



Newsletter

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

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The Newsletter is available in Braille and on diskette and IFLANet, www.ifla.org

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Section News:

LBS Newsletter in electronic form

Each year the Section receives a minor sum from IFLA HQ for its administrative costs. However, this sum does not cover the whole cost of the newsletter. To save money we would like to reduce the printing costs and the costs of postage by distributing copies electronically to all members who have e-mail. In order to estimate the print and postage cost we would be happy if members could send me a message before May 15 if you still want the printed or brailled copy of the Newsletter. The electronic Newsletter will come in two versions, pdf and text file.

Beatrice Christensen Sköld
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Standing Committee mid-year meeting in Grahamstown, 2-3 December 2004

The Section's mid-year Standing Committee meeting took place earlier than usual this year, so that the Section could also contribute to the World Blind Union's quadrennial General Assembly in Cape Town, December 2004. This gave us the pleasurable opportunity to hold our Standing Committee meeting at the South African Library for the Blind in Grahamstown, where we were made extremely welcome by Johan Roos and his team.

Nine SC members attended the meeting and we were delighted to be joined by Chris Friend, Chair of WBU's IFLA-DAISY Liaison Committee and André Roos, of the South African Ministry of Arts and Culture.

The main business was to shape the strategic plan for 2005-2007 and a draft of the plan will be distributed via the Section's smartgroup before the next SC meeting.

The Standing Committee also received progress reports on the Section's current projects. The updated guidelines for libraries for the blind have been sent to IFLA for publication, and work on the new guidelines on digital library systems for libraries for the blind is almost complete. Work on Project START, which will collect benchmark data from libraries for the blind, is about to get underway. Members agreed that it would be useful to try to find funding for a new project to compare funding and management of libraries for the blind in different countries.

The meeting received reports on international copyright developments, the result of the IFLA-LBS/Uiiverscroft Foundation awards for 2004, research into postal arrangements, and the very pleasing outcomes of the conference for libraries for the blind hosted by Microsoft in Seattle, 7-9 November 2004. The delegates at this Microsoft meeting included many IFLA and DAISY members as well as some interested representatives from mainstream libraries, who agreed to create a number of international joint working groups to tackle various issues and barriers that prevent the development of the

global library for the blind. Bill Gates made an appearance at the meeting and showed interest in DAISY, and the conference also produced a list of requests for Microsoft.

Some time was spent on planning the Section's future events and considering how to respond to IFLA's Section evaluation process that is now underway.

It was noted that, as this is an election year, nominations for members of the Standing Committee must have been received by IFLA by 2 February 2005. Section Chair, Beatrice Christensen Sköld, confirmed that she will stand down at the Oslo SC meeting, so the Section will need to appoint a new Chair.

Further details of all these items, and more, can be found in the draft minutes which have been posted to the Section's smartgroup. Anyone who is interested can join the smartgroup free of charge. Please contact Helen Brazier helen.brazier@nlbuk.org if you would like to join.

Information about the Microsoft conference can be found on the website of the DAISY Consortium www.daisy.org/news/news_detail.asp?NewsId=172

Dates for your diary

31 March 2005: Microsoft Conference follow up meeting, London (details available from George Kerscher kerscher@montana.com or Helen Brazier helen.brazier@nlbuk.org)

10-12 August 2005: IFLA Libraries for the Blind/Libraries Serving

Disadvantaged People joint conference on "Accessible Libraries", Gothenburg details on www.regionbibliotek.vgregion.se/ifla

14-18 August 2005: WLIC, Oslo www.ifla.org

13 and 19 August 2005: Standing Committee meetings, WLIC, Oslo

Accessible Libraries - Satellite meeting, August 10-12 2005 Gothenburg, Sweden

Conference Language: English.

Venue: Room H 1, Swedish Fair (Svenska Mässan)
Mässans gata/Korsvägen

Hotel accomodation: Hotel Gothia Tower, single room 1268 SEK/Night; Double room SEK 1668

Conference fee (excluding hotel rooms): Swedish Kronor 1875 (including VAT)

Registration and more information at www.regionbibliotek.vgregion.se/ifla

This year the Section holds it satellite meeting in Gothenburg (Göteborg), Sweden, in cooperation with IFLA Libraries Serving dis-advantaged persons and the Region Library of Västra Götaland. This region is known for its work with making libraries accessible for all citizens. For this purpose they have introduced a new profession: Literacy technician. Friday the 12th, the last day of the Conference, is dedicated to study

visits to libraries in Gothenburg and neighbouring towns. In conjunction with the conference there will be an exhibition.

Programme

Tuesday, August 9th

Arrivals

Get together party

Wednesday, August 10th

09.00

Registration/Coffee

10.00

Opening by HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden

Welcoming remarks by

Lena Skoglund, Regional Librarian of Västra Götaland *Beatrice Christensen Sköld*, Chair IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section *Joanne Locke*, Chair IFLA Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Section

10.30

Session 1. Accessible Cultural Institutions in Sweden and Norway
Convenor: *Kerstin Wockatz*

The Swedish Programme for accessibility of Culture

Christina Herder, Swedish National Board of Culture

Universal Design for Cultural Institutions

Tone Eli Moseid, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority

11.30

Opening of Exhibition

12.00

Lunch

13.00

Session 2. Accessible libraries in Västra Götaland

Convenor: *Lena Skoglund*

Accessible Public Libraries in Västra Götaland

Kerstin Wockatz, Regional Library Västra Götaland

Uno Nilsson, Public Library of Tjörn

Monica Malmqvist, Kungälv Public Library

Eva Fred, Gothenburg City Library

14.30

Coffee break

15.00

Accessible University Libraries in Västra Götaland

Convenor: *Kerstin Wockatz*

Göran Bergh, Gothenburg University Library

Katarina Eggertz-Hede, Chalmers Technical University Library

16.00

An Accessibility Project at Torshov Branch Library, Oslo, Norway

Hege Finset Eidseter, Project Manager, Torshov Branch Library

16.30

End of programme

19.00

Reception at the Governal Residence hosted by *Göte Bernhardsson*, the Governor of Västra Götaland

Thursday, August 11th

09.00

Session 3. IFLA Guidelines

Convenor:

Beatrice Christensen Sköld

Integrated Digital Library Systems guidelines by IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section

Margaret McGrory, Executive Director, CNIB Library for the Blind

Accessibility Check List by IFLA Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Section

Gyda Skat Nielsen and Birgitta Irvall

09.45

Session 4. DAISY

Convenor: *Elsebeth Tank*

DAISY Development- an overview

Markus Gylling, Project Manager, DAISY Consortium

10.15

Coffee break

10.45

DAISY for All

Dipendra Manecha, Project Manager, National Association for the Blind, India

11.15

Discussion

11.30

Lunch

13.00

Session 5. Copyright

Convenor: *Beatrice Christensen Sköld*

Copyright and Licensing

Johan Roos, Director, South African Library for the Blind

David Mann, Royal National Institute for the Blind, UK

Discussion

14.00

Session 6. Accessible OPACS and Net Services

Convenor: *Helen Brazier*

Anderslezen.nl, Marian Oosting, FNB, Netherlands

Celianet, Minna von Zansen, Celia Library for the Visually Impaired, Finland

14.45

Coffee break

15.15

Session 7. Concluding speech

The Future Role of the Library for the Blind

Ingar Beckman Hirschfeldt, Executive Director, Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille (TPB)

16.30

End of programme

19.00

Reception at The City Hall hosted by The City of Gothenburg

Friday, August 12th

Visits to different Open Media Libraries and University libraries in Gothenburg and the Region: Choose two libraries you wish to visit.

9.00-11.00 AM

Gothenburg Public Library, The Economics Library (Gothenburg Univer-

sity Library) or Chalmers Technical University Library

12.00-16.00 PM

(including lunch). Public Library of Tjörn; (12-17), Kungälv Public Library, Chalmers Technical University Library or The Economics Library (Gothenburg University Library)

LBS Programme at WLIC, Oslo

The Section's contribution to WLIC this year will be a 2 hour programme on the theme "Achieving inclusion through partnership". There will be short presentations of case studies from a variety of countries including Vietnam, Korea, Sweden, South Africa, Canada, and UK, plus a keynote speech from IFLA President Elect, Alex Byrne, and, most importantly, time for discussion facilitated by Dick Tucker. The date has not been announced yet, but, as in previous years, we hope to attract a good turn out and a wide audience of delegates from different types of libraries to enjoy a lively debate.

New Secretary General: Professor Peter Lor

IFLA is delighted to announce the appointment of its new Secretary General, Professor Peter Johan Lor, who assumed the position on 15 February 2005.

Before this appointment Professor Lor held the post of Professor Extraordinary at the Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Professor Lor brings this wealth of administrative, academic and association experience to the post of Secretary General. He believes passionately that good libraries are essential for the quality of life of individuals and communities. When accepting the appointment, Peter stated that he is "thrilled to serve IFLA as Secretary General because IFLA has a unique role to empower library and information professionals. Individually and through our organisations we enable participation by all in the knowledge society and we make an essential contribution to building an informed, tolerant, just and cooperative world community."

Welcoming the appointment, IFLA President Kay Raseroka said from Gaborone, Botswana that she is delighted that IFLA has secured a professional colleague of such high calibre to fill the important post of Secretary General:

"IFLA's participation in the World Summit on the Information Society has demonstrated the major contribution that libraries and information services make to society. Through its services to members and its strong professional programs, coupled with engagement in public policy arenas, IFLA works to create a more informed, just and safer world; to preserve heritage; to support education and research; and to promote democratic participation and tolerance. As Secretary Gene-

ral, Peter Lor will help us influence international agendas for the good of humanity."

Microsoft and DAISY Conference; Moving towards a digital future

As announced in IFLA/LBS Newsletter number 2/2004 the Microsoft Accessible Technology Group (ATG) hosted a three-day international forum in November 2004 in Seattle, USA. The Forum attracted library representatives from around the world and featured an address by Bill Gates, Chairman of Microsoft. Representatives from libraries around the world gathered at Microsoft to share best practices for improving services to people who are blind or print disabled. The event was co-sponsored by DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System).

Mr Bill Gates in his opening address shared his vision of empowerment for individuals with print disabilities. He reaffirmed his commitment to help libraries develop new technology to assist in the transformation from analog audio production to digital audio production. Mr Gates also showed commitment to improving dissemination and distribution of audio to people who are print disabled.

According to Madelyn Bryant McIntire, Director of the Accessible Technology Group at Microsoft, the purpose of the gathering was to "provide a forum where libraries could develop a common vision of a future where there are no barriers,

and start planning for a digital technology infrastructure that would allow them to move from analog to digital formats".

Long Horn is the next release by Microsoft scheduled for 2006. Microsoft are interested in including features within Long Horn that would benefit the print disabled community internationally. The forum discussed a variety of features and released a list of short-term priorities that would be specific to Long Horn and would benefit accessibility for the print disabled:

1- A DAISY reading application integrated into the Windows Media Foundation or Microsoft Reader, supporting the DAISY standard, ANSI/NISO Z39.86, with and without Digital Rights Management. This reading application will be backward compatible to the currently implemented DAISY standard to support playback of DAISY 2.02 content.

2- Support for "save as DAISY xml" in authoring and conversion applications with the option to generate the entire conformant file set.

Libraries around the World Unite

During the three day conference, the library representatives agreed to work together on various issues that will improve services globally for libraries that produce and disseminate books for the print disabled. Some of the principles that were discussed included:

- Sharing content (including lending and borrowing) information and infrastructure with developed bila-

teral and multilateral partnerships, ensuring that duplication of effort is avoided in order to reduce provision costs globally. Work together to develop global library repositories of multi-language DAISY standard content with standardized cataloguing systems

- Bridge the digital divide with partnerships, communication and cooperation
- Investigate and utilize contract law as well as copyright law, looking at license rights with or without royalties, and licensing with digital rights clearance
- Promote literacy with the DAISY current and future standard
- Make the DAISY standard mainstream
- Look to mainstream technology for players and reading systems
- Digital Rights Management (DRM) should not become a barrier to access
- Deal with copyright issues to protect intellectual property and the rights of copyright holders and protect relationships with publishers
- Develop an effective and sustainable business model that defines participation in the global library
- Value and make use of the content commercial producers can provide
- Build on partnership with publishers, authors and agents

A variety of working groups emerged from these discussions and the groups have promised to follow through with the above principles.

Three more winners of a Frederick Thorpe Award

Following the success of the inaugural Frederick Thorpe Awards in 2003 the Ulverscroft Foundation and the IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section agreed to offer a second series of individual awards in 2004. The Trustees of the Ulverscroft Foundation made £5,000 available to encourage the development of best practice in library services for the blind by assisting an individual to spend time in a similar organisation in another country.

The winners are:

- *Wendy Patricia Ling* of the South African Library for the Blind who will visit the National Library for the Blind, UK, to study their fundraising activities in order to improve their work in South Africa
- *Ademike Olorundore*, Librarian at the Anglo-Nigerian Welfare Association for the Blind who wishes to study Braille production at the National Library for the Blind, UK, in order to modernise and make the procedures at ANWAB more efficient
- *Sarah Home*, Operations and Development Manager at the National Library for the Blind, UK, who will visit the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to study their digital procedures and to exchange information on the development of DAISY [Digital Accessible Information SYstem] books.

The visits have to be undertaken between November 2004 and October 2005.

Allan Leach, Chair of the Ulverscroft Foundation and the judging panel said, "It was difficult last time and even more so this year as we received more excellent applications from across the world. I am pleased that my fellow trustees agreed to let us exceed our budget so that we could make three awards as they are all equally worthwhile."

The judging panel comprised Allan Leach, Chair of Ulverscroft Foundation; David Owen, Executive Director of Share The Vision and Trustee of Ulverscroft Foundation; Dick Tucker, of FORCE Foundation, Netherlands representing IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section.

Around the World:

Exchange of Braille and DAISY books between Korea and Japan

Chief Executive Officer of the Korean Braille Library (KBL), Keun Hae Youk grew up with KBL. Her father, Byung Il Youk who established KBL was blind and when Keun Hae was a student, she volunteered to produce Braille books.

As a member of the Government advisory committee, Keun Hae made an effort to improve the rules and standard of the Braille Library. She campaigned to improve services for visually impaired and print disabled in Public Libraries.

Keun Hae was a board member of the DAISY consortium in 2001 and a member of IFLA LBS in 2003.

Globalization driven by information technology helped Keun Hae gain a wider perspective. As a result, KBL has agreed to exchange Braille and DAISY books with Japan. Although the relationship between KBL and the Osaka Lighthouse dates back to 1970, an official ceremony was held to mark the occasion last year.

Riding on the success of the data exchange between the two countries, Keun Hae would like to develop an education program on teaching Korean Braille to Japanese students. She would like to spread this kind of exchange to a wider international library.

US Libraries for the Blind launch Digital Audio Book Service

State libraries for the blind in Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Oregon, along with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), part of the Library of Congress, have partnered to launch an innovative digital audiobook service for visually impaired users.

Unabridged www.unabridged.info enables blind patrons to check out and download digital spoken word audio books directly to their computers. The digital audio books can then be played back on a PC, transferred to a portable MP3 playback device, or burned onto CDs.

Member Libraries include:
Colorado Talking Book Library;

Delaware Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; Illinois Network of Libraries Serving the Blind and Physically Handicapped; National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; New Hampshire State Library Talking Books Program Oregon; State Library Talking Book & Braille Services.

The first year of the program will serve as the pilot phase, with a limited number of users in each participating state. Early responses from librarians and patrons have been very positive. During the first month of the service use of the collection has been brisk, and reports of technical problems have been sparse. Lori Bell, Director of the Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center, noted, "I am very excited about this project. Our readers are eager to try digital audio books. Through Unabridged they can browse, select a book and download it directly to their computers."

Unabridged is powered by the new digital audio book system from OverDrive, www.overdrive.com. The content is delivered as encrypted Windows Media Audio (WMA) files applying Digital Rights Management service (DRM). Playback on a personal computer is accomplished using the new OverDrive Media Console (OMC) software. OMC builds on the existing features of Windows Media Player to offer key functionalities useful to digital audio books users, such as MediaMarkers, which allow non-linear navigation, bookmarks, and the ability to skip back 15 seconds in the digital audio book. OMC Also enables variable speed playback, an exciting new feature for

a mainstream digital audio book system designed for the general consumer market. The OMC offers enhanced accessibility and general usability for blind and visually impaired readers.

Tom Peters tpeters@tapinformation.com

Talking Book Anniversary in Sweden

The Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille, TPB, celebrates the 50 year anniversary of the talking book services in Sweden. Talking book services started in 1955 both in the special library for the blind and the public libraries when the first tape-recorders came on the market. Experiments with gramophone records had been made already in the 1930s but the Second World war interrupted further development.

The anniversary is celebrated with exhibitions in all major public libraries and the Museum of the Visually impaired in Stockholm as well as an international conference "From Open reel to Broad Band" 12-13 April.

Hamburg Library celebrates 100 year anniversary

On March 18 the Central library for the Blind in Hamburg, Germany, celebrated its' 100 year anniversary. The celebration was opened by the Senator of Cultural Affairs of Hamburg, Professor Karin von Welck followed by addresses from Mrs

Hella Schwemer-Martienssen, Director of the Public Libraries in Hamburg and Chair of the Library Board of the Central library for the Blind; and the Vice Chair Mrs Helga Neuman, from the Organisation of the Blind in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony).

Mr Ernst- Dietrich Lorenz, Mathematician and Computer security responsible at the Medical School of Hannover, gave a presentation about tactile scripture for the blind. Mr Lorenz is a member of the German Braille Authority. Professor Birgit Dankert, from the College of Applied Science, Department of Library and information Science talked about the reality of libraries for the blind and visually impaired.

The Ceremony ended with the announcement of Mr Willi Kuerpick as the winner of the literary contest "To conquer the world point by point". Mr Kuerpick's winning contribution was an essay entitled Letter to a dead Genius. This Genius is of course Louis Braille.

Talking Book Club Honours More than 1,600 Centenarians

More than 1,600 centenarians who are users of the talking books will be honoured during 2005 by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress through membership of the 10₂ Talking Book club. "The 10₂ Talking Book Club was conceived to recognize the accomplishments of the national reading

program's centenarians. Through induction ceremonies in all states next year, The Library of Congress will honour these 1,600 individuals. The events will highlight the reading services provided by each state and also increase the awareness of other eligible to join their free local or state reading program" said Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of NLS.

Media Association for Blind and Vision Impaired People

A new association was formed to meet the future requirements of the digital age. Members of this association include producers of Braille books, Braille libraries, talking book libraries and associations for the blind of the German speaking areas in Europe.

The new copyright law in Germany contains an exception for the production of reading material for print disabled persons by non-profit organisations. For this exception, the producers of alternate formats have to pay a fee of 12 Euro per title to the Publishers Association.

The main goals of the Media Association include; building catalogues of all accessible material, supporting Braille and working together to convert and produce DAISY books. Chair of the Association is Ms. Elke Dittmer, Director of the North German Library of Talking Books. dittmer@blindenbuecherei.de