Section of University Libraries and other General Research Libraries (IFLA/URL)

Scope: The Section of University Libraries and other General Research Libraries (IFLA/URL) is the international forum for all concerned with academic and research library services. It provides members with the opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas with colleagues worldwide and is a vehicle for collaborative action.

Membership: Approx. 500 members per December 2000. IFLA/URL is the largest section in IFLA, with more than 25% of the total membership.

Standing Committee: The Standing Committee (SC/URL) consists of 19 members from 14 countries. It has 5 corresponding members from 5 countries.

Chair: Mrs Kirsten Engelstad, Director General, National Office for Research Documentation, Academic and Special Libraries (RBT), POB 8046 Dep, 0030 Oslo, Norway; tel: +47 23 11 89 00; fax: +47 23 11 89 01; email: kirsten.engelstad@rbt.no

Secretary: Mr Cristóbal Pasadas Ureña, Universidad de Granada, Biblioteca, Facultad de Psicología, 18071 Granada, Spain; tel: +34 95 824377; fax: +34 95 8242976; email: bibpsi01@ucartuja.ugr.es

Information Coordinator: Graham Bulpitt, Director, Learning Centre, Sheffield Hallam University, till September
The Chair from end of September

SC/URL meetings: Bangkok 1999: The Standing Committee (SC/URL) had two meetings during the 65th General IFLA Conference in Bangkok in 1999. The first meeting on Saturday, August 21 was attended by 15 committee members and 7 observers. The second meeting on Friday, August 27 was attended by 16 committee members, one corresponding member and 3 observers.
Topics discussed included the Section’s finances, election of new officers, reports on ongoing projects, discussions on new project plan, evaluation of the SC/URL programme in Bangkok, decisions on programme for SC/URL at IFLA 2000 in Jerusalem, and at IFLA 2001 in Boston.
Jerusalem 2000: The SC/URL had two meetings during the 66th General IFLA Conference in Jerusalem in 2000. The first meeting on Saturday, August 12 was attended by 15 committee members, 1 corresponding member and 3 observers. The second meeting on Friday, 18 August was attended by 16 committee members and 17 observers.

Topic discussed included the Section's finances, reports on ongoing projects, discussions on new project plans, evaluation of the SC/URL programme in Jerusalem, decisions on programme for SC/URL at IFLA 2001 in Boston and at IFLA 2002 in Glasgow.

Projects: SC/URL supports a new major two-year project on "Information Literacy materials in Spanish".

SC/URL has encouraged and provided inputs to the planning of an international conference in Alexandria in connection with the opening of Bibliotheca Alexandrina in 2001. The SC/URL chair represents both IFLA and FID in the planning committee.

Publications: The Section is currently distributing information on its webpages on the IFLANET and by e-mail/IFLAUNI. The SC/URL is discussing the future content and layout of a newsletter.

The minutes of the SC/URL meetings in Bangkok and Jerusalem, the Action Plan and the Medium Term Plan have been translated to Spanish and Russian and published on the URL web-site.

A specimen copy of the new brochure was presented for the SC members in Jerusalem. The layout and text were approved with some minor corrections. The brochure has since been translated into French, German, Russian and Spanish, and all versions are published on the URL web-site. 1500 copies in English, 500 in German, 500 in French and 800 in Spanish were printed before the turn of the year. The printed Russian version is due early in 2001.

In November a letter was sent from the chair and secretary to all URL members together with the brochure in English. The letter informed that the brochure would be available in all 5 official IFLA languages. The members were asked to inform the chair of preferred language, and also to give information necessary to keep the contact, (like change of postal address and e-mail address). The letter has resulted in numerous replies from members, and requests for brochures have been executed.

All new members receive a welcome letter and a brochure from the chair.

The report on "Cost Analysis in Academic Libraries" has been published in German funded by the German Higher Education authorities. The report will be translated into English and published as an IFLA publication. Translations into other official IFLA languages are to be considered.

Conference Programme in Bangkok:
The Section organised the following three sessions at the 65th IFLA General Conference in Bangkok:

- Monday, 23 August, 10:30-11:50: Discussion Group on "Performance Measurements in Academic Libraries". Responsible: Alex Byrne. In cooperation with the Section on Statistics. 60 people attended.
- Thursday, 26 August, 09:00-17:00: URL Workshop: "Lifelong Learning in an Electronic Environment". Responsible: Susan Nutter and Hannelore Rader. 70 people attended initially.

Conference Programme in Jerusalem:
The Section organised the following four sessions at the 66th IFLA General Conference in Jerusalem:

- Open Session on "Library Education: Assessing Outcomes for the Professionals in University and Research Libraries. What do we want from library education?" Responsible: Hannelore Rader. In cooperation with the IFLA Section on Education and Training.
- A half-day workshop on "Copyright: a Question of Balance". Responsible: Kirsten Engelstad. In cooperation with the IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters.
- Discussion Group on "Performance Measurements in Academic Libraries" with focus on benchmarking and best practice. In cooperation with the IFLA Section on Statistics. Responsible: Alex Byrne and Gunnar Sahlin.
- The first meeting of a new Discussion Group on "Marketing of Academic Libraries - Raising the profile of academic libraries and librarians". Responsible: Barbara Ford. In cooperation with the IFLA Section on Management and Marketing.

Conference Programme in Boston:
The programme Enquiry Form for the URL programme in Boston was returned to IFLA HQ by the deadline, 16 November. The preliminary programme is:

- Open Session: University Libraries in Partnership
- Half-day Workshop: Managing Partnership (Follow-up of the Open Session)
- Full-day Workshop: User Education: Training the Trainers
- Satellite Meeting: Preconference joint with ACRL : Leadership for Developing University Leaders of the Future
- Discussion Groups:
  Discussion Group on Performance Measurement in Academic Libraries
  Discussion Group on Marketing of Academic Libraries. Joint with Section on Management and Marketing
with other IFLA bodies: Section on Education and Training, Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM), Section on Statistics, Section on Management and Marketing, Roundtable on User Education.

Other events: The Section organised no other events during the year.

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