



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

Annual Report 2001-2002

Scope: The University Libraries and other General Research Libraries Section (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. According to the strategic plan 2002-2003, its mission is "to promote the development and good management of academic and research libraries in all countries, and to strengthen the integration of the library in the core institutional functions of learning, teaching, research, and services".

Membership: 513 members as per August 2001. 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 16 countries. It has 4 corresponding members from 4 countries.

Section's Officers: After election of new officers in Boston, this is the new executive team of the Section:

Chair/Treasurer: 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

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Information Coordinator and Editor:

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Coordinating Board of Division I:

The new executive team participates in the Coordinating Board of Division I. In addition, after elections held in Boston, the Chair of the SC is as well Chair and Financial Officer of the Coordinating Board of Division I and, in such a capacity, member of the new Professional Committee and the new Governing Board established according to new statutes of IFLA approved in Jerusalem-2000.

SC/URL meetings: The Standing Committee (SC/URL) held two meetings during the 67th General IFLA Conference in Boston in 2001. The first meeting on Saturday, August 18 was attended by 14 committee members, 8 incoming members, and 14 observers. The second meeting on Friday, August 24 was attended by 23 (incoming and outgoing) committee members and 13 observers.

Main points in the agenda were: election of new officers, annual report, financial report, discussion of new strategic plan for 2002-2003, review of programme for Boston, and planning of programmes for Glasgow-2002 and Berlin-2003.

Projects: SC/URL supports a project on "Information Literacy materials in Spanish". During the off-site workshop held at Simmons College, Boston, Cristóbal Pasadas Ureña reported on provisional results and next steps to be taken for completion of the project

Publications: As of May 2002, the Section has published issue n° 29 of the Newsletter; it includes the list of SC members, the Strategic Plan 2002-2003 and a highlight of the main events organised by the Section for Glasgow. It has been distributed to all members in electronic format and in hard copy to those members with no known email address.

The minutes of the SC/URL meetings in Boston and the Strategic Plan 2002-2003 have been translated into Spanish.

Conference Programme in Boston-2001:

The Section sponsored and organised the following events at the Conference in Boston:

Satellite meeting on Library Leadership, held at Harvard University, jointly with ACRL/ALA. About 80 registrants attended. A proposal was presented for a continuing liaison between ACRL and our IFLA Section. It was moved and approved that Joe Hewitt be appointed liaison to ACRL on behalf of the Standing Committee.

Performance Measurement in Academic Libraries Discussion Group. 100 attendees attended; new SC member Eva Hesselgren Mortensen led the session; 4 papers were presented.

Marketing of Library Services to the Academic Community

Discussion Group. 75 attendees. Barbara Ford acted as facilitator of the meeting jointly with Tom Wilding from the Management and Marketing Section.

Information and Documentation Group. 42 attendees participated in the discussion on what IFLA could do to fill the gap created by the demise of FID. The meeting was chaired by outgoing SC Chair Kirsten Engelstad.

Open Session on University Libraries in Partnerships. Convened by Niels Mark jointly with Toby Bainton and Toby Gail Stone, 115 attended the session chaired by Kirsten Engelstad, with presentations by Niels Mark, Bernard Naylor, Hannelore Rader and Gunnar Sahlin. Simultaneous interpretation available and most papers translated into Spanish.

Off-site (Northeastern University) Workshop on Managing Academic and Research Library Partnerships. Over 50 attendees. Presentations by Hannelore Rader, Ilone Rockman and Tom Wilding. Follow-up of this workshop will be the drafting of guidelines/checklist for partnerships.

Off-site (Simmons College) Workshop on Information Literacy: the contribution of websites. More than 50 persons from more than 15 countries attended this workshop organized jointly by our SC (facilitator Barbara Ford) and the User Education Round Table (facilitator Jesus Lau), with a report by Cristobal Pasadas Ureña on results of the SC project on information literacy materials in Spanish.

Cooperation

with other bodies: Statistics Section, Management and Marketing Section, Roundtable on User Education.
SC member Joseph A. Hewitt has been appointed Section's liaison to ACRL/ALA programmes and projects.

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

Strategic Plan 2002-2003:

Mission : Promote the development and good management of academic and research libraries in all countries, and to strengthen the integration of the library in the core institutional functions of learning, teaching, research and services.

Strategic priorities :

Priority A : Changing roles of librarians in academic and research libraries

Goal: Understand the professional, social and technological trends to which librarians in academic and research institutions can contribute in order to assume new roles as information providers, educators and knowledge managers, specially in training users to be information literate and lifelong learners

Actions:

- A.1. - Developing international guidelines on information literacy programs that identify appropriate levels and targets to be achieved across the curriculum, jointly with User Education Round Table, by way of a SC working group to liaise with interested parties and to report in Glasgow for further actions in Berlin
- A.2. - Studying the feasibility of creating, for the library and information sector, a suite of information literacy programs based on the model set up by the European Computer Driving Licence, by way of a SC working group to report in Glasgow and eventually to draft an IFLA project proposal to be presented to the Coordinating Board of Division I for adoption and financing for the period 2003-2005, jointly with User Education, Theory and Research, Management and Marketing, ...
- A.3. - Studying with staff in IFLA HQ and IFLANET the feasibility of starting up and maintaining in IFLANET a core collection of basic documents on information literacy (standards, position papers, seminal contributions, best practices, etc.) translated in as many IFLA languages as possible, as well as links to authoritative resources
- A.4. - Analyzing best practices in academic institutions regarding the first-year experience of students and the role academic and research libraries can play together with other academic services in having a common policy in key skills provision, by convening an Open Session for Berlin together with Management and Marketing, User Education, ...
- A.5. - Holding an Open Session in Glasgow on “Change and its Impact on Staff” jointly with Management and Marketing

Professional priorities supported by these actions: A (role in society); C (promoting literacy and lifelong learning); D (unrestricted access); F (resource sharing); H (developing library professionals); and K (technological marketplace)

Priority B : Evaluation and quality assurance in academic and research libraries

Goal: Promote the development and dissemination of best practice in quality assurance and review of services provided by academic and research libraries as part of the institutional evaluation process

Actions:

- B.1. - Convening a meeting of the Performance Measurement in Academic Libraries Discussion Group in Glasgow with a focus on the

need for new ways of measuring and assessing the library's contribution and impact on learning and research outcomes

- B.2. - Identifying new approaches to measuring outcomes and finding evidence-based indicators of the impact of academic and research libraries in learning and research, by way of a workshop/open session in Berlin with an emphasis in outcomes and impact measures and evidence, jointly with Statistics, Management and Marketing, ...

- B.3. - Convening a meeting of the Performance Measurement in Academic Libraries Discussion Group in Berlin on current approaches to the assessment of outcomes of information literacy provision in evaluation and quality review programs and manuals being applied in different countries

- B.4. – Convening a meeting of the Marketing of University Libraries to the Academic Community Discussion Group in Glasgow on ways of marketing information literacy programs to academic authorities, faculty and students.

Professional priorities supported by these actions: A (role in society); C (promoting literacy and lifelong learning); I (promoting standards)

Priority C : The Library's Role in Shaping the Future of Scholarly Communication and Publishing

Goal: Address opportunities, issues and challenges faced by academic and research libraries in the changing nature of scholarly communication and the problems in providing essential information to users all over the world, but specially for libraries in less developed countries

Actions:

- C.1. - Exploring ways for academic and research libraries to lead and/or partner in providing alternative, less expensive publications by organizing a workshop in Glasgow, joint with Information Technology and Acquisitions and Collection Development, on "Shaping the future of scholarly communication and publishing: the librarian's role" [not done in collaboration]
- C.2. - Cooperating on an active and ongoing basis with academy, scientific organizations and other interested parties committed to finding and providing alternatives to the present situation, by having a SC working group to report in Glasgow on priorities, contacts and agenda for further action, by way of a presentation of SPARC achievements and current worldwide developments in connection with action C.1 above
- C.3. - Establishing a SC working group to liaise with the ARL Scholars Portal development project and to report in Glasgow on the concept and status of development of the project as well as scheduling a workshop for Berlin joint with Information Technology and the ARL leaders of the project for feedback on international issues and perspectives related to the Scholars Portal

Professional priorities supported by these actions: A (role in society); D (unrestricted access); E (balance of rights and needs); K (technological marketplace)

Priority D : Global Higher Education Developments and Trends, and their implications to academic and research libraries, specially in less developed countries

Goal: Understand and contribute to the debate on Higher Education issues at the beginning of the new millennium, focusing on the real situation and problems of the sector in less developed countries as well as on the ways academic and research libraries can contribute to democracy and welfare

Actions:

- D.1. - Preparing with FAIFE, Division VIII and other IFLA units a Joint Workshop for Glasgow on “The role of the University Library in promoting democracy and diversity”.
- D. 2. - Convening a SC working group to report in Glasgow (with recommendations for further actions in Berlin and beyond) on priorities and alternative routes for our SC to follow in relation to practical and effective ways of cooperation between institutions of developed and developing countries, specially in accessing scientific and technical literature, as the crisis of scholarly communication demands extreme solutions in developing countries.

Professional priorities supported by these actions: A (role in society); B (freedom of information); D (unrestricted access); E (balance of rights and needs); F (resource sharing); and H (developing library staff)

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