

## **IFLA SECTION ON LIBRARY THEORY AND RESEARCH (LTR)**

### **Annual Report September 1998 - August 1999.**

The Section's *Scope statement* is from its Medium Term Plan 1998-2000, adopted at its business meetings in August 1998 and reported in the Annual Report for 1997-98:

The Section on Library Theory and Research concerns itself with the continuing development of library and information science through theoretical and applied research in all aspects of the discipline. The Section promotes the importance of investigation and research activities within IFLA's programme, upholds scientific integrity in research and development activities, supports the design and investigation of research projects and the reporting and publication of research results within the library and information science community world-wide.

### **Membership**

The Section had 133 members this year.

### *Meetings*

LTR held two business meetings during the 65th IFLA Conference held in Bangkok Thailand with 12 in attendance at the first on Saturday 21st August 1999 and 20 on Friday 27th August 1999. The main issues discussed were arrangements for the Bangkok conference, and the revision of the Section's Action Plan for the coming years 2000-2001. The Rochester & Vakkari publication on international library research had been accepted by IFLA has a professional report. This was the last project that LTR had undertaken and there were no new proposals.

The elections held at the first meeting saw Lis Byberg re-elected as Chair, Kerry Smith joined the Standing Committee as Secretary and Treasurer, and Wilda Newman was re-elected as Information Co ordinator and Newsletter Editor. Mirja Iivonen who retired as Secretary/.Treasurer was thanked for her efforts on behalf of the Section.

In reviewing the *Action Plan for 1998 – 1999* at the August 1999 business meetings it can be reported that

1. To establish a closed listserv for the Section's Standing Committee; - done
2. To edit the bibliometric studies sponsored by the Section for publication in 1999; - done.
3. To summarize the research papers presented at Division VII sessions at IFLA conferences; they now appear on IFLANET
4. To sponsor at least two research papers on the topic on importance of Library and Information Science at the Section's open meeting at each IFLA conference. At least one of these papers should be presented by a researcher from the region in which the conference is located; - underway
5. To prepare and distribute a "Call for papers", to be presented by researchers in the region, for the Section's open meeting in Bangkok 1999; done
6. To publish and distribute two issues of the Section's newsletter each year; done
7. To distribute widely the Section's leaflet (prepared in 1997) and review and revise the leaflet in 1999; done
8. To translate the Section's Medium Term Programme into all IFLA official languages; not done
9. To cooperate with Division VII in establishing standards for Library and Information Education, placing special emphasis on training for research; underway

10. To sponsor annually a workshop on a particular research topic; done.

## **Publications**

The section produced a Newsletter in May 1999.

### *Conference Program*

The Section was well represented in the IFLA Bangkok the conference program and held two sessions.

The first was a **workshop on Monday 23rd August 1999** which was particularly well attended with some 130 participants who valued the opportunity to enter into useful discussions in small and larger groups.

The program was:

**Theme:** "Core Research Areas of LIS: Research Questions and Methodology"

*Value and impact studies*

BOB USHERWOOD (Library of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK)

### *Information seeking and communication*

LARS HOGLUND (Swedish School of Library and Information Studies, Goteborg University and the University College of Boras, Boras, Sweden)

### *Library history revisited: research areas and methodology*

LIS BYBERG (Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science, Oslo College, Oslo, Norway)

### *Using information research techniques to track the effects of recent changes in Australian science policy*

KERRY SMITH (Department of Information Studies, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia)

### *Knowledge management research and end user work environments 2010*

WILDA B. NEWMAN (Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland, USA)

### **The second an open session on Wednesday 25th August 1999:**

**Theme:** "Library Research in South East Asia"

### *Doing research overseas without tears: adventures of an innocent abroad*

NONGYAO PREMKAMOLNETR (Library and Information Center, King Mongkut University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand). Nongyao had been a Thai student studying in Australia.

## **Officers for 1998-99**

### **Chair**

Lis Byberg,  
Oslo University College, Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science,  
Pilestredet 52, 0167 Oslo, Norway

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Mirja Iivonen  
Department of Information Studies and Sociology  
POB111  
FIN -90571 Oulu Finland

**Information Co-Ordinator and Newsletter Editor**

Wilda Newman

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