

# LTR Newsletter December 1999

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

## 65th IFLA Council and General Conference

*Bangkok, Thailand, August 20 - August  
28, 1999*

**Sawasdee Kha**  
Welcome everyone!

That was the greeting that met all of the IFLA delegates for the 65<sup>th</sup> IFLA Council and General Conference in Bangkok, Thailand! The conference was held at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Center (BITEC), 20-28 August 1999. (Picture)



As members of Standing Committees, and people with other program responsibilities, then you must be there earlier and leave later than the conference period itself, to handle the program and business matters for the section.

The Library Theory and Research Standing Committee met twice at the conference. The first was 21 August 1999; the second was 27 August 1999. The minutes from both meetings follow at the end of this newsletter.

The Library Theory and Research Standing Committee presented two sessions at the conference. First, was a Workshop held on Monday, 23 August and, Second, an Open Session was held on Wednesday, 25 August:

### Library Theory and Research Workshop

**Theme:** “*Core Research Areas of LIS: Research Questions and Methodology*”



Panelists are pictured from left to right: Hoglund, Byberg, Kerry, Iivonen, Newman, and Usherwood

### Value and Impact Research

Bob Usherwood  
Department of Information Studies.  
The University of Sheffield  
UK  
Email: [r.usherwood@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.usherwood@sheffield.ac.uk)

### Abstract

At a time when emphasis is being placed on quality, standards, and accountability the research world is spending more time assessing the value and impact of library organizations. The paper argues that research in this area requires sociological and psychological research skills. Qualitative data are as important as statistics. Different research methodologies are identified in a review of some recent studies. The result of such work must be made known, and new research is required to explore the relationship between research and the decisions taken by professionals and policy makers. We must ensure that value and impact studies have value and impact. See paper at: <http://ifla.org/iv/ifla65/papers/057-84e.htm>

**Information Seeking and Communication Research**

Lars Hoglund

Swedish School of Library and Information Studies, Goteborg University and the University College of Boras  
Boras, Sweden  
(Abstract not available. Contact author for paper.)  
Email: lars.hoglund@ctv.gu.se

**Library History Revisited: Research Areas and Methodology**

Lis Byberg

Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science, Oslo College  
Oslo, Norway

Email: lis.byberg@jbi.hiosio.no

**Conclusion**

The challenge as an historian, lies in trying to create or maybe recreate the past. Your aim is to give a picture of what happened. You will have to interpret the written sources, being very much aware of how much these interpretations will be influenced by who you are, your opinions, your level of knowledge, and the time in which you live. You can only do your best, and you will have to live with the fact that you will never fully capture the truth. That is why it is so important that library history should be rewritten again and again. New historians might go through some of the same sources that you have used, they will also study your work, they might confirm your findings or reject them. The result will anyhow add still more nuances and facets to our common knowledge of the history of our libraries.

Library history might very well be where research in the LIS sector really started. The first research in the area were often carried out by retiring librarians, writing down the story of their former workplace, the library. A lot of what we know about our libraries in the older times is the result of this kind of work. There is of course the problem that this form of library history might be a bit too "nearsighted". If you are writing down

the story of your own library, you might be tempted to focus on the positive sides of the institution and the people who work or used to work there. You might also easily take a lot of things for granted, and there is always the possibility that you might be less critical, less inquisitive than an "outsider", writing the story of the same institution would be. Even with these possible limitations in some of the earlier studies in library history, I would like to stress that these works still are important contributions to our common knowledge of libraries. If the sources are listed, unfortunately this is not always done, then these studies are important sources themselves for researchers of today and also for future researchers.

Historians say that history needs to be rewritten again and again. This certainly also applies to library history. So even though library history is a well established research area, so established in fact that we might think that everything already has been done, and though the need for what seems to be more useful and practical applicable research might be more obvious in today's struggle for money and more effective use of limited resources, let me finish by insisting that library history is a field well worth revisiting, or visiting for the first time. See paper at: <http://ifla.org/iv/ifla65/papers/132-82e.htm>

**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, Australia

Email: kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au

**Abstract**

A research topic on Australian science and technology funding policy in the geo-science context. See paper at: <http://ifla.org/iv/ifla65/papers/058-84e.htm>

**Knowledge Management Research and End User Work Environments 2010**

Wilda B. Newman

The Johns Hopkins University  
Applied Physics Laboratory  
Laurel, MD, USA  
Email: wilda.newman@jhuapl.edu

**Abstract**

Research in Knowledge Management and collaboration with The Johns Hopkins University, Digital Knowledge Center will allow focus on the future work environment of the University as a whole. The sharing of resources, perspectives, ideas, concepts, and work environments will create a synergy for developing profiles of end users and their Knowledge Management environments. It will look at the published information environment, as well as the overall "information" environment of end users. The research will review how end users currently access and use information and develop future scenarios of end user profiles and how these are structured, from a Knowledge Management perspective. See paper at: <http://ifla.org/iv/ifla65/papers/057-84e.htm>

**Open Session**

**Doing Research Overseas without Tears: Adventures of an Innocent Abroad**

Nongyao Premkamolnetr  
Library and Information Centre  
King Mongkut's University of Technology  
Thonburi (KMUTT)  
Bangkok, Thailand

**Abstract**

This paper shares some of the experiences encountered by the author, a former Ph.D. overseas student from Thailand during the time she was conducting a research project in Australia as well as coming from a different culture, with different norms, values, languages, beliefs, and ways of life, led to most of her studying days overseas being very challenging. The author hopes that sharing. Being abroad for the first time,

these experiences may be useful for other potential overseas students, who are in the same or similar situation, to acquaint them with what they may confront so they can lessen or even avoid problems similar to those encountered by the author. This would certainly contribute to the completion of their projects happily and tearlessly. See paper at: <http://ifla.org/iv/ifla65/papers/060-141e.htm>

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**CRL 's Board of Directors Appoints Dr. Beverly P. Lynch of UCLA As Interim President**

Chicago, IL) - On November 4, 1999, the Center for Research Libraries' Board of Directors unanimously appointed Dr. Beverly P. Lynch to serve as Interim President from January 1st to December 31st 2000. Dr. Lynch, Professor of the University of California at Los Angeles' Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, will replace Donald B. Simpson who retired in October following nineteen years of service as the President of the research library consortium.

In accepting the appointment, Dr Lynch acknowledged the importance of CRL's fifty years of achievement as a national and international agency for library cooperation. "I anticipate, with great enthusiasm, the opportunity to serve CRL as it positions itself for the next century. It will be a pleasure to work with the Board, the members, and the staff to set the directions for the next fifty years," said Dr. Lynch.

Commenting on the appointment of Dr. Lynch, Douglas Bennett, Chair of CRL's Board of Directors and President of Earlham College said, "Beverly Lynch brings a wealth of experience and understanding of research libraries to this position. The Board of Directors and I are very grateful that she is willing to serve as Interim President for CRL at this important time." Marjorie Bloss, CRL's Vice President for Library Operations and James K.Green, CRL's Vice President for Membership & External Affairs will serve as Acting Co-

**LTR Newsletter December 1999**  
**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research**  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

Presidents until January 1, 2000. Mr. Green has also been appointed CRL's Chief Financial Officer.

In 1989, Dr. Lynch was appointed Dean of the Graduate School of Library & Information Science at UCLA. As a professor in the graduate school, Dr. Lynch currently teaches in areas that include systems and issues of higher education, and academic and research libraries. Long an active member of the American Library Association, Dr. Lynch is also currently serving as Chair of the ALA Committee on Accreditation. She served as ALA President from 1985-1986. Presently, she represents ALA on the IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research and has served as the Committee's Chair and Financial Officer. Dr. Lynch was also recently elected Vice Chair and Chair elect of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO).

Dr. Lynch also has held to her credit an array of professional appointments including Executive Secretary of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in 1972 and University Librarian and Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1977. In addition, Dr. Lynch has worked in various professional positions in the libraries of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Marquette University, Yale University, and the City of Plymouth (England) Public Library.

CRL's Board will serve as the search committee to find CRL's next President. Details relating to the recruitment process will be available in early 2000. Prospective applicants may contact Janice Sandowski, CRL's Human Resources Manager, at 773-955-4545 (Ext. 348), or by e-mail at [sandowsk@crlmail.uchicago.edu](mailto:sandowsk@crlmail.uchicago.edu) for additional information.

Prepared by Marjorie E. Bloss,  
Vice President for Library Operations  
Center for Research Libraries  
6050 South Kenwood Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637  
USA  
(773) 955-4545 Ext. 316 (voice)  
(773) 955-4339 (fax)

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**Recent publications of papers coming from Section Open Meetings and Project Work for Bibliometrics:**

Virginia Cano, "Bibliometric Overview of Library and Information Science Research in Spain," *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*. Vol. 50, No. 8, 1999, pp. 675-680. [Preliminary version of paper delivered during IFLA Conference, Barcelona, 1993.]

Maxine Rochester and Pertti Vakkan "International LIS Research: A Comparison of National Trends," *IFLA Journal*. Vol. 24, No. 3, 1998. pp. 166-175. [Paper delivered during IFLA Conference, Copenhagen, 1997.]

Yontar, a paper on a bibliometric overview of library and information science research in Turkey, to appear shortly in *IFLA Journal*.

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**Minutes of the LTR Business Meetings, Bangkok, Thailand, 1999**

**Chair: Lis Byberg**  
**Secretary: Mirja Iivonen**

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Participating: **8/21/1999**

Chair: Lis Byberg (Norway) - [lis.byberg@jbi.hioslo.no](mailto:lis.byberg@jbi.hioslo.no)  
Secretary: Mirja Iivonen (Finland) - [mirja.iivonen@oulu.fi](mailto:mirja.iivonen@oulu.fi)  
Wilda Newman (USA) - [wilda.newman@JHUAPL.edu](mailto:wilda.newman@JHUAPL.edu)  
Chutima Sacchanand (Thailand) - [laasschu@samsorn.stou.ac.th](mailto:laasschu@samsorn.stou.ac.th)  
Kerry Smith (Australia) - [kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au](mailto:kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au)  
Bob Usherwood (UK) - [r.usherwood@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.usherwood@sheffield.ac.uk)  
Lars Hoglund (Sweden) - [lars.hoglund@ctv.gu.se](mailto:lars.hoglund@ctv.gu.se)  
Maxine Rochester (Australia) - [gordon.barlin@anu.edu.au](mailto:gordon.barlin@anu.edu.au)  
Observers: Don Davis, Cheng Huanwen M., Magnus Torstensson, Shahzad Yusuf



**LTR Newsletter December 1999**  
**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research**  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

Apologies Chirstine Girard, Beverly Lynch,  
Steffen Ruckl, Pascal Sanz

**8/27/1999**

Chair: Lis Byberg (Norway) -

[lis.byberg@jbi.hioslo.no](mailto:lis.byberg@jbi.hioslo.no)

Secretary: Mirja Iivonen (Finland) -

[mirja.iivonen@oulu.fi](mailto:mirja.iivonen@oulu.fi)

Wilda Newman (USA) -

[wilda.newman@JHUAPL.edu](mailto:wilda.newman@JHUAPL.edu)

Daniel Ramon Rios (Argentina) -

[danrios@infovia.com.arg](mailto:danrios@infovia.com.arg)

Chutima Sacchanand (Thailand) -

[laasschu@samsorn.stou.ac.th](mailto:laasschu@samsorn.stou.ac.th)

Kerry Smith (Australia) -

[kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au](mailto:kerry@biblio.curtin.edu.au)

Lars Hoglund (Sweden) -

[lars.hoglund@ctv.gu.se](mailto:lars.hoglund@ctv.gu.se)

Maxine Rochester (Australia) -

[gordon.barlin@anu.edu.au](mailto:gordon.barlin@anu.edu.au)

Observers: Chaveelok Boonyokonehome,  
Don Davis, John F. Harvey, Ross Harvey,  
Cheng Huanwen, Esther Kamau, Marian  
Koren, Yori Miyabe, Surithomg Sri-sa-ad,  
Magnus Torstensson, Haddas Woldeab, M.  
Shahzad Yusuf

Apologies Chirstine Girard, Beverly Lynch,  
Steffen Ruckl, Pascal Sanz, Bob Usherwood

1. **Opening.** Lis Byberg, chair, called the meeting to order.



Participating Standing Committee Members  
and Observers

2. **Review and approval of the minutes of the Standing Committee meetings in Amsterdam 1998.** The minutes were accepted with the following addition to the paragraph 11.2. "Kerry Smith promised to give a presentation about information policy research."

3. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising.

**4. Bangkok Conference.**

4.1. Lis Byberg informed that according to the organizers there would be about 2100 registered participants for the conference. She also reported that the Council Meeting on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of August will be open to all participants and that in the conference there will be two meetings to newcomers.

4.2. Section's Open Session will take place on Wednesday, August 25, 12.30 - 15.00. The theme of the Open Session is *Library Research in South East Asia*. Two presentations will be given:

- 1) Nongyao Premkamolnetr (Thailand), *Doing Research Overseas without Tears: Adventures of an Innocent Abroad*
- 2) Prapavadee Suebson (Thailand), *Overview about Library and Information Studies in Thailand.*

There will be 25-30 minutes for each presentation. Lis Byberg will chair the Open Session.

4.3. Section's Workshop will take place on Monday, August 25, 12:30-15:00. The theme of the Workshop is "*Core Research Areas of LIS: Research Questions and*

*Methodology.*" There will be five presentations:

- 1) Bob Usherwood (United Kingdom) *Value and Impact Research - A Qualitative Approach*
- 2) Lars Hoglund (Sweden) *Information Seeking and Communication Research*
- 3) Lis Byberg (Norway), *Library History Revisited: Research Areas and Methodology*
- 4) Kerry Smith (Australia), *Using Information Research Techniques to Track the Effects of Recent Changes in Australian Science Policy;*
- 5) Wilda B. Newman (USA), *Knowledge Management Research and End User Work Environments 2010*

Christine Girard from France cancelled her coming. There will be 15 minutes for each

**LTR Newsletter December 1999**  
**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research**  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

presentation and a lot of time for discussion. Mirja Iivonen will chair the Workshop.

4.4. Chutima Sacchanad promised to encourage students working as volunteers in the conference to participate in both the Workshop and Open Session. The Standing Committee decided to ask the Coordinating Board to recommend to the Professional Board and Headquarters that at future conferences, would it be possible for students to participate in the conference with a generous discount fee?

4.5. It was noted that unfortunately the Section's time at the IFLA Booth is at the same time as the Section's Open Session. The members of SC will participate in the Open Session but the Section's leaflet and the newsletter will be available at the IFLA Booth.

4.6. Lis Byberg reminded everyone that it is important to fill out the conference evaluation form. The evaluation of simultaneous interpretation will be paid special attention at the conference.

4.7. The Standing Committee discussed (27/8/1999) the success of the Bangkok conference.

- The Open Session went well. There were about 30 participants in the Open Session. Nongyao Premkamolnetr's presentation was successful and very personal. The audience loved it. Unfortunately Prapavadee Suebson did not come to give her presentation, and she did not inform about that beforehand. More students were accepted to participate in the Open Session than happened.
- In the Workshop there was a big audience, about 130 participants. The presentations were interesting and the time-management worked well. The Workshop worked as a real Workshop. There was a lot of discussion after every presentation. The format of the Workshop will be used also in future conferences.
- The Section congratulated the Thai-organizing committee. The conference site was very good and everything was very close and easy to find. The food court was very good with good food and good prices. Volunteers for the conference were very helpful and friendly.

**5. Medium Term Program and Action Plan.** The Medium Term Program is for four years. The Action Plan is for the years 2000-2001 and was accepted as follows:

**Action Plan 2000-2001**

1. To establish a closed Listserv using IFLANET for the Section's Standing Committee;
2. To sponsor at least two research papers on a topic of importance to 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;
3. To publish and distribute two issues of the Section's newsletter each year;
4. To translate the Section's revised leaflet into all IFLA official languages and to distribute it widely;
5. To co-operate with Division VII and also with other relevant sections in establishing standards for library and information education, placing a special emphasis on education and training for research;
6. To sponsor annually a Workshop on a particular topic, paying particular attention to collaboration with practitioners;
7. To cooperate with the Round Table of Library History in organizing the conference in Borås, Sweden, in 2001 about libraries in the 60's and 70's.

Daniel R. Rios promised to take a responsibility for translating Section's leaflet into Spanish language. John F. Harvey promised to take responsibility for translating Section's leaflet into French, German, Russian, and if possible into Arabic and Hebrew for

Jerusalem conference. Kerry Smith will send a revised leaflet to Daniel R. Rios and John F. Harvey. The Action Plan will be published in the Section's Newsletter 2/1999, and it will be sent to the members of the Standing Committee

**LTR Newsletter December 1999**  
**IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research**  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

with the minutes of SC meetings in Bangkok.

**6. Election of the officers**

- 6.1. Lis Byberg was elected to be Section's Chair.
- 6.2. Kerry Smith was elected to be Section's Secretary and Treasurer.
- 6.3. Wilda Newman was elected to be Section's Information Coordinator and the Editor of Newsletter.

**7. Section's Newsletter.** Wilda Newman introduced Section's Newsletter issue 1/1999 that was sent before the Bangkok conference to about 150 members of the Section. The issue 2/1999 will be published at the end of 1999, and it will include e.g., the abstracts and web-addresses of the papers presented in the Section's Open Session and Workshop in Bangkok. Information about also Bangkok conference and also future conferences will be included in the Newsletter's next issue. In addition Section's new Action Plan will be published in the Newsletter 2/1999. Wilda Newman asked the members of SC to send to her rather soon information they want to be published in the Newsletter.

**8. Financial Report.** Mirja Iivonen reported on the Section's financial situation. There will be enough money left to be used to publish the second issue of Section's newsletter and produce a revised version of Section's leaflet.

**9. Projects**

Maxine Rochester reported the progress of her and Pertti Vakkari's book about the bibliometric analysis of LIS research. It has been accepted by IFLA's Publication Committee to be published in the Professional Report Series as an on demand publication. SC thanked Maxine and Pertti for the work they have done. Maxine informed that there are no guidelines for IFLA Professional Report Series. SC decided to ask CB to recommend to the PB to produce



Lis Byberg, (facing) Section Chair, discusses program matters with Kerry Smith, Section Secretary/Treasurer

guidelines for the Professional Report Series.

- Maxine Rochester also reported that MCB University Press has launched Internet research registers on the Internet ([http://www.mcb.co.uk/literati/research\\_registers](http://www.mcb.co.uk/literati/research_registers))
- No new project proposal was presented. Lis Byberg asked the members of the SC to think about good project proposals for the next IFLA conference.
- It was discussed about the role of IFLA projects. SC's opinion is that some money is needed for bigger projects but also some money is still needed for small projects. SC also pointed out that there is too much bureaucracy related to small projects compared to the amount of money that is available for them. Fewer formalities should be used for small projects.

#### **10. Israel Conference 1999.**

- Lis Byberg reported that she has received some letters from persons who want to present their papers in the Section's Open Session or Workshop in Jerusalem. Kerry Smith promised to take a look at those letters and find out if the persons who have contacted Lis could be used as speakers.
- Lis Byberg reported that the Islamic Library Community plans to organize their own conference in Beirut almost at the same time that the IFLA conference will take place in Jerusalem. IFLA HQ is negotiating with the Islamic Library Community.
- The SC plans to organize the Jerusalem Open Session with one speaker from Israel and another speaker from one of the Arab countries. They should present papers related to LIS research done in their countries. Perhaps more speakers than two are needed. Lis Byberg and Kerry Smith will contact library schools in the area. If it is difficult to find a speaker coming from an Arab country. The speaker with an Arab background will be looked for e.g., from the U.S. The discussion about the program of Open Session will be started on Section's listserv.
- The Section decided to organize a half-day Workshop in Jerusalem. The theme of the Workshop will be "Collaboration between theory and evidence-based practice." Also the sub-title for the Workshop is needed to tell more about the theme of the Workshop. The program of the Workshop was discussed. Kerry Smith promised to take responsibility for the Workshop. Suggestions for the papers should be sent to Kerry. The presentations in the Workshop should be short ones, about 15 minutes, so that there will be a lot of time for discussion. It was emphasized that it is important that speakers will come from different countries. The discussion about the Workshop's program will also be started on the Section's listserv.

#### **11. Future Conferences.**

- 11.1. Boston 2001. Wilda Newman reported that the arrangements of Boston conference are going well. The Section decided to organize in Boston a Workshop about research funding issues where different kinds of options will be covered. Also discussed was the possibility of gathering links to available funding resources on the IFLANET.
- 11.2. Glasgow 2002. Bob Usherwood reported that the arrangements of Glasgow are going well.
- 11.3. It was reported that IFLA conference 2004 will take place in Argentina.

#### **12. Other business.**

There was no other business.

**13. Close of Meeting.** Lis Byberg closed the meeting.

Prepared by Mirja Iivonen  
([mirja.iivonen@oulu.fi](mailto:mirja.iivonen@oulu.fi)) September 6, 1999,  
with minor editing by Wilda Newman



## **66th IFLA Council and General Conference**

*Jerusalem, Israel, 13-18 August 2000*

### **Conference Theme**

*"Information for Cooperation: Creating the  
Global Library of the Future"*

***"The people of the  
book invite the  
keepers of the book."***

See <http://www.ifla.org> for more  
information on this year's conference.