



# **RSAO NEWSLETTER**

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS  
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE BIBLIOTHECAIRES ET DES BIBLIOTHEQUES  
INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DER BIBLIOTHEKARISCHEN VEREINE UND INSTITUTIONEN  
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y BIBLIOTECAS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ БИБЛИОТЕЧНЫХ АССОЦИАЦИЙ И УЧРЕЖДЕНИЙ

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## **1. IFLA NEWS**

### ***FROM HEADQUARTERS***

## **IFLA President 2005-2007 Alex Byrne**

### **Presidential Address:**

### **Partnership to Advance Library and Information Service**

Colleagues and friends, I am deeply honoured and humbled to stand before you as the incoming President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. It is the highest possible honour and privilege to have been elected to the leadership of our global professional organisation and to represent such an outstanding body of colleagues throughout the world. But is also very humbling to take on the responsibility of guiding the Federation in its important work for its members, the profession and society.

I am very conscious that I stand on the shoulders of giants as Newton put it. Of the many great IFLA Presidents, including our immediate past President Kay Raseroka, I will single out only two, the Swiss Marcel Godet and the Norwegian Wilhelm Munthe. Godet was President through the dreadful years from 1936 to 1947 and kept IFLA going through the divisions and terror of the Second World War. On the eve of that war,

he reminded IFLA conference delegates that libraries must be places of free inquiry and that librarians must always work “à humaniser l’homme [to humanise humanity]” (IFLA 1939, p. 11). After he assumed the presidency following the war, Munthe turned to the increasing international distrust evident as the Cold War developed and asked what was happening to freedom:

The freedom from fear has totally vanished, and the freedoms of thought, of speech, of reading - which we librarians are mostly interested in - are gradually vanishing in one country after another ... we must prepare for the worst, but we must also work for the best. And perhaps never have we librarians had a greater opportunity to make positive contribution ... (IFLA 1948, p. 11)

Sadly, sixty years later we might say the same in a world in which division between peoples is being fomented, distrust and fear are growing, and freedoms of thought, speech and access to information are being curtailed. We must unite against the marriage of ignorance and intolerance and their twin children, terror and state control. We must continue to proclaim the human right to know, the crucial importance of freedom of opinion, freedom of expression and communication and freedom of information. They are fundamental rights and they lie at the core of our profession.

Together with library associations and institutions, IFLA is actively working on the big issues for society which are relevant to library and information practice. We have engaged wholeheartedly with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and have become an influential voice in the deliberations of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and other fora dealing with major legal matters which affect our practice and our commitment to access to information. Despite limited resources, IFLA/FAIFE has become an influential and respected advocate for intellectual freedom including opposition to the restrictions imposed in response to fear of terrorism. Through these strategies and in many other ways, IFLA is demonstrating the relevance

of libraries and information services to both the daily life and the major concerns of society, our first pillar.

This work is advanced through the professional dialogue which we enjoy through IFLA and our associations. The fact that colleagues from some 140 countries come together annually at this Congress to share experience and pursue collaborative projects and programs is testimony to the strength of our profession. Through that interaction and collaboration we have developed a most impressive body of standards and guidelines which underpin our work. We also promote the advancement of library and information service throughout the world with particular emphasis on underdeveloped regions and ways of addressing the special needs of the most vulnerable including those with disabilities, children, women, minorities and Indigenous peoples. With the creation of the IFLA Relief and Development Partnership we have established a mechanism to provide modest assistance to those colleagues who have suffered or are in regions prone to disasters. This many layered work which is pursued by our sections and core activities immeasurably strengthens the profession, our second pillar.

IFLA can promote and facilitate this work for society and for the profession because of the strength of our membership. As a membership organisation, we need to deliver value to our 1700 plus members from 154 countries and the extended constituency of the hundreds of thousands who belong to our association members or work in our member institutions. We do that through pursuing the programs and projects of relevance to society and the profession but also by providing direct services to members through IFLA HQ, the regional offices, IFLA Journal and, most significantly, IFLAnet. But, perhaps the most important benefit for our members is the opportunity for dialogue and cooperation that the Federation provides: this is a process to which we all contribute and from which we all benefit much, much more than each of us contributes. This third pillar, our members, is the core of IFLA’s

strength.

As an engineer by training, I know that strength derives from interrelationship, from assembling the right elements and joining them in effective combinations. This is partnership. It is demonstrated throughout IFLA in the work of the sections and core activities, in the ways in which colleagues from throughout the world come together to work on important matters. It is also to be seen in our work with library associations which has been especially visible in regard to WSIS and the work of CLM. Our collaborative work is much strengthened by our longstanding partnership with many corporate partners and with our suppliers who we see in the Congress exhibition year after year.

But our partnerships extend beyond the Federation, as for example in our most important relationship with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) which is demonstrated through the IFLA CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards and in the Committee of the Blue Shield which links us with the peak bodies for the other memory institutions – the International Council of Archives, the International Council of Museums and the International Committee on Monuments and Sites. The importance of collaboration is also visible in our 57 year old partnership with UNESCO and our growing relationships with other international governmental and non-governmental organisations. In the WSIS processes we have worked very closely with many NGOs representing civil society and much of our effectiveness can be traced to those relationships which have been fostered.

To be strong partner, the Federation needs to be strong. That means that we need to make IFLA more efficient and robust, diversify the financial base, increase membership to extend our mandate and reach, develop a more effective advocacy capability. This is summarised in the three pillars model - our focus on society, the profession and members. It is very important that we keep doing the things which strengthen our profession including bibliographic standards,

preservation and conservation, ALP and the work of the IFLA Sections. But it is also vital that we demonstrate our relevance to society by engaging more directly and visibly with the needs of society including universal and unrestricted access to information to promote community building and strengthening, linguistic and cultural diversity, health and education, research and freedom. IFLA can do much at the global level but that needs to be mirrored by action at national and local levels which brings us back to the importance of partnership.

Partnership is thus a key enabler for our work. We must work in partnership within our field, with those in cognate professions, with those with shared interests and with those who are influential. Thus, my presidential theme is partnership because we must work to develop even stronger collaboration across the IFLA Sections, with our members and especially the library associations, with other sections of the library and information service community across the world and with our colleagues in archives, museums, publishing, information technology and civil society. By working together we will do great things to assist the global network of library and information services to provide unrestricted access to information and thereby to respond to the needs of humanity including the strongly felt concerns of all peoples for freedom, security and development.

In accepting the great responsibility and honour of being the President of IFLA, I am delighted to be able to welcome my colleague and friend, Claudia Lux, to the position of President-elect. We will work in partnership with each other, with the other members of the Governing Board, with the Secretary General and IFLA staff, with officers and members and with others within and outside librarianship to strengthen the Federation, promote our values and achieve our goals. As Munthe put it, we have a great opportunity to make positive contribution!  
Thank you

References:

IFLA (1939). *Comite International des Bibliothèques 12me Session, La Haye-Amsterdam, 10-12 Juillet 1939 Actes. Comite International des Bibliothèques 12me Session, The Hague and Amsterdam, Martinus Nijhoff.*

IFLA (1948). *Comite International des Bibliothèques 14me Session, Londres, 20-23 Septembre 1948 Actes. Comite International des Bibliothèques 14me Session, London, Martinus Nijhoff.*

(Presidential Address, IFLA Council, August 18, 2005  
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/Programme.htm>)

## **IFLA Position on Internet Governance**

1. As the peak international professional association concerned with information and library services, IFLA represents institutions worldwide that endeavour to provide access to all publicly available information, whether factual or fictional, and regardless of media or format.  
Networked digital resources have become a critically important basis for the information services delivered by libraries, and in many countries public and educational libraries are the major or only agencies that provide the general population with free or affordable access to these resources. In doing so, they make a huge contribution to cultural, social and economic development.  
IFLA therefore has a direct interest in the future governance of the Internet.
2. IFLA opposes any measures which would lead to control of information access and free expression by commercial, governmental or sectoral interests. Measures which may be necessary to ensure the reliable operation of the Internet, control spam, support intellectual property protection and enable individuals to protect their privacy must not be used to limit the rights expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

- especially those in Article 19.
3. IFLA supports the development of the Internet as a reliable multilingual system which will be available to all and will facilitate unrestricted access to information by all peoples in their languages of choice.
4. In regard to the proposed approaches to the governance of the Internet, IFLA supports a multistakeholder approach which involves governments, civil society and business and which offers a path for increasing participation by those interests in all countries as the capacity to participate develops. IFLA consequently endorses both the forum and the principles for global public policy and oversight proposed in the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) report but emphasises the need for effective representation of the stakeholder interests.
5. As a voice for the 2.5 billion registered library users across the world and a United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accredited international professional organisation, IFLA is available to assist with the development of effective models for Internet governance.

Alex Byrne

IFLA President

21 September 2005

(Reference 1, October 04, 2005)

## **IFLA Honours and Awards 2006**

### **Call for Nominations**

We are inviting IFLA Members and Personal Affiliates to submit nominations for an IFLA Honour and/or Award. All nominations should be accompanied by a citation. The case for an Honour would be strengthened if there were multiple nominations for a candidate. The Executive Committee will consider nominations in confidence in March 2006. The awards will be announced and conferred during the World Library and Information Congress in Seoul in August 2006.

Following are the categories of Honours and their criteria:

**- Honorary Fellow**

A rare and unusual award for long and distinguished service to IFLA. The expectation is that it would be awarded only four or five times a decade.

**- IFLA Medal**

Awarded for distinguished contribution either to IFLA or to international librarianship. The expectation is that, on average, two such medals would be awarded each year, one of which would be to someone from the country hosting the WLIC/IFLA Congress that year.

**- IFLA Scroll of Appreciation**

Awarded to the WLIC/IFLA Congress host committee for that year. No nominations are therefore required for this. But it is also awarded to individuals who have given distinguished service to IFLA, such as long serving core activities staff, for whom nominations are required.

**- IFLA Certificate of Service**

Awarded to those retiring from IFLA activities who have served eight years or more in the capacity of an IFLA officer. Such service does not need to be consecutive.

All authorised representatives of Members and Personal Affiliates are eligible to make nominations.

Nominations for awards to be conferred in 2006 are therefore invited, in confidence, on the form you can find on IFLANET  
<http://www.ifla.org/III/eb/Call-Honours-Awards.htm>

This form may be posted or sent by fax to:  
Honours and Awards  
IFLA  
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Netherlands

Fax: +31 70 3834827

Nominations may also be sent by email to: [magda.bouwens@ifla.org](mailto:magda.bouwens@ifla.org) provided that full details as required on the form are provided.

Nominations must arrive no later than 1 February 2006.

Please note that late submissions will not be considered.

This call for nominations is being issued on IFLANET, IFLA-L and in IFLA Journal. It is not being posted separately. Previous recipients of IFLA Honours are listed at: <http://www.ifla.org/III/eb/honmem.htm>

Neither the Executive Committee nor the Secretary General will enter into correspondence on individual nominations.

Peter Johan Lor  
Secretary General  
(Magda Bouwens, Reference 2, Tue, 18 Oct. 2005)

***FROM REGIONAL OFFICE***

**Regional Office for Asia and Oceania**  
<http://www.ifla.org/III/ro/index.htm>

**Sign Out**

After 15 years being the Regional Manager of the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania, it is the time now to say good-bye.

Having a chance to work with so many people during these years is really a rewarding experience. I am so pleased that the extension part of my professional career has been well spent, and that my retirement brings many of the good memories. With so much help and supports from colleagues and friends, we managed to work in concert to fulfill our mission.

The work of IFLA continues by our fellow professionals in the region and all around the

world, who, through their associations or institutions (or by themselves), work together toward the ultimate goal of a better society, as can be shown by the high quality library and information services. We still have a long way to go, but IFLA has an excellent structure for the professionals worldwide to work together across the multi-cultured societies. It implies cooperation and division of responsibilities among all sectors.

My commitment to be the IFLA Regional Manager for Asia and Oceania ends December 31, 2005. This is my second retirement after the first one as a librarian employed by the Royal Thai Government. I can be free from the professional work now, but I will keep IFLA's mission and values in mind. Being affiliated with both the Thammasat University Libraries (Institution Member, TH-1002) and the Thai Library Association (National Association Member, TH-0001), I am proud of being a life member of IFLA.

Pensri Guaysuwan  
Regional Manager, 1991-2005  
IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania

## ***FROM RSCAO***

**Asia and Oceania Section**  
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s26/sraao.htm>

## **From the Chair**

As happens every year, the IFLA General Conference quickly becomes a memory as we move forward to new activities and challenges. Was it only August when we were in Oslo? What an excellent conference it was, and the Asia & Oceania Section was well-represented despite the considerable distance most of us had to travel. Our Open Session was perhaps the best-attended since Bangkok, and the papers were indeed very good.

As this was an election year, the Oslo Conference was also memorable for its farewells to retiring or standing-down members – in

particular the resignation of Dr Aree Cheunwattana as Secretary, and her replacement by Premila Gamage of Sri Lanka. Aree was an invaluable Secretary, so Premila has a good role model to follow, and we are sure she will do so very ably. Already she has survived an increasing barrage of emails from the Chair. We also farewelled Hilda Nassar as the member for Lebanon, but she was so important as Information Coordinator that we invited her to remain as Corresponding Member and Information Coordinator, so she hardly had time to change horses. We also welcomed several new members from India (now up to three) and China (also three), as well as Iran, New Caledonia, Japan and Korea. We now have a Committee with excellent geographical representation for our far-flung region.

But those of us who were at Oslo will always think of it as 'The Dr Pensri IFLA Conference'. Because this is Pensri's last year as Regional Manager, there were almost more farewell dinners and gatherings in her honour than there were Conference sessions. Certainly the RSCAO will miss her presence after so many years, and we wish her well in her retirement – an opportunity to travel less, and reflect on what has been achieved, as well as learning to become a successful landowner. It seems an attractive option to me!

As a result of Pensri's retirement, we are now in the throes of considering options for a new Regional Office and Regional Manager. A number of applications have been received, and we are assessing these as our contribution to the process. The final decision will be made by IFLA HQ, and I am sure the results will be announced elsewhere in this issue.

We are also actively planning for our mid-year meeting in Hanoi (February 2006), which is requiring considerable input from the Chair. In addition to our meeting and a short Logframe Analysis Workshop by SIDA, we are sponsoring a one-day Conference/Workshop on Information Literacy for All in Asia: Bringing Theory into Practice. Such is the interest in Vietnam that we

have already been informed that the Conference audience will be more than 450! And already we have issued our call for papers for the Seoul Conference, which I hope you will have seen, and are actively contributing to organisation of the Seoul Satellite Meeting organised by CEAL on scholarly publishing in East Asia as well as to the joint Open Session with School Libraries on Information Literacy; again, I hope you have seen this call for papers. Here it is appropriate to record our deep sadness at the recent death of Professor Anne Clyde, Chair of the School Libraries Section; we were working together quite literally at the time of her death, and she will be sadly missed by everyone in IFLA and around the world who knew her work.

Finally, we have completed the Section Review and submitted this to HQ – I am happy to report that we are in excellent form. The Review has given us an opportunity to reflect on our past achievements and to look to future activities, all of which seem solid, worthwhile and beneficial to our region. Much of the credit for this goes to past Chairs under whom I have served, Amelia McKenzie from Australia and Rashidah Begum of Malaysia. And of course to all past and present members of the RSCAO – a strong team working well for the good of libraries and information workers in Asia-Oceania.

Professor GE Gorman  
RSCAO Chair

## **Strategic Plan, 2006-2007**

### **Mission**

**To initiate, promote and facilitate the development of library/information services and library and information professionals within the region**

### **Goals**

**1. To provide opportunities for regionally-based education and training through partnership in library and information management skills, with emphasis on information literacy**

*(Pillars: Profession, Members, Society)*

*(Professional priorities: (c) Promoting literacy and reading; (h) Developing library professionals; (k) Representing libraries in the technological market place)*

### **Actions**

1.1 To select 4 candidates and identify partnership institutions for up to one month's in-service training in collaboration with the Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP)

1.2 To select 2-3 candidates and identify partnership institutions for information literacy training in collaboration with ALP

1.3 To support 2-3 projects which are aimed at developing information literacy activities and programmes including the use of ICT or distance education to facilitate or support them.

1.4 To organize a minimum of 2 workshops/seminars to develop professional expertise in information literacy for librarians

**2. To enable and encourage Asia and Oceania Section (AOS) members to take part in the work of IFLA, and work together with other IFLA Sections and Core Activities to achieve AOS objectives**

*(Pillars: Profession, Members)*

*(Professional priorities: (h) Developing library professionals)*

### **Actions**

2.1 To identify relevant IFLA Sections for potential collaborative activities--i.e., School Libraries and Resource Centers Section, Public Libraries Section

2.2 To develop joint activities with these sections

2.3 To assign AOS members as liaison persons with relevant Sections

**3. To assist in strengthening the effectiveness of library associations or other professional groupings that might contribute to stronger partnership among library associations**

*(Pillars: Profession, Members)*

*(Professional priorities: (h) Developing library professionals; (j) Supporting the infrastructure of library associations)*

### **Actions**

3.1 To facilitate 2 workshops initiated by library associations in needy areas of library development in the region.

- 3.2 To facilitate twinning/networking between existing library associations  
3.3 To encourage and facilitate the establishment of library associations in the region

**4. To promote high quality library and information management (LIM) standards and guidelines among countries in the region**

*(Pillars: Profession)*

*(Professional priorities: (h) Developing library professionals; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice)*

**Actions**

- 4.1 To heighten awareness of existing LIM standards and guidelines  
4.2 To facilitate development of national level LIM standards and guidelines  
4.3 To encourage or sponsor the translation of relevant LIM standards and guidelines for a minimum of two countries in the region  
4.4 To facilitate a minimum of 1 workshop or seminar on LIM standards and guidelines.  
4.5 To encourage compilation, production and distribution of a brochure(s) of "tried and tested best library practices"/innovations of libraries in the region

**5. To disseminate and communicate information on library and information management relevant to the region**

*(Pillars: Society, Members, Profession)*

*(Professional priorities: (a) Supporting the role of libraries in the society; (h) Developing library professionals; (i) Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice)*

**Actions**

- 5.1 To produce the RSAO Newsletter twice per year  
5.2 To update the AOS brochure  
5.3 To maintain and promote the use of existing RSCAO listserv  
5.4 To update the AOS video  
5.5 To work with IFLA in improving the communication function of the Section's website  
5.6. To encourage library associations, library and information science schools, and libraries, with IFLA permission, to translate, abstract/extract, review, announce/publicise IFLA publications, news, articles, etc. in their library journals, newsletters or in local newspapers

## **Standing Committee Members 2005 - 2007**

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First Election 2005

## ***FROM FAIFE***

### **Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression**

<http://www.ifla.org/faife/index.htm>

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## **Protests Against Restrictions on Freedom of Access to Information in Tunisia in the Run up to the World Summit on the Information Society**

IFLA/FAIFE urges the Tunisian government to take steps to increase freedom of access to information in the country by removing restrictions on the circulation of books and information on the Internet imposed by its policies, says the Chair of the IFLA/FAIFE Committee Professor Paul Sturges.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (IFLA/FAIFE) expresses its deep concern over the state of freedom of access to information in Tunisia in the run up to the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) which will be held 16-18 November in Tunis. In building a robust and equitable information and knowledge society, it is crucial to safeguard unhampered access to information resources across borders, for all people, without restriction. The World Summit on the Information Society has embraced the principles of Article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but Tunisia continues to restrict its citizens' freedom of access to information through censorship and the stifling of freedom of expression on the Internet.

His Excellency President Ben Ali announced on 27 May 2005 that the legal submission procedure applicable to the press would be abolished. IFLA welcomes this announcement but is concerned at reports from the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) Tunisia Monitoring Group that the authorities continue to use legal means to prevent a large number of books from freely circulating in the country.

Furthermore, IFLA/FAIFE expresses its grave

concern that Tunisian authorities have used the Law on Terrorism passed in December 2003 as a tool to silence and punish critics of the government. The attitude of the Tunisian government towards the circulation of information is one that cannot be reconciled with the aspirations of the nations attending the World Summit on the Information Society.

Only by upholding the principles of intellectual freedom and guaranteeing the rights of its citizens can the Tunisian authorities demonstrate their commitment to full participation in the information and knowledge society. This means providing unrestricted access to information in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - before and after the Tunis Summit.

IFLA/FAIFE therefore urges the Tunisian government to take steps to increase freedom of access to information in the country by removing restrictions on the circulation of books and information on the Internet. We also support colleagues in Tunisia fighting to safeguard the right of library users to freedom of access to information.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Censorship of books**

A large number of books on diverse subjects including human rights and democracy are being censored as a result of the existing system of legal submission for Tunisian publishers. Publishers must deposit copies of new books with the Ministry of Culture, the National Library, the Ministry of the Interior and the Public Prosecutor's Office. A receipt issued by the Ministry of the Interior then allows the distribution of the books within the country. In reality the receipts are rarely forthcoming, leaving books to languish unpublished and restricting citizens' freedom of access to information. IFEX reports that the system has been in place for at least ten years, leading to the censorship of books by notable advocates of intellectual freedom such as Mohamed Talbi and

Moncef Marzouki. Other books are banned if they are suspected of being edited by centres or groups engaged in scientific research and human rights education, such as the Temimi Foundation, the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) and the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD).

### **Governmental Control of the Internet**

Following the Tunisian government's nationalisation of the country's Internet Service Providers in 2004, the content of websites is regulated in accordance with government policy. The websites of political opponents have been banned, along with resources on human rights and free email websites such as Hotmail. Complementing this approach is a system of strict Internet surveillance whereby users' online activities are monitored by a special 'Cyber-police' force set up by the government to investigate 'over-active' Internet users, and those who visit sites the government considers subversive. Simply viewing certain websites can lead to imprisonment under Tunisian law. Following the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks in the United States the Tunisian government has been cracking down on users they claim to be accessing 'terrorist-related' websites, a wide ranging definition that has led to the arrest and imprisonment of Internet users in the past two years.

### **Violations of Intellectual Freedom**

The elimination of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression deeply affects the development of the country and its people.

Freedom of access to information, knowledge and lifelong learning is central to democratic development and active participation and influence in society and when these fundamental human rights are violated in Tunisia or elsewhere the international library community must react. The IFEX Tunisia Monitoring Group is calling for an end to all attacks on freedom of expression in Tunisia. IFLA/FAIFE

declares its support for this appeal. (Extracted from Hamilton, Stuart, Reference 2, Fri, 8 Jul 2005)

## **IFLA Protests Closure of Libraries and Violations of Human Rights in Turkmenistan**

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) strongly protests the closure of libraries in Turkmenistan and its impact on freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in the country.

While the World Summit on the Information Society debates how best to safeguard access to information and freedom of expression in the information and knowledge society, the Turkmen government takes steps to keep the Turkmen population in isolation and ignorance by exercising one of the most profound onslaughts on intellectual freedom rights we have witnessed in many years, said IFLA President Kay Raseroka.

### **Closure of Libraries**

The President of Turkmenistan, Mr Saparmurat Niyazov, has ordered the closure of libraries on the grounds that "nobody reads books or go to libraries". Central and student libraries will remain open but the remainder will be closed. The President has stated that additional libraries are unnecessary as most books that Turkmen need should already be in homes, workplaces and schools. IFLA/FAIFE is monitoring this situation with alarm.

It has proved difficult to get an exact status of closure of libraries. While the National Library appears to have escaped closure, the Open Society Institute has confirmed the closure of the libraries in the Dashoguz province. Other analysts report that libraries have been out of favour with the president for a long time. The

supplies of books of university libraries have not been updated for ten years and many works on history, literature and biology have been removed and destroyed.

### **Censorship and Blocked Internet Access**

The closure of libraries is a recent example of violations of intellectual freedom in the country. The government makes access to the Internet as difficult as possible and blocks access to online information resources. The educational system is deeply affected, the curriculum concentrating on the study of the president's Rukhnama ideology, which denies any influence by civilisation, science or culture on the development of the Turkmen people. Human rights organisations report on widespread censorship of information and media that do not support the Rukhnama ideology. Import of foreign literature, newspapers and magazines are prohibited, while state bookshops only sell books that support the ideology. The remaining bookstores and libraries are already emptied of books - which makes closure of libraries even easier. Book burning, banning of libraries, banning of cultural institutions and ballet, opera, circus and concerts and foreign cultural associations, along with harassment and imprisonment of intellectuals and other opponents of the government, are all examples of the severe oppression experienced by the people of Turkmenistan.

### **Violations of Human Rights**

The elimination of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression will deeply affect the development of the country and its people. Access to information, knowledge and lifelong learning is central to democratic development and active participation and influence in society. It is a fundamental human right as specified in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

State control over Turkmen lives keeps citizens in a state of ignorance and prevents communi-

cations with the outside world. Human rights organisations report the abuses to include violations of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights. Those opposing government policy are imprisoned and subjects of torture and summary trials and their families harassed. What is happening in Turkmenistan is an abuse of unheard proportions of the rights of its people.

### **International Protest**

The International League for Human Rights, the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights and the Memorial Human Rights Center are appealing to the UN Commission on Human Rights to address the continuing human rights violations in Turkmenistan.

IFLA declares its support for this appeal and urges the Turkmen Government to reopen libraries, restock them and provide free Internet access and support their staff in order to provide unrestricted access to information in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Reference 1, April 29, 2005)

## **Calls on the Chinese Government to End Censorship of Internet Access and Allow Freedom of Expression Online**

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (IFLA/FAIFE) expresses its deep concern over the state of freedom of access to information on the Internet in China.

At a time when China is becoming more and more significant on the world stage in terms of trade and technological development, the increasing curtailment of the freedom of its citizens to access the information they choose is deeply disturbing. In addition to their continuing use of technological restrictions, the Chinese authorities are tightening control of the Internet,

through measures against bloggers and website operators. This is an attempt not merely to silence and punish critics of the government, but also to prevent citizens' general interaction in the online public sphere, says the Chair of the IFLA/FAIFE Committee Professor Paul Sturges.

### **IFLA urges rethink**

The elimination of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression will deeply affect the development of a country and its people. Those with influence in China must demonstrate their commitment to full participation in the information and knowledge society. This means to actively work for the provision of unrestricted access to information in accordance **with Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

IFLA urges the Chinese government to reconsider their attitudes towards the country's Internet users and permit full freedom expression online. Access to information, knowledge and lifelong learning is central to democratic development and active participation and influence in society. It is a fundamental human right as specified in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Chinese government's attitude towards the circulation of information is one that cannot be reconciled with Article 19 nor the aspirations of the nations attending the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunisia in November 2005.

Furthermore, IFLA strongly suggests that western computer companies providing assistance to the government consider the effects of their actions on freedom of expression in the country. China must be seen as more than just a market for western companies to gain a foothold in – it must be seen as a country where citizens have rights to access the information they choose and to disseminate the opinions they hold without consequences.

(Reference 1, July 13, 2005)

## **2. HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION**

### ***HONG KONG***

### **International Association of School Librarianship 34th Annual Conference**

08 – 12 July 2005

Hong Kong

The opening ceremony for the 34th IASL Annual Conference took place at the University of Hong Kong. The event was MCed by Tajan Wong and Sandra Lee. Welcome greetings were delivered by Mrs. Fanny Law, Permanent Secretary, Education and Manpower of the Hong Kong SAR; by Prof. Mark Bray, Dean, Faculty of Education; by Peter Genco, IASL President; and by Luk Hok Hei Livesey, Hong Kong Teacher Librarians' Association.

The Lion Dance was performed by the Kowloon Technical School Chinese Boxing Club. Children from the Tsing Yi Trade Association Primary School Choir performed "*It's a Small World*". Delegates also viewed a power point Flag Ceremony for the 31 countries represented at this year's conference on the theme: *Information Leadership in a Culture of Change*.

Local awards were presented to 100 educators, individuals and schools. A reception, with Chinese instrumental music, followed to congratulate the award recipients and to kick-off this year's conference. It was a very colourful and well-planned event.

More than 550 people gathered at HKU, which as James Henri promised, is on the side of a mountain, and along with the spectacular views of the city below, there were lots of stairs up and down between buildings to keep on fit after sitting conference sessions. Hong Kong in summer is very hot and wet, but to compensate the conference programme was varied and of

high quality. The campus has a Starbucks and a good restaurant-with-a view called Joseph's, so the needs for food, drink and coffee were well catered. Delegates from Mainland China made up a very large proportion of the delegates, while Australia probably had the second highest number in attendance.

The keynote address on Saturday from Professor Stephen Heppell (United Kingdom) set the scene for a conference programme that challenged the delegates to consider new and alternative strategies for providing library and information services in schools in the 21st century. Consider checking out his websites at [www.learn3k.org](http://www.learn3k.org), or [www.ncirbo.ie](http://www.ncirbo.ie), or [www.heppell.net](http://www.heppell.net). They are all very exciting perspectives on directions in modern schooling.

The conference produced some innovations. For example, some sessions were presented in Mandarin or Cantonese to cater to the needs of the many delegates from Hong Kong, China and Taiwan. The conference proceedings in delegate's satchels were on CD-ROM (not paper). IASL Special Interest Group discussion sessions were incorporated into the formal programme.

In addition a virtual conference was run simultaneously with the regular conference. It used quicktopic document review – a free web-based application that allows documents to be loadings into html, and then participants are able to comment individually on different paragraphs of the document. Participants found the format easy to use and easily applicable to other uses – particularly in the school situation. Check out this tool at <http://www.quicktopic.com>. Doug Johnson supplied an interesting paper on the emergence of e-books, and this generated much discussion on different areas. You may wish to read the discussion yourself at <http://www.quicktopic.com/31/H/Zim3t6ExdUZ/p-1.-1.3>

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Research in School Librarianship was a great success. There are an increasing number of people doing action

research in the field, and willing to report it and its implications to the delegates.

A full day joint conference with the International Baccalaureate PALMS was a fine success with a large number of delegates from the ASEAN region, as well as internationally participating with excellent presentations.

Each day the conference was structured on specific themes:

Saturday: Information and Communications Technology in Education; Knowledge Management; Information Literacy  
Sunday: IB Palms workshops  
Monday: Social responsibility; information leadership; information policy.

Details of the presentations are available on CD from the IASL Secretariat, or from someone who attended the conference. Check them out.

Sessions were held for Special Interest Groups, the Assembly of Associations, as well as the regular Annual General Meeting. Notes from this meeting appear at the IASL website.

The annual Auction to raise funds for the Leadership Development Fund has been running since 1989 when it was initiated at a Malaysian conference. At the 2005 live auction approximately HK\$ 19,000 (approx. US\$ 2425) was raised. Bidding for the more than 120 items at the silent auction continued the next day and raise approximately another US\$ 500.

Progress is being made to post the 2005 presentations on-line for the ones that were not on CD. To access these papers and presentations:

<http://www.geocities.com/iaslproceedings>  
Most are in pdf format, and you can copy them and distribute them to your colleagues.

There are a wide variety of photographs from the conference posted to the IASL website <http://www.iasl-slo.org>. Check them out too, and see the fun that happened this year. Then consider booking your ticket for next year's conference which will be held in Lisbon,

Portugal 03 – 07 July 2006. The theme will be:  
*The Multiple (Reading, Knowing, Doing) Faces  
of Literacy.*  
(Gerald Brown)

## **INDIA**

### **Access to Information**

INDIA, RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005 has been enacted by the Indian Parliament and has come into force from June 15, 2005. This Act provides for right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Full text of the act is available at <http://www.persmin.nic.in/RTI/RTI-Welcome.htm>

Various Government department started implementing this act. For example the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India, the apex body for Higher Education has recently issued a circular to all colleges and universities. See the circular at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/notices/ritinfo05.html>

Since Freedom of Access to Government Information is a great concern of IFLA, I am forwarding this message to the IFLA Forums. I hope this will be useful for researchers, policy makers in IFLA, and the interested colleagues from different countries.  
(J.K.Vijayakumar, Reference 2, Fri, 29 July 2005)

### **Every Village a Knowledge Centre**

Government of India Comes Forward to Support Mission 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre

India's Finance Minister, Mr Palaniappan Chidambaram, announced today that the Government of India would support the Mission 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre, to the tune of Rs 65,000 million [roughly US \$1,500 million). Conceived by Prof. M S Swaminathan, the man who brought in the Green Revolution to India, the Mission aims to usher in a knowledge revolution in India by connecting all the more than 600,000 villages of India in a knowledge network by 15 August 2007, the 60th anniversary of India's Independence.

After a series of meetings with a wide cross section of people from government, academia, civil society organizations and corporations, Prof. Swaminathan announced the Mission 2007 in mid 2004. As such a huge programme cannot be undertaken by any single organization, Swaminathan went on to build a National Alliance, perhaps the largest multi-stakeholder partnership in the field of ICT enabled development in the world. There are more than 150 members in the Alliance including the University of California, Berkeley; MIT, Cambridge; IDRC, Ottawa; the Nasscom Foundation, New Delhi; and OneWorld.

The first convention of the National Alliance was held in New Delhi in October 2004. The second convention took place in New Delhi on 11 and 12 July 2005. Among the people who spoke at the convention are His Excellency the President of India Dr A P J Abdul Kalam; Mr P Chidambaram, the Finance Minister of India; Mr Mani Shankar Iyer, Minister for Panchayati Raj; Mr M V Rajasekaran, Minister of State for Planning, and a number of senior government officials.  
(Anjali Gulati)

## **FIJI**

### **Sharing Best Practice in Information Access**

Four library officers from the USP Centres attended a week long workshop on Sharing Best

Practice in Information Access from August 01 to 05 at the University of the South Pacific Library in Suva. They were Mr. Mukesh Chand (Labasa), Ms. Tulia Drodrolagi (Lautoka), Ms. Losaline Taufui (Tonga) and Ms. Lydia Tibon (Marshall Islands)

The Workshop was funded by UNESCO and coordinated and organized by Ms Joan Yee, Acting University Librarian (June 05- ); Librarian Centres, Vilimaina Vakaciwa and Library Assistant, Pushpa Prasad.

The objective of the Workshop was to enhance the skills of the participants in information access with reference to the theory and practical application of Athena, an integrated library system; information literacy skills, information retrieval and cataloguing, searching electronic databases and the Internet and the creation of web pages. (Elizabeth C. Reade Fong)

## **Fiji Library Association 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Fiji Library Association (FLA) Biennial Convention was held at the Forum Secretariat Conference Centre, Suva from 1-2 July 2005. The theme of the Convention was FLA: Strategic Directions.

Participants were from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji Museum, National Archives, Fiji Institute of Technology, regional and international organizations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, South Pacific Geoscience Commission, UNICEF and representatives of various governments departments, non government organizations and schools.

The evening reception included a presentation from Mr. Jim Bentley of the Fiji Media Council and Chair of the Fiji National Commission for UNESCO on the 'Freedom of Expression.'

A key outcome of the Convention is the development of a strategic plan for the FLA.

The FLA hopes to finalize the plan for endorsement at its AGM in December 2005. The working title is Fiji Library Association - Empowering People Through Information - Strategic Plan 2006-2010. Its implementation will need support, encouragement and funding from all in Fiji and the wider library and donor community in the Asia Pacific region. (Source: APSIG newsletter no. 58: July 2005, Submitted by Elizabeth C. Reade Fong)

## **MALAYSIA**

### **Librarians Association of Malaysia (PPM) Mission to Aceh**

2 – 5 AUGUST 2005

In response to a request from The Indonesian Library Association (IPI) for assistance in rebuilding library and information services in the coastal province of Aceh, North Sumatera, Indonesia which was devastated by earthquake and tsunami, The Librarians' Association of Malaysia ( PPM ) at its general meeting on 9 April 2005, approved a fact-finding mission to Aceh.

The objectives of the mission are to :-

- (i) establish contact with librarians in Aceh
- (ii) obtain information on assistance required for rebuilding;
- (iii) establish how best assistance can be delivered.

A four-member team led by Dato' Zawiyah Baba undertook the mission , named the PPM Iqra' (Arabic meaning Read) Mission from 2–5 August 2005. Others in the team were Mr.Hasbullah Atan, Coordinator, Mdm.Rohani Rustam, Liaison and En.Abdul Hamid Abdul Rahman, Cameraman/Photographer.

Visits were made to the central library, Badan Perpustakaan Daerah ( BPD, the Provincial

Library Authority), and the library of the Grand Mosque Baiturrahman. A meeting, comprising of briefing, discussion and interviews was held at BPD. Those interviewed were Drs Kamaruddin H.Hussin, the Head of BPD, Ibu Yusnidar, Senior Librarian, Drs. Fauzi, Representative of the Indonesian Library Association (IPI).

The team also visited reading and literacy projects run by voluntary organizations such as Phi Beta Learning Centre, Yayasan Anak Bangsa, (Foundation for Indigenous Sons), Children Media Centre and Forum Lingkaran Pena (Pen Circle Forum). These programmes were established before tsunami. Interviews were held with our main contact, Mr.Saiful Mahdi and representatives from each voluntary organization. The activities are held in Banda Aceh, as well as in the government-built barracks, which serves as temporary housing for tsunami victims.

Based on the interviews, observation and discussion, the following are assistance urgently required by libraries in Aceh:-

- (i) Books for library collections and literacy projects
- (ii) Tracing and providing copies of old materials about Aceh in libraries
- (iii) Mobile libraries preferably the size L-300 Vehicles
- (iv) Library furniture
- (v) Human resource development especially training
- (vi) Computers and integrated library system
- (vii) Funding for literacy project and campaign

The main recommendations of the Mission Team are :-

1. PPM coordinate external assistance for libraries in Aceh
2. National Library of Malaysia coordinate the following
  - Tracing of materials about Aceh
  - Provide training in conservation of materials
  - Include participants from Aceh in training programmes under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme
  - Provide template for application of integrated library system in Aceh libraries
3. The library community to acknowledge the leadership, tenacity and tremendous efforts of Ibu Yusnidar and staff of BPD to restoring the physical condition as well as the administration of the library and its surroundings in the aftermath of the tsunami.

The PPM Iqra' Mission was successfully undertaken and its objectives achieved. A full report prepared in Bahasa Malaysia and English has been submitted to higher authorities in Malaysia and to IFLA as well as other international organisations to facilitate consideration for and inclusion of library services in post-tsunami plans for rebuilding of Aceh. It is hoped that libraries, library associations as well as librarians can also contribute in any way possible to improve the lives of the people of Aceh through its libraries. (Dato' Zawiyah Baba)

## ***THAILAND***

### **UNESCO/IFLA Workshop on Information Literacy Education and School Library Services**

Bangkok, Thailand  
19-22 September 2005

## **Background**

In 2003, IFLA and UNESCO co-organized a Regional Workshop on School Library Services in Southeast Asia. At the end of the workshop, the participants recommended that, inter alia, information literacy be integrated into the curriculum and teaching-learning practices of appropriate subject areas and that the organizers strive to have school libraries recognized as players and stakeholders in the promotion of reading and literacy. Later, a group of participants from the workshop approached UNESCO with a proposal for Southeast Asian countries to jointly embark upon improving information literacy education in schools.

A project for development of information literacy education through school libraries in Southeast Asia was approved for financial assistance under the Special Funds of the UNESCO's Information for All Programme in 2004. The project was to examine the current state of information literacy education, and to put forward appropriate recommendations and action plans for the greater involvement of school libraries in the development of an information literate citizenry. The project team, comprising members from Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand launched the first activity, a workshop to prepare for an assessment of the status of information literacy in Southeast Asia. A workshop was held in October 2004 involving two researchers/educators each from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The participants concurred on a working definition of information literacy for the project, and drafted a questionnaire for subsequent surveys they would undertake in their respective countries. As a result of the workshop, three (3) sets of questionnaires were used as standard survey instrument. The seven (7) countries completed the survey by mid-2005. Most of the participants from the first workshop returned to Bangkok for the second workshop under this project to share findings and to discuss the road ahead.

At the time the second workshop was being planned, IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania in Bangkok considered organizing a follow-up meeting to its regional workshop held in 2003. It was then decided that since both activities had the same purpose, viz., the improvement of information literacy among school students, the two agencies could merge and could provide the participants with an opportunity to extend their horizons.

## **Objectives**

This workshop on Information Literacy Education and School Library Services was held at the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, Thailand on 19-22 September 2005. It was held with the following objectives:

1. To share findings of the survey and discuss common issues regarding information literacy education,
2. To be informed of the current situation of information literacy in school libraries in Southeast Asia and elsewhere,
3. To assess the progress made in school library development during the last two years
4. To formulate recommendations and develop action plans for the enhancement of information literacy education in Southeast Asian countries

## **Project Team**

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## **Participants**

Thirty-six (36) participants, resource persons, and observers from ten (10) countries plus six (6) project team members attended the workshop.

## **Programme**

During the four days, the IL and school library participants presented their reports followed by an analytical synthesis by a resource person. To guide the ensuing discussion, invited resource persons provided information on information literacy concept, information literacy education models, school library development, the role of libraries in building learning communities, and an example of how library activities help to improve quality of primary school education. A SWOT exercise enabled the participants to set their Vision and to formulate their Mission as well as identify strategies and to plan actions towards achieving information literacy among school children. Finally, the participants adopted a set of recommendations for submission to UNESCO, IFLA, and authorities concerned in the participant countries.

## **Survey Tools**

Standard questionnaires and Sampling Guidelines were used in all seven (7) countries to assess information literacy education status. The respondents were school administrators, teachers, and librarians (or teachers in charge of school library). Questionnaire items were grouped under eight areas:

1. Awareness and training for IL
2. School's vision of IL
3. Education and training of teachers and librarians for IL
4. Implementation of IL
5. Leadership for IL
6. Assessment and evaluation of IL
7. School library

8. Support systems of IL

## **Findings**

It should be mentioned here that information literacy is a term difficult to be translated into national languages of the countries concerned. Therefore, there were varied interpretations of terms and application of ideas. The findings may be summarized as follows:

### **Awareness and Training for IL**

There is room for improvement where awareness and understanding of information literacy is concerned; primary teachers have the greatest awareness of IL. IL is accorded varying degrees of importance although it is generally agreed that IL is important.

### **School's Vision of IL**

Between 16 and 58% of the respondents indicated that there was a school policy statement on IL, but none provided written copies.

### **Education and Training of Teachers and Librarians for IL**

Respondents' exposure and training in IL is generally low among administrators regardless of the location of schools (urban vs. rural). Those who have received any training learned about IL from training courses, in-service training, seminars, and user education programmes.

### **Implementation of IL**

The responses varied showing disparity across the region. Where it is taught, IL is integrated into courses and/or taught as an orientation in the library. School libraries and teacher librarians seem to play a small role in teaching IL. In two (2) out of seven (7) countries IL is taught by teachers in library and in five (5) countries, it is a part of extra-curricular activities. Lack of qualified teachers, librarians, computers and sufficient library collections were cited as the main factors preventing the teaching of IL.

### **Leadership for IL**

In two (2) countries, there is lack of leadership for IL. It was felt that teaching IL is teachers' regular responsibility. Surprisingly, most respondents are involved in preparing school policy.

### **Assessment and Evaluation of IL**

Assessment and evaluation of IL activities is not given due importance in most cases although it is considered the teachers' responsibility. Only one country said that IL assessment is a part of students' learning assessment.

### **School Libraries**

A library or a resource centre in some form does not exist in all schools; in one country 40% of schools do not have libraries/resource centre. Where there is a school library or a resource centre its budget tends to be very small. Some schools have computers but they are mostly outside the library, others have computer labs in the school libraries. Connectivity to the Internet is not widespread and student access is limited. Other hardware found in some school libraries/resource centres includes slide projector, film projector, VCR, VCD/DVD, audio player/recorder, television, overhead projector, and LCD. Some equipment is provided by the Government, others items are donated to the schools. The schools procured some on their own equipment and resources.

Staffing is a problem in school libraries. Many schools do not even have teachers trained in library science in charge of the libraries, let alone professional librarians. Library staff are in many cases not full-time library staff, and school staff spend little time in school library. Teacher librarians, who are assigned the responsibility for school libraries, have to teach class probably half of the time.

Professional training of library staff paints a grim picture and huge variations. One country reports as high as 96% of school library/resource centre staff receives no professional training. Unfortunately, only a fraction of school budget goes to school library/resource centre.

### **Support Systems of IL**

Implementation of IL requires strong support starting with a national IL policy. Many respondents did not know if there was an IL policy in their countries. For the teaching of IL, the schools (teaching IL) receive support from state education policy, Ministry of Education, and, where available, the state or local resource centres. The national libraries play the least role.

### **Progress Report**

Participants who took part in the 2003 IFLA regional workshop informed the gathering of their activities aiming to promote school library development. Reportedly, they shared workshop report with their colleagues in the Ministry of Education, presented the recommendations to the Ministry of Education and their colleagues. Some of the recommendations were implemented, such as translation of the School Library Manifesto. On a personal level, some individuals became more involved in the development of school libraries by passing on the knowledge gained from the regional workshop, promoting reading, and getting involved in library-related activities. At the national level and of particular importance to this workshop is the growing role of school libraries in promoting information literacy in the participating countries. New developments include school cluster model for information services, community access to school library resource, integration of ICT, better access through library automation, and school library personnel taking on leadership role. At any rate, there is no information literacy project proper.

Obstacles to school library development are low literacy rate, classroom shortage, trained classroom teachers shortage, trained teacher-librarians shortage, limited school library collections, small or no budget for school libraries, lack of awareness among senior MOE officials about the role of school library programs and the information literacy concept; shortage of space, limited facilities/equipment; and few guidelines on how to integrate IL into regular teaching programs.

## **Vision, Mission, Strategy and Action Plans for Information Literacy**

A SWOT analysis helped participants in the workshop to identify factors affecting IL education. Each country was asked to set a Vision regarding IL, develop a Mission Statement, set Objectives and prepare a National Action Plan showing how to reach the set goals and objectives.

## **Outcomes of the Workshop**

The outcomes of this 4-day workshop, building upon the previous workshop, are:

1. A document on the concept and competencies for information literacy, as applicable to Southeast Asia,
2. A comprehensive report describing the current state of information literacy development in the participating Southeast Asian countries
3. A document containing recommendations and guidelines for the further development of information literacy programs in Southeast Asia
4. An action plan for the development of information literacy, to be carried out/ submitted to the respective governments/national agencies
5. A small booklet describing the project and a CD-ROM of the workshop Proceedings

## **Recommendations**

Based on the proposed actions, a set of recommendations were adopted. It was agreed that the recommendations be sent to UNESCO, IFLA, and the government authorities concerned in each country.

## **Acknowledgement**

The organizers and participants of the workshop wish to put on record their appreciation and acknowledgement of the financial support from UNESCO, IFLA and the Japan Foundation

Bangkok, which made possible participation of 19 researchers and librarians from seven (7) countries in the region.

Last but not least, the project team is indebted to Mr. Gerald Brown, (Canada) IASL SIG Co-ordinator – International Development, Mr. James Henri, (Hong Kong) Secretary, IFLA School Library and Resource Centres Section, and Ms. Sachiko Kamakura, (Japan) Coordinator of library Project, Shanti Volunteer Association in Cambodia, for their substantive contributions to the discussions and formulation of country action plans. (Lapapan Choovong)

## **3. CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS**

### ***WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS***

**World Library and Information Congress:  
72nd IFLA General Conference and Council  
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 20-24 August 2006**

<http://ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>

***Libraries: Dynamic Engines for  
the Knowledge and Information  
Society***

#### **CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT**

Congrex Holland is responsible for registration, hotel accommodation, the organization of the exhibition, organisation of pre- and post-conference tours and the social programme

#### **CONGREX HOLLAND BV**

P O Box 302

1000 AH Amsterdam

Netherlands

Tel. +31 20 5040 201

Fax +31 20 5040 225

E-mail: [wlic2006@congrex.nl](mailto:wlic2006@congrex.nl)

Web: [www.congrex.nl](http://www.congrex.nl)

## **DIVISION LIAISON PERSONS**

Division 1: General Research Libraries  
Dong-Youl Jeong  
dyjeong@ewha.ac.kr

Division 2: Special Libraries  
Eun-Joo Choi  
ejchoi@kyonggi.ac.kr

Division 3: Libraries Serving the General Public  
Young-Seok Kim  
y9s9kim@hanmail.net

Division 4: Bibliographic Control  
So-Yeon Park  
sypark@duksung.ac.kr

Division 5: Collection and Services  
Sook-Hyeun Lee  
lsh1020@nl.go.kr

Division 6: Management and Technology  
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heesop@mail.knu.ac.kr

Division 7: Education and Research  
Myung-Kyu Park  
Parkmk@yonsei.ac.kr

Division 8: Regional Activities  
Won-Sik Shim  
wonsikshim@skku.edu

## **Calls for Conference Papers**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The content of the IFLA Conference Programme is organised by different professional groups (Sections and Core Programmes). All papers have to be submitted through one of these groups which should be approached directly if you would like to contribute a paper. Please visit Activities & Services for further information. <<http://www.ifla.org/act-serv.htm#Sections>>

Please note, however, that each group has its own mechanisms of calls for papers, deadlines,

refereeing and selection and that some groups do not call for papers but decide on speakers internally.

All calls will be announced via IFLA's mailing list IFLA-L. (Some of them are extracted and listed somewhere in this issue.)

Authors of accepted papers will receive an official invitation to the conference upon request. However, travel costs to Seoul and other costs (including registration fees and accommodation) cannot be paid by IFLA. These remain the responsibility of the speaker.

Guidelines for papers and call for papers can be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/callinfo-e>

## **Call for Poster Presentations**

An alternative approach for the presentation of projects/new work will be available for conference participants. An area on the conference premises has been designated for the presentation of information regarding projects or activities of interest to librarians. Presentations may include posters, leaflets (etc.) in several of the IFLA working languages (English, French, Spanish, German and Russian), if possible. Further advice on poster sessions may be obtained from IFLA Headquarters. The Professional Committee of IFLA will review all submissions.

Colleagues interested in presenting a poster session are invited to complete the form below and to send it with a brief description of not more than 200 words of the session (in English, French, Spanish, German or Russian).

### **TIME SCHEDULE:**

15 February 2006

Deadline for receipt at IFLA Headquarters of the application form and a detailed description of the poster session.

Early April 2006

IFLA Headquarters will inform applicants of the final decision of the Professional Committee.

Poster Session proposal form:  
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Poster-Session-proposal2006.doc>  
Description may be sent electronically to:  
E-mail: [ifla@ifla.org](mailto:ifla@ifla.org)

## ***EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD***

### ***JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2006***

#### **The BOBCATSSS 2006 Symposium**

"Information. Innovation. Responsibility: Information Professional in the Network Society".  
30th January - 1st February, 2006  
Tallinn, Estonia.  
Organized by the Royal School of Library and Information Science (Denmark) and the Department of Information Studies of Tallinn University (Estonia).  
More information about the Symposium:  
<http://www.db.dk/bobcatsss>

### ***MARCH 2006***

#### **The 13th CONSAL General Conference**

March 25-30, 2006  
Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, Metro-Manila, Philippines  
More information:  
<http://www.consal13.up.edu.ph/new/>

#### **The Tenth Annual Museums and the Web Conference!**

Museums and the Web 2006  
March 22-25, 2006  
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA  
More information:  
<http://www.archimuse.com/mw2006/>

## ***APRIL 2006***

**Strips of Knowledge** ~ Le savoir par la bande Bibliothèque nationale du Québec  
5-7 avril 2006 : Montréal, Québec, Canada  
<http://www.blue-met-bleu.com/EN/index.asp?lasection=41>

#### **International comics colloquium, simultaneously translated in French and English, held during the 8th Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival**

April 5-9, 2006  
(<http://www.blue-met-bleu.com/>)  
in collaboration with the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (<http://www.asted.org/>), the Société pour la promotion de la science et la technologie (<http://www.spst.org/>), the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec (<http://www.bnquebec.ca/>), Library and Archives Canada (<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/>) and the Centre national de la bande dessinée et de l'image (<http://www.cnbd.fr/>).

#### **The First Türk-ANZAC Research Libraries Conference**

Venue: Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Çanakkale (Gallipoli), Turkey  
April 25-28, 2006  
More details: <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/turk-anzac-conf2006/tours/registration.pdf>

#### **Asia-Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education & Practice A-LIEP**

"Preparing Information Professionals for Leadership in the New Age"  
Venue: Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.  
April 4-7, 2006  
(URL: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sci/A-LIEP/>)

## **MAY 2006**

### **IS&T Archiving2006**

Ottawa, Canada

May 22-25, 2006

For more information and to download a PDF of the Call for Papers, visit

<http://www.imaging.org/conferences/archiving2006/>

### **Annual Course and Conference: Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) 2006**

29 May - 4 June 2006

Venue: Dubrovnik and Mljet, Croatia

Course web site: <http://www.ffos.hr/lida/>

Course email: [lida@ffos.hr](mailto:lida@ffos.hr)

Contact:

TATJANA APARAC-JELUSIC, Ph.D

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Email: [taparac@ffos.hr](mailto:taparac@ffos.hr)

<http://www.ffzg.hr/infoz/biblio/nastava/taparac.htm>

## **JUNE 2006**

### **SLA 2006**

11-14 June, 2006

Venue: Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Contact:

Special Libraries Association

331 South Patrick Street

Alexandria, VA 22314-3501 USA

Tel. +1-703-647-4900

Fax +1-703-647-4901

[sla@sla.org](mailto:sla@sla.org)

## **JULY 2006**

### **International Association of School Librarianship 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

Lisbon, Portugal

03 – 07 July 2006

Theme: The Multiple (Reading, Knowing, Doing) Faces of Literacy

More information:

<http://www.iasl-slo.org>.

### **SCECSAL**

conference that will take place in July 2006.

More information:

<http://scecsal2006.tlatz.org>

[www.tlatz.org/scecsal2006](http://www.tlatz.org/scecsal2006)

[www.tlatz.org](http://www.tlatz.org)

## **AUGUST 2006**

**World Library and Information Congress:  
72nd IFLA General Conference and Council  
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 20-24 August 2006**

<http://ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>

## **Call for Papers**

To be presented at the various sessions during the World Library and Information Congress in Seoul (see p. 23 for more information)

## **Agricultural Libraries Discussion Group**

Theme:

“Forging partnerships between libraries and extension services for improved access to agricultural information”

Contact: Deva E. Reddy, PhD

Convenor of Agricultural Libraries Discussion Group, Assistant Professor

Evans Library, Texas A&M University

College Station, TX, USA

Tel. +(1)(979)8621062

Fax +(1)(979)4580112

E-mail: [devaereddy@tamu.edu](mailto:devaereddy@tamu.edu)

## **Asia and Oceania Section**

Theme:

"Promoting the Implementation of Open Access"

Contact:

Professor Gary Gorman

Chair of Asia and Oceania Section

E-mail: gary.gorman@vuw.ac.nz  
Ms Premila Gamage  
Secretary of Asia and Oceania Section  
E-mail: premilagamage@gmail.com

### **The Audio-Visual and Multimedia Section**

### **The Information Technology Section, and in association with the National Libraries Section,**

Theme:  
" New Access Technologies: Exploring the  
Heritage"  
Contact:  
Gregory Miura<gregory.miura@bnf.fr>

### **Classification and Indexing Section**

<<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/index.htm>>

Theme: Interoperability of subject access for  
multilingual and multi-script networked  
environment, particularly for Asia.  
Contact:  
Mr Patrice Landry, Chair of the Classification  
and Indexing Section  
E-mail: Patrice.landry@slb.admin.ch  
<<mailto:Patrice.landry@slb.admin.ch>>  
Fax: +41 31 322 84 63

### **Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section, Preservation and Conservation Section, and PAC Core Activity**

Theme: Preservation Advocacy and Education  
Contact:  
Sarah Toulouse for the PAC Section  
([sarah.toulouse@bm-rennes.fr](mailto:sarah.toulouse@bm-rennes.fr)),  
Susan Schnuer for CPDWL Section  
([schnuer@uiuc.edu](mailto:schnuer@uiuc.edu)), and  
Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff for PAC Core activity  
([marie-therese.varlalmoff@bnf.fr](mailto:marie-therese.varlalmoff@bnf.fr))

### **Cataloguing Section**

Theme: Cataloging Partnerships: Principles,  
Projects, and Publishers  
Contact:

Judy Kuhagen  
Chair, Cataloguing Section  
[jkuh@loc.gov](mailto:jkuh@loc.gov)

### **National Libraries Section**

Theme:  
National Libraries: Dynamic Partners for the  
Knowledge Society  
Contact:  
Ingrid Parent  
Chair, National libraries Section  
[ingrid.parent@lac-bac.gc.ca](mailto:ingrid.parent@lac-bac.gc.ca)  
or the Section Secretary, Genevieve Clavel  
([genevieve.clavel@slb.admin.ch](mailto:genevieve.clavel@slb.admin.ch))

### **Newspapers Section**

The programme is focused on how newspapers  
remain relevant for the provision of innovative  
and essential services for communities making  
use of libraries in the 21st century. It will also  
be focused upon newspapers of South Korea and  
adjacent countries.  
Contact:  
Edmund King  
Secretary, IFLA Newspapers Section  
E-mail: [ed.king@bl.uk](mailto:ed.king@bl.uk)

### **Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS)**

Theme:  
"West by East - East by West : Cultural and  
technological exchange – Old technology, new  
technology, collecting and describing rare  
materials"  
Contact:  
The Section's Secretary, Jan Bos, at  
[jan.bos@kb.nl](mailto:jan.bos@kb.nl)

### **The University Libraries and other General Libraries Section (ULS) and the Information Literacy Section (ILS)**

Theme: Transitions to College: How Information  
Literacy Answers the Knowledge Society  
Challenge

Contact:

Jarmo Saarti, PhD  
Library Director  
Kuopio University Library  
P.O. Box 1627, FIN-70211 KUOPIO/FINLAND  
e-mail: jarmo.saarti@uku.fi  
http://www.uku.fi/~saarti/  
tel.: +358-17-163400, +358-50-3637904, fax.:  
+358-17-163410

Barbara J. Ford  
Director, Mortenson Center for International  
Library Programs and Mortenson Distinguished  
Professor  
University of Illinois Library at Urbana-  
Champaign  
142 Undergraduate Library, MC-522  
1402 W. Gregory Drive  
Urbana, Illinois 61801 USA  
Phone 1-217-244-1898 Fax 1-217-265-0990  
Email bjford@uiuc.edu  
url www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson

## **IFLA Satellite Meeting**

### ***Scholarly Information on East Asia in the 21st Century***

Organized by the Council on East Asian  
Libraries  
(CEAL) of the Association for Asian Studies  
Sponsored by the IFLA Asia and Oceania  
Section (RSCAO), the Korean Library  
Association (KLA), and the Korean Education  
and Research Information Service (KERIS)

#### **Call for Papers**

The Council on East Asian Libraries invites the  
submission of proposals for papers to be given at  
the Preconference Meeting on Friday, August  
18, 2006 at KERIS Headquarters in Seoul.

Topics should address issues such as:

- publishing trends of scholarly information in East Asia;
- issues related to the digitization of nonroman scripts and digital collections;
- cooperative collection development and resource sharing on East Asia;

- technical processing and cooperative cataloging of East Asian material;
- preservation and storage;
- information technology for East Asian materials;
- cooperative reference service;
- instruction and information literacy;
- outreach and user studies.

An abstract of no longer than 200 words should be submitted by January 1, 2005. Papers must be original; written in English, or with an English translation attached; and between 3000 and 6000 words in length. The submission deadline for papers is May 1, 2006. Presentations should be made in English, and should not exceed 20 minutes in length. The Preconference Planning Committee, in consultation with RSCAO, KLA, and KERIS, will select the best papers in January 2006. Successful applicants will be sent a formal letter of invitation by mid-February 2006.

Abstracts and papers should be sent by email or fax to:

Philip Melzer, Team Leader  
Korean/Chinese Cataloging Team  
Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division  
Library of Congress  
email: pmel@loc.gov  
phone: 202-707-7961  
fax: 202-707-2824  
or  
Joy Kim  
Curator, Korea Heritage Library  
East Asian Library  
University of Southern California  
email: joykim@usc.edu  
phone: 213-740-2329

## **SEPTEMBER 2006**

### **CIDOC Annual Meeting 2006**

September 10-14, 2006  
Gothenburg, Sweden

See more information on the conference at -  
http://cidoc06.se  
CIDOC and ICOM Web Sites -

<http://cidoc.icom.museum> - <http://icom.museum>

## ***AUGUST 2007***

**World Library and Information Congress:  
73rd IFLA General Conference and Council  
Durban, South Africa, 2007**

<http://ifla.org/IV/ifla73/index.htm>

## ***AUGUST 2008***

**World Library and Information Congress:  
74th IFLA General Conference and Council  
Quebec, Canada, 2008**

<http://ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm>

## **4. ALP NEWS**

### **Action for Development Through Libraries Programme Core Activity (ALP)**

Formerly: IFLA Core Activity for the  
Advancement of Librarianship (ALP)  
<http://ifla.org/VI/1/alp.htm>

## ***PROJECT REPORTS***

### **(Project 277) IFLA/ALP Regional Workshop on Setting Up and Managing a Small School Library**

9 -13 May 2005

University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji

A Pacific Regional Workshop on Setting Up and Managing a Small School Library was held at the University of the South Pacific's Laucala

Campus in Suva, Fiji from 9-13 May, 2005

The Workshop was funded by a grant from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, under the Action for Development through Libraries Programme Core Activity (IFLA ALP), through a project proposal submitted to and supported by the IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (IFLA RSCAO).

The Workshop was opened by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Esther Wininamaori Williams following opening remarks by Ms Elizabeth Reade-Fong, Acting University Librarian (to May 05) and Workshop Coordinator. Present at the Opening were Professor John Lynch, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Laucala Campus), the Director of Distance and Flexible Learning, Father John Bonato; Dr George Teasdale, Director of PRIDE and the Librarian, Ms Libby Cass; Dr Hing, Acting Head of the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, members of the University's Library Advisory Committee, academic staff and library senior staff.

The Workshop was conducted by the University of the South Pacific library staff members, Ms. Paula Jones and Ms. Liviana Tabalala of the Library Studies Programme

There were 18 participants from Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu representing primary and secondary school libraries.

The criteria for selection of participants were that they were either:

- Enrolled in the Certificate in Basic Skills in Library/Information Studies programme; or
- Had graduated with the Certificate in Basic Skills in Library/Information Studies; and working in a small school library

The objective of the Training Workshop was to provide basic training in the organization and management of a small school library

**At the end of the Workshop, participants were able to:**

- Physically set up a small school library, establishing areas for different purposes, and planning appropriate shelving and library furniture
- Set up an appropriate circulation system
- Catalogue and classify according to simplified rules
- Process library materials ready for shelving
- Select and order appropriate material
- Solicit for gifts
- Plan activities, programmes and displays to meet the needs of the school curricula
- Promote literacy
- Promote information literacy
- Encourage a love of reading
- Promote the library

Support materials used for the Workshop were adapted/created by presenter Paula Jones, copies of which were given to participants for their libraries. These included:

- Library management for Small Schools in the Pacific/edited by Paula Jones, Suva; The University of the South Pacific, 2005.
- Subject Index for Small School Libraries in the Pacific/compiled by Paula Jones. Suva, The University of the South Pacific, 2005.
- 1 Dewey Decimal Classification poster with a Pacific background (Copyright clearance obtained from OCLC)

An evaluation of the Workshop was conducted and the following found:

- 89% of the participants strongly agreed that the aims of the workshop were clear
- 100% agreed that the content covered was clear (44% strongly agreed; 46% agreed)
- 98% felt that the level of the workshop was acceptable
- 83% strongly agreed that the material provided was useful
- 78% strongly agreed that the learning activities were good with 12% generally

agreeing

- 72% strongly agreed that the exercises were good; 18% agreed they were good
- All enjoyed the workshop (84% strongly agreed/16% agreed)
- All agreed that the instructors were easy to understand
- 82% found the content directly relevant to their work
- There was some agreement that there could be changes to the content particularly in the area of more time for the workshop to allow for more practical exercises
- Participants were pleased with the organization of the material and presentation of topics

The Workshop participants, the University of the South Pacific Management, University Librarian, Workshop Presenters and Library Staff sincerely acknowledge the support of the IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania and the financial assistance provided the IFLA ALP for the Workshop. Vinaka vakalevu, Fa'afetai tele lava, Tank yu tu mas. (Elizabeth C. Reade Fong)

## **(Project 286)**

### **REFSALA**

#### **Its Conception and Birth**

On a mountain top in the Himalayas overlooked by mighty Mount Everest was born the latest organisation to be welcomed into the world-wide library and information community. (Can any library and information organisation have been brought into the light of day in a more spectacular setting?) This is the Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations – REFSALA at Nagarkot in Nepal. At a two day meeting (preceded in Kathmandu by its formal Inauguration by the Honourable Minister of Education for the Kingdom of Nepal on 20 September 2005) the new federal organisation of library associations of the countries that make up the regional grouping of SAARC (Bhutan, represented by its National Librarian,

Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka each formally and officially represented by their Presidents) brought itself into formal and legal being.

It was conceived out of a Resolution of the previous year's Kathmandu Workshop on 'Empowering Library Associations' which resolved "Workshop recommends the need to set up Federation of South Asian Library Associations in the SAARC Region". The enormous success of this Workshop encouraged IFLA's Regional Standing Committee (RSCAO) and the funding body, IFLA ALP (Action for Development through Libraries Programme), to speedily respond by agreeing to finance the birth of REFSALA. In the intervening ten months the Nepal Library Association, Tribhuvan University Central Library and professional Nepali colleagues along with Russell Bowden (Honorary Fellow of IFLA) assembled the agendas and papers for the two meetings necessary to bring REFSALA formally and legally into existence. They were helped, in varying degrees, by members of an Interim Committee set up after a meeting with senior SAARC Secretariat staff in Kathmandu within hours of the passing of the enabling Resolution from the Workshop. That Interim Committee, comprising Dr Abdussattar (Bangladesh), Ms Kalpana Dasgupta, and Dr Muttaya Koganuramth (India), Bholu Shrestha and Krishna Mani Bhandary (Nepal), Anwar Ejaz (Pakistan), Upali Yapa and Anton Nallathamby (Sri Lanka) and Professor Russell Bowden (IFLA) had been the advisors for the establishment of REFSALA and remained the advisors to the Presidents of the Library Associations that assembled to establish REFSALA – Dr. Abdussattar, President Bangladesh Library Association, Mr Dorjee Tshering, National Librarian of Bhutan (it, as yet, possessing no library association), Dr Muttaya Koganuramath, President of the Indian L. A., Mrs Habeeba Hussain Habeeba, President of the Maldives L. A., Bholu Shrestha, President of the Nepal LA, Mr Sahin Mohammed Malik, President of the Pakistan L. A. and Mrs. Deepali Talagalle, President, Sri Lanka Library

Association.

The first day's meeting (on the 21<sup>st</sup>) was a Joint Meeting of the Interim Committee members with the Presidents which had before it an agenda of thirty-plus items with each accompanied by a short supporting papers (to facilitate debate and pre-meetings consultations) on issues ranging from complicated and contentious matters such as obtaining agreement on the draft Constitution, a Mission Statement, Bylaws, membership criteria, subscriptions' levels and financing and future long and medium term plans and a list of immediate activities (like a letter-head, affiliation with the SAARC, design of a logo, establishment of a website) – all necessary to immediately bring REFSALA into operation. This meeting, lasting a day and half, produced some first-rate debates and decisions that efficiently prepared the way for the formal, very official and short inaugural meeting of the seven Presidents chaired by the President of the Nepal LA as the host organisation and in accordance with the draft Constitution. Amongst the issues agreed were membership criteria and subscription rates at US\$ 100.00 for 'national' library associations; \$75 for other library associations; \$75 for corporate members; \$20 for individual professionals and \$10 for student membership. The draft Constitution, Bylaws and the finalisation of long-term and short-term plans were each referred back to small Working Groups to complete finalisation in the light of earlier discussions. Relationships with other organisations were agreed i.e. SAARC itself and its Kathmandu-based Secretariat, other professional organisations already in SAARC membership, with CONSAL and other regional LIS bodies and particularly a close working relationship with IFLA and with the RSCAO which had brought into creation this new federation. Other issues discussed were translation into national languages of the IFLA Guidelines for the Management of Library Associations, application of international library standards, drafting a model code of ethics for later individual LA adoption, assistance for tsunami-damaged libraries and the date of the next meeting scheduled for Kathmandu in

September 2006.

Whilst it had been foreseen that the Interim Committee would disband itself on completion of the work of the Joint Meeting with the Presidents, on a unanimous decision, they requested the Interim Committee Members to remain in attendance to assist with their first formal meeting. After this the Interim Committee disbanded itself having no legal reasons to remain in existence and having formally handed over the steering of the new 'ship' REFSALA to the new 'captains' - the Presidents' Council formed of the six Presidents and the Bhutan National Librarian and as REFSALA Secretary Mr Prakash (Nepal LA) and as REFSALA Treasurer Ms. Anju Baidhya (Rabsanjani) (Nepal LA)- all in accordance with the draft REFSALA Constitution.

The Presidents would want it to be well understood that although REFSALA is a federal organisation of library associations it is also a means to bring together the thousands of librarians and information professionals and others working in the seven nations of the SAARC community. Without their positive and practical support made available whether through their own national library associations or directly through REFSALA it will remain a body seemingly far remote from their own work places. Without members' positive support REFSALA's future could well be put in jeopardy. Much work and money has gone into the establishment of REFSALA it is therefore up to each one of us in the community as well as those well-wishers outside to nurture it and to assist its successful growth.

For more information on membership criteria, subscriptions, programmes of work and to learn when the formal admission of REFSALA into the SAARC 'family' has taken place please await the establishment of the website – to be hosted by the Sri Lanka Library Association – in the next few weeks. In the meanwhile the REFSALA President, Mr Bholu Shrestha, can be contacted on [info@nla.org.np](mailto:info@nla.org.np) and the General Secretary, Mr. Prakash Thapa, on [nla.info@np.yomari.net](mailto:nla.info@np.yomari.net)

Having, personally, been much involved with the 2004 Workshop that produced the Resolution that led to the conception of REFSALA which has been over more than three years (since the Glasgow IFLA Conference in 2002) I have now bowed out having completed my work. All that is left for me to do is to wish well this recently-launched professional 'ship' as it charts its way in new LIS and political 'waters' under the safe and efficient guidance and leadership of its 'captains' – the Presidents of the SAARC country library associations. Hard work, efficient management and, from each President, a personal commitment to REFSALA, will ensure its success. It is off to a favourable start. (Russell Bowden)

## **(Project 287)**

### **Information Skills for Learning**

### **Part 2: "Empowering 8"**

#### **International Workshop**

Applying a Problem-Solving Model in South and South East Asia to Promote Information Literacy  
03-07 October 2005

The use of resources in the teaching/learning process is changing as newer information technologies become available. It is important for learners to have access to these technologies, and to experience how to use them effectively for learning as well as entertainment. It is equally important for teachers to examine the ways the technology can be used to provide alternative teaching/learning methodologies.

In November 2004, a workshop was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka sponsored by IFLA and UNESCO, which examined the concept of INFORMATION LITERACY. This workshop was designed to consider various models for the implementation of information literacy in schools, tertiary institutions and to the general citizen population. The delegates from seven countries in South East Asia came together to

work on the development of a Problem-Solving Model that could be used across all levels of education, and which could provide a basis for life-long learning. The new model was entitled "Empowering 8". It has been shared widely in the region and internationally.

As a result of the success of the first workshop, the participants requested a follow-up opportunity to investigate the principles in greater depth, and to look for strategies for implementation in their various settings. With this goal in mind, Part II of "Empowering 8" was initiated. Funding was sought from IFLA, UNESCO, AusAid, and the World Bank to bring delegates and resource persons from 12 countries across the region. In addition, approximately forty delegates from India participated. Resource leaders came from Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Project Organizer was Dr. Jagtar Singh, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala, India. The workshop was held 03-07 October 2005 in Patiala, India. The website for the workshop is: <http://www.universitypunjabi.org/pages/teaching/e8/e8-main.htm>

The key principles of this workshop evolved around:

- Gaining a clear understanding of the concept of Information Literacy (IL) as defined by UNESCO
- Appreciating the relationship between IL and School Library & Information Services programs
- Reporting on implementation activities in other parts of the South Asia region relative to IL and SLIS concepts
- Examining the Principles and Practices of Cooperative Planning, Teaching and Evaluation (CPTE) as an alternative methodology for initiating student-centred learning in the classrooms
- Reviewing current IL policy documents, and how they can be used as 'tools for change'
- Developing strategies for influencing stakeholders to consider the scope and value of IL in their institutions

- Creating personal action plans for implementation of IL in the local setting

All of these issues have been addressed through presentations, panels, small group discussions, individualized work activities, and interaction among the group with the resource personnel. The reports of all these activities, along with all the printed resource materials are included in the Proceedings, which are available in both print and on CD.

In summary, Empowering 8 is a problem-solving model that applies to all levels of education from very early childhood through tertiary education. It is a life-long learning tool for any age group. E 8 PSM addresses problems from the following perspective:

- Identify a personal need for information to solve a problem
- Explore the problem, and develop a search strategy by posing important questions that need attention
- Select the sources from which information can be obtained: print, electronic, or human
- Organize, sort, analyze and evaluate the information to apply it to the specific personal problem
- Create by synthesis one's own answer based on the facts available, and be prepared to justify the decision
- Present the new knowledge, understanding or resolution using a medium that is practical for the audience
- Assess the success of the activity in terms of content investigated, the skills learned, and the product's applicability through personal, teacher and peer feedback and evaluations
- Apply the changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour to new problems on a regular basis

It became clear to many participants that this approach to learning does not require great increases in funding. Instead, it requires a change in methodology and pedagogy in the classrooms at all levels of institutions. This workshop attempted to provide working tools that the participants could take back to their

setting and use immediately with collaboration among their faculties. The shift from teacher-centred learning to student-centred learning will happen slowly as individuals become more confident in this alternative teaching style, and when they accept that they are no longer the sole source of all the information for their students. Evidence has shown that students and teachers who use this PSM as one of their alternative teaching approaches, have students who are more excited about learning, who are more motivated to stretch themselves in projects that they feel are relevant, and who perform better on examinations because "they have confidence that they can find the answer or work out the problem themselves." Ultimately in order to implement the best of the problem-solving approaches, it will be necessary to have significant improvement in library resources and staffing. The training of these staff members will need to be in the modern mode, and not limited by traditional library science practices.

The workshop ended with a series of resolutions. Some of these resolutions are further endorsement of decisions from workshops in Bangkok 2003, Colombo 2004 and Bangkok 2005. In addition, there were new resolutions posed for this Region. Follow-up activities for work with stakeholders were considered, as were ideas for future workshops and seminars. Copies of the Proceedings will be distributed widely across the region to Ministries of Education, Faculties of Education, Faculties of Library and Information Studies, local professional associations for both teachers and teacher-librarians. They will also be available at forthcoming IASL and IFLA conferences.  
(Gerald Brown)

the region. See  
<http://www.ifla.org/VI/1/admin/general.htm#3>  
for more details, and  
<http://www.ifla.org/VI/1/admin/alpform.pdf>  
for online application form.

**Please note that December 31, 2005 is the deadline for project applications to reach the relevant Regional Managers:**

#### ASIA AND OCEANIA

Ms. Pensri Guaysuwan, Regional Manager  
IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania  
118 Charansanitwong 63,  
BANGKOK 10700, Thailand  
Tel: +(66)(2)4242760  
Fax: +(66)(2)8817033  
E-mail: [ifla.roao@gmail.com](mailto:ifla.roao@gmail.com)

#### AFRICA

Mr. Henri Sène, Regional Manager  
IFLA Regional Office for Africa  
Bibliothèque de l'Université  
Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar  
B.P. 2006, DAKAR, Senegal  
Tel: +(221)8246981  
Fax: +(221)8242379  
E-mail: [hsene@ucad.sn](mailto:hsene@ucad.sn)

#### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN

Ms. Elizabet Ramos de Carvalho  
Regional Manager, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean  
c/o Biblioteca Publica do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Av. Presidente Vargas, 1261  
20071-004 Centro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil  
Tel: +(55)(21)3225330  
Fax: +(55)(21)3225733,  
E-mail: [iflalac@mls.com.br](mailto:iflalac@mls.com.br)

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Call for Applications**

#### **IFLA ALP Project Fund**

Professionals in the region are invited to submit applications for support to carry out projects in

### **IFLA ALP Scholarships and Attachment Grants in 2006**

Information professionals who are interested in the ALP scholarships and attachment grants in 2006 may access

<http://www.ifla.org/VI/1/admin.scholaasia.htm>  
<http://www.ifla.org/VI/1/admin.trasia.htm>

for application forms.

Contact:

Ms. Daruna Somboonkun, Program Coordinator  
23/2 Wudthakard 39, Jomthong, Bangkok  
10150, Thailand, Tel/fax: 66-24767736 (in case  
of difficulty try 66-25245861 or 66-26286361).  
Email: daruna\_s@hotmail.com,  
darunasom@gmail.com

Please note that the grants are available for  
professionals from developing countries in Asia  
and Oceania only. The closing date for  
application is 31 December 2005.  
(Daruna Somboonkun)

## **5. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **AWARDS**

#### **IFLA International Marketing Award**

**Error! Unknown switch argument.**

The IFLA Section on Management and  
Marketing in collaboration with SirsiDynix has  
the pleasure to announce the IFLA International  
Marketing Award for 2006.

##### **OBJECTIVES OF THE AWARD**

- Reward the best library marketing project  
worldwide each year
- Encourage marketing in libraries
- Give libraries the opportunity to share  
marketing experiences

##### **GUIDELINES**

- Application forms:  
<http://www.ifla.org/III/grants/marketing-award-form.doc>
- Any library worldwide that markets  
library products or services is eligible to  
receive the award.
- Application must be written in one of the  
five official IFLA languages: English,  
French, Spanish, Russian and German
- Application must be submitted before 15  
January 2006 (including any supporting  
materials) to the following address:  
Daisy McADAM

University of Geneva  
Faculty of Economics and Social  
Sciences  
40, Pont-d'Arve  
1211 GENEVA 4  
Switzerland  
Tel. +41-22-7058048  
E-mail: Daisy.McAdam@ses.unige.ch

##### **PROPOSALS MUST**

- present an original project of marketing  
for a library of any kind
- answer each question on the application
- give an explanation about the benefits of  
the project from a local perspective
- describe the components of the project as  
outlined in the application
- express the identified needs of the  
targeted customer(s) involved
- give a full description of the marketing  
strategy
- summarize the marketing project

All IFLA INTERNATIONAL MARKETING  
AWARD proposals must reflect the above.

Libraries and institutions are encouraged to  
describe the imaginative and inventive  
aspects of the projects.

##### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applicants will be judged on the following

1. Strategic approach to marketing,  
indicated in the research and planning  
stages of a submitted project;
2. Creativity and innovation as  
demonstrated by the originality of  
solutions to the marketing challenges;
3. Potential for generating widespread  
public visibility and support for  
libraries, irrespective of the kind or  
amount of resources employed;
4. Effectiveness illustrated by  
measurable objectives and subsequent  
evaluation methods;
5. Commitment to ongoing marketing

activities.

Proposals are reviewed by the IFLA INTERNATIONAL MARKETING AWARD Committee on the basis of how well they meet the above criteria. Other factors are clarity of planning and awareness of relations with external bodies. Efficient allocation of resources (staff, materials, time) will also be taken in account.

#### DEADLINE

15 January 2006

The IFLA INTERNATIONAL MARKETING AWARD will honor organizations that have implemented creative, results-oriented marketing projects or campaigns. Three finalists will be recognized for their outstanding achievements. From these three finalists, the winner will be chosen and receive airfare, lodging and registration for the 2006 IFLA General Conference and Council in Seoul, Korea, as well as a cash award of USD 1,000 which must be used to further the marketing efforts of the recognized organization.

Three finalists will be announced in Spring 2006. A first place winner will be chosen and two distinctions will be awarded. The winner will be announced officially at the final day of the IFLA Conference in August 2006, in Seoul, Korea.

(Extracted from Reference 1, October 1, 2005)

## **IFLA/OCLC Fellows for 2006**

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the American Theological Library Association in Oslo, Norway, today, named the IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellows for 2006. They are:

- Ms. Maria Cherrie, Librarian, Trinidad & Tobago National Library and Information System Authority, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
- Mrs. Janete Estevão, Head Librarian, O Boticário Franchising S/A, São José dos Pinhais, Paraná, Brazil

- Mr. Festus Ngetich, College Librarian, Kenya Highlands Bible College, Kericho, Kenya
- Mr. Roman Purici, Director, Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy, Chisinau, Moldova
- Mr. Salmubi, Head of Library, The State Polytechnic of Ujung Pandang, Makassar, Indonesia

The IFLA/OCLC Fellowship supports library and information science professionals from countries with developing economies. The fellowship program, hosted by OCLC at its headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, USA, provides advanced continuing education and exposure to a broad range of issues in information technologies, library operations and global cooperative librarianship. Since the first class arrived in 2001, 28 fellows representing 23 different countries have participated.

During the 2006 program, which will run from May 1 through May 26, the IFLA/OCLC Fellows will participate in seminars, lectures and mentoring; observe portions of an OCLC Members Council meeting to help provide more insight to issues affecting global library cooperation; and visit selected North American libraries and cultural heritage institutions to meet leading practitioners and discuss real-world solutions to the challenges facing libraries today. Fellows translate their learning and experiences into specific professional development plans that guide their continued growth as well as their personal contributions to their home institutions and country of origin.

"This is a wonderful program for both the Fellows and for those of us fortunate enough to work with them," said Phyllis B. Spies, Vice President, OCLC Collection Management Services, in announcing the 2006 Fellows during the IFLA Annual Conference in Oslo. "Each year we visit with a different group, and each year we learn as much from the visiting Fellows as they learn from us."

"Following four weeks of intensive training and sharing of ideas, these dedicated librarians return to their home countries inspired with a better understanding of how libraries can succeed," said Ms. Spies. "They are enthusiastic about sharing those ideas, and they're hopeful that by implementing cooperative approaches modeled after OCLC member libraries, they will be able to help their libraries at home to realize their full potential."

OCLC received applications for the 2006 Fellowship program from Africa, Asia, Central America and the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and South America.

The selection committee for the 2006 Fellowship program included: Sjoerd Koopman, IFLA; Nancy Lensenmayer, OCLC; George Needham, OCLC; Norma Reed, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Birgitta Sandell, Uppsala University Library, Sweden; and Karen Whittlesey, American Theological Library Association.

Application information for the 2007 Fellowship Program is available on the OCLC Web site <<http://www.oclc.org/education/earlycareer/default.htm>>.

For more information:  
Bob Murphy  
[murphyb@oclc.org](mailto:murphyb@oclc.org)  
+1-614-761-5136

## **Public Libraries Outside the United States Invited to Apply for Gates Foundation Access to Learning Award**

Deadline: February 28, 2006

The Council on Library and Information Resources (<http://www.clir.org/>) welcomes applications for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/>) Access to Learning Award for 2006.

Each year, the program presents an award of up

to \$1 million to a public library or similar organization outside the United States that has an innovative program offering the public free access to information technology.

Preference will be given to institutions that the Gates Foundation has not funded in the past. U.S. libraries are not eligible to apply.

A library offers free public access if it allows all members of the public, including children and young adults, to use its facilities free of charge (without membership or Internet fees).

Organizations should show how they make information technology available to the public free of charge and what kinds of technology training they offer to the public and staff.

Preference will be given to organizations that reach out to underserved populations, such as poor or disabled patrons, or those from minority groups.

A library's programs are considered innovative if they provide access to information technology and services that were previously unavailable to the community. The programs could be relatively new, small ones or long-term, larger initiatives.

Program guidelines, an application form, and a list of previous recipients are available at the CLIR Web site.

RFP Link:  
<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/3902/clir>

For additional RFPs in Science/Technology, visit,  
[http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_science.jhtml](http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_science.jhtml)

(Barbara Kountouzi, Reference 2, Mon, 22 Aug 2005)

***BLUE SHIELD***

## **Statement on the Impact of**

## **Hurricane Katrina**

The International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) expresses its sorrow and solidarity with the American people and in particular with the population of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for the loss of lives and for the terrible disruption of their livelihood caused by hurricane Katrina and the ensuing floods.

Although the highest priorities must be accorded to minimize the loss of life and to the humanitarian activities intended to re-establish decent living conditions for the hundreds of thousands of people whose homes and means of subsistence have been wrecked by this natural disaster, the International Committee of the Blue Shield must express its profound concern for the fate of the cultural heritage in the affected states.

ICBS wishes to emphasize that the cultural heritage of a community reflects its way of life, its history and identity, provides the link between its past, present and future, and contributes substantially to its economic sustainability and welfare. A community cannot function effectively in the larger societal context if deprived of its identity through the loss of its cultural heritage.

ICBS, therefore, calls on the Federal Government of the United States of America, and on the Governments of the States of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to swiftly draw up and implement plans to ensure the survival and restoration of historic buildings and sites, museums collections, books in libraries, and documents in archives.

ICBS also calls on the international community to give the fullest possible support to the efforts, official and voluntary, now being made by United States citizens and agencies to rescue the rich and unique heritage of New Orleans and other cities and towns in the region.  
Paris, 12 September 2005

Further information about ICBS is available from its website

<http://www.ifla.org/blueshield.htm>  
(Sjoerd Koopman, Reference 2, Mon, 12 Sep 2005)

## **DIGITAL LIBRARIES**

### **EU: Commission Unveils Plans for European Digital Libraries**

The European Commission today unveiled its strategy to make Europe's written and audiovisual heritage available on the Internet.

Turning Europe's historic and cultural heritage into digital content will make it usable for European citizens for their studies, work or leisure and will give innovators, artists and entrepreneurs the raw material that they need. The Commission proposes a concerted drive by EU Member States to digitise, preserve, and make this heritage available to all.

It presents a first set of actions at European level and invites comments on a series of issues in an online consultation (deadline for replies 20 January 2006). The replies will feed into a proposal for a Recommendation on digitisation and digital preservation, to be presented in June 2006.

Full text at:  
[http://copyrightandculture.com/main.php?page=news/10\\_05/eu\\_plan\\_digital\\_libraries](http://copyrightandculture.com/main.php?page=news/10_05/eu_plan_digital_libraries)

Prof. Marco Marandola  
IFLA CLM  
[marandol@tiscali.it](mailto:marandol@tiscali.it)  
(Marco Marandola, Reference 2, Sun, 2 Oct 2005)

## **WORLD BOOK CAPITAL**

### **World Book Capital 2007: Bogotá (Colombia)**

The Selection Committee of the World Book Capital 2007, made up of Jean-Manuel Bourgois, Representative of the International Publishers Association (IPA), Françoise Dubruille, Representative of the International Booksellers Federation (IBF), Peter Lor, Representative of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Georges Poussin on behalf of Milagros del Corral as UNESCO representative, met on 17 June 2005 under the chair of Jean-Manuel Bourgois, in order to examine the applications to the nomination of the World Book Capital 2007, in accordance with Resolution 31 C/Resolution 29, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference on 2 November 2001.

The Selection Committee examined the following candidatures:  
Amsterdam (The Netherlands)  
Bogotá (Colombia)  
Coimbra (Portugal)  
Dublin (Ireland)  
Rosario (Argentina) and  
Vienna (Austria)

The Committee welcomed the increase in number of the applications, including for the first time two applications from a region of the world which had so far not been represented (Latin America).

The city of Bogotá was nominated as World Book Capital 2007 for the following reasons: comprehensiveness of the bid; presence of several specific initiatives for the World Book Capital City 2007 programme, including creative activities for the promotion of reading; involvement of all local public and private stakeholders in the book sector.

Furthermore, Members of the Committee unanimously expressed their appreciation for the general quality of the submissions.

The representatives of IPA, IBF and IFLA commit themselves to continue their efforts to ensure a better geographic and cultural

distribution among the nominated cities and encourage UNESCO to join them in their endeavours.

Paris, 17 June 2005.

Jean-Manuel Bourgois, IPA  
Milagros del Corral, UNESCO  
Françoise Dubruille, IBF  
Peter Lor, IFLA  
(Reference 1, July 01, 2005)

## **Call for Nominations for the World Book Capital 2008**

The Selection Committee for the World Book Capital is calling for nominations for the World Book Capital 2008.

The complete applications, duly substantiated and drafted in one of UNESCO's official languages (French, English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic or Chinese), should reach UNESCO no later than 31 March 2006. The applications must include a cover or support letter from the mayor of the candidate-city.

The candidate programmes shall be aimed at promoting books and fostering reading during the period between one World Book and Copyright Day and the next (23 April). The selection committee will examine the candidate programmes, making a special effort to involve all regions of the world in turn, in accordance with the following criteria:

Submission of a programme including activities specifically conceived for the year in which the city would be the World Book Capital City, and which would only take place in case of nomination.

Degree of the municipal, regional, national and international involvement and potential impact of the programmes.

Quantity and quality of specific or ongoing activities organized by the candidate-city in cooperation with the national and international professional organizations representing writers, publishers, booksellers and librarians and in full

respect of the various stakeholders of the book supply chain.

Quantity and quality of any other noteworthy project promoting and fostering books and reading.

Conformity to the principles of freedom of expression, freedom to publish and to disseminate information, stated by the UNESCO Constitution as well as by Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and by the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials (Florence Agreement). By presenting its application, each candidate city commits itself to provide UNESCO, in case of its nomination as World Book Capital City, with a final evaluation report on the activities effectively implemented during the year of nomination. In this sense, possible audits managed by UNESCO will be facilitated by the World Book Capital City authorities.

The Selection Committee - operating under the auspices of UNESCO - is made up of one representative of the International Publishers Association (IPA), one representative of the International Booksellers' Federation (IBF), one representative of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and one UNESCO representative, under the chairmanship of the President of IPA. The Committee's task is to choose a World Book Capital each year, in accordance with 31 C/Resolution 29, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference on 2 November 2001. The first World Book Capital chosen prior to the adoption of 31 C/Resolution 29 was Madrid, in 2001. Subsequent World Book Capital Cities have been Alexandria (2002), New Delhi (2003), and Antwerp (2004). Montreal is the current World Book Capital City and will be succeeded by Turin (2006) and Bogotá (2007).

Contact:

UNESCO  
Mr Mauro Rosi  
Culture Division of Arts and Cultural Enterprise  
1, rue Miollis

F-75732 Paris Cedex 15  
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 46 33  
Fax: +33 1 45 68 55 95  
E-mail: [m.rosi@unesco.org](mailto:m.rosi@unesco.org)  
(Reference 1, 2 November 2005)

## **WSIS**

<http://www.ifla.org/III/wsis.html>

### **Report on IFEX-TMG Mission to Tunis**

#### **Executive Summary**

Between 6-11 September 2005, IFLA/FAIFE participated in a mission to Tunisia with the International Freedom of Expression Exchange Tunisian Monitoring Group (IFEX-TMG). The mission was to assess the state of human rights in the run up to the second phase of WSIS. From the evidence gathered during this mission, it appears that the Tunisian library system is relatively well established in comparison to other Arab countries. Each of the country's 23 regions has a regional library and there are libraries for adults and young people in addition to this. Altogether there are 380 public libraries in Tunisia. A new National Library will open in 2006. It will be well equipped and will house an extremely valuable collection of manuscripts. However, it is also clear that Tunisian librarians operate in far from ideal conditions. Interviewees acknowledged that freedom of expression in the country is almost non-existent, and that libraries are doing their best with poor facilities and low levels of support and funding.

The conclusion must be drawn that intellectual freedom in Tunisia is under threat from the government's desire to control information flow at every level possible. The main areas of concern for libraries are:

- Tunisia's Press Code - All publications must be deposited with the Ministry of the Interior for vetting before they are distributed. A publication can only be distributed once a receipt

is issued by the Ministry and receipts are often not forthcoming. While the government has recently taken steps to issue receipts for periodicals more quickly, books are currently unaffected by the new regulations.

- The low level of publishing in the country - Approximately 1400 'new' titles are published in Tunisia each year but meetings with library colleagues revealed that the vast majority of these titles are reprints or children's books. Perhaps as few as 200-300 new adult titles are actually printed. Some academics have volumes of work that cannot be published as a result of the vetting system. The fact that books must be inspected by the Ministry of the Interior before distribution is both a direct system of censorship that withholds distribution and an indirect one that creates an environment of self-censorship.
- Continued blocking of Internet websites - The Tunisian government continues to deny Tunisians access to political opposition websites and alternative news sites based in and outside of the country. The current climate regarding Islamic terrorism is being used to justify the Internet blocking.
- A lack of diverse news content on a significant scale - Mainstream newspapers are apparently uncritical of the government in any way and the few opposition newspapers have an extremely small circulation and many distribution problems.
- Continued restrictions on freedom of association - A conference for the Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists and meetings for the Tunisian League of Human Rights were cancelled in worrying circumstances during our visit. IFEX-TMG witnessed intimidation of both groups by uniformed and plain-clothes police.

## **Recommendations**

Despite this situation, library colleagues in Tunisia are thoroughly professional, extremely interested in IFLA and acutely aware of the level of freedom of expression that exists within the country. In light of this, and based on the findings of the TMG mission, the following recommendations are proposed:

- IFLA should call on the Tunisian

government to amend the country's press code to ensure that the system of receipts is no longer used to restrict the circulation of information materials within the country.

- IFLA should call on the Tunisian government to make transparent the process behind the blocking of Internet websites, and to provide some form of legal recourse for those who believe their websites have been blocked.
- IFLA should support the librarians in Tunisia as much as possible during WSIS. The National Library and the Mediatheque Charles de Gaulle, connected to the French Embassy, are keen to organise some sort of event during the summit and IFLA should support any such activities.
- IFLA should be involved in the concrete actions planned by IFEX-TMG during WSIS. Such actions include exhibitions on censorship, and a four hour programme on freedom of expression in the information society.
- Pressure should be kept on the Tunisian government to respect human rights at all levels. This may be done through IFLA/FAIFE, IFLA advocacy at PrepCom 3 or the WSIS summit in Tunis and beyond, national library associations lobbying of national WSIS delegations and representations to the Government of Tunisia.
- The National Library is in the process of applying to be an IFLA member and IFLA should provide the appropriate help and support both now and at the time of the new National Library's official opening in 2006. The issues facing Tunisia are described in more depth in the following report prepared by the IFLA/FAIFE Office. IFEX-TMG will issue its official report on the visit at WSIS PrepCom 3 in Geneva on September 26<sup>th</sup>. For further information please email: sha@db.dk  
Stuart Hamilton  
IFLA/FAIFE  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005  
(Reference 1, September 30, 2005)

**WWW**

**AMARC's Sets up WSIS Page  
On-line**

Montreal, July 27, 2005. Starting today, all AMARC members and the general public are able to access updated information on the processes leading to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) by visiting: <http://wsis.amarc.org/EN.php>

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is a two-phase United Nations intergovernmental conference that aims at the creation of a framework for an all-inclusive and equitable Information Society. In order to achieve this goal, WSIS incorporates a global vision and a global dialogue, bringing together a variety of world stakeholders.

The WSIS Summit in Geneva, December 2003, was the outcome of the first phase of WSIS, which started in 2000. The Summit established the foundations of the Information Society, leading to a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action. Participating governments, however, did not fulfill all the expectations from the civil society organisations present, thus these organisations issued a separate statement calling for an Information Society clearly based on Human Rights. The second phase deals with the issues of Internet governance, of financing "to bridge the digital divide", as well as on defining the implementation and follow-up process. This phase will end with a Summit in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005. Furthermore, civil society organisations have expressed deep concerns regarding the situation of freedom of expression in Tunis. Please see the Tunis monitoring Group report in <http://ifex.org>.

Community media recognition is an important factor in the development of a truly inclusive Information Society. AMARC is closely following WSIS and taking an active part in advocating for recognition of community media as new tiers of communication. Furthermore, AMARC is working with civil society partners, as well as those organized in the CRIS Campaign - Communications Rights in the Information Society -- for inclusion of the civil society agenda in the WSIS process. This

agenda calls for a human rights approach to the Information Society and urges recognition of the existence of communication rights as the founding base of a truly democratic Information Society. Through participation in this global process, AMARC has been representing the interests of more than 3,000 community radio stations in over 110 countries.

For more information on AMARC, visit <http://amarc.org>.

Find the news about the worldwide community radio movement in the ObsMedia Web site at <http://www.obsmedia.amarc.org>

## **E-LIS news**

We would like to inform you that the new layout of E-LIS, the international open archive for Library and Information Science, has recently become public  
<<http://eprints.rclis.org/>>.

In addition to more personalised graphics, the new layout has brought a new and improved organisation of the information.

From the right column of the homepage it is possible to directly activate searches (by title, abstract, keyword or by full text); or to easily link to search pages (for simple or advanced searches) or browse pages (by author or editor, journal or book, subject, country and year of publication and by latest additions).

The left column lists the options dedicated to registered users, such as registration and deposit. In addition to these there are several information pages on the E-LIS archive, on its management policy and submission guidelines.

Also on the left column (Information -- Brochures) a link is available to a page with information and brochures in different languages, including Italian  
<[http://e-lis\\_docs.openlib.org/italian/](http://e-lis_docs.openlib.org/italian/)>.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that in October 2005 the first international

conference of E-LIS will be held in the Geneva offices of CERN. Additional information is available on the conference website <<http://www.aepic.it/conf/index.php?cf=4>>.

Finally, we would like to inform those that are interested that during the next IFLA conference (in Oslo 14-18 August 2005) the new E-LIS poster, completed thanks to the sponsorship of AIDA, will be presented.  
(Antonella De Robbio)  
(Andrea Marchitelli, Reference 2, Sun, 31 Jul 2005)

## **ICISC**

The Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG/III), the European (ASIST/EC) and the New England (NEASIST) chapters of ASIS&T (American Society for Information Science & Technology) are pleased to announce:

### **The International Calendar of Information Science Conferences (ICISC)**

<http://icisc.neasist.org/>

This centralized, master calendar of relevant conferences being held around the world serves three primary purposes:

- to help information science researchers and practitioners (and their colleagues in related disciplines) to discover which conferences are planned that might fulfill their need to communicate their knowledge and experience and learn from others; and,
- to help conference organizers avoid time or topic conflicts, or coordinate with other groups, leading to more interaction and coherence among professional groups; and,
- to contribute to facilitating interaction among like-minded professionals working on information problems around the globe.

This calendar is meant as a cooperative venture.

Any organization or conference organizer is cordially invited to submit relevant conferences, either confirmed or planned, to the ICISC Calendar.

Detailed instructions for registering a conference directly, through a submission form, or by Email can be found on the Web site. The site is moderated and the sponsoring organizations reserve the right to discard entries that would not be deemed appropriate.

The calendar is in English at the moment. We hope that more languages and/or mirror sites could be added in the future. Announcements can be passed in any language that can be presented in Latin characters, provided an English translation of at least the conference place and title is also included.

In addition to the dynamic and searchable calendar available for viewing in both block and list style, there is a "Quick Calendar" listing all the events on a static HTML web page useful for printing, or for those with slower internet connections. ICISC further offers the option to subscribe to an RSS feed to keep up to date on the latest additions.

The web site further includes lists of electronic fora, organizations, networks and rotating conferences in Information science. Suggestions of relevant entries will be most welcome. We hope that you will find this calendar useful from an organizational and/or individual stand point. We encourage you to contribute to the calendar and offer your suggestions. Be sure to subscribe to the RSS/XML feed to stay up to date on new additions to the calendar.

Your colleagues from,  
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(<http://www.asis.org/Chapters/europe/About.htm>)  
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International Calendar of Information Science Conferences (ICISC)  
<http://icisc.neasist.org/>  
Contact: [icisc@neasist.org](mailto:icisc@neasist.org)

(Extracted from Michel J. Menou , Reference 2, Sun, 24 Jul 2005)

## **IFLA Express No. 8**

- final news from WLIC, Oslo August 2005

Now available on IFLANET the final news from Oslo with highlights, statistics and more at:

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/IFLA-express2005.htm>  
(Sjoerd Koopman, Reference 2, Wed, 26 Oct 2005)

## **New Online Resource for International Development Practitioners**

A new online resource for international development practitioners at [www.groupe-initiatives.org](http://www.groupe-initiatives.org) <<http://www.groupe-initiatives.org/uk/default.htm>> .

Visit the Groupe initiatives website to access our features including a presentation of our platform. Here you will download free Groupe initiatives' publications - Traverses. This paper series aims to improve the level and quality of project development work by learning from experiences. This website is also available in French and Spanish.

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(Anne Sophie Saywell, Thu, 10 Nov 2005)

## **6. PUBLICATIONS**

### **New IFLA Publications:**

*"Designing and Building Integrated Digital Library Systems - Guidelines"*

/ By Bente Dahl Rathje, Margaret McGrory, Carol Pollitt, Paivi Voutilainen under the auspices of the IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section  
The Hague, IFLA Headquarters, 2005. - 67p. 30 cm. - (IFLA Professional Reports: 90)  
ISBN 9077897054

*Continuing Professional Development - Preparing for New Roles in Libraries: a Voyage of Discovery.*

Sixth World Conference on Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning for the Library and Information Professions.

Edited by Paul Genoni and Graham Walton  
München: Saur, 2005, 307 p.  
(IFLA Publications; 116)  
ISBN 3-598-21844-3  
Price: EUR 78 (IFLA Members EUR 58)

*"The virtual customer: a new paradigm for improving customer relations in libraries and information services."*

Edited by Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira and Réjean Savard.  
München: Saur, 2005, 385 p.  
(IFLA Publications; 117)  
ISBN 3-598-21845-1  
Price: EUR 128 (IFLA Members EUR 96)

*"IFLA Guidelines for Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) Displays"*.

Final Report May 2005  
München: Saur, 2005, 61 p.  
ISBN 3-598-24276-X  
(IFLA Series on Bibliographic Control; vol. 27).  
Price: EUR 34 (IFLA Members EUR 26,80)

*"IFLA Cataloguing Principles: Steps towards an International Cataloguing Code,2."*

Report from the 2nd Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code, Buenos Aires, Argentina 2004.  
Edited by/Editado por Barbara B. Tillett and Ana Lupe Cristán.  
München: Saur, 2005, 227 p.  
ISBN 3-598-24277-8  
(IFLA Series on Bibliographic Control; vol. 28).

Price: EUR 78 (IFLA Members EUR 58)

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006**

This Newsletter is published twice a year in June and December. It is now available on IFLANET at: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s26/pubs/>

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**As of January 1, 2006, the IFLA Regional Office for Asia and Oceania will be moved to a new location, and a new Regional Manager will be appointed. Please find the announcement to come up on the IFLANET soon.**

### **References:**

1. Extracted from IFLANET

(<http://www.ifla.org>)

2. Extracted from IFLA-L@infoserv.inist.fr

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