Editorial

By Hellen Niegaard

Report from the SC Working Meeting in Boston

Systematic information on library buildings for inspirational and planning purposes has for sometime been on the agenda of the committee for IFLA's Section on Library Buildings and Equipment. A number of projects to meet this request were decided this summer during the Boston Conference at the second working meeting, as you will gather from the new Strategic Plan 2002-2003 on page 4.

First of all serious efforts are now being put into the development of an international database on library buildings, offering information on current library buildings and renovation projects. An initial investigation and an action plan will be introduced next August in Glasgow.

Secondly it was decided to update the international registrant on library buildings "New Library Buildings of the World", another source of inspiration published for the Section by Wu Jianzhong Shanghai Library a couple of years ago.

And thirdly, according to IFLA's general Professional Priorities and in accordance with requests from many IFLA members, the possibility of developing a set of guidelines for planning library buildings is being investigated and will be discussed in Glasgow. And will eventually, if the general attitude is positive, be carried out in the years to come.

Tips on new or renovated library buildings!

Go visit or get information about:

Germany - Ruhr District
Essen Public Library (former public swimming bath)
www.stadtbibliothek-essen.de

Dortmund Public Libray by internationally well-known architect Mario Botta
www.dortmund.de/bibliotheken

Concept branchlibrary "Familienbibliothek"
Developed by Bochum Stadtbücherei and the Bertelsmann Foundation, Gütersloh
www.bochum.de/stadtbuecherei/familienbibliothek/index.htm

Denmark
Roskilde University Library by internationally recognised architect Henning Larsen.
http://www.rub.ruc.dk/byg/

Hillerød Public Library north of Copenhagen by the Danish architect Claus Bjarrum.
http://www.hilbib.dk

Contents:

Deadline, Newsletter 2002:01 ➡ February 22nd 2002

FUTURE PLACES: REINVENTING LIBRARIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

August 15-17, 2001 · Northeastern University, Boston

The IFLA Section on Library Buildings and Equipment presented its XII Seminar on Library Buildings as an official IFLA Preconference to the 2001 Boston IFLA Conference. The seminar is presented every two years. Through a series of papers, site visits, and discussion sessions the seminar provided useful information for those planning new or remodeled facilities, as well as a comprehensive update on facility issues from an international perspective. Seminar papers were divided into general planning issues, including lighting, furniture, computer wiring; and case studies, which discussed both successes and failures of the projects. The papers complimented by two half-day site visits to Boston Libraries.

Theme

As libraries move into the digital age, their role is constantly being challenged. Obviously, the digital revolution is seriously affecting library facilities: both existing and proposed. Library space will need to be designed to accommodate computer workstations, scanning equipment, and other user-driven technologies, as well as accommodate network servers, and other storage and delivery technologies required to provide access to digital information. However, other forces of change must be considered in library facility planning. Many new services, such as distance learning are affecting library facility needs, and the role of the library as cultural center and icon is becoming more prevalent and at the same time traditional library services remain and continue to place demands upon library space. Facilities must be able to accommodate traditional elements, which are associated with paper format resources, as this format will continue to play a significant role in library collections for the next several decades. The digital promise has not removed the need for planning the housing for ever-expanding paper format collections. It is both necessary and critical for traditional elements to coexist peacefully with those resources created by advances in technology. The essential element in this transition to planning for the digital age is flexibility of space. The seminar examined the impacts of new and traditional services upon the library facility within the contexts of new buildings and the renovation of older facilities.

Keynote speach by Jay K. Lucker

To address these issues a group of international experts on library buildings were invited. Jay K. Lucker, noted building consultant and retired Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Library, was the keynote speaker.

In his paper *"Critical Issues in Space Planning for the 21st Century"* Jay K. Lucker focused on the significant changes libraries all over the world face today involving publishing, information technology, telecommunications, and the role of the library in society. As libraries begin to think about how much and what kinds of space they will need for the future, they also have to consider the influence and impact of electronic publishing especially of the serial literature, retrospective and prospective digitization of print collections, cooperation collection development and resource sharing, and the administrative organization of the library itself.

Lucker identified and discussed twelve problem areas that seem most relevant to the effective development of library space:
 (1) predicting collection growth;
 (2) determining the amount and nature of user space required;
 (3) organizing and arranging functions and services within the building;
 (4) storing collections efficiently including the use of compact shelving and remote storage;
 (5) designing in flexibility for changes in technology, organizational structure, and user behavior;
 (6) creating appropriate environments for learning and teaching;
 (7) providing security for collections and patrons;
 (8) accommodating the physically challenged;
 (9) telecommunications, wiring, connectivity, access, and printing;
(10) staff offices and work areas;
(11) designing buildings that are environmentally efficient, comfortable for people, and protective of the materials stored within;
(12) developing and accommodating new partnerships in the public and academic communities incl. distance learning, teleconferencing, and community use of buildings.

A full list of seminar speakers is available on the programme page, see below.
http://www.library.uiuc.edu/administration/ifla.htm
Proceedings of this seminar will be published
in the IFLA Publications Series, by K.G.Sauer Verlag.

Barton Clark

WILL LIBRARY BUILDINGS EXIST IN THE FUTURE?

Impressions from the 2001 Seminar in Boston

Every second year IFLA's Section for Library Buildings and Equipment hold a conference seminar on library buildings and their layout prior to IFLA's annual main conference. The theme of this year's pre-conference seminar was "Future places: Reinventing libraries in the Digital Age" including both academic, educational, national and public libraries. The underlying "one million dollars question" of the two and a half day meeting attended by some fifty experts - architects, consultants and library professionals - was "will we or to what degree will we need physical libraries in the Digital Age?"

Were you to believe the discussions at the meeting the answer to that question was not just a simple no, it was more like a resounding NO! Apparently the Digital Age imposes serious demands for additional space on the libraries. At least in terms of the next two or three decades when traditional and virtual information and library services must be maintained side by side. The latter are not quite as self-instructional as both international and national debate over the past couple of years has indicated. Rather the opposite. In fact for any society or individual to take full advantage of the Internet and the information or knowledge society's growing digital resources, further professional library assistance is needed as well as extended library space.

It is not possible here to examine all aspects of ongoing or coming changes in tasks and services as foreseen in current library visions, but let me just mention a few that according to the meeting seem to be almost of global character.
Net learning and navigating plus providing basic computer skills influence and change not only professional roles. It creates a need for establishing new, better and more comprehensive training facilities at libraries than ever seen before.

And in particular a need for more space, as do the so-called virtual services. Both those in the public area aimed at the public for seeking information by themselves but also those of a virtual kind developed backstage in internal departments, where staff create and maintain local portals and access points of quality and of local relevance.
New trends of user behaviour such as a growing group use in educational and public libraries and "life style use", that is staying longer at the library for recreational, educational or information seeking purposes, equally mean an increase in the need for space as well as for service.
And finally there are new trends of resource-sharing through co-operation and networking with other libraries, or with other institutions across long known boundaries. Which sometime create the need for extra space in internal departments for new services to neighbouring libraries while those in turn might experience quite the contrary.

A part from these development trends there is a tendency everywhere to minimise space and staff demanding traditional circulation desks, and more or less replace those by fully automated self-service solutions.
In short and to conclude - it all mounts up. Namely to an urgent need for most libraries to start a local transition process from traditional to digital library as soon as possible in order better and professionally to meet current demands. And to rethink, refocus and restructure existing library buildings and facilities! After all carefully planned, properly and timely lay-outed library facilities provide not only the most efficient libraries but also the most supportive and motivating environment – for both users and staff, and are thus key factors in all solid library management and marketing.

Hellen Niegaard

The next seminar on Library Buildings will be in two years from now.
In Paris 2003 ahead of the IFLA Conference in Berlin and library professionals, decisionmakers and architects are all welcome.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2002-2003

Mission:

The Section considers all matters concerning the design and construction for all types of libraries in all parts of the world, and their furnishings and equipment. The Section aims to collect and disseminate knowledge about buildings and equipment in order to increase this knowledge among librarians. It also aims to establish better contacts between librarians and architects by creating the conditions under which it will be possible for each of them to understand the other's language, by promoting an exchange of experiences between librarians and architects.

Priorities:

1. Gather and disseminate information on planning library buildings, and develop mechanisms for communication and interchange of knowledge concerning library building planning. (IFLA Professional Priority – Promoting Resource Sharing)

2. Develop guidelines for planning library buildings. (IFLA Professional Priority – Promoting Standards, Guidelines, and Best Practices)

3. Explore opportunities for communication and exchange of information with organizations involved in library planning. (IFLA Professional Priority – Promoting Resource Sharing)

4. Continue to develop and implement programs to enhance understanding of library building planning. (IFLA Professional Priority – Developing Library Professionals)

Action Plan:

1. Gather and disseminate information on planning library buildings, and develop mechanisms for communication and interchange of knowledge concerning library building planning.

Action:

a) Update the Buildings and Equipment Section Brochure to enhance interest in the Section and its activities.
b) Publish the Proceedings of the XII Buildings Seminar.
c) Work Wu Jianzhong to publish a second edition of *New Libraries of the World.*
d) Continue to publish the Section's Newsletter to disseminate the activities of the Section and generate interest in the Section's activities.
e) Create a bibliography devoted to literature on library building planning.

2. Develop guidelines for planning library buildings.
Action:
a) Create a template for use in writing a Building Program Statement/Program Brief.
b) Develop a set of guidelines for library building planning.

3. Explore opportunities for communicating and exchanging information with organizations involved in library building planning.
Action:
a) Working closely with library organizations throughout the world, develop an International Database of Current Library Projects.

4. Continue to develop and implement programs to enhance understanding of library building planning.
Action:
a) Present at least one program at the Glasgow Conference.
b) Prepare and present the XIII Buildings Seminar in Paris.
c) Develop Guidelines for Buildings Seminars to ensure the maximum education value of the seminars.

Barton Clark

Contact the Section

E-mail addresses

Chair: **Barton Clark** (USA)   b-clark@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu

Secretary: **Joan de Beer** (South Africa)   Joan.deBeer@nlsa.ac.za

Information officer (web): **Francess Awcock** (Australia)   fawcock@slv.vic.gov.au

Newsletter editor: **Hellen Niegaard** (Denmark)   hnn@bs.dk

Contributions for News 2002:01. Deadline: February 22.02.2002

Hellen Niegaard, Biblioteksstyrelsen, BS Udviklingscenter
Nyhavn 31E, DK-1051 Copenhagen, Denmark. Fax: +45 3373 3372 - E-mail: see above.