

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

IFLA SECTION ON BIBLIOGRAPHY

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2000

Dear Colleagues and friends,

for twice-a-year publications within IFLA, which includes our Newsletter, the distribution dates changed to April/May and October/November. For the Sections Newsletter we decided on the later dates May and November. This Newsletter will concentrate its content on reports about the Jerusalem conference and on an outlook at the preparations for Boston in 2001 and Glasgow 2002.

I hope you will find the information helpful and interesting.

I wish you all a wonderful, peaceful Christmastime and a happy and successful year 2001.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Boston.

Werner Stephan

66th IFLA Council and General Conference, Jerusalem (August 11 - August 19, 2000)

The 66th IFLA Council and General Conference was held in Jerusalem from August 11 - August 19, 2000. Although well prepared and organized, conference attendance has been decreased once again in comparison to previous years. The current political situation in the middle east has certainly played its role but international cooperation seems to be of lesser importance in some countries.

Section on bibliography: Review of activities 1999 - 2000

The Section on Bibliography is primarily concerned with the content, arrangement, production, dissemination and preservation of bibliographic information, especially (but not exclusively) where these pertain to national bibliographic services. This is reflected by the presentations of the Section during the annual conference. The Section is also concerned with the promotion of the importance of the discipline of bibliography to library professionals in all types of libraries (not just national libraries), to publishers, distributors and retailers and also to end-users. The Section is closely associated, where appropriate, not only with the other

Sections within the Division of Bibliographic Control and with the UBCIM Programme, but also with the Sections on Information Technology and of National Libraries. In Jerusalem two larger meetings were held by the Section dealing with this topic.

Meetings

In an open forum the Section presented a part of its work, which deals with national bibliographic services of smaller countries. The following papers were presented:

- National bibliography of a small country in an international context.
- Bohdana Stoklasova (National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague).
- Bibliographic projects and tools in Israel
- Rochelle Kedar (Department of Information Science, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan)
- Two National Central Libraries in Italy: bibliographic cooperation or competition?
- Maria Patrizia Calabresi (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome).

The lively and interesting discussion showed the importance of cooperation especially in countries in which the output of the publishing industry is comparatively small or in countries in which new bibliographic agencies are founded for political or historical reasons.

The papers are available on IFLANET as well as translations in German, French and Spanish. Unfortunately there is no translation into Russian.

In addition to that the Section organized a half-day workshop with the title „Teaching bibliography today in primary and continuing professional education of librarians“.

Based on papers presented by Retha Snyman (South-Africa), Mona Madsen (Denmark) and John McIlwaine (Great Britain) the following topics were addressed:

What is the role of bibliography in training?

How can training facilities teach the best methods of searching and employing bibliographical sources in the face of constantly changing tools, formats and other details?

Does it still make sense to distinguish between the search for bibliographic information and the document itself?

Is the traditional classification of reference works (dictionaries, catalogs, bibliographies etc.) still reasonable given the forms of publication today?

How do institutions of library and information science mediate innovative content and technology in the sense of life-long-learning?

The at first stagnant but later on lively discussion showed that the papers touched some topics which needed further clearance. The Section on Bibliography will take this into account and present a talk about this topic in its „Open Forum“ on the next conference in Boston already. Furthermore this topic will be followed up in the next „Medium Term Programme“. All papers of the workshop are

available in IFLANET as well.

Working Programme

The main topics are scheduled in the so called medium term programme, which normally runs for four years. The current programme is valid from 1998 to 2001. The working programme derives from it, which then defines single projects and actions for a period of two years. The medium term programme, the action plan 2000-2001 are available in IFLANET as well as an annual report which sums up substantial results.

Specific topics of interest from the action plan are normally handled by working groups. At the moment the members of the „Standing Committee„ are involved in various projects of the section itself and in projects in cooperation with other sections of the Division of Bibliographic Control. This cooperation can be regarded as excellent as well as the cooperation with the Section on Information and Technology and the Section on National Libraries.

The Section on Bibliography dealt attentively with the recommendations and results of the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (INCBS). The work showed main points of concern which should be pursued and promoted. Unfortunately the status of the proceedings of this conference are still not quite clear, we will keep you informed when they are about to be published.

As promised in Jerusalem the final version of the Guidelines for Legal Deposit is now available electronically. The file was too large to attach to this newsletter. However, the Guidelines are on IFLANET at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s1/gnl/legaldepl.htm>

These Guidelines are published by Unesco and appear on Unesco's website. A printed version of the document will be available shortly from Unesco and it will also be translated into several of the other Unesco languages.

A small working group was commissioned to 1) identify national bibliographic agencies which comply efficiently with the recommendations of the ICNBS and 2) to list bibliographies which could be more efficient if produced in greater compliance with the recommendations. An additional reason is to show ways to use given resources more efficiently by voluntary cooperation. The project is funded by the IFLA this year. The preliminary report compiled for the Jerusalem conference is available online. Results should serve as the basis for a workshop next year.

Members of the section together with members from the Sections on Cataloging and National Libraries are involved in the project „Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records„ (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/frbr/frbr.htm>) in order to produce an assistance which describes minimal standards for a basic record in a national bibliographic service.

The action plan for 2000-2001 of the Section on Bibliography describes further tasks in other areas of interest: For example the development of a strategy in order to suggest cooperative use of metadata for electronic publications by publishers; the set up of a working group (together with the Section on Classification and Indexing) which makes a survey of „subject gateways„; to develop

guidelines which help national bibliographic agencies in their decisions which electronic resources to record in their bibliographies. The standing committee decided to review and, if necessary, to readjust two earlier surveys in this field - Ross Bourne's „National Bibliographic Agencies and the Book Trade„ and Robert Holley's „Results of a Survey on Bibliographic Control and National Bibliography„.

Further Planning

From the fields of interest described the topics for the next conferences result almost automatically. Therefore the section will again try to organize a workshop dealing with the subject described above in addition to the „Open Forum“. It is intended to incorporate additional topics like multilingual dictionaries or problems of global publishing into the working programme.

To sum it up it is very well justified to say that the Jerusalem conference was quite successful from the section's point of view. Unfortunately almost all work is done by the members of the "Standing Committee„. It would be quite desirable if the other 111 members of the section would participate in the section's activities more lively. Especially with regard to the definition of new areas of interest it is necessary to have relevant feedback of colleagues. If somebody is interested to take a more active part the next year offers good opportunities. There will be rotational elections for the „Standing Committee„ in 2001 with the German representative leaving the committee after eight years according to the statute. Particulars on the nomination process can be obtained from the chair of the national IFLA-committee.

Preparation for 2001 IFLA Conference in Boston

Plans are advancing in preparation for the Section's Open Forum and Workshop to be held in conjunction with the 2001 IFLA Conference in Boston. We expect both events to be of great professional interest and merit and urge you to plan to attending them. The Open Forum is based on the theme "Bibliography: indispensable or redundant". Three of the planned presentations will provide an opportunity to look to the future in relation to the challenges of new technology and publication patterns as well as to the value to Preserving traditional services. Michael Gorman, dean of library services, California State University, Fresno and renown speaker will address the topic "Bibliographic control or chaos: an agenda for national bibliographic services in the 21st century." Reinhard Rinn, head of the Department on Descriptive Cataloguing, Die Deutsche Bibliothek, will cover the increasingly important topic of "Global publishing and national heritage: selection of internet resources for national bibliographies". John Celli, chief, CIP Division, Library of Congress, will describe a recent R&D initiative in his presentation on "The New Books Project: a prototype for re-inventing the Cataloguing-in-Publication program to meet the needs for publishers, libraries, and readers in the 21st century." In addition to these speakers, a representative from the National Library of Canada will

speak to the recent anniversary of Canadiana in a talk entitled "The Canadian national bibliography: 50 years of continuity and change."

The Section will also sponsor a half-day workshop on the theme "What makes a good national bibliography even better? :current situation and future prospects." Barbara Bell, government information librarian, College of Wooster, Ohio, and Anne M. Hasund Langballe, Nasjonalbiblioteket, Norway, will summarize the results of the investigation they undertook at the Section's request to examine national bibliographies in relation to the criteria recommended by the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (1998). They will introduce issues of general interest, in particular covering the emergence of national bibliographies in electronic versions. Other speakers are being identified to cover additional perspectives of this important topic by way of stimulating exchanges of viewpoints, which is the purpose of the workshop format. More information regarding the Workshop will be available in the Section's next Newsletter.

Initial preparations for 2002 IFLA Conference in Glasgow

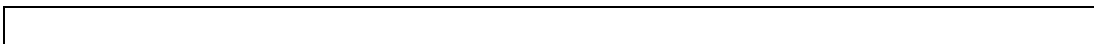
The Section will try to organize a workshop at the Glasgow conference in 2002 on the cooperation between the book trade and national bibliographic agencies with T. Huey's study to be the major focal point. Ute Schwens who is expected to become a new Standing Committee member from the Deutsche Bibliothek may be able to contribute. As for the open forum, E. Murtomaa asked that national archives be included in the program. A paper on the Section's next Medium Term Programme might also be appropriate. A local paper as usual will be invited. Another topic to consider would be subject gateways and alternative search strategies on the Internet in relation to their potential functionality as "bibliographies", based on the findings of the Joint Working Group mentioned above (in relation to action plan items 4.2 and 5.1).

Election in 2001

The next year 2001 will be again an election year within IFLA. This not only for officers but also for Standing Committee members. Please be aware that for those of you whose election period ends in 2001 nominations for the new election period must be given till spring 2001.

Contributions to this Newsletter are welcome at any time. Please send news items, articles, comments to the Editor.

**Further enquiries about this newsletter should be addressed to the Chairman at the Universitätsbibliothek Stuttgart, Postfach 10 49 41, 70043 Stuttgart, BRD
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Web information about the Section appears at
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