



**Academic and Research Libraries Section**

*Newsletter*

*No. 38, December 2006*

---

**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.

---



---

**A Look Back at Seoul**

---

It was a privilege to chair two meetings of the Academic and Research Libraries Section Standing Committee in Seoul, in what was a busy and excellent conference. The minutes are available on the IFLA website at: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s2/index.htm>

The Standing Committee shared a wonderful Korean banquet after its first meeting, hosted by Mr Jun Hong, General Manager of Ex Libris. I would like to thank Ex Libris for their hospitality and the opportunity to get to know our colleagues. It is difficult, in the formality of two very full meetings held during the annual congress, to network with Standing Committee members, and to share experiences from across the globe. This lunch was a wonderful chance to do just that, and I am sure it will help our communications throughout the year because we know each other that little bit better.



The main activities of the Standing Committee meetings was to revise our Strategic Plan, prepare for the Durban and Quebec congress professional programs and to consider IFLA's discussion document on the structure of Sections, Discussion Groups, and Divisions. Your Section strongly urged IFLA's Professional Board to consider more radical restructuring, perhaps even abolishing Divisions.

My sincere thanks to all Standing Committee members for their valuable contributions. It is 'election' time, so I urge our members to consider nominating a position on the Standing Committee as it is a great opportunity to provide something back to the profession.

I also urge our Section members to join the Academic and Research Libraries Discussion List and to post comments and questions. We have a very big membership, over 500 organisations plus individual members, so it is a immense resource for the academic and research library community.



Sue McKnight  
Chair, ARL Standing Committee, IFLA

**(right, Oh Se-hoon, Mayor of Seoul, his wife in traditional dress, and, far left, Minister of education at the Exhibits)**



**Academic and Research Libraries Section Standing Committee and visitors  
at 2nd SC meeting, Seoul, August 2006**

### **WLIC 2006 in Seoul: one participant, four points of view**

by Frédéric Blin, [frederic.blin@education.gouv.fr](mailto:frederic.blin@education.gouv.fr), French Ministry of Higher Education and Research

WLIC is the place where librarians of the entire world meet together. Every participant has her/his own impressions of the congress: this short text is intended to present some of my own impressions, which may not be very original but still be of some interest to some of the readers.



#### **As a matter of fact, my impressions are multi-faceted:**

- Having been a professional librarian for 2 years, now aged 28, and WLIC 2006 being my third IFLA Conference, I am what IFLA calls a “new professional”, with a relatively new look on IFLA.
- Working for a governmental body, the Department for academic libraries of the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research, I also see IFLA, an international professional association with a strong advocacy policy, from the point of view of a policy-making and funding organisation for all the academic libraries on a national scale.
- Being of French nationality, I see

IFLA with the eyes of a professional from a country with a Latin, not Anglo-American, culture, and whose language is the second main international language and one of the working languages of IFLA.

- And finally, having been an observer of the Academic and Research libraries Section of IFLA for the last two years, as well as of other sections, I can give a few comments on how I see the work of the ARL section.

It can be difficult to say with precision which of my impressions are due to this or that of those four features: like for any individual, they all mix up to create the complexity of human nature. Therefore, I won't try to classify my impressions according to those four characteristics; instead, I will organize my comments focusing on WLIC, IFLA and the ARL section. I will first comment on the organisation of WLIC 2006, then on the scientific and professional quality of the conference. I will thirdly give some remarks on how I see the functioning of IFLA and the ARL section, before summarizing with some closing remarks, hoping they will contribute to a good evolution of IFLA, of the WLIC, and of the ARL section.

### **1. The organisation of the conference**

I really appreciated the organisation of the conference. I think it was very well organised, since nearly all of the conference and social events were in the same place, and the transportation to off-site events was very efficient (remember the bus drive to the national theatre for the cultural evening!). The social evenings were very well too, and the cultural evening was for me – and I think for all the participants – the highlight of the conference, and the best reason to go back to Korea in the future. I only regret that the official song of the conference, “Guiding our Dreams”, was so ridiculously “kitsch”...

I also liked that the conference had a real Korean atmosphere. We had a real glimpse on Korean culture, and it was a very good thing that Korean officials held their speeches in Korean: I found it very sad that last year in Oslo even the recitation of Ibsen's poem during the opening ceremony was not made in Norwegian... Therefore, even if there was a real effort on translation during the Seoul conference, I regret that the conference documents were only in English (maybe too in Korean?), and the people at the registration desk only spoke English, even if IFLA is supposed to have 5, now 6 and next year 7, working languages. I will come back to this issue, which I consider one of the most important for the development of IFLA.

### **2. The scientific and professional quality of the conference**

I was impressed by the overall scientific and professional quality of the conference, which I think was better than last year in Oslo. This year, I did not hear many speakers whose papers disappointed me. If I had to point on the two sessions that most interested me, I would mention the Session on Copyright and other legal matters, held on Monday, and the session on institutional repositories on Thursday, co-sponsored by the ARL section. Those two sessions dealt with the most critical issues for academic libraries at present, and I think that most of the speakers were of the best quality possible. I only regret that nearly all of these speakers came from English-speaking countries, and therefore expressed only the Anglo-American point of view and state of the art on these questions. A bigger place given to other cultures and traditions on these matters could have benefited the sessions, by giving more diversity and putting awareness on the multiple experiences existing throughout the world, even if the reflections in the USA are very often in advance to those in other countries and therefore can serve as examples to follow.

One other remark, which I also heard from other participants, concerns the nature of the speakers. Nearly all are professional librarians, with a librarian point of view. I think that inviting non-librarian people, from governmental or other international bodies, would contribute to enrich the sessions by permitting a real dialogue and giving librarians a comprehension of the thoughts, needs and actions of the policy-making and funding bodies. It was a good thing that a representative of WIPO was invited to the CLM session: I can only encourage the development of those invitations, which would open the closed world that IFLA is in many aspects.

### **3. The functioning of IFLA and the ARL section**

Its functioning is at present one of the main issue for IFLA. There are many thoughts and projects concerning its structure, its funding, and its actions. Many participants I met, and this is also one of the thoughts and remarks that were made during the first working session of the ARL Standing Committee, mentioned the need of more democracy at IFLA. Another important concern for IFLA is retaining its members, and attracting new ones. A third one is developing its advocacy role for libraries towards international bodies.

I think that one of the best ways to achieve these three goals is for IFLA to become more international. What I mean with it is giving more space to professionals outside the developed countries and the Anglo-American sphere to present their actions, problems and thoughts, in their own language. Libraries' mission is to give access to documents of all types, of all formats, of all times, of all countries, of all cultures. One of IFLA's greatest causes for advocacy is freedom of expression, and freedom to access information. Permitting

members to speak their own language, giving them access to information about IFLA in their own language, providing service to members in their own language – speaking to a member in her/his own language is the most essential service IFLA can give –, all these elements are an essential part of the freedom of expression and freedom to access information, and therefore should become one of the main objectives of improvement for IFLA in the next years. And in doing this, IFLA would give a concrete example of the respect given to all cultures, respect which would not be hindering the functioning of this international body. That's why I particularly regret that multilingualism was not even mentioned in IFLA's Strategic Plan 2006-2009, published in IFLA Express n°4 on Monday.

In this regard, the ARL section has this year proven its respect to international activities, by taking into account and thanking the translators of the section's sessions, by encouraging members of the Standing Committee and observers to speak their own language, by asking its members to translate its documents (Newsletter, minutes, strategic plans, etc.) in the working languages of IFLA and other, and by having a very broad and international membership.

What most impressed me with the ARL section is the great quality of the Standing Committee Members. They are all important people in their own associations and professional communities in their respective countries, holding top-level positions in their home institutions, but nevertheless finding the time to commit themselves to improving and developing the activities of the section. The counterpart to this great and impressive quality of the SC members is that it seems to be a very selective section, with maybe little place for young professionals and newcomers. In reality, as an observer and a young professional, I must say that I have been very well accepted to attend the SC meetings, and I think that my contributions to the section, mainly through translations into French, have been appreciated. Maybe more than for other sections, it should be seen as an honour to participate in the work of this section, very active and of the best quality among IFLA sections.

#### 4. Closing remarks

If I had to summarize all these remarks, which intend to help IFLA improve its actions, I would point out the two following elements:

- Developing multilingualism at IFLA would retain actual members and attract new ones, while making IFLA an exemplary body in respecting cultures and languages of the world, which is one of the most essential missions of libraries. Adding a fourth element – multilingualism – to its Fund, besides the Society, Opportunity and Members elements, would permit the funding of the actions necessary to assure these goals.
- Inviting non librarian speakers from national and international policy-making and funding bodies would permit them a better dialogue with the librarian profession, and give the latter a good opportunity to express their thoughts and causes for concerns, "live".

Concerning the Academic and Research Libraries Section in particular, I would like to mention that all the associations, the institutional and individual members of the ARL section must know that this – already the one with the most members – is also one of the best in IFLA, and should be encouraged to maintain and develop their participation to its work.

Finally, and because I do not want to be too long, I can only encourage librarians of all countries to get involved in IFLA, by becoming members, by submitting papers, by doing translations in their own languages, to assure that IFLA develops its international representation and legitimacy, and acts as a leading body for the preservation of the cultural diversity throughout the world.

**Contact:** Frédéric BLIN, Ministère de l'Education nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche  
 Direction générale de l'enseignement supérieur Sous-direction des bibliothèques et de l'information scientifique Bureau de la diffusion des savoirs et de la formation professionnelle 97-99, rue de Grenelle,  
 75357 PARIS 07 SP, (0033) (0)1 55 55 79 38, Fax: (0033)(0)155 55 79 03  
[frederic.blin@education.gouv.fr](mailto:frederic.blin@education.gouv.fr)

---

---



---

## Looking forward toward Durban

---



Africa's bewitching seaside playground in the sun. Durban possesses special charm...a warm Indian Ocean, radiant golden sands and lush sub-tropical greenery. Durban beckons visitors to three invaluable elements: the Valley of a Thousand Hills; long and tranquil beaches of The South; and up-market ambience of the historic and culturally rich Umhlanga.

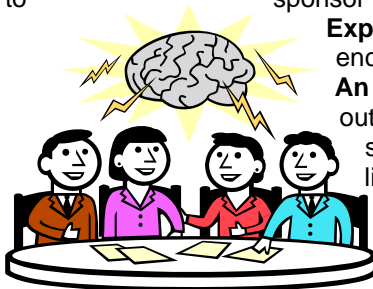
Durban is where the proud Zulu nation meets East and West...traditional warrior dancers, mystic fire-walkers and colonial heritage. Durban has a unique vibrancy of township life, the finest curries outside India and a calendar filled with thrilling, spectacular events. Two World Heritage Sites wait among the majestic Berg, teeming Bush, endless Beach and monumental Battlefields that lie within easy reach. Kingdom of the Zulu, Durban is a holiday destination quite unlike any other with the charismatic, multi-faceted and progressive city the Zulu people know as Thekweni.

### What your Section is Planning for the Durban Congress!

**1 - Conduits for Transformation: Incorporating Multimodal Instruction and Learning into Information Literacy** is one of the many programs you may look forward to enjoy while in Durban sponsored by Information Literacy and Academic & Research Libraries Sections with simultaneous translation. The program will meet the objectives toward:

- Promoting literacy, reading and lifelong learning,
- Promoting unrestricted access to information, and
- Representing libraries in the technological marketplace.

**2 – The Academic & Research Libraries Section** has applied for two 'extra' congress sessions. One we wish to sponsor is a Mentoring session: **'Mentors Available! Need advice? Ask an Experienced Librarian'** (The Young Professionals discussion group is strongly encouraged to participate in this activity.)



Following a speaker's presentation on **An Introduction on Mentoring**, the mentees will join their mentors and 'break out' of the session (perhaps go for coffee; remain in the room and talk with the small group) and 'ask their advice'. ARL Section will be seeking to recruit librarians willing to act as mentors (perhaps 100 people who will be attending the conference). All ARL Section Standing Committee members are willing.

If this extra session is granted, prior to the conference, we will seek more mentors from people who know they will be attending the congress in Durban. This is a very different sort of congress session, with practical help being provided to individuals, so we hope to be able to go ahead and evaluate whether it is feasible to conduct more 'interactive sessions' at future congresses, and move away, somewhat, from the 'sage on the stage'. There will be more information on the Discussion List and the next newsletter!

**3 – Academic & Research Libraries Section**, in cooperation with the Management and Marketing Section, are seeking an additional 'extra' session to sponsor **Libraries in the Spotlight: Promotion and Marketing Strategies** (title to be confirmed). This program meets several IFLA goals including: Supporting the Role of Libraries in Society, Promoting Literacy, Reading, and Lifelong Learning, Promoting Unrestricted Access to Information, Developing Library Professionals, and Promoting Standards, Guidelines, and Best Practices. If this goes ahead, we will seek to hold a practical 'Show and Swap' session in Quebec where librarians and information professionals can share great ideas for promotional and marketing activities.

---

## Conferences around the globe for 2007

Information Online 2007

Australian Library and Information Association  
(ALIA), 30 January-1 February 2007  
Sydney, Australia

Web Based Communities 2007

International Association for the Development of  
the Information Society (IADIS)  
18-20 February 2007  
Salamanca, Spain

Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership  
in a World Community

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public  
Records, 18-20 February 2007  
Phoenix, AZ, USA

International Conference on Semantic Web and  
Digital Libraries

Indian Statistical Institute  
21-23 February 2007  
Banglore, India  
Electronic Resources & Libraries 2007  
22-24 February 2007  
Atlanta, GA, USA

2007 Code4Lib Conference

28 February-2 March 2007  
Athens, GA, USA

IPI-ConfEx

International Patent Information  
4-8 March 2007  
Sorrento, Italy

National Conference on Library and Information  
Studies

Sri Lanka Library Association  
8-9 March 2007  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

EUSIDIC 2007

European Association of Information Services  
11-13 March 2007  
Roskilde, Denmark

Buying & Selling eContent

Information Today  
18-20 March 2007  
Scottsdale, AZ, USA

Information Architecture Summit

ASIS&T  
22-26 March 2007  
Las Vegas, NV, USA

Information Ethics Roundtable 2007

23-25 March 2007  
Tucson, AZ, USA

ACRL 13th National Conference

Association of College & Research Libraries  
29 March-1 April 2007  
Baltimore, MD, USA

The Academic Librarian: Dinosaur or Phoenix?

The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
11-12 April 2007  
Hong Kong

Computers in Libraries 2007

Information Today  
16-18 April 2007  
Arlington, VA, USA

AIIM 2007

16-19 April 2007  
Philadelphia, PA, USA

21st Annual AIIP Conference

Association of Independent Information  
Professionals  
18-22 April 2007  
Minneapolis, MN, USA

ARLIS/NA 35th Annual Conference

Art Libraries Society of North America  
26-30 April 2007  
Atlanta, GA, USA

SCIP07

Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals  
30 April-3 May 2007  
New York, NY, USA

4th International Evidence Based Library &  
Information Practice Conference

School of LIS at UNC-Chapel Hill / Institute on  
Aging  
4-11 May 2007  
Chapel Hill-Durham, NC, USA

16th International World Wide Web Conference

International WWW Conference Committee  
8-12 May 2007  
Banff, Alberta, Canada

Enterprise Search Summit 2007

Information Today  
15-16 May 2007, New York, NY, USA  
MLA Annual Meeting

Medical Library Association  
18-23 May 2007, Philadelphia, PA, USA

CLA 2007, Canadian Library Association  
23-26 May 2007  
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

CHLA Conference 2007  
Canadian Health Libraries Association  
28 May-June 1 2007, Ottawa, ON, Canada

SLA 2007  
3-6 June 2007  
Denver, CO, USA

9th International Conference on Enterprise  
Information Systems (ICEIS 2007) 12-16 June  
2007, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

North American Symposium on Knowledge  
Organization, 14-15 June 2007, Toronto, ON,  
Canada

Joint Conference on Digital Libraries / ACM and  
IEEE, 17-23 June 2007  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

13th Nordic Conference on Information and  
Documentation/Swedish Assoc. Information  
Specialist, 18-19 June 2007, Stockholm, Sweden

Joint Use Libraries, an International Conference  
Evidence Base  
19-21 June 2007, Manchester, UK

ALA Annual Conference  
21-27 June 2007  
Washington, DC, USA

AALL Annual Meeting  
American Association of Law Libraries  
14-17 July 2007  
New Orleans, LA, USA

Sixth International Conference on Conceptions of  
Library and Information Science (COLIS)  
Swedish School of Library and Information  
Science, 13-16 August 2007, Borås, Sweden

73rd Annual World Library and Information  
Congress, IFLA, 19-23 August 2007  
Durban, South Africa

---

## **REVITALIZING AFRICAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN GHANA, NIGERIA, TANZANIA, AND UGANDA**

---

by **Barbara J. Ford and Susan Schnuer Mortenson**, Center for International Library Programs

The Partnership for Higher Education in Africa is a joint effort of Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Ford, MacArthur, Rockefeller, William and Flora Hewlett, and Andrew W. Mellon Foundations to support efforts to build the capacity of universities and the field of higher education in Africa. As part of this project, the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign has received grants from the Carnegie Corporation and MacArthur Foundation to work with 10 university libraries in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda. These universities and their libraries are reemerging as critical engines for economic and social development progress in Africa. They serve as a primary locus for innovation and providing essential training for the continent's future leaders in the public and private sectors.

Technology and strong university libraries are essential to the progress and development of universities. Lack of reliable electricity and infrastructure as well as limited and expensive

bandwidth for web access have hindered progress by African libraries in implementing technology. These types of issues must be addressed at the university level, since libraries alone cannot solve them. Some important steps already have been made by the Partnership, including a bandwidth initiative. This initiative will significantly lower the cost of bandwidth, providing libraries with better access to key electronic resources and thus providing researchers with better access to the web and its resources.

Teams of librarians from the Mortenson Center completed initial assessment visits to each of the universities (in Nigeria, Bayero University, Ahmadu Bello University, Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Ibadan, University of Jos, University of Port Harcourt; in Ghana, University of Ghana-Legon and University of Education at Winneba; in Tanzania, University of Dar es Salaam; and in Uganda, Makerere University). They visited these libraries in 2004 and 2005 and prepared reports for the foundations that can be accessed on the Mortenson Center web site

([www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson](http://www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson)). Following the initial assessment visits, the Center submitted grants to the foundations proposing a three-year project to assist staff in the university libraries with using technology to address the information needs of researchers, scholars, and students.

Each year of the three-year grants, site visits to the universities will be conducted by Mortenson Center training teams to provide assistance in implementing library technologies. In November 2005 and February 2006, catalogers, reference librarians, and information technologists visited the university libraries to assist them in using technology to improve services and access resources. Outcomes of these visits include increased visibility of libraries on their campuses and the opportunity to meet with campus leaders to help them understand all the libraries can contribute when the necessary resources are available. During April and May 2006, librarians from each of the ten universities will spend eight weeks at the Mortenson Center to learn more about university libraries and technology. This particular program, which focuses on technology and university libraries, will provide an opportunity to observe best practices, see automated libraries in operation, and enhance technical skills.

The Mortenson Center has developed educational programs for more than 700 librarians from 86 countries who come to the Center for continuing education. The Center has a strong history in

working with librarians in a variety of settings to strengthen libraries and the services they provide. In addition to providing education and training, the Mortenson Center is working with library vendors to negotiate good rates and dependable service for online catalog systems and other needed technologies. This is especially important since the lack of a critical mass of libraries purchasing technologies has resulted in the inability of vendors to provide needed support in some of the regions.

The Carnegie- and MacArthur-funded projects focus on providing better access to research and information materials for users. Written project plans with timelines, activities, and staff responsibilities are under development. In these early stages, however, the university libraries already are developing visible and defined outreach services to the user communities, and campus support for strong research libraries is growing. The librarians are beginning to work together to discuss consortiums and collaborative efforts that will help them move forward in providing needed library resources and services. Librarians also understand that automation is the key to a strong and vital presence in the university. Teams of well-trained individuals in each of the libraries and more effective relations with vendors will be critical to sustaining the progress made through these important grants.

---

## **Memory of the World: Preserving and sharing access to our documentary heritage**

---

[Note: edited for length] By **Abdelaziz ABID**, Information Society Division, UNESCO

The Memory of the World Programme is a major part of UNESCO's work to help preserve the cultures of the world as expressed through the documentary heritage. Education is both an aid in preservation and a beneficiary of the success of the Programme.

The Programme was started in 1992 in response to the crisis that is facing many archives and libraries. Historic books and manuscripts are decaying or being destroyed by war and natural disaster. Acid paper is a problem with many modern textual publications. The Vinegar Syndrome is destroying films. Machine obsolescence is causing major problems for holders of audio and video material.

The long established World Heritage Programme served as a model. This has been in operation for

over 30 years and has raised the public appreciation of the buildings, monuments and natural features that have been included on the World Heritage List. It has also helped increase public understanding of the importance of other buildings and features.

### **Preservation and Access**

The Memory of the World Programme has two main aims

- to preserve the documentary heritage of the world, and
- to improve access to it.

The first objective of the Programme is to ensure the preservation, by the most appropriate means, of documentary heritage which has world significance and to encourage the preservation of documentary heritage which has national and



regional significance. A twin objective is to make this heritage accessible to as many people as possible, using the most appropriate technology, both inside and outside the countries in which it is physically located.

Finally, the Programme seeks to develop awareness and products based on this documentary heritage and make them available for wide distribution, while ensuring the originals are maintained in the best conditions of conservation and security.

### **Programme scope and structure**

An International Advisory Committee for the "Memory of the World" Programme was appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO to guide the planning and implementation of the Programme and make recommendations concerning fund-raising, fund allocation and the granting of the "Memory of the World" label to the projects selected, including those not receiving financial support from the Programme. The Statutes of this Committee, approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO in May 1996, provide in particular for close co-operation with competent NGOs such as IFLA and ICA and stress the need to facilitate access to endangered documentary heritage by using state-of-the-art technology.

"Memory of the World" National Committees have been set up in 69 countries. Using their knowledge of local conditions and problems, they are best placed to recommend projects to the national government and UNESCO for assistance. In addition there is provision for Regional Committees to be set up to deal with documents that are of importance to a number of countries. Two Regional Committees have been established so far - the Asia/Pacific Regional Committee and, very recently, the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Asia/Pacific Regional Committee's objective is to promote, facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Memory of the World Programme within the region, and to represent the region's perspective at the international level. Another Regional Memory of the World Committee has been created during a meeting in Pachuca, Mexico, in June 2000.

### **Memory of the World Registers**

One of the main tools to attract publicity are the Registers. It is hoped that these will have the same effect on public and government awareness as the World Heritage List has had for buildings

and monuments. There are three types of register: international, regional and national. This international register lists documentary heritage which has been identified by the 'Memory of the World' International Advisory Committee as meeting the selection criteria for world significance, similar in some ways to UNESCO's World Heritage List. However, the nomination and registration of documents under the "Memory of the World" label will have no legal or financial implications.

The total number of entries on the Memory of the World Register amounts to 120 collections from 57 countries. These include the Vienna Dioscurides manuscript, considered as the most important pharmaceutical source of the Ancient World, the medical palm-leaf manuscripts preserved at the Institute of Asian Studies in Madras, India, and a selection of unique medieval manuscripts on medicine and pharmacy kept by the Institute of Manuscripts of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS).

Groups of nations like the Scandinavian countries or the Baltic States may compile regional registers to list documentary heritage which is integral to their collective memory. They may afford opportunity for minorities and sub-cultures to be appropriately represented.

### **Selection criteria**

Each register – international, regional or national – is based on criteria for assessing the significance of documentary heritage, and assessing whether its influence was global, regional or national. When considering documentary heritage for inclusion in the Register the item will be first assessed against the threshold test of authenticity. Is it what it appears to be? Has its identity and provenance been reliably established?

Second, it must be unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity. It must have created great impact over a span of time or within a particular cultural area of the world. It may be representative of a type, but must have no direct equal. It must have had great influence - whether positive or negative – on the course of history.

Thirdly, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the criteria set out below.

1 – Time: Absolute age, of itself, does not make a document significant: but every document is a creature of its time. Some documents are especially evocative of their time, which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change. A document may represent new discovery or be the “first of its kind”.

2 – Place: The place of its creation is a key attribute of its importance. It may contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture; or the location may itself have been an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document. It may be descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished.

3 – People: The social and cultural context of its creation may reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development. It may capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression. It may reflect the impact of key individuals or groups.

4 – Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

5 – Form and style: The item may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format (such as illuminated mediaeval manuscripts, palm leaf manuscripts, obsolete video or audio formats).

#### **Finally, the following matters will also be taken into account:**

- Rarity: does its content or physical nature make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?
- Integrity: within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is it complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?
- Threat: Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security?
- Management plan: Is there a plan which reflects the significance of the documentary heritage, with appropriate strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

The criteria for documentary heritage to be entered on National or Regional Registers are to be decided by the relevant National or Regional Committees.

#### **Pilot projects**

The Programme has established several experimental pilot projects. These have resulted in

a number of interesting CD-ROMs, web sites and publications. These projects include:

#### **Prague**

The historic collections of the National Library, with annotations in Czech, English and French. In 1995 a CD-ROM series has been started with the release of the first two discs in May. Digitizing the most beautiful manuscripts and old prints of the National Library.

#### **The Sana'a manuscripts**

In 1972, after heavy rain, a section of the wall of the Great Mosque of Sana'a collapsed. Work on the roof brought to light manuscripts which had been concealed in the ceiling in ancient times. They are parchment and paper fragments representing approximately one thousand different volumes, the oldest of which date back to the first century of the Hegira. Most are extracts from the Koran and are of considerable interest for the linguistic, religious and paleographic study of the literature of the early centuries of the Hegira and of the Arabic language.

Research work on illuminated fragments and on bindings was carried out with a grant from the Getty Institute. This work, together with papers read at congresses and articles in academic journals, shows just how remarkable the collection is. The Yemeni authorities concur in the view that the collection is the equivalent of a historic building of exceptional heritage quality. A UNESCO mission visited Sana'a at their request to consider including a pilot project on the Yemeni collections in the "Memory of the World" Programme.

A demonstration disc based on a selection of manuscripts including some of the Koranic fragments has been published, in co-operation with the Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Centre (RITSEC), Cairo, Egypt. This CD-ROM offers an introduction to the Arabic calligraphy illustrated by Yemenite manuscripts, especially the Koranic fragments. Descriptions and comments are provided in Arabic, English and French.

#### **Manuscripts of the Kandilli Observatory**

The aim of this project is the preservation of a collection of about 1300 works on astronomy in three languages (Turkish, Persian and Arabic) held in the Library of Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute at Bogaziçi University in Istanbul.

### **Treasures of Dar Al Kutub**

This project, reproducing on CD-ROM a selection of precious manuscripts of the National Library in Cairo (Dar Al Kutub), offers a guided tour among the splendours of the Arab culture and its contribution to the enhancement of knowledge in numerous scientific fields.

A second CD-ROM was dedicated to 'The contributions of the Arab and Islamic civilizations to medical sciences'. This work highlighted through a selection of manuscripts how the Arab and Muslim scholars laid the basics of clinical medicine and set the rules of theory and practice in the sphere of medicine and pharmacology.

### **Palm-leaf manuscripts**

Tamil Medical Manuscripts preserved at the Institute of Asian Studies in Madras, India, reflect the ancient system of medicine, practised by yogis. This system explains the methods of obtaining medicines from herbs, herbal roots, leaves, flowers, barks, fruits etc. The proportions of the ingredients as well as the specific processes are explained in detail

### **Virtual Matenadaran**

The Matenadaran is one of the oldest book-depositories in the world. Its collection of about 17.000 manuscripts includes almost all the areas of ancient and medieval Armenian culture and sciences, as well as manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Greek, Syrian, Ethiopian, Indian, Japanese and others. In this center of cultural heritage many originals, lost in their mother languages and known only of their Armenian translations, have been saved from loss.

### **Uzbekistan: Oriental miniatures**

This CD-ROM represents a collection of book miniatures of Middle East from 14-17th centuries. It features 374 miniatures, held in Al-Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies of them 114 miniatures by Kamoliddin Behzad and his school.

### **The Bibliotheca Corviniana**

King Mathias of Hungary invited to his court the leading humanists, artists, poets, and created at the end of the 15th century a library consisting of 2000 volumes. This Bibliotheca Corviniana contained works written for the king and copies of the most important documents known at this time. It represented the literary production and reflected the state of knowledge and arts of the Renaissance. The collection covered philosophy, theology, history, law, literature, geography, natural sciences, medicine, architecture, etc. The

manuscripts and early printed books were written mostly in Greek and Latin. In addition to the content, this collection represented a great artistic value due to the miniatures and the bindings.

In the wars this library was partly destroyed, partly scattered all over the world. Today 216 so called Corvinas are known, out of which Hungarian libraries preserve 53 items, the Austrian National Library possesses 39 volumes, different Italian libraries own 49 items and the rest is in French, German, English, Turkish, USA collections. Their reunification in a digital version of the Bibliotheca Corviniana and its registration on the Memory of World Register of documentary heritage would mean the recreation of a unique presentation and overview of what was the common cultural heritage of the Renaissance in the 15th century Europe.

### **Traditional Chinese Music**

The famous and unique field recordings of traditional Chinese music held by the Music Research Institute (MRI) of the Chinese Academy of Arts are now easier accessible for researchers thanks to a UNESCO funded project that was concluded in 2004. Some of the sound recording are available online.

Experts from the Austrian Research Sound Archives (Phonogrammarchiv) provided technical assistance. The Phonogrammarchiv also donated a Studer A810 analogue tape recorder.

The collections which have been included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 1997 contain unique field recordings from the 1950s onward. They are held by MRI, the most important institution of its kind in China collecting and studying Chinese traditional music that keeps 40,000 gramophone records and a collection of several thousand tapes with 7,000 hours' traditional music recordings collected from different nationalities all over the country.

### **Technical framework**

The two basic principles which guide the "Memory of the World" Programme are the preservation of documents, holdings and collections and the democratization of access to them.

Provision has been made for the establishment of two sub-committees, the first to make regular assessments of the technology that might be used by the Programme and the second to study

methods for marketing and selling the Programme's products throughout the world.

The Sub-Committee also considered a draft recommendation that digital copies of manuscripts and old printed material under "Memory of the World" use the Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML 2.0) as the basic presentation tool in order to provide the widest possible access.

A 'Guide to Preservation Standards' available both in paper edition (CII-98/WS/4) and on the Web site covers the following sections:

- Paper and other traditional materials (such as leather, parchment, palm-leaves, etc.)
- Photographic materials
- Mechanical carriers (including phonograph cylinders, microgroove discs, etc.)
- Magnetic materials (such as tapes and disks)
- Optical media (CDs, CD-ROMs, video discs, optical tapes, etc.)
- Electronic publications (off-line and on-line publications)
- Electronic records and virtual information (such as E-mail messages and personal computer files)

A CD-ROM on preventive preservation and conservation has been prepared in co-operation with IFLA. This disk displays a comprehensive documentation both in English and French, with illustration material on degradation factors affecting library and archival materials as well as preventive measures to be taken. Regional Workshops on Preservation of, and Access to, Southeast Asia Documentary Heritage took place in September 2006.

Lastly, so that UNESCO can play its role to the full as co-ordinator and catalyst, three inventories in the form of regularly updated databases are being created in co-operation with IFLA, ICA and other competent professional bodies such as FID, FIAF, FIAT and IASA.

1) Inventory of library collections and archive holdings which have suffered irreparable destruction since 1900: This inventory, published as "Lost Memory - Libraries and archives destroyed in the twentieth century" (CII-96/WS/1), is an attempt to list major disasters that destroyed or caused irreparable damage to libraries and archives during the present century. Thousands of libraries and archives have been destroyed or badly damaged in the course of fighting during the two world wars, notably in France, Germany, Italy and Poland. War has also been the cause of

untold destruction to libraries and archives more recently in former Yugoslavia and in many other countries. The document, prepared by J. van Albada (ICA) and H. van der Hoeven (IFLA) lists lost documentary heritage in more than 100 countries.

2) World list of endangered library collections and archive holdings: To date more than 60 countries have proposed collections and holdings to be included in the list of endangered documentary heritage. The International Association of Sound Archives has conducted a survey carried out by George Boston, in the context of this exercise that shows that the most endangered carriers are not necessarily the oldest. In the audio domain, substantial numbers of acetate discs and tapes are lost each year. All unique acetate recordings at risk need to be copied swiftly to a new format. A database called "Endangered Memory" is being constituted with answers to the questionnaire distributed since 1994. This database presently contains 128 answers from 59 countries.

3) Inventory of ongoing operations to protect documentary heritage: Documentary heritage has been lost in the past and will continue to disappear in the future. The aim of "Memory of the World" is to ensure that significant material is identified and saved. Today's technology enables us to identify the location of important documentary heritage and gain access to it. This inventory, prepared under contract with IFLA by Jan Lyall, lists major preservation activities currently in progress. The information in this document (CII-96/WS/7) was obtained through a questionnaire which was widely distributed in English, French, German, Japanese and Spanish, using the IFLA Preservation and Conservation (PAC) network.

#### **Register.**

A world wide survey on digital collections and their preservation has been conducted in cooperation with IFLA. There is a great deal of uncertainty regarding the preservation of digital information and professional circles have become increasingly anxious about the safeguard of these new documents. The aim of this IFLA/UNESCO project is two-fold. First, it intends to list the main digitization programmes that are being conducted throughout the world. UNESCO has published guidelines on the Programme's technical, legal and financial framework and its working structures. This text is available in all UNESCO official languages, free-of-charge, online, under the title "Memory of the World- General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage" (CII-95/WS-11). A list of approximately 15 films each country

considers to be representative of its most significant film heritage is available free of charge from PGI under the title "National Cinematographic Heritage" (CII-95/WS/7).

### **Legal Framework**

#### **Documentary heritage in war**

A major diplomatic conference held in The Hague, Netherlands (15-26 March 1999) adopted new provisions for the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict, destined to improve the safeguards provided by the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict adopted in The Hague in 1954.

These provisions will offer the international community an opportunity to take measures to counter the alarming new tide of damage and loss due to armed conflicts since 1990. The recent, and sometimes intentional, destruction of heritage in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq and Somalia, among other places, has led to calls to improve this protection. Such destruction represents an inestimable loss to the common heritage of humanity and to the cultural development and identity of local communities.

The International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), which have established the International Committee of the Blue Shield as a coordinating body, provide the experts who try to protect cultural heritage under threat.

#### **Partnership agreements and ethical issues**

It is essential that the rights of the owners of the collections and holdings in a project are respected and that the relationship between the owners and the technical and commercial partners is clearly defined, particularly with regard to the division of rights among the various parties, the allocation of rights of ownership to the images produced and the sharing of the profits from the sales of products made from images.

#### **Financial context**

Each "Memory of the World" project is an entity in itself, especially as far as finance is concerned. The search for partners is an important, not to say decisive, phase of all "Memory of the World" projects.

Some projects are being funded by governments with no financial implication for UNESCO. A good example is the archives of the Dutch East Indian Company (VOC). The archives of the Dutch East Indian Company (VOC) represent a unique source of information about the 17th and 18th century history of many countries and cultures of Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. The records of this Company deal with its operations in Asia, and thus shed considerable light on Asian history as well.

#### **Sources:**

"Memory of the World" Programme - First Meeting of the International Advisory Committee, Pultusk, Poland, 12-14 September 1993. Final Report, Paris, UNESCO, 1993 (PGI 93/WS/17)

"Memory of the World" Programme - Second Meeting of the International Advisory Committee, Paris, France, 3-5 May 1995. Final Report, Paris, UNESCO, 1995 (CII-95/CONF.602/3)

"Memory of the World" Programme - Third Meeting of the International Advisory Committee, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 29 September-1st October 1997. Final Report, Paris, UNESCO, 1997 (CII 97/CONF.503)

"Memory of the World" Programme - Fourth Meeting of the International Advisory Committee, Vienna, Austria, 1999. Final Report, Paris, UNESCO, 1999 (CII 97/CONF.502.1)

"Memory of the World" Programme - Fifth Meeting of the International Advisory Committee, Cheongju City, Republic of Korea. Final Report. Paris, UNESCO, 2001(CI/INF/2001/3)

"Memory of the World" Programme - Sixth Meeting of the International Advisory Committee, Gdansk, Poland. Final Report. Paris, UNESCO, 2003 (CI/INF/2003)

"Memory of the World" Programme - Seventh Meeting of the International Advisory Committee, Lijiang, China. Final Report. Paris, UNESCO, 2005 (CI-2005/WS/8))

"Memory of the World" - General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage. Paris, UNESCO, 1995 (CII-95/WS-11) and revised edition, 2002

"Memory of the World" - Lost Memory - Libraries and Archives destroyed in the Twentieth Century. Paris, UNESCO, 1996 (CII-96/WS/1)

"Memory of the World" - A survey of current library preservation activities. Paris, UNESCO, 1997 (CII-96/WS-7) Proceedings of the First International "Memory of the World" Conference, Oslo, 3-5 June 1996. Edited for UNESCO by Stephen Foster. Oslo, 1996

"Memory of the World" Programme- Safeguarding the Documentary Heritage: A Guide to Standards, Recommended Practices and Reference Literature Related to the Preservation of Documents of All Kinds. Paris, UNESCO, 1998 (CII-98/WS/4)

"Memory of the World" Programme - External Evaluation. Paris, UNESCO, 1998 (CII-98/WS/5)

For further information please visit UNESCO's web site: <http://www.unesco.org/webworld>

---

## CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

---

**The XVII Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL)** By **Barbara J. Ford, Director**, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The XVII Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) was hosted by the Tanzania Library Association held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from July 10-14, 2006. Dr. Ali Mcharazo, chair of the Tanzania Library Association, was the chair of the conference.

The conference theme was "Libraries as a Bridge to an Information and Knowledge Society in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa." Sub-themes of the conference relating to knowledge management included: regional and continental initiatives; challenges and opportunities facing specific libraries; libraries in specific socio-economic sectors; the civil society, democracy and development of libraries; the prevention of HIV/AIDS; indigenous knowledge for the development of Africa's information systems and services; and social inclusion. About 40 papers were presented on these topics during the conference and are available in the proceedings distributed to participants.

Alex Byrne, president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and an academic librarian from Australia, gave a keynote address on the world information society and Africa, creating a civil society, and the contribution of libraries to an equitable global information society. Kay Raseroka, past president of IFLA and an academic librarian in Botswana, gave a keynote address on the African Renaissance and libraries, including discussions of indigenous oral knowledge that is not stored in libraries or protected by intellectual property laws.

Over 400 librarians from about 20 countries including Europe and North America gave papers and participated in the SCECSAL conference. Exhibitors displayed information about their products and were available to talk with conference delegates. The opening ceremony of the conference included greetings from an official of the Ministry of Higher Education and a Tanzanian traditional dance condemning warfare between nations. A social highlight of the conference was the cultural evening and dinner when country groups of librarians presented songs and dances from their countries. The

conference ended with a one-day trip to Zanzibar, where delegates visited historic sights.

SCECSAL started with the East African Library Association in 1957. Today SCECSAL is a biennial conference organized through member library and information associations on a rotating basis. SCECSAL member countries include: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Recent conferences have been held in Kampala, Uganda and Johannesburg, South Africa.

The SCECSAL conference has a reputation of being the largest and fastest growing professional association in Africa. Member library associations are asked to provide country reports every two years that are then made available on the SCECSAL website and provide a good overview of activities by country. The SCECSAL business meeting during the final day of the conference included resolutions as well as reports on projects such as lobbying advocacy and a directory of members.

Delegates noted the important role knowledge management plays in human development, and further recognized that libraries are a bridge to an information and knowledge society. Delegates of SCECSAL made a series of recommendations after deliberating and reflecting on the conference theme. Capacity building was recognized as essential and schools of library and information science and library associations were asked to provide education on knowledge management. It was recommended that the SCECSAL website become interactive to allow knowledge sharing. Knowledge management partnerships for library associations with extension workers, public health, information communications and technology practitioners, teachers, and development agencies were suggested. Library associations were challenged to work with stakeholders to conduct advocacy activities and lobby policy makers to ensure the adequate flow of information to support development processes in a country. The need to strengthen local library associations

to promote knowledge as a factor for development was highlighted and library associations were asked to develop vision statements and strategic plans as well as to work closely with mass media to promote library and information use for development.

The SCECSAL conference was preceded by a meeting of the Standing Conference of African National and University Libraries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SCANUL-ECS). SCANUL-ECS was established in 1994 in Malawi to enhance cooperation among national and university libraries in the region. Representatives from member national and university libraries hold a conference every two years preceding SCECSAL. The 2006 SCANUL-ECS conference in Dar es Salaam focused on information and

communications technology with discussions of issues relating to policy, finance, training, and management of facilities. Professor Elizabeth Kiondo from the University of Dar Es Salaam chaired the conference.

The 2008 SCECSAL and SCANUL-ECS conferences will be held in Zambia. All library and information professionals from around the world are welcome to participate in these conferences. Visit the SCECSAL website (<http://www.scecsal.org/index.html>) or the SCANUL-ECS website (<http://www.scanul-ecs.org/>) to learn more and stay informed about the activities of these important regional associations.

### **The Asia Pacific Business School Librarians' Group**

Upcoming 2007: APBSLG - EBSLG - ABLD Joint Conference and Regional Meetings, 9th May - 12th May 2007 Theme: "Strategy, Focus, Services: Business Libraries in a Competitive and Changing Environment Arranged by: Director René Steffensen and Conference Planner Marie Wildt, CBS Library, Solbjerg Plads 3, DK-2000 Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, Finland, +45 3815 3709

The Asia-Pacific Business School Librarians' Group (APBSLG) had its genesis in 2001 when the then head of the INSEAD Singapore campus library, supported by Pascale Pajona, head of the INSEAD Libraries based in Paris, contacted a number of libraries in the Asia Pacific region to suggest the formation of a network of business school librarians. This was to be a network similar to the networks of European and North American business school librarians that were already well established, and known respectively as the EBSLG (European Business School Librarians Group) and the ABLD (Academic Business Library Directors).

By the end of 2001, a number of libraries in Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, India, China and New Zealand had been formally approached, and by February 2002, a report had been prepared for comment by the libraries that had agreed to join. This report included a draft mission statement and membership criteria, and it proposed that the group hold an Annual General Meeting at one of the member institutions, with a different member volunteering each year to act as host, assisted by a coordinator to lead the group and act as a group representative and spokesperson.

This led to the first inaugural meeting of the APBSLG, held over 4 days in September 2002 at

the Singapore campus of INSEAD. Represented at that meeting were the librarians from the Singapore Institute of Management; the Melbourne Business School; Nanyang Technological University; the National University of Singapore; the Australian Graduate School of Management; the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Macquarie University and of course INSEAD. Three members of the EBSLG - from Saint Gallen University, the HEC and the Stockholm School of Economics - joined us to assist in our establishment, and "virtual" representation and expressions of interest were received from the Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad), the Philippines and New Zealand.

Since that year membership has been by invitation issued by the coordinator. Our express charter is to represent as many countries in the region as possible, and at the same time develop some geographic balance in member institutions. Representation on the group belongs to a titled position and not a named individual, and is open to the head of the library or - where no separate business school library exists - to the person charged with collection and services responsibility for the business school programs.

In 2003 the meeting of the group was held at the AGSM in Sydney Australia, and in 2004 back in Singapore, this time at the Singapore Institute of

Management. At both meetings new members and countries were added to the group, and in 2005, the APBSLG, now numbering some 18 members from 7 countries met at the Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, for its 4th Annual Meeting, around the theme 'Creating the customer-driven library: delivering users' satisfaction and service quality'.

In 2006 the APBSLG met in China at the campus of CEIBS (China Europe International Business School) in Shanghai, hosted by one of our newest

members to the group. The following year we hope to be in Copenhagen for an historic first joint meeting of the APBSLG, the EBSLG and the ABLD, from which we are looking to form a single umbrella organization incorporating, but not replacing, the members of the three bodies. Members of the three groups already enjoy participation of a joint e-mail group that focuses on developments and news pertaining to member libraries.

For further information about APBSLG see <http://www2.agsm.edu.au/agsm/apbslg.nsf/Content/Home>

## Overview of Membership per Section as of September 2006

Section	Members
01 National Libraries	168
02 Academic and Research Libraries	518
03 Library and Research Services for Parliaments	106
04 Government Libraries	79
05 Social Science Libraries	78
06 Geography and Map Libraries	45
07 Science and Technology Libraries	109
08 Public Libraries	316
09 Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons	70
10 Libraries for Children and Young Adults	106
11 School Libraries and Resource Centers	78
12 Bibliography	100
13 Cataloguing	178
14 Acquisition and Collection Development	146
15 Document Delivery and Interlending	169
16 Serials and Other Continuing Resources	73
17 Government Information and Official Publications	100
18 Rare Books and Manuscripts	121
19 Preservation and Conservation	132
20 Library Buildings and Equipment	141
21 Information Technology	391
22 Statistics and Evaluation	75
23 Education and Training	207
24 Library Theory and Research	115
25 Regional Activities: Africa	165
26 Regional Activities: Asia and Oceania	325
27 Regional Activities: Latin America and Caribbean	162
28 Health and Biosciences Libraries	69
29 Classification and Indexing	110
30 Art Libraries	86
31 Libraries for the Blind	74
32 Libraries Serving Multicultural Populations	73
33 Reading	71
34 Management and Marketing	175
35 Audiovisual and Multimedia	49
36 Reference and Information Services	55
37 Genealogy and Local History	38



39 Newspapers	33
40 Management of Library Associations	182
42 Information Literacy	71
43 Continuing Professional Development/Workplace Learning	66
44 Library History	15
46 Metropolitan Libraries	52
47 Knowledge Management	60