



# LTR Newsletter

**DECEMBER 2001**

IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)



## 67th IFLA Council and General Conference

*Boston, Massachusetts 16-25 August 2001*

### **POST BOSTON: Library Theory and Research Activities for 2002**

Our Information Co ordinator, Wilda Newman, has posted her report on the IFLA Boston conference and our section's activities at it, elsewhere in this Newsletter. Those of you who were at the IFLA Boston conference will be aware that it was election time and our long standing and very hard working Chair of the Section, Lis Byberg, had to stand down. I would like to thank Lis for her efforts on behalf of our section. She was a good mentor to me when I came in from the cold and "volunteered" to be section secretary some four years ago. I was elected to Chair the Section for the next

four years and Marian Koren from NBLC Association of Public Libraries in the Netherlands agreed to be our Secretary and was duly elected. Wilda Newman again offered her services as our Information Co-ordinator.

Our section applied for, and I am pleased to say, received, a grant from the IFLA Professional Committee to undertake a research project: POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY. The project under the direction of Professor Bob Usherwood, Professor of Librarianship, Dept. of Information Studies, Sheffield University will be a transnational evaluative survey of national policy maker's attitudes to, and perceptions of, the role value and impact of public library services. On the strength of this, one of the first tasks Bob is working on is the format of a workshop on the project which we will be holding at the IFLA conference in Glasgow. I expect that as the details emerge, we will post them to the IFLA website.

Our other contribution to the Glasgow conference is our support of the *Northumbria Lite Workshop* being organized by the IFLA Statistics Section, to be held on Thursday 22 August 2002. The details have been appearing on emails from IFLANET and our Secretary Marian Koren is working closely with the Statistics Section. The topics to be covered include the use of statistical information for service improvement, practical applications of statistics in benchmarking, and a workshop session on the use of statistics as a management tool.

Whilst in Boston, those members of the Section who were present endorsed some draft thoughts on our strategic directions for the next three years and the final document appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

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I am currently working on a potential publication from the Section. A few years ago our colleagues Maxine Rochester and Pertti Vakkari undertook a study: *International Library and Information Science Research: A Comparison of National Trends*. I received the text at the end of last year and it is our aim to bring it out as an IFLA Professional Publication.

We are already thinking of the IFLA Berlin conference in 2003 with the possibility of a joint satellite meeting on Library Ethics. This will be extra to any other more formal plans the Section might undertake.

We had hoped to get a Newsletter out to you earlier, but we are finding that the expense of posting it to our far-flung membership consumes a considerable amount of our dues and we have had to wait for our next funding allocation before we could do anything about it.

With best wishes for 2002 to all of our members and thank you for your support of our section

Kerry Smith  
Chair and Treasurer.

## **LTR Strategic Plan, 2001-2003**

### **Mission**

The IFLA Section on Library Theory and Research provides a research-based underpinning to IFLA's professional priorities on the role of libraries in society and the development of library professionals, through a programme promoting theoretical and empirical library and information science research and analysis. It provides and encourages international networking opportunities for library professionals engaged in library and information science research.

### **Goals**

**1. Encourage/solicit papers at IFLA and IFLA sponsored conferences on appropriate research activities and investigations**

#### **Professional priorities:**

- a) *Supporting the role of libraries in society;*
- c) *Promoting literacy and reading;*
- h) *Developing library professionals;*
- i) *Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice*

### **Actions**

- 1.1 2001/2002 - Glasgow conference
- 1.1.1 Organise workshop to progress proposed project on policy makers attitudes to public libraries;
- 1.1.2 Liaise with Public Libraries section for joint presentations at this workshop;
- 1.1.3 Investigate Northumbria performance measurement group's plans for an IFLA session with a view to joint participation;
- 1.2 2003 - Berlin conference
- 1.2.1 Continue collaboration between LIS researchers and practitioners and organise session(s) accordingly;
- 1.2.2. Follow -up possible collaborative session with Section on University Libraries.

**2. Assist in the development of expertise and knowledge in useful research methods**

#### **Professional priorities:**

- h) *Developing library professionals;*
- l) *Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice*

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## **Actions**

- 2.1 2001/2
- 2.1.1 Present research proposal to IFLA PC in December 2001 on "Political perceptions of the public library";
- 2.1.2 Reconfigure LTR business meetings at conferences to encourage sharing of research ideas and collaboration by undertaking business at first meeting and collaborative discussions at second;
- 2.2 2002/3
- 2.2.1 Further develop research proposal on "Methods for studying the social side of libraries" in society for presentation to IFLA PC in 2002.

## **3. Evaluate different research approaches**

### **Professional priorities:**

- h) Developing library professionals;*
- i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice*

## **Actions**

- 3.1 2001/2
- 3.1.1 Negotiate with authors Maxine Rochester and Pertti Vakkari and enable the IFLA publication of their work on behalf of LTR on "International Library and Information Science Research";
- 3.2 2002/3
- 3.2.1 Further develop research proposal on "Methods for studying the social side of libraries" in society for presentation to IFLA PC in 2002.

## **4. Facilitate transnational networks of common research interests**

### **Professional priorities:**

- h) Developing library professionals;*
- i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice*

## **Actions**

- 4.1 2001-2-3

- 4.1.1 Continue the broad international representation on our Standing Committee;
- 4.1.2 Revamp section leaflet to reflect new priorities and actions and disseminate widely;
- 4.1.3 Promote membership to the Section;
- 4.1.4 Continue bi-annual publication of section newsletter;
- 4.1.5 Disseminate LTR newsletter electronically;
- 4.1.6 Open electronic discussion to interested parties from the Boston 2001 conference;
- 4.1.7 Consider ways to encourage section members to participate and communicate;
- 4.1.8 Reconfigure LTR business meetings at conferences to encourage sharing of research ideas and collaboration;

## **5. Promote and support the translation of LIS research into practice and policy**

### **Professional priorities:**

- a) Supporting the role of libraries in society;*
- c) Promoting literacy and reading;*
- h) Developing library professionals;*
- i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice*

## **Actions**

- 5.1 2002 - 3:
- 5.1.1 Disseminate results of public libraries project to wide audiences;
- 5.1.2 Disseminate electronic newsletter to wider practitioner groups;
- 5.1.3 Continue to encourage practitioners and researchers to share ideas at conference sessions;
- 5.1.4 Promote relevant and current LIS research initiatives to LIS practitioners through section newsletter, liaison and collaboration with other IFLA sections.

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## **Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age Boston IFLA 2001**

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/pprog-e.htm#4>

Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America as we knew it prior to September 11, 2001 seems a lot different now, as does the world! Hopefully, the work, coordination, camaraderie, and goodwill that IFLA always exhibits will be a continuing part of our professional conference, wherever it is held. Certainly, the meeting in Boston was one to remember, most especially for me, because it was hosted by the U.S. Additionally, a major difference in an IFLA conference held here is that funding must be sought from sponsors. In most, and perhaps all, other countries the funding in large part is provided by the government of the host country. Our success was in no small part due to all of the task forces that were set up to handle fund raising and vendor support, as well as all of the details that a major, international conference entails. It was a wonderful conference and a wonderful venue. Thanks to all those that participated from all over the world and to all those Americans that gave so much of themselves and their time so freely, especially those in Boston. Thanks also to the organizations of all kinds that these information professionals work for that gave them the time to participate in support of the conference.

The U.S. also provided, through Jim Neal's fund-raising efforts, money to sponsor 100 competitive fellowships for young professionals from developing countries to attend IFLA. I was a member of the task force that reviewed candidates for the \$3000 individual scholarships for attending Boston IFLA. I also coordinated the mentoring program for those candidates that did indeed make it to the U.S. for the IFLA conference. Many volunteers from the U.S. agreed to be mentors to one or more of the fellows and it appeared that the fellows gained a great deal from this experience, as did the mentors. Since the meeting I have

heard that the mentoring program is apt to be continued into future IFLA meetings. This program represents, I think, the American way—that is support and care for the world and for information professionals everywhere. (Pictures below are of some of the competitive fellowship winners and their mentors.)



As a member of the Library Theory and Research (LTR) Standing Committee I can say that the Boston IFLA conference was very successful. The LTR programs included two sessions: The Monday program featured "Collaboration between the Library and Information Science Researcher and the practitioner: Leadership Programs in the U.S." Introduction of the Program and Comments on the Research on Leadership was given by BEVERLY P. LYNCH (Professor, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, UCLA and Interim President, Center for Research Libraries). Organizations represented and presenters at the workshop included: Association of

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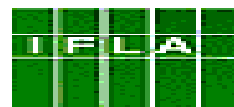
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Research Libraries – Management Programs – DUANE WEBSTER (Executive Director, Association of Research Libraries); UCLA Senior Fellows Program – JEFFERY HORRELL (Associate Librarian of Harvard College and 1999 Senior Fellow); Frye Leadership Institute – DEANNA MARCUM (President, Council on Library and Information Resources); Association of College and Research Libraries/Harvard Program – ALTHEA JENKINS (Director, Florida State University Libraries and former Executive Director, Association of College and Research Libraries); Urban Libraries Council Executive Leadership Institute – JOEY RODGER (President, Urban Libraries Council); Stanford – California State Library – Institute on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarianship – ANNE MARIE GOLD (Executive Director of the Institute); and Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, Visitors Program – MARIANNA TAX CHOLDIN (Director and Distinguished Professor).  
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/pprog-e.htm>

The second program was featured on Wednesday and addressed “International Cooperation in Library and Information Science (LIS) Research: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age.” Program speakers and their papers included: An example of European cooperation on research in librarianship, FRANCOISE BOURDON and ELISABETH FREYRE (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France); <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/pprog-e.htm#4> Research and international technical cooperation, programmes, IAN M. JOHNSON (Head, School of Information and Media, The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK); <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/papers/055-165e.pdf> and Collaborative efforts in cross-country studies on information resource sharing infrastructure between China and the U.S.: introducing an international cooperative research method, YAN QUAN LIU (Assistant Professor, Information and Library Science, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT U.S.). <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/papers/122-165e.pdf> Speakers for this sessions are pictured below.



The LTR Standing Committee held two business meetings, Saturday, August 18 and Friday, August 24, 2001. Both meetings were primarily focused on conference planning. Details for the Boston meeting were finalized and work on the strategic plan and action items were completed. Discussion also included LTR programs for upcoming conferences in Glasgow, Scotland, 2002 and Berlin, Germany, 2003. This year saw a significant change in the leadership of LTR as Lis Byberg, Norway, completed her second term as Chair of LTR. She did an outstanding job for the committee and IFLA and now moves onto another section of IFLA. Even though she moves on, she mentored others in the section to assume leadership positions and certainly made all members of the section feel they were welcome and encouraged their involvement in the committee’s work, as well as observers. To her credit the LTR Standing Committee is in good hands with Kerry Smith, Australia, assuming the position of Chair/Treasurer (previously Secretary/Treasurer for LTR) and Marian Koren, Netherlands, becomes the new Secretary. Wilda Newman, United States, continues as Information Coordinator for the LTR Standing Committee. (Report by Wilda Newman)



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The officers of LTR are shown in the picture below. They are, left to right, Marian Koren, Lis Byberg, Kerry Smith and Wilda Newmn



### CALL FOR CHAPTERS

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2002

#### **Trust in Knowledge Management and Systems in Organizations**

>A book edited by Dr. Maija-Leena Huotari and Dr. Mirja Iivonen, University of Tampere, Finland

#### Introduction

Different levels in information and knowledge society and, in particular, the network economy have acknowledged the significance of the role trust. Therefore, it is important to understand how trust is manifested and how it could be enhanced at various levels in organizations. In this, trust connected to both human and technology interactions is of primary importance. It improves the ability to process and manage information and knowledge related processes in order to create new knowledge to increase strategic capability and organizational performance.

#### The Overall Objective of the Book

In the fields of information studies, information systems, knowledge management, etc., there exists a need for an edited collection of articles in this area. The book aims to provide relevant theoretical frameworks and latest empirical research findings in the area. It is written for

professionals who want to improve their understanding of the strategic role of trust at different levels of the information and knowledge society, that is, trust at the level of the global economy, of networks and organizations, of teams and work groups, of information systems and, finally, trust at the level of individuals as actors in the networked environments.

#### The Target Audience

Professionals and researchers working in the field of information and knowledge management in various disciplines, e.g. library, information and communication sciences, administrative sciences and management, education, adult education, sociology, computer science, information technology.

Moreover, the book will provide insights and support executives concerned with the management of expertise, knowledge, information and organizational development in different types of work communities and environments.

Recommended topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Trust model - a conceptual framework
- Trust in global networks
- Trust in new economy
- Trust and value creation in a network economy
- Trust as capital
- Improving market performance through trust
- Trust as a management strategy
- Trust from the perspective of knowledge management
- Trust in public administration / sector
- Trust in technology partnerships
- Trust in scientific collaboration
- The role of trust in product development
- Trust and inter-organizational learning
- Trust in virtual integration
- Trust in frameworks and studies of information behavior
- Trust in information source
- Trust in quality of information services & sources
- Trust in information systems
- Trust in e-commerce

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## SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit on or before March 31, 2002, a 2-5 page manuscript proposal clearly explaining the mission and concerns of the proposed chapter. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified by May 15, 2002 about the status of their proposals and sent chapter organizational guidelines. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by September 15, 2002. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a blind review basis. The book is scheduled to be published by Idea Group, Inc., publisher of the "Idea Group Publishing," "Information Science Publishing," and "IRM Press" imprints in 2003.

Inquiries and Submissions can be forwarded electronically (Word document) or by mail to:

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**International Federation of Library  
Associations and Institutions (IFLA)  
SECTION ON LIBRARY THEORY &  
RESEARCH**

**Minutes 1st meeting IFLA Conference in  
Boston, Saturday 18th August 2001  
Chair: Lis Byberg  
Secretary: Kerry Smith**

**1. Call to order:** The Chair, Lis Byberg, opened the meeting at 8.45 a.m.

**Present:** Lis Byberg, Chair; Kerry Smith, Secretary/Treasurer; Wilda Newman, Information Coordinator; Marian Koren, Beverly Lynch, Wallace Koehler, Ragnar Audunson, Bob Usherwood, SC members; Observers: Nyamelang Baratedi, (Botswana), Anna Maulina (Latvia), Silviija Linina (Latvia), Marie Faulkner (UK), Mirja Iivonen (Finland)

**2. Apologies:** Pascal Sanz, Ilkka Makinen.

**3. Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda as previously circulated by Secretary Kerry Smith was adopted.

**4. Minutes of previous SC meetings, Jerusalem 2000:** were accepted.

**5. Matters arising from previous minutes:** there were none.

## **6. Boston conference**

a) *Information from PB and CB VII meetings Friday 17th August*

Lis Byberg reported that::

- Carol Henry is to retire and that there was a book for messages in the IFLA conference office.
- Any satellite meetings for Glasgow conference have to be decided now - the Section decided that it would not hold such a meeting.
- The deadline for satellite meetings for the Berlin conference 2003 is 15 March 2002.
- The National Library of Canada is no longer maintaining the IFLA website and the work was being handed over to IFLA. It is currently being managed by Sophie Fefoldi; a job once done by 3 - 5 is now being done by one.
- There will be a meeting of Information Officers on 20th August at 2.10 p.m.
- FID - the matter will be discussed at this conference. FID is in debt and efforts are continuing to work out a co-operative approach between FID and IFLA. K. Smith said that she

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- would be attending the proposed FID meeting as she had been a member of FID as well as IFLA.
- There will be money for projects: NLG3000 for "small" projects, completed in one year.
  - Lis mentioned that CBVII had sent two resolutions to PB, one regarding waiving of conference fees for invited speakers, the other requesting that Herman Liebaers, past President of IFLA, be invited to give his proposed paper as a plenary in Glasgow.

b) *LTR Open Session Wed 12.30 - 15.00 (meeting 165)* Wallace Kohler offered to Chair this. It will be in room 302.

c) *LTR Workshop Monday 8.30 - 12.30 p.m. (room 102)* Beverly Lynch has organised this session and apologised for the lateness of some of the material. During discussion it was decided that the audience would help shape the research direction of this programme as it comprised a series of presentations from US speakers from the library management area. It was expected each speaker would take 15 minutes - total 2 hours. B. Lynch to chair. B. Lynch undertook to provide a summary for the IFLA conference web page.

d) *LTR section time slot at IFLA booth* Wilda Newman and Bob Usherwood offered to be in attendance.

## 7. Selection of Section's Officers 2001-2003

a) *Chair*, Lis Byberg announced that she had served her maximum term and would be stepping down. Kerry Smith was willing to stand and she was nominated by B. Lynch, seconded W. Newman - elected unopposed. Lis Byberg mentioned that the duties of the new officers would commence after the Boston conference.

b) *Secretary*, Marian Koren was prepared to stand and was nominated by W. Newman,

c) seconded B. Usherwood and elected unopposed.

d) *Information Co-ordinator*

This position was not an elected position and as Wilda Newman was prepared to continue. She was thanked and re-appointed.

## 8. Strategic Plan

Lis Byberg stated that she needed these (as Chair of CB VII) by 1 October 2001. LTR to consider their new strategic plan along the lines of the IFLA planning document as presented to the meeting by K Smith.

Matter deferred to Friday's meeting when working party of K. Smith, Bob Usherwood, Ragnar Audunson and Wally Koehler will present draft thoughts. K. Smith also presented copies of IFLA's professional priorities and these, plus LTR's current action plan were in the latest Newsletter. It was noted that the research report from Maxine Rochester and Perti Vakkari was long overdue and efforts would be made to secure it and publish it.

**It was noted that LTR had achieved all of its proposed actions for 2000-2001.**

## 9. Section's Newsletter

Wilda Newman had earlier handed out copies of the Section Newsletter to those who did not have a copy. She reported that two issues had been produced since the last conference, that material had been sent to IFLA for the website in July 2001. It appeared that because of the difficulties IFLA was having with the volume of work for the site, our material was still to be loaded. Wilda requested submissions for the Newsletter as she hoped to have an issue around October 2001. The Section has around 170 members and there was considerable cost in posting the newsletter to them. It was decided that we would try an electronic newsletter to those with email access and only post to those who did not have this, particularly as the IFLA PB/PC has decided that paper versions of Newsletters still had to be available. There was an LTR email discussion list for SC members only. The website was available to all and the matter of whether we



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made the discussion list available to all was discussed but not resolved

## 10. **Section's Leaflet**

Once the strategic plan had been finalised, the current leaflet would be revised by incoming secretary Marian Koren.

11. Financial Report – next meeting

## 12. **Projects**

Some ideas were presented: Bob Usherwood: Attitudes of government policy makers to public libraries; Ragnar Audunson: A study of methodologies for studying the role and impact of libraries in society. Marian Koren: A bibliography on research being done on all/some of IFLA's priorities. Wally Koehler - has an interest in ethics and would consider something along these lines; Section member Marie Faulkner had a project concept in mind.

Projects need to be approved at the LTR meeting on Friday 24 August to send up through CB VII, which can approve small projects, to PB/PC for larger projects.

## 13. **Glasgow conference**

14. **Future conferences – deferred to next meeting.**

15. **Other Business** - this could be discussed at the meeting on Friday 24th August.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11.15 a.m.  
**K Smith, Secretary**

**International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)  
SECTION ON LIBRARY THEORY AND RESEARCH**

**Minutes 2nd meeting IFLA Conference in Boston, Friday 24th August 2001  
Chair: Lis Byberg  
Secretary: Kerry Smith**

**1. Call to Order:** The Chair, Lis Byberg, opened the meeting at 8.05 a.m.

**Present:** Lis Byberg, Chair; Kerry Smith, Secretary/Treasurer; Wilda Newman, Information Co-Ordinator; Marian Koren, Beverly Lynch, Wallace Koehler, Ragnar Audunson, Bob Usherwood, Daniel Rios, SC members; Observers: John Harvey (Cyprus), Mirja Iivonen (Finland), Valentino Morales (Mexico), Marie Faulkner (UK), Maxine Rochester (Australia), Lampang Manmart (Thailand), Khalil Ismailov (Azerbaijan), Aliyusif Mammadov (Azerbaijan).

**2. Apologies:** Pascal Sanz, Ilkka Makinen.

## 6. **Boston conference**

*Evaluation of sessions:*

The LTR workshop worked with the participation from the audience and the LTR committee who asked a number of questions to inform the panel and the audience and to test a number of assumptions made by the speakers. SC prefers having the workshop early in the conference. It is better to have audience participate in the workshop early on and not towards the end.

Open session: Three very different papers on the topic of international collaboration - small audience, questions at the end made interesting comparisons and connections between the works presented. Session ended up being a workshop rather than a formal session. Room was far too large.

*Other Issues:*

Conference venue has been very cold. There is nowhere to sit and chat. Some thought that the poster session area was too small, though most thought it was fine. Poster presenters need a chair to sit on.

## 9. **Section electronic discussion list**

W. Newman reported that the LTR List is moderated by her and anyone who wants to go on the list can join. Members do get the Newsletter and may not need to join the list.

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We also need to have a special discussion facility for LTR SC members to discuss the business end of the section and that this was the current purpose of the LTR list.

IFLA are also trying to sort out the IFLANET issues and delays, urgently.

### **10. Leaflet**

John Harvey very kindly offered translation services again for the new section leaflet. Marian Koren to revise once strategic plan is ready.

### **11. Financial Report:**

K. Smith presented a financial report which showed the section had AUD 251.81 (approx NLG 327.35) remaining in its account. The report was accepted.

### **12. Projects**

Two presented in a form which could be worked up:

Ragnar Audunson: Methods for studying the social side of libraries in society;

Bob Usherwood: A transnational evaluative survey of national policy makers attitudes to, and perceptions of, the role, value and impact of public library services.

Each spoke to their project and the SC found it difficult to decide one over the other as each had its merits. There were also similarities between them. If both projects were not acceptable to CB VII then Ragnar stated that he would prefer that Bob's went forward. Each project would involve the collaboration of some SC members and would be largely voluntary. Financial support would be needed for the international research component of each. Each speaker identified a commitment to a workshop at the Glasgow conference and a potential satellite meeting for the 2005 conference and each needed information on public libraries. It was decided that Bob Usherwood's would have the first preference of the Section as the projects continued their journey through the IFLA system.

### **13. Glasgow conference**

Would probably have just the one workshop session around the project. Difficult to organise it until we know the project has IFLA approval and funding. Potential titles: *Getting a GRIPP* (getting research into practice and policy) or *Libraries in 3D* - following the Glasgow themes of democracy, diversity and delivery.

Would look at the workshop as a catalyst to get the project underway - would need to liaise with Public Libraries section. Bob Usherwood expected to deliver a paper and then field questions and discussion from the workshop participants. Marian Koren mentioned the possibility of a collaborative effort with the Northumbria performance measurement group who were organising their next workshop to tie in with the IFLA conference. K. Smith to follow up.

### **14. Future Conferences**

Berlin - depends on outcome of project submission and how the work progresses.

Buenos Aires: To discuss next year at Glasgow.

### **15. Other business**

M. Rochester reported that the work on the international bibliometric study was nearly ready. She has been unable to get a final OK from the second author. K. Smith said that she would follow this up once the paper had been lodged with her. LTR keen to publish the work as an IFLA professional paper. M. Rochester to email text and accompanying documents to K. Smith.

### **16. Close of meeting**

There being no further business, the outgoing Chair, Lis Byberg, closed the meeting at 9.30 a.m. She was thanked for her efforts for the Section by all by acclamation.

K. Smith  
Secretary

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IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research  
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Officers of the Section on Library Theory  
and Research:



## 68<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council



***Libraries for Life:  
Democracy, Diversity, Delivery***  
August 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> 2002, Glasgow,  
Scotland

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See <http://www.ifla.org>  
for more on IFLA &  
any conference.

Free access to information and the products of the imagination has always been recognised as the foundation for an inclusive society, a society that is based on shared values and open to change.

Librarians have always played a major role in collecting and transmitting new ideas and better knowledge. Fundamental changes in the way information is used are now making an impact on every aspect of economic, educational and social activity.

In the knowledge economy that is emerging as a result of the rapid introduction of enhanced information and communications technologies, learning and a command of knowledge have become the key factors in individual, organisational and national success. Highly skilled people are needed to ensure that libraries can support effective learning and deliver efficient information services.

*Sub-theme: Building on the past-investing in the future* <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/index.htm>

### *Future Conferences*

[69<sup>th</sup> IFLA Council and General Conference Berlin, 2003](#)

[70<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference Buenos Aires, 2004](#)

[71<sup>st</sup> IFLA Council and General Conference Oslo, Norway, 2005](#)

[72<sup>nd</sup> IFLA General Conference Seoul, 2006](#)

# LTR Newsletter December 2001

IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

## **POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

– An international study

The section is to undertake a transnational study of national policy maker's attitudes to, and perceptions of the public library.

In particular the study will seek to provide information on national and, where appropriate, local governments' attitudes to public libraries in terms of

- their value for individuals and groups in society
- their contribution to the democratic process
- their contribution to economic development
- their contribution to policy priorities

It is anticipated that the study will provide data on the kind of evidence required by policy makers when taking decisions about public library services while at the same time developing professional understanding of policy maker's attitudes to, and perceptions of public library services. The project will be under the overall direction of Professor Bob Usherwood, of the Department of Information Studies, The University of Sheffield. UK

### **Methodology**

A sample of countries will be identified from the IFLA membership. It is anticipated that this sample will cover between 6 – 10 countries and be illuminative rather than representative. In each selected country a local project officer will be identified and appointed to undertake the data collection for that country. Preliminary data in the form of

an interim report will be presented at the IFLA Conference to be held in Glasgow in August 2002. The report will form the basis for a thematic workshop at which the data will be assessed and discussed. This is seen as an integral part of the research process. This technique has been used successfully in previous projects undertaken by the DIS at Sheffield.

After the Glasgow workshop local project officers will continue to analyze and refine their data, making use of the views obtained at the workshop. They will then produce a chapter / report on the situation in their country. The final editorial work will be undertaken by nominated members of the SC on LTR who will also produce an evaluative summary and conclusions. It is anticipated that the final report will be published in time for the 2003 IFLA conference.

Colleagues who have any information, and or documentation, on political attitudes in their country are asked to send it to Bob Usherwood, Department of Information Studies, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield s 10 2TN, United Kingdom:

Email: [r.usherwood@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.usherwood@sheffield.ac.uk)

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### *DRAFT OUT LINE OF WORKSHOP*

9.00-9.10	Welcome by chair of Section
9.10-10.30	Preliminary report on research ~ Prof. Bob Usherwood (Project Head) Country report : A.N, Other
10 30	Break
10. 45-12.00	Thematic Group discussion
12.00-13.00	Report back and Plenary discussion