



University Libraries & Other General Research Libraries Section

Newsletter

No. 32, December 2003

Mission

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.

Berlin - IFLA 69th World Library and Information Congress Report

I hope you didn't miss the conference! It was fantastic. Here is the final official IFLA Press Release about the Congress.

"More than 4,500 participants from 133 countries attended the World Library and Information Congress, the 69th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, which was held in Berlin from 1-9 August.

The theme of the Congress, '*Access Point Library: Media - Information - Culture*' was symbolized by the Congress logo, based on the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and reflecting the role of libraries of all kinds as gateways to information, knowledge and culture.

Freedom and equity of access to information and freedom of expression were pervasive sub-themes throughout the Congress, reflected dramatically in an account of the destruction and looting of libraries in Iraq by M. Jean-Marie Arnoult, the only librarian in a recent UNESCO mission sent to assess the effects of the war on Iraq's cultural heritage. Delegates were stunned by distressing photographs of damaged and destroyed libraries and archives, and various pledges of assistance were made during the discussion. A resolution urging action by governments to help restore the library and information infrastructure in Iraq was passed by the Congress in its closing session.

Lively debates also took place on the impact of the anti-terrorism legislation being introduced around the world, which often impedes free access to information. The Congress also approved a resolution deploring the introduction of legislation which violates fundamental human rights to privacy and unhampered access to information in the name of national security, and calling for the repeal or amendment of all such legislation in order to protect these rights.

Outstanding among several important keynote addresses was a presentation on the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society by M. Adama Samassékou, President of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit and formerly Minister of Education in Mali. Describing the destruction of the Berlin Wall as '*an historical celebration of liberty and*

solidarity', M. Samassékou went on to note that '*there are other walls which divide human beings*'; there are those who can read and those who cannot; there are the information rich and the information poor. We speak of our planet as '*globalized*', but in reality it is torn by many divides - not only the so-called '*digital divide*'. Discussing the nature of the transition towards an Information Society, M. Samassékou declared: '*I am profoundly convinced that the role of libraries and information services in the creation and diffusion of knowledge and in formal and informal education will not only continue to be indispensable, but will become more and more important*'.

At the end of a six-year period of office, Mme. Christine Deschamps handed over the Presidency of the Federation during the closing ceremony to Ms. Kay Raseroka of Botswana, whose Presidential theme for the next two years will be '*Libraries for Lifelong Literacy*'.

Section Activities during the 69th World Library and Information Congress, Berlin

The Section was very active during the World Congress, ensuring there were many sessions of interest to our members.

A very lively session, attended by over 180 people, was held on **Information Literacy**. Two opposing views on the information literacy certificate were presented by speakers and contrasts between theoretical and practical approaches were made. The papers from this session are available in IFLANet at: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s2/sulogrlconf03.htm>

The University Libraries and Other General Research Libraries Section joined with the Information Technology Section to present a Workshop on **The Scholar's Portal: An International Perspective**. 92 attendees participated in this off-site workshop. The Workshop could have lasted a full day because of the interest in the topic and the experience of the speakers, Larry Woods, Mary Jackson (ARL), Earle Gow and Kate Roberts (AARLIN Project, Latrobe University), Jenny Walker (Ex Libris), Matt Goldner (Fretwell-Downing), Greg Van Essen (Endeavor), Karen Calhoun (Cornell University), Krisellen Maloney (Uni. of Arizona) and Jiri Pavlik (Charles University) who represented a wide variety of projects and vendors.

The **Marketing Library Services to Academic Communities Discussion Group** saw Tom Wilding, University of Texas at Arlington, present an excellent paper on "User Surveys and Focus Groups: Gathering and Using Data from Academic Communities". This session was attended by 60 people and 95% of respondents rated the session as good – excellent.

Over 110 people attended the start-up meeting of the **Quality Issues in Libraries Discussion Group**. Although the University Libraries and Other General research Libraries Section is the sponsoring group, this discussion group has drawn interest from a broad cross section of IFLA members. IFLA's Professional Committee formally approved this Discussion Group in December 2003, so it will now swing into action. Members will be advised how to join the deliberations of the Discussion group in the near future.

Several members of our Section presented poster sessions:

"Building a Cooperative Academic Library Network in Serbia: progress on an EU Tempus Project"
Presenters: Stella Filipi-Matutinovic and Alan Hopkinson.

"Building Partnership with the University at the University" Presenters: Mirja Iivonen and Maija Ikonen

"Bibliothèques universitaires - les lieux de l'intégration et d'émanation de l'esprit" Presenters: Marija Vranic-Ignjacevic and Dragana Besara.

Strategic Plan

The following is a draft of the Section's 2004-2005 Strategic Plan, which is being considered by the IFLA Professional Committee. The final version will be mounted on our Section Website at:
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s2/sulogrl.htm>

University and Other General Research Libraries Section

DRAFT Strategic Plan 2004-2005

Mission

The University and Other General Research Libraries Section serves to promote and strengthen the development and good management of academic and research libraries in all countries. The Section aims to foster collaboration with national and parliamentary libraries represented in Division 1 and with special interest Sections of IFLA.

The University and Other General Research Libraries Section's programs aim to encourage:

- the integration of the library in the core institutional functions of learning, teaching, research and services;
- research for evidence of the contribution and impact of the library on its various constituencies; and
- integration of the library into the broader national and international frameworks for information policy and for key skills provision.

Goals

1. ***Assist librarians in academic and research institutions to understand and work effectively with the new professional functions of educator and knowledge manager, especially in training users to be information literate and lifelong learners***

Relation to IFLA professional priorities: a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; c) Promoting literacy and reading; d) Providing unrestricted access to information; f) Promoting resource sharing; h) Developing library professionals.

Action

- 1.1 Cooperate with other IFLA units in the creation and maintenance of an international Information Literacy Forum or Foundation to develop a shared framework for Information Literacy developments
- 1.2. Broaden the Information Literacy issue to include cooperation and partnership with other libraries, educational agencies, NGOs and other bodies for collaborative development projects.

These activities will be first responsibility for the Information Literacy Working Group of the Standing Committee.

2. ***Promote the development and dissemination of best practices in quality assurance and review of services as part of the institutional evaluation processes***

Relation to IFLA professional priorities: a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; c) Promoting literacy and reading; i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices

Action

- 2.1. Collaborate with Division I, the Statistics and Evaluation Section, and the [Library Theory and Research Section](#) to establish and convene the Quality Issues in Libraries Discussion Group in Buenos Aires 2004 and Oslo 2005, according to the rationale agreed in Berlin and approved by PC.
- 2.2. Contribute to the IFLA publications program by authoring a monograph on "Improving Quality: issues for academic and research libraries" by 2005. A special activity (such as a 4-hours session joint with other IFLA units as appropriate) to be scheduled for Oslo 2005 for presentation and discussion of the final content of the book.
- 2.3. Commence a cost analysis study of the open access publishing model, including political, social and economic considerations.

Activities related to these actions will be the main responsibility for the Performance Evaluation and Quality Assessment Working Group of the SC. Action 2.3 will be developed in close cooperation with the Scholarly Communication Working Group.

3. ***Address opportunities, issues and challenges faced by academic and research libraries in the changing nature of scholarly communication and the long time preservation of digital materials in cooperation with national libraries and other key players in the national information system for the benefit of all type of users, especially from less developed countries.***

Relation to IFLA professional priorities: a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; d) Providing unrestricted access to information; e) Balancing the intellectual property rights of authors with the needs of users; k) Representing libraries in the technological marketplace.

Action

- 3.1. Participate in the final discussion of the IFLA Open Access Statement and eventual preparation of an addendum specifically targeted to the academic and research libraries community.
- 3.2. Prepare a joint program with the Information Technology Section on "Libraries and Scholarly Communication" for Buenos Aires in 2004, with a strong focus in Latin American developments

These activities to be developed by the Scholarly Communication Working Group.

4. ***Monitor and report on trends in Higher Education around the world which could convey special opportunities and challenges to IFLA and the Library and Information Services profession, particularly as regards promotion of resource sharing between the information rich and the information poor, according to recommendation n° 10 of the Social Responsibilities Discussion Group***

Relation to IFLA professional priorities: a) Supporting the role of libraries in society; b) Defending the principle of freedom of information; d) Providing unrestricted access to information; e) Balancing the intellectual property rights of authors with the need of users; f) Promoting resource sharing; h) Developing library professionals.

Action

- 4.1. Appoint a Section liaison person who will liaise with the IFLA team at the UNESCO World Summit on the Information Society and report to the Section on issues that should be addresses by the Section.
- 4.2. Liaise with FAIFE, CLM and other strategic IFLA units, especially Division VIII, to bring forward the principles and recommendations of the SRDG as adopted by Council in Glasgow.

These activities to be developed by the FAIFE and SRDG Working Group and reported through the Section Newsletter as appropriate. Liaison with Division VIII for specific issues to be assumed by the Chair of the SC.

5. ***Commence preparations for the assessment and review process of the Section to be completed before 2007***

Relation to IFLA professional priorities: h) Developing library professionals; j) Supporting the infrastructure of library associations.

Action

- 5.1. Survey the Section's membership during 2004.
- 5.2. Draft a briefing paper on vision, mission, remit and rationale for the Section within Division I. for Buenos Aires, with discussions to be carried on until Oslo, where a clear agenda on the evaluation and review process should be established.

These activities to be led by the executive board of the Section.

Review of our Section ... Your chance to provide input

Readers will note that Section 5 of our Draft Strategic Plan requires us to survey our members and review our Section. A draft members survey is to be piloted with the Section's Standing Committee members prior to the 2004 World Congress in August. Once it is finalised, and this is expected to be before the end of 2004, it will be made available online (and in print for those unable to access the Internet). We encourage everyone to complete the survey once it is available.

So that your Standing Committee has some comments for discussion at the 2004 World Congress Committee meeting, we would appreciate receiving any comments on what changes you would like to see to the [University Libraries and Other General Research Libraries Section](#) – its Vision, Mission, Remit and Rationale. Please send these comments to either:

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Have you visited IFLANET lately?

This newsletter is not intended to be a substitute to the IFLANET website, which contains loads of information about IFLA, this Section, and all other sections/activities of IFLA. Please visit the site and bookmark it for future reference. Then visit it at least once a month to keep up with what is happening with your Association. Go to: <http://www.ifla.org/> You will find all the minutes of the Section's meetings, conference papers, brochures about the Section and more.

Guidelines for Planning Congress Programmes *Buenos Aires, 2004 and following conferences*

Background

For several years the Professional Committee, Governing Board, Conference Planning Committee and National Organising Committees have been considering ways to make the annual IFLA conference more useful, affordable and manageable for attendees and for the membership at large. Each conference for at least the past four years has introduced changes in an incremental manner, as the IFLA governing bodies have sought both to respond to members' (sometimes conflicting) suggestions and to develop conference programmes that promote IFLA's values and professional priorities. Examples of such changes include the elimination of required registration for workshops, the expansion of poster sessions, and the modest shortening of the conference in Glasgow.

Now the Professional Committee, with the approval of the Governing Board, has decided to adopt several substantial changes, beginning with the 2004 World Congress in Buenos Aires. We believe that these

changes will: enable the World Congress more thoroughly to promote IFLA's values, professional priorities and strategic plans; provide more coherence

in World Congress programme planning; reduce redundancy in programming and scheduling conflicts; and perhaps most important enable the sections, divisions and core activities to devote more effort to projects, publications, etc. that will have broad and continuing impact on the improvement of library services throughout the world for librarians and patrons who may never be able to participate in an annual World Congress.

Guidelines

The following points are intended to aid sections and divisions in planning for the Buenos Aires meeting:

1. Congress theme

The Governing Board in cooperation with the Buenos Aires National Organising Committee has adopted the theme, "Libraries: Tools for Education and Development", for the 2004 World Congress. President-Elect Kay Raseroka, based in large measure on the results of the brainstorming session held in Glasgow, has adopted the theme, 'Life Long Literacy' for her 2003-2005 presidency, which will include the Congresses in Buenos Aires and Oslo. All section strategic plans and Congress programmes during this biennium should take President Raseroka's theme into account. Sections are urged to

think about the ways in which their type of library, library activity and/or region relate to and can benefit from a focus on this theme during Kay's presidential term. The Professional Committee will take this relevancy into account when approving programme requests for Buenos Aires and Oslo.

2. Number of Programmes

The Congress in Buenos Aires will last five days, Monday – Friday*. This shortened Congress, adopted in response to numerous member requests, will result in fewer programme slots. Therefore the Professional Committee has determined that each section will be entitled to no more than one 2-hour programme slot. Sections are encouraged to cooperate in the development of programmes that demonstrate ways in which their areas of interest are complementary, as well as reinforcing the Presidential theme of 'Life Long Literacy'.

Sections having a joint programme will receive double or triple time, e.g. 1 Section = 2 hours, 2 Sections = 4 hours etc.

The Professional Committee recognises the fact that there could be a need for extra programme time. The Professional Committee therefore reserved a limited number of time slots. Allocation would happen on quality/ necessity basis. Special attention would be given to relevancy to the President-Elect's theme. The limited number of time slots applies whether the programmes are held on-site or off-site (see #4 below).

*From Oslo 2005 onwards, the conference days will be Sunday – Thursday, but there are some technical problems in Buenos Aires which made it necessary to shift the conference for one day.

3. Quality of Programmes/Papers

While the reduction in programme slots may reduce some duplication, it does not, of course, guarantee an improvement in the quality of papers presented. Primary responsibility for the quality of Congress programming rests with the chairs of the sections sponsoring each programme. Therefore, the chairs should be actively involved both in the selection of speakers and in the review of papers, abstracts or PowerPoint slides prepared by these speakers. The Professional Committee has decided that it may be impractical to require that every speaker prepares a formal paper, rather than PowerPoint slides. Our first preference remains papers, translated into IFLA's official languages. If speakers cannot produce papers, however, they **must** prepare a substantial abstract, including references such as URLs and bibliographies, to accompany their presentation.

4. Activities beyond the Congress

The Professional Committee does not regard the development of Congress programmes as the only, or even most important, way in which the values and professional priorities of IFLA should be advanced. In fact, we wish to make clear that the number of programmes proposed and conducted at the World Congress will not be the chief criterion used in evaluating the current section/division structure that will be undertaken beginning in December 2007 (see letter from Ross Shimmom dated 13 March 2003.) The Professional Committee encourages each section to think of ways - such as publications, development of guidelines, regional conferences - that extend IFLA's reach well beyond the confines of the World Congress.

5. Programmes, not "open sessions" and "workshops."

IFLA World Congresses will no longer have "open sessions" and "workshops." Instead there will be "programmes." Sections are not precluded from proposing programmes that have a workshop-like format and may even require registration to limit participation to manageable numbers.

However, the Professional Committee believes that the long-standing terminological distinction between "open sessions" and "workshops" has outlived its usefulness.

6. CB and SC Meetings

The Professional Committee appreciates the numerous comments received in response to its query about the number and duration of CB and SC meetings at each World Congress. In response, we have agreed to retain the CB and SC meetings at the beginning and end of each World Congress. The only change will be a slightly shorter time allotted for the first CB meeting. The Standing Committee Meetings will occur on the Saturday preceding and Friday following each World Congress. (For Buenos Aires that will be Sunday and Saturday, see the schedule below.)

It was also decided to leave the lunch hour free for Plenary Sessions and visit to the Exhibition. The timing of the sessions will be:

08.30-10.30 1st Session
10.45-12.45 2nd Session
12.45-13.45 Lunch break for Exhibition & Plenary Sessions
13.45-15.45 3rd Session
16.00-18.00 4th Session

The conference schedule for 2004 will look as follows:

		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5		
Saturday 21 August	Sunday 22 August	Monday 23 August	Tuesday 24 August	Wednesday 25 August	Thursday 26 August	Friday 27 August	Saturday 28 August	
			exhibition	exhibition	exhibition			
PC Meeting	SC Meetings	Opening	Sessions	Sessions	Sessions	Sessions	SC Meetings	
GB Meeting	SC Meetings	Council	Sessions	Sessions	Sessions	Sessions	SC Meetings	
	SC Meetings	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	SC Meetings	
CB Meeting	SC Meetings	Sessions	Sessions	Sessions	Sessions	Council II	SC Meetings	
	SC Meetings	Exhibit Party	Sessions	Sessions	Sessions	Closing	CB Meetings	

The Standing Committees would all be 2 hours and 50 minutes, both on Sunday and on the Saturday.

Details of the Section’s program for the 2004 conference will appear in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Future Conferences

[World Library and Information Congress: 70th IFLA General Conference and Council](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/index.htm)
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/index.htm>
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2004
Theme: Libraries: Tools for Education and Development"

[World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/index.htm)
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/index.htm>
Oslo, Norway, August 14-19, 2005

[World Library and Information Congress: 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm)
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 2006

[World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/index.htm)
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/index.htm>
Durban, South Africa, 2007

[World Library and Information Congress: 74rd IFLA General Conference and Council](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm)
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm>
Québec, Canada, 2008

Editorial Note:

This newsletter is produced by the University Libraries and other General Research Libraries Section of IFLA. The Section intends to publish two newsletters per year, one before the annual IFLA conference in that year, and one after the IFLA conference, serving as a summary of conference highlights. This way, we hope to encourage members to attend, by highlighting what was, and what is planned to be, showcased at these great conferences.

To keep costs as low as possible, the newsletter will be emailed to members who have nominated an email address, with a paper version to those who have no email address. In addition, the newsletter will be published on IFLANET.

Contributions to the Newsletter are invited from members. Forward these to Sue McKnight, Information Officer, IFLA Section of University Libraries and other General research Libraries, c/- Learning Services, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia 3217 or email: suemck@deakin.edu.au