's librarians and teachers in co-operation with politicians and other important local individuals in order to create sustainable teams for reading promotion in all municipalities.

Another interesting goal is to create a data base of good projects and ideas for book promotion. Such a data base may be fantastic source for inspiration for new projects and programs.

There are **good web sites** for children. Children's Library (Barnens Bibliotek, www.barnensbibliotek.net) is a very good example. It has recently become a national source since it made a national project 2001. It is highly interactive and contains links to authors and children's book chat as well as written book talks and recommendations and competitions. Parents and children's librarians have their own places in this web site.

The Swedish National Agency for Education have a good web site for pupils, **The School Net** (www.skolverket.se/skolnet) which contains links to all kind of useful topics and subjects. A special site for examination of sources and ethics on the Internet is Kolla Källan! (Check your source!)

The bad reports about children's reading from early 90:ies are still actual. A new report from 1999 confirmed this. Time for reading or listening to books decreased 50% average, and for groups with lower education the percentage is essentially higher, more than 75%.

Among methods to change this situation, **writing promotion** is a useful way of dealing with children and their natural lust for expressing themselves. Many libraries as well as schools work with writing. Writing holidays, writing weeks during summer holidays and writing clubs are not unusual. Writers and children's librarians work closely together and sometimes involve musicians, actors and other artists to create an interesting context.

But, of course, the good old Book-Talk is still the most common method to face the problem.

The Reading Movement is also a reading promotion project that targets all Swedes. Since the tremendous launch at the Gothenburg Book and Library Fair 2000, it has grown to involve big companies such as McDonalds (free quality books for every Happy Meal), the church, the National Theatre, politicians, artists, ministers and of course all Public Libraries. The main objective is the need for literacy for the sake of democracy.

The **Book Top project** is still running for the fourth year. The most popular books are selected by the readers themselves, and of course the public libraries and the children's librarians are fully occupied every time the votes are counted. It is not a bad guess to say that Harry Potter will win this year. The voting is to a certain and increasing degree made directly via the Children's Library web site. The Book Top really engages the children, that's for sure.

The **national grant for children's books** from the Department of Culture is continuously handed out. It can only be given to those municipalities that don't cut their funds for library books. School libraries and public libraries are obliged to co-operate in order to receive the money for books. There are still small school libraries that are left out and still don't have enough books.

Electronic, new media and IT are increasingly included in Swedish library projects. Reading and writing are two sides of the same thing, and the interactivity made accessible by good web sites liberates the literate creativity of many children.

Another trend is to involve children and young adults to **create their own libraries**. Activities, media selection, furniture and paint can be suggested or even made by children themselves.

In the Gothenburg Book and Library Fair 2000, a library was created by young adults in co-operation with librarians. This Dream Library for Young Adults was a great success!!

On the contrary (IT and Internet) **story telling** is also facing a new spring in Sweden.

A Fairy tale project is launched in Småland (Southern Sweden, deep forests and very traditional people). This project targets children with reading disabilities – traditional fairy tales stimulate fantasy which is an essential link in the chain of reading.

In the Småland town Ljungby, a story telling Festival is taking place every summer since 10 years. This is the only regular festival in the Nordic countries that focuses on the tradition of oral narration.

Even story telling can be made on the web. In www.utsikt.ostersund.se oral stories are becoming immortal in an interactive way.

Dark November. One evening the same story is read loud in public libraries all over Scandinavia. The event is named *Huddle in the twilight*. The stories change from year to year, but the time is the same. Every year candles

are lit in the dark to create the right mood for listening...

Finally, the **Nordic Children's Book Fair** in Copenhagen has had its second anniversary. Success again? Yes.

Elisabeth Lundgren
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Gaining the Internet

Children's Libraries Overcome the Challenge of a new Medium

Lars Aagaard is a section member working with Danish regional library services in Northern Germany.

A book is a ticket

In Children's libraries the Internet still is a new medium. For decades children's librarians have coped with the promotion of literature. For many librarians literature is the ticket to a lifelong devotion on books. This new medium blurs the borders between literature, information and entertainment, and it increases the gap between children and their competences on handling new technology, and the limited IT-abilities of many grown-ups. In short, libraries these years face a change of paradigms.

Let us look at these changes as a new beginning, putting children in a new role.

Fundamental skills

But let us not forget the fundamentals of good children's librarianship: at one time choosing, declaring and promoting valuable information, at the other time protecting children from impressions which they, at various levels of their evolution, may have difficulties with – either from society or from their own maturing. Children's librarians always have shown these considerations when buying and promoting books. This new medium requires new consideration.

Poor solutions

The easiest, but not necessarily the the best, solution is putting a filter on the Internet. But for at least two reasons it is a defensive and not at all a good idea: It struggles against the right to freedom of information, which include children as well as grown ups. And it is a false security, because no Internetfilter is safe enough – at least not for the clever boy or girl. Furthermore it excludes valuable information – not for the not so gifted child, but for the ambitious and gifted child.

The role of the librarian

My conviction deals with the role of the children's librarian: A children's librarian must be a character in her own premisses: If she observes a child meeting information or impressions, which the child is not yet ready to meet, she must take action. And not even take action to explain why, but, above all, put a well managed alternative. An alternative which present all the values of her librarianship: relevant,

well researched, well declared, well adapted Internet resources, matching the interests of the individual child.

Books will remain

I do not expect the book to expire soon. But I expect the role of the book to change over a couple of decades. No doubt that the sorts of informations, which develops quickly, are easier kept up to date on the Internet. And no doubt that the Internet will gain an increasing role as carrier of communication between people – young as well as old. But reading skills, reading pleasure, reading competences, will still be of major importance. Not until an electronic book looks like and behaves like a single piece of paper, lighted up from within, the printed book disappear. And in a slow tempo, because books still are such beautiful peaces of art and craft. Not at least children's books.

Will librarianship?

Only if the children's librarian is able to look forward, she will be able to maintain and even develop her core competencies. Evenmore she will be able to share them with her colleagues and the not-so-near-child: by networking on choosing, describing and promoting Internet resources better than others.

A serious bid

I don't know how development is in other countries, but in Denmark children's librarians collaborate nationwide on www.dotbot.dk, an web page with proper links for kids. Dotbot is the serious bid for a digital future in Danish children's libraries.

Parents

Nobody can ever take away the parents' responsibility for their children. Children in the library belong to their parents, as well as children at home. But everywhere, children meet an increasing amount of digital impulses, which no parent can ever hope to survey. Libraries must be a parents' resource, both in the library and at home, coping with the challenge of the Internet. For better and for worse.

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Computers are all right, but I prefer books!

Good Ideas

- from the project Words come true in Norway

Here are some of the ideas and methods from the Norwegian report. It emphasises some of the very best way of making children interested in reading. We published "Troll i ord" in an earlier issue of the Newsletter.

Imaginative writing as a tool for Child Care Educators

"Troll i Ord" accepts students from the Child Care Education at the District College of Stavanger to complete their practical training. The purpose of the training period is to use imaginative writing as a tool for social education work in the school. An evaluation indicates that literature is a good tool for children and youth workers, especially in a socializing situation.

Storyteller workshop

The joy of storyteller among adults is a significant factor in conveying literature to children. As a follow-up to the seminar "What does the kindergarten want out of books for children?", a storyteller workshop was arranged for kindergarten personnel. The purpose of the storyteller workshop was to establish security around the storyteller role and to put various strategies of dissemination in focus.

Library branches in the kindergartens

Parents and children need a lot of books in order to establish and maintain the joy of reading, and in this sub-project the kindergarten is the link between the family's need to read and the Stavanger Library. Four kindergartens are now established as "library branches". They each have a collection of books that the children and parents can borrow. Kindergarten personnel and parents are very pleased with this arrangement.

A good book. A good chair. We are talking about the joy of reading. Will someone read to me?

Ten (10) good reasons for reading out loud to both young and old: 1. We have fun when we read. 2. We want to read more when we read. 3. We become smarter. 4. We have something to talk about. 5. Other people put our feelings into words. 6. Our language improves. 7. We learn to listen. 8. Liking to read gives good reading habits. 9. It becomes easier to learn to write. 10. The world of books is like the world of children, it isn't just waffles and jam.

Zagreb is the capital of Croatia. It consists not only of mountains, but also a long mediterranean (adriatic) coast which is superb for tourism, boating fishing and - naturally - swimming.

On the next and last page of this Newsletter, You can read about the Spring Meeting in Zagreb, and via this map you will orientate more easily. Opposite Croatia, on the other side of the Adriatic Sea, you will find Italy.



Children's libraries i Zagreb and more...

Reflexions from the Spring Meeting by Lars Aagaard from Denmark

Zagreb, something for the heart

The IFLA section spent the annual Spring Meeting in Zagreb, Croatia. We talked and thought, and translated everything into English. Just one of us translated everything into his own language, that is John Dunne our chairman from UK.

Croatia – home country of the tie

There's been peace in Croatia since 1995, when the country became independent for the second time in history. Free after 50 years of communism – although the system i Yugoslavia has been more open than in other communistic countries. That is obviously visible in people's openminded approach to strangers; their friendliness and hospitality. The former flourishing tourist industry is now being built up again, which is fortunate as the country has much to offer a tourist. Nature, renaissance and baroque structures in buildings and art. Zagreb itself contains many tremendous houses from about 1900.

The child in focus

The archaeological museum provides great activities for children. About one third of the museum activities is targeting children. Such a museum does not leave tired feet. Libraries are on the same high level. Our Croatian colleague is very impressed of our Danish collections for children, but I told her that my impression of the Croatian way of working with the small collections they have is just fantastic. Competitions, exhibitions, guided fantasies, story telling and much more. They do not lack personnel, which is a heritage from the communist period's idea of full employment. They also provide computers and Internet, and the use of the facilities are supervised all the time by the staff. A librarian participate full time in the youngsters library usage, watches what they do with the computers and advice them about books, reading or whatever.

Upraising librarians

The Library System in this big city has been re-organised many times.

Three districts have kept the original system with independent libraries, while the rest are incorporated under the central library. The independent districts can easier implement new ideas than in the others. My colleague in one of these independent enclaves, Ivanka Strecevic, who is also a member of the section, is very dynamic. In the libraries in her district initiatives are constantly taken, such as implementing the IFLA guidelines in daily work and the start up of youth libraries. The ideas about libraries for young adults that she works with are similar to the Nordic ones. It's no wonder why John Dunne says that Ivanka is "The jewel of our crown".



Zagreb evening talkwalk

Croatia, homeland of the ball pen

My own ball pen became very helpful throughout my visit. Our ordinary secretary could not participate, so I had to take the minutes. We had a lot of work to do, especially the guidelines for children's libraries that shall be approved of in Boston i August. We shall also cater for some papers; about Swedish picture books and about early language and cultural development. They shall all target work with the very young ones. My own contribution is about the view on the smallest children, young people and Internet, and to participate in a debate on that topic. What a strange world.

Days of Peace

Croatia is peaceful these days. The shooting goes on in the south, and the ethnical and political problems in Kosovo and Macedonia increase. However, Croatia has sent a lot of Serbs, who have been living side by side with the Croatsians for centuries, out of the country.

It is tragic to watch how a minority is treated, and as I see it, Serbs have the same right as Croatsians to be parts of the society. So it is good to be home in Denmark again - our problems with minorities are really very small compared to the former Yugoslavian countries.

African Web Site

Zimbabwe Book Development Council is now on the web! Browse www.bookcouncil.co.zw

SCL News

Newsletter for IFLA Section of Libraries for Children and Young Adults

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