

IFLA Section on Library Theory and Research

Annual Report September 1999 – August 2000

Scope statement

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.

Goals

- Encourage and promote research that is designed to improve the quality of library and information science.
- Encourage and promote research that builds upon solid theoretical foundations.
- Promote the practical application of relevant research findings in library and information science.
- Inform researchers in other countries of research progress.
- Develop the profession's collaboration with related research communities in the information field.
- Encourage educators in library and information science world-wide to include the training in research in their programmes.

Membership

There were 133 Members of the Section during this period.

Meetings

The Standing Committee met twice in Jerusalem, Israel during the 66th IFLA conference. The business meeting 12 August 2000 dealt primarily with issues concerning the section's program during the conference, a workshop Monday 14 August focusing on collaboration between theory and evidence based practice, and an open session Tuesday 15 August with the theme "Bibliometrics: Still a useful Measure". Ian Johnson's paper on the "Quality of papers at IFLA conferences" was discussed, and there was a unanimous feeling that the conditions were too rigid, but a suggestion that we need to start program planning two years ahead was rather well received. The standing committee also reviewed the action plan, and noted that most of the planned actions had been achieved: The listserv is up and running, and a translation of the section's leaflet is available in Spanish, Russian, and German. At the second business meeting 18 August the committee spent time planning for the Boston conference 2001, and had also preliminary discussions on the program for Glasgow 2002. The Action Plan for 2000-2001 was updated after discussion.

Publications

The Section has issued two newsletters during the period, one in December 1999 and the other in July 2000. They are available on IFLANET, and a paper version has been distributed to all members of the section.

The section's leaflet is now available in English, Spanish, Russian, and German. Translation to Arabic, French, Hebrew and Portuguese are on the way.

Conference Program

1. The section organized a halfday workshop at the 66th IFLA conference, Jerusalem, Israel on the theme *Collaboration between Theory and Evidence-Based Practice*

Presenters were MAUREEN KAHLERT (Midland Public Library, Midland, Western Australia) *The impact of the baby boomers on the public library: myth or reality?;*

CHUTIMA SACCHANAND (Sukothai Thammathirat Open University, Nonthaburi, Thailand) *From theory to practice: a case of research in library and information service in Thailand;* and

JUDITH SEGAL (Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, USA) *Two cultures: librarians and professors.*

2. The section organized an Open Session on the theme *Bibliometrics: Still a Useful Measure*

Presenters were DENNIS OCHOLLA (Department of Library and Information Science, University of Zululand, Kwadlangezwa, South Africa) *Research capacity in library and information science in South Africa: an overview;*

MOSHE YITZHAKI and TZIPI SHAHAR (Department of Information and Library Studies, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel) *The emergence of alternative medicine as a new field: a bibliometric overview;* and

DANIEL RAMON RIOS (CONABIP, Buenos Aires, Argentina); *Bibliometry: penetration level in the university teaching of library science and its application in the field of librarianship in the countries of Mercosur.* The last paper was presented in Spanish, and an English printed translation was available at the presentation.

3. The section also sponsored a halfday workshop joint with FAIFE on the theme *"Libraries and Codes of Ethics"*

Presenters were THOMAS J. FROEHLICH (Kent University, Kent, Ohio, USA) and ANTONIETA VIGARIO (Portugal)

Relationship with other bodies

The section agreed to cooperate with **IFLA Round Table on Library History** in organizing a conference in Borås, Sweden in 2001, about libraries in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Executive members of the section are:

Chair:

Lis Byberg

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

Secretary and Financial officer:

Kerry Smith
School of Media and Information
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U1987
Perth, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6845

Information coordinator and editor of the Section's newsletter:

Wilda B. Newman
Johns Hopkins University
Applied Physics Laboratory 13-S512
Business & Information Services Department
11100 Johns Hopkins Road
Laurel, MD 20723-6099