



# Newsletter

**IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section  
Best Newsletter 2000 and 2001**

2004/1

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Section News:

## **Standing Committee mid-winter meeting, Vilnius, 17-18 March 2004**

As usual, the Section's Standing Committee did a lot of useful business at its two-day mid-winter meeting. This year, the meeting was hosted by Mrs Jadvyga Kuoliene and her staff at the Lithuanian National Library for the Blind in Vilnius, who were extremely hospitable and provided very convenient working space in the Library Reading Room. The Section is very grateful for their support.

Thirteen of the twenty Standing Committee members attended the meeting, along with five observers. The main business was as follows:

### **Guidelines**

Beatrice Chrstensen Sköld reported that, thanks to the tremendous efforts of Rosemary Kavanagh and her team at CNIB, the Section's guidelines for libraries for the blind are almost complete and publication is expected this year.

A working group has also been progressing the development of guidelines on integrated digital library systems. Various Section members are now writing parts of the text. These guidelines should be completed by the end of the year.

### **New project on performance data**

Funding has been secured from IFLA to work on a new project to collect benchmark performance data across

a range of organizations worldwide.

### **Copyright and licensing issues**

Marijke van Bodengraven and Francisco Martinez reported on the meetings that they had attended in November 2003 with WIPO and IPA, to help put the case for improved copyright and licensing arrangements. IFLA, DAISY and WBU had joined forces to make presentations at the meetings.

### **DAISY**

Elsebeth Tank, President of the DAISY Consortium, gave a presentation updating members on DAISY's progress and future plans, including *DAISY for all*. This led to useful discussion about the respective roles of IFLA and DAISY.

### **IFLA-LBS/Ulverscroft Foundation best practice awards**

Helen Brazier reported that the Ulverscroft Foundation was very pleased with the outcomes of the joint award scheme so far, especially the individual visits which had taken place in summer 2003. As a result, the Foundation had offered to fund another round of individual awards in 2004.

### **World Summit on the Information Society**

The Committee noted that during the first phase of the summit, held in Geneva, December 2003, participants in the Global Forum on Disability in the Information Society adopted a declaration on an accessible information society.

## **Working groups and projects**

In recent years, the Section has had a number of working groups, but members felt that it would be more useful to replace them with project groups to work on clearly defined initiatives, such as publications, research or events.

The Francophone working group will, however, remain in place, as Marie-Hélène Dougnac reported that the twelve francophone members of the Section found it very useful to keep in touch via e-mail list in order to share information and ideas.

## **Communications**

The Section is looking at ways of improving communications and increasing involvement from Section members, other IFLA members and other libraries for the blind (not necessarily IFLA members). Amongst other initiatives, we are looking at the format of the Section Newsletter and a letter will be sent to readers with the next issue asking about their preferences.

More information on all the Standing Committee business, contact details, etc, can be found in the papers and draft minutes which have been posted to the file archive on the Section smartgroup.

## **Library Conference**

During the stay in Vilnius, SC members were pleased to have the opportunity to make a tour of the Library and the neighbouring Lithuanian Association of the Blind and Visually Handicapped (LASS). We were particularly honoured to

meet Mr Rolandas Kvietkauskas, Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, and Mr Osvaldas Petrauskas, President of LASS.

Prompted by our visit, the Library also organised a conference for colleagues from the Baltic countries and Russia, to discuss digital books for the blind and integration of the blind in the information society. Several SC members contributed to the programme.

In addition to the formal business, we were invited to a superb concert by the Vilnius choir, which has a number of blind and partially sighted members and soloists, and enjoys an international reputation. Afterwards, there was plenty of social interaction over buffet supper washed down with glasses of wine, and once we had had a few drinks we were easily persuaded to join in the energetic folk dancing.

*Helen Brazier, Secretary*

## **IFLA Buenos Aires**

As part of the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), Buenos Aires, 2004, the Section will be holding a joint session with the Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section, entitled *Balance of copyright and licensing: access to information for print handicapped people*. The speakers will include: Jens Bammel, Chief Executive, IPA; a senior representative of WIPO; Dr Ana María Cabanellas de las Cuevas, Argentine Publishers Association; as well as library users and staff from different parts of the world. This event will take place on Thursday 26 August.

Standing Committee meetings will take place during WLIC on Sunday 22 August and Saturday 28 August. Observers are welcome.

## **WBU General Assembly**

In December 2004, the World Blind Union will hold its Sixth General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa, and the Section has been offered the chance to organize a seminar for delegates. Further details to follow. The SC mid-winter meeting will therefore be brought forward to coincide with the Assembly and will take place in Grahamstown, 2-3 December 2004.

## **Pre-conference in Sweden 2005**

In 2005 the IFLA World Library Congress is taking place in Oslo, Norway. The Section is planning a pre-conference with IFLA Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section and the Regional Library of Västra Götaland in Sweden.

The pre-conference will take place at Göteborg Convention Centre in central Gothenburg (Göteborg). The venue seats 180 individuals. Delegates will stay in the adjacent Hotel Gothia Towers. You can reach Gothenburg (Göteborg) from all major airports in Europe. There are also fast train connections between Copenhagen, Oslo and Gothenburg. Target group: Librarians, Library board members and anyone interested in accessible Libraries

## **Preliminary programme**

The programme is in the planning stage. There might be alterations. But so far the following has been decided.

*Day 1, August 10* will be dedicated to the activities of Public and University Libraries in the region of Västra Götaland. The European project *Open Media/Open Learning* began in Västra Götaland in the late 1990's and is now in full operation. The project employs disabled people to teach computer skills to blind and print handicapped individuals. Friday August 12: possibility to visit some of the Open Media/Open Learning Libraries.

*Day 2, August 11* will be dedicated to IFLA Sections. We plan to have four sessions, with a 30 minutes presentation in each of the sessions. One of the sessions will be about Copyright and Licensing and the other about DAISY developments. The topics of the other two sessions have not been decided yet.

*Day 3, August 12*  
Library visits. Possibility to go to Oslo by chartered bus.

For more information please contact Beatrice Christensen Sköld  
bea.christensen@tpb.se

## **Rainer Witte receives Order of Merit**

On the 16h of January our colleague Rainer Witte, Librarian of the Blista Library in Marburg, Germany received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. This order was instituted in 1951 by Federal Presi-

dent Theodor Heuss. It is the only honour that may be awarded in all fields of endeavour and is the highest tribute the Federal Republic of Germany can pay to individuals for services to the nation.

"Sir" Rainer has been a member of the Section since it started in 1979 and has been active in the Standing Committee several terms. At the moment he is the Special adviser of the Standing Committee.

## **Update International Directory**

Members are kindly requested to update the information about their institutions in the International Directory of Libraries for the blind. The database containing this directory is hosted by the Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD) and can be reached at <http://dserver.dinf.ne.jp:591>

For more information contact Misako Nomura at [nomura@dinf.ne.jp](mailto:nomura@dinf.ne.jp)

News from the World:

## **Elsebeth Tank, New President of the DAISY Consortium**

From the beginning of 2004 Elsebeth Tank took office as President of the DAISY Consortium. Elsebeth Tank is Director of The Danish National Library for the Blind (DBB), and has given particular focus to the development of the Consortiums long term strategic plan, that will evolve through 2004.

The former President Ingar Beckman Hirschfeldt, gave the following message to the DAISY members, after the election: "At this year's General meeting, we elected a new president for 2004 - 2007. I am very happy to welcome Elsebeth Tank as the President-Elect, and I think she will be an excellent leader of our association as we move into the organization's third and mature stage".

The DAISY Secretary General George Kerscher had the following comment, in February 2004: "The transition from Ingar Beckman Hirschfeldt TPB in Sweden was extremely smooth. Elsebeth and Ingar, along with the Board, worked marvellously together to effect this transition. The DAISY Consortium should be pleased to know that Elsebeth is leading the Board and staff through a careful process in the preparation of a draft Strategic Plan. Because the job is complex and we are taking great care, the Membership should expect several stages in the process of finalizing the plan."

Elsebeth Tank, and the DAISY Board foresee a fruitful cooperation with IFLA/LBS, in the years to come. Elsebeth is also a member of the Standing committee of LBS.

## **Best Practice Development Programme: The Frederick Thorpe Awards**

### **Individual awards**

#### *Scope*

An opportunity for an individual involved in library service delivery for visually impaired people to work for a short period with another library between November 2004 and October 2005.

The duration is likely to be in the region of two weeks to two months, depending on destination.

It is not intended to fund a study tour.

#### *Value*

Up to £5,000, to cover travel, accommodation and expenses.

#### *Purpose*

- Share best practice between two organisations
- Improve services at both organisations
- Create or strengthen a mutually beneficial relationship between two organisations
- Encourage individual selfdevelopment

#### *Application process*

Application forms are available in the official languages of IFLA from:

Joyce Sumner, Secretary, Ulverscroft Foundation, The Green, Bradgate Road, Anstey, Leicester, LE7 7FU, England.

[j.sumner@ulverscroft.co.uk](mailto:j.sumner@ulverscroft.co.uk)

Electronic applications to the above address are preferred but applications in type or Braille sent to the above address are acceptable. Applications to be received by 31.08.04.

#### *Reporting*

The successful applicant will be expected to report on the experience, including input from his/her employer and the host organisation.

#### *Judges*

One representative each from:

Ulverscroft Foundation  
Force Foundation  
Share The Vision

#### *Judging criteria*

- Degree of relevance to applicant's organisation
- Benefits to the individual and organisations concerned
- Sustainability of relationship between the two organisations
- Transferability of experience to other libraries

## **CNIB Library awarded**

CHICAGO — The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Library, Toronto, is the recipient of the 2004 Francis Joseph Campbell Award. The honour, which consists of a citation and medal, is presented to a library or person who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of library service for the blind and physically handicapped. The Library Service to People with Visual or Physical Disabilities Forum, of the Libraries Serving Special Populations Section of the Association of Specialized and

Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) presents the award.

"The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Library has set a new international standard of excellence in advancing library services and resources to their clients who are blind, visually impaired, and print-disabled," said Ruth Nussbaum, award committee chair.

The award is named for Francis Joseph Campbell (1832-1914), an American who lost his sight at the age of five. He was the music director at the Wisconsin School for the Blind and the Perkins Institution for the Blind. Campbell was also instrumental in the founding of the Royal National College for the Blind, and was knighted by King Edward VII of England.

The award will be presented June 27, 2004, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the ASCLA President's Program and Award Ceremony during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

### **National Library, UK, launches free online guides.**

The National Library for the Blind (NLB), the library service for vision-impaired people, has developed a series of free online training courses for support workers and others on the basics of access technology ([http://atp.nlb-online.org/Lessons/p\\_00.php](http://atp.nlb-online.org/Lessons/p_00.php)).

The *Access technology primer* is aimed at rehabilitation workers, library staff and educational support staff. Its initial sections are: Introduction to access technology;

Training visually impaired people to use computers; Changes you can make to your computer without access technology; Windows keyboard commands; JAWS; Supernova; and Zoomtext (these last three are types of screen reader and screen magnification software).

The courses are funded by international independent charity the Health Foundation (<http://www.health.org.uk>), and a spokesperson for the NLB told E-Access Bulletin the courses have already attracted a lot of interest.

The library is also developing a visual impairment directory, an online introduction to working with people with impaired vision, and a guide to working with people with mobility issues. It is also gearing up for its annual *Make a noise in libraries week* (MANIL <http://www.nlb-online.org/campaigns>), a campaign 19 to 25 July to encourage libraries to improve access to libraries for vision impaired people.

### **Celia Library in Finland moves to new premises**

Celia Library, the Finnish Library for the Visually Impaired, moved to a new premises in Helsinki in February 2004. This government-financed special library is located in a building called Iris, owned by Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired. In the new Iris Service and Activity Centre for the Visually Impaired houses many organizations and the most important services for blind and visually impaired persons in Finland. The building itself is a model piece of architecture, designed to be

accessible for visually impaired persons.

The new large library premises, 4000 square meters altogether, with a new library system and telecommunications, enabled the creation of new library services. The Library has now a modern client service centre with a workstation for visually impaired users. The client service centre can be reached either by visiting the library or, like most clients do, by contacting the librarians by telephone, post or e-mail. Children attending rehabilitation courses in the Iris Activity Centre are invited to visit the children's library, called Little Celia, for a story times or to touch and read the fabulous tactile picture books of the library.

### **FORCE projects: Helping people help themselves.**

In addition to the many local development projects supported by FORCE in there are a number of thematic developments which draw together the common.

#### *DAISY training and production.*

Following the first training in Latin America carried out by FORCE in Mexico, a project has been started in Vietnam. A recording studio has been installed in The General Sciences Library in Ho Chi Minh City. The staff of the library was involved in the planning and construction of the library. Training was carried out in a workshop organised by FORCE and through a funded visit to the RNIB. The studio is now operational and is supported by twenty volunteers.

In order to extend the use of the products of the studio, 65 Victor Classics have been placed in provincial and district libraries. A further forty machines are to be installed in 2004. This project is supported by the Dutch fund Wilde Ganzen.

#### *Braille development.*

FORCE has been assisting individual institutions in the installation of Braille production facilities and the training of staff. However on a larger scale FORCE is making efforts with others to establish networks across geographical regions.

#### *Russia*

Several networking projects in Russia have linked together making it possible for the majority of the libraries to exchange files and to access the central digital catalogue being developed in Moscow. While FORCE has been able to support most of these projects, three of the main network developments have been assisted by an anonymous Dutch Fund.

#### *Indonesia*

Together with On-Net a project has been established on co/operation between Braille producers. Under the title Development of Indonesian Braille a common catalogue and production administration is being created.

#### *Anglo-Africa*

During the International Development Project Forum to be held in Johannesburg in May 2004, FORCE will be running a workshop for Braille producers from Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, South Africa and Nigeria. The last of these has just started a national project to coordinate Braille production in a

project funded by FORCE, the Ulverscroft Foundation and the Rotterdam Fund for the Blind. The workshop aims to establish a practical exchange mechanism and agree on standards.

#### *Latin America*

In addition to Braille workshops in various countries, FORCE has set up a series of training seminars for the professional staff of libraries such as the General Library Administration of Mexico; the National Library and Public Library System of Santiago Chile; and the Direction General de Bibliotecas of Mexico.

#### *CCTV*

In the last year FORCE has been able to donate 29 CCTV enlargers to national and academic libraries in Vietnam, Nigeria, Kenya and Argentina. These are now all in use and making books accessible to a much greater reading public.

#### *Audio*

Although the DAISY technology is beginning to be used in some countries, there are other developments in digital audio. A first workshop on Audio Information Services, including broadcasting, has been given in Mexico and a second took place in February 2004 in Costa Rica.

A Major project is also being launched in Zimbabwe. Co-funded by FORCE and NOVIB (part of the OXFAM group) spoken book production will be developed by the Dorothy Duncan Library in Harare to serve the educational needs of print handicapped students in 37 schools across the country. This will link into a project for producing spoken books

for adults which is being sponsored by the local Rotary Club, to the mutual benefit of both projects.

If you would like information about other FORCE Foundation activities please check the web site at [www.f-force.nl](http://www.f-force.nl)

### **Message from the Editor: Electronic Newsletter**

The IFLA/LBS Newsletter is printed both in inkprint and in Braille. It is also accessible on the IFLA Webpage [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org) as well as on the LBS Listserve. However, you can also receive the Newsletter direct on e-mail as a textfile.

If you are interested receiving the Newsletter via e-mail, please send a message to [bea.christensen@tpb.se](mailto:bea.christensen@tpb.se)