



**International Federation of Library Associations
and Institutions**

Bibliography Section

Newsletter

January 2004

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1. Introduction

Dear colleagues and friends,

Our Newsletter, published usually in December, is slightly delayed, and we apologize. We have been waiting for the final approved version of the new Strategic Plan to be included. The Strategic Plan has been approved by the IFLA Professional Committee, but now, before being posted on IFLANET, it needs to be slightly edited in order to have uniformity in usage of IFLA-speak and names, and in order to do any straightforward textual (language) corrections that are needed. So some minor changes can be expected. However, we decided not to postpone publishing the Plan in the Newsletter any longer.

The Newsletter published in July 2003 was intended to be the last one to be distributed to all the members-subscribers in printed form. We wanted to present it mainly on the IFLANET and distribute in its printed version only to those libraries that do not have access to Internet and would ask for the printed version. Unfortunately, we have not received any answers yet. Please choose one of the following two options:

1. The electronic version of the Newsletter is sufficient for our library/institution
2. The electronic version of the Newsletter is not sufficient for our library/institution.

Keep in mind that the budget of the Section is very limited and sending the printed version of the Newsletter to all its subscribers does not allow us to publish other printed materials (guidelines, recommendations) we would like to publish.

Please send your answer either by e-mail to the address of the secretary of the Section huey@mail.lib.msu.edu

or by regular mail or fax to the address

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Chair

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2. Strategic Plan 2003-2005 (Draft)

IFLA BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

Strategic Plan 2003-2005

Mission

The Bibliography Section furthers universal bibliographic control (UBC) by promoting standards and best practices in the production, content, arrangement, dissemination, and preservation of bibliographic information.

In the context of UBC the Section is particularly concerned with the work of national bibliographic agencies. It is also concerned with the promotion of the importance of the discipline of bibliography to library professionals in all types of libraries, to publishers, distributors and retailers, and to end-users. While taking full account of technological capabilities, the Section will ensure that its solutions are not necessarily dependent on particular technologies.

The Section is closely associated with the other sections within the Division of Bibliographic Control and, where appropriate, it cooperates with other divisions and sections.

Goal 1. Extend the provision of universal bibliographic control by advocating and promoting the production of national bibliographies.

(Professional priorities: a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; d) providing unrestricted access to information; f) promoting resource sharing; g) preserving our intellectual heritage; h) developing library professionals; I) promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices).

Actions: 1. Maintain contact and exchange information with national bibliographic agencies (NBAs) worldwide concerning national bibliographic information and services.

2. Identify needs and requirements of NBAs in the production of national bibliographies by developing/administering surveys and other means.

3. Utilize the World Library and Information Congress (WLIS) as a forum to define and publicize standards and best practices in the production of national bibliographies.

4. Gather and update information on the status of the national bibliographies in the regions where the WLIS is being held in the next few years.

5. Designate a working group to plan and present a programme at the Buenos Aires conference in 2004 on national bibliographies in Latin America and the Caribbean, stressing local/regional experiences.

6. Begin planning for similar programmes in Seoul (2006) and Durban (2007).

7. In conjunction with the Congresses, consider and, if financial support is available, plan for pre- or post-conference workshops for national bibliographic agencies on the production of national bibliographies.

Goal 2. Improve the quality and consistency of bibliographic control by advocating implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Standards (ICNBS) and by developing specific guidelines to facilitate such implementation.

(Professional priorities: h) Developing library professionals; I) promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices).

Actions: 1. Arrange for translation of ICNBS recommendations into as many languages as possible and mount them on the Section website.

2. Designate a working group in cooperation with the other Division IV sections and the Information Technology Section to develop guidelines for electronic national bibliographies and inclusion of electronic resources in electronic bibliographies. Interim results, stressing regional experiences, will be presented at the Oslo conference in 2005.

3. Designate a working group in cooperation with the other Division IV sections, the National Libraries Section and the Information Technology Section to prepare a "how to" guide for agencies inexperienced in national bibliographic work. Some guidelines should be prepared for the Oslo conference, with fuller information at later conferences.

Goal 3. Promote cooperation with the publishing industry in the provision and preparation of bibliographic information.

(Professional priorities: e) Balancing the intellectual property rights of authors with the needs of users; I) promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices).

Actions: 1. Encourage appreciation of and research into the value derived from bibliographic control, including national bibliographies, by the book trade, publishers, and other information brokers.

2. Publicize and analyze the results of the CIP survey now being conducted by the Library of Congress.

3. Work with the Cataloguing Section and the Information Technology Section to develop tools for exchanging data with publishers and the book trade, etc.

Goal 4. Publicize the work of the Section.

(Professional priorities: a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; d) providing unrestricted access to information; f) promoting resource sharing; g) preserving our intellectual heritage; h) developing library professionals; I) promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices).

Actions: 1. Publish in a timely manner minutes, plans, reports, documents, etc. in electronic and, where appropriate, printed form.

2. Publish two issues of the Section Newsletter each year.
3. Assure that the Section's website is attractive and informative.

Goal 5. Promote membership in the Section and extend the geographic scope of representation on the Standing Committee.

(Professional priorities: a) supporting the role of libraries in society; d) providing unrestricted access to information; f) promoting resource sharing; g) preserving our intellectual heritage; h) developing library professionals).

Actions: 1. Follow up responses to Section communications with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries to encourage wider representation.

2. Actively recruit new members during IFLA conferences in Buenos Aires, Seoul, and Durban.

3. Annual Report

IFLA BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

Review of activities 2003-2004

By Talbott Huey and Bohdana Stoklasova

Mission

The Bibliography Section furthers universal bibliographic control (UBC) by promoting standards and best practices in the production, content, arrangement, dissemination, and preservation of bibliographic information.

In the context of UBC the Section is particularly concerned with the work of national bibliographic agencies. It is also concerned with the promotion of the importance of the discipline of bibliography to library professionals in all types of libraries, to publishers, distributors and retailers, and to end-users. While taking full account of technological capabilities, the Section will ensure that its solutions are not necessarily dependent on particular technologies.

The Section is closely associated with the other sections within the Division of Bibliographic Control and, where appropriate, it cooperates with other divisions and sections.

Standing Committee Membership and Officers

106 associations, institutions, and personal affiliates are currently members of the Section. The Standing Committee of 21 members takes the lead in establishing and implementing policies and programmes. The members for 2003-2005 represent Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Norway, Russia, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Chair Bohdana

Stoklasova and Secretary Talbott Huey were re-elected for two-year terms at the Berlin conference, and Alan Danskin was named Information Coordinator.

Actions 2003-2004

Following the new strategic plan for 2003-2005 drafted at the Berlin conference, the Section has taken or will take in 2003-2004 the following actions in pursuit of stated goals:

Goal 1. Extend the provision of universal bibliographic control by advocating and promoting the production of national bibliographies.

Actions: 1) The Section was active in preparing a well-attended session on current issues and trends in bibliographic control presented in Berlin by Division IV.
2) Section Chair Bohdana Stoklasova organized a successful Division IV day-long workshop at the Berlin conference on subject gateways, and presented a paper describing a short survey on subject gateways in relation to national bibliographies.
3) A working group led by Maja Zumer organized a well-attended session on electronic national bibliographies during the Berlin conference.
4) Unni Knutsen has arranged a programme on best practices in the national bibliographies of the Latin American/Caribbean area to be presented at the World Library and Information Congress in Buenos Aires. Similar programmes will be planned for the conferences in Seoul (2006) and Durban (2007).

Goal 2. Improve the quality and consistency of bibliographic control by advocating implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Standards (ICNBS) and by developing specific guidelines to facilitate such implementation.

Actions: 1) Efforts are under way to arrange for translation of ICNBS Recommendations into as many languages as possible.
2) A working group led by Maja Zumer in cooperation with other sections of Division IV working group has begun to develop guidelines for electronic national bibliographies for agencies inexperienced in national bibliographic work, with interim results to be presented at Oslo in 2005.

Goal 3. Promote cooperation with the publishing industry in the provision and preparation of bibliographic information.

Actions: 1) The Section is cooperating with the IFLA-International Publishers Association joint steering group to continue to encourage publishers and the book trade to assist as much as possible in developing national bibliographic information.
2) The international survey on CIP currently being conducted by the Library of Congress and supported by the Section will be reviewed and analyzed in a presentation at the Buenos Aires conference.

Goal 4. Publicize the work of the Section.

Actions: the Section's web page displays minutes of the Steering Committee meetings, the strategic plan, the annual reports, the ICNBS Recommendations, and the two newsletters published each year, in addition to photos, addresses, and other relevant materials.

See <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s12/sb.htm>

Goal 5. Promote membership in the Section and extend the geographic scope of representation on the Standing Committee.

Actions: Several Berlin conference attendees from countries which have never had representation in the Section expressed interest in joining the Section.

4. News from the NBAs

Norway: End of the era of the printed national bibliography (1883-2003)

By: Unni Knutsen
Head, Bibliographic Services Department
National Library of Norway

The first Norwegian national bibliography covering the years 1814-1847 was published in 1848. The first annual, current bibliography appeared in 1883 and has been published in times of war and peace for 120 years! The print era has now come to an end as the last issue was published in 2003.

The Norwegian national bibliography (<http://www.nb.no/baser/norbok/english.html>) first appeared free of charge and available to the general public on the Internet in 1994. At first this event did not affect the sales figures of the printed bibliography, but as an increasing number of libraries started using the Internet and as our services on the web steadily improved, sales figures dropped. Over the next five years the National Library of Norway stopped producing the following printed national bibliographies: *Norwegian national bibliography : [music scores]* , *Norwegian national bibliography : list of new books*, *Norwegian national discography* , *Norwegian index to periodical articles* and *Norwegian list of serials*, leaving only one remaining printed product: the *Norwegian national bibliography*. This is an annual publication in three parts: *Works published in Norway*, *Norwegica extranea: works published abroad* and *ISBN directory*.

In 2000 we also decided to stop the production of the CD-ROM *Norwegian national bibliographic file*. The annual printed bibliography and the national bibliographic file were still viable products in an economic sense. The decision to stop the production of all the different printed parts of the national bibliography was based on a financial assessment, but also reflected the fact that the money and time spent on producing a bibliographic publication could be better invested into improving timeliness and coverage and making the national bibliography on the Internet more attractive to users. These clear advantages were met with a couple of concerns. The first concern was the long term preservation of the national bibliography. Recommendation 6 from the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (ICNBS) (<http://www.ifla.org/VI/3/icnbs/fin.htm>) states that at least

one of the formats used to distribute the national bibliography should be capable of meeting archiving and preservation needs of the national bibliography and should be permanently accessible. In our case this format has been the printed bibliography. The second concern was quality. Proofreading is necessary when producing a printed national bibliography; during this process errors will be identified and corrected. We have addressed these two concerns by deciding that we still will have a print version of the annual output. The paper copy is produced, proofread and stored for the future and can be made available to the public upon demand. This system has been in operation for some years now and works well. We have no evidence that the quality has declined since we decided to stop the printed product and we can rest assured that the national bibliography still will be permanently available for the next 120 years!!!

5. CIP Survey

The international survey on CIP currently being conducted by the Library of Congress and supported by the Section was distributed to all world national libraries in January. The Librarians were encouraged to complete the survey by the enclosed letter. The more answers that arrive, the more a clear picture of the world CIP situation will be available. Please assure that the survey is completed in your library.

Dear Librarian:

Please instruct appropriate staff at your library to complete the Survey of Cataloging in Publication programs. This online survey is available at:

<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cipsurvey>

The survey is an important part of Goal 3 of the IFLA Bibliography Section's Strategic Plan for 2003-2005 to **"promote cooperation with the publishing industry in the provision and preparation of bibliographic information."**

There is a lack of fresh and complete information on CIP programs in different countries. The comparative study of situations in different countries and the identification of good practices in some countries to serve as examples for others is strongly recommended. Your participation in completing the Survey of CIP Programs will help us to achieve this goal.

Please instruct your staff to complete the survey no later than April 15, 2004, to provide adequate time to post the results on the CIP Survey homepage prior to the next meeting of the IFLA Bibliography Section in August.

Dr. Bohdana Stoklasová
Chair
IFLA Bibliography Section

6. Varia

Retirements

Barbara Bell, of Wooster College in Ohio and formerly of the Section on Bibliography, is about to retire. She plans travel and work at Cambridge University and in Africa.

Whitney Coe, a current member of the Section, has recently retired from Princeton University and will be living in Maryland.