



# Newsletter

IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section

1983 – 2008: 25th Anniversary of the Libraries for the Blind Section  
25 years working to improve library services for people who are blind or  
print disabled

2008/2

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The IFLA/LBS Newsletter is issued  
twice a year.

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## Welcome from Chair



Bente Dahl Rathje

### **The right to read.**

Don't we all want having that - the right to read? That's an easy question to answer – but unpleasantly enough and due to several reasons not all of us have the possibility to read!

.. And that just happens to be way too bad...

The vision of the Section for Libraries for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBS) are that print disabled people should have access to the same books and information - at the same time - and at the same price as everyone else.

The mission of the LBS is to encourage the establishment and development of fully accessible library services to print disabled people.

The Section is concerned with the implementation of service goals, standardization of material, problems of copyright,

bibliographic control, technical standards, free transmission of postal and telecommunications or any means of distribution of material.

Our main concerns are;

- promoting literacy, reading and lifelong learning
- providing unrestricted access to information
- balancing the intellectual property rights of authors with the needs of users (regarding Denmark – the Danish National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled has obtained an agreement of access to the files of the Danish book files with the Associations of Publishers and the Association of Writers)
- promoting resource sharing
- promoting standards, guidelines and best practice, and also at the same time representing libraries in the technological marketplace
- supporting the role of libraries in society - and developing library professionals.

None of this can be done without making partnerships, sharing knowledge, and without understanding the situation for your fellow human being. In order to be able to live an equal life you must have the right to read and write.

I would especially like to highlight two of the most important and relevant goals of our work:

- Work together with partner organizations to establish a global library for people with print disabilities – this also includes publishers and authors.
- Market and act as advocate for library services for print disabled people.

And we welcome you to join us in this!

Bente Dahl Rathje, The Danish National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

## **1983 – 2008: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Libraries for the Blind Section**

**25 years working to improve library services for people who are blind or print disabled.**

**Dates leading up to the establishment of the Libraries for the Blind as a full IFLA Section:**

1931 “Memorandum on the Need for an International Sub-Committee on Hospital Library Services” in Cheltenham IFLA conference. Proposal on a Sub-Committee on Hospital Libraries was approved.

1932 Sub-Committees first meeting in Berne. It was the largest of IFLA’s sub-committees.

1952 The Sub-Committee on Hospital Libraries was renamed the Committee On Hospital Libraries

1962 Committee resolved concerning recordings for the blind that enquiries be made of the various agencies producing such records and that investigations be made of the possibility of making available master recordings for the benefit of other countries

1963 Hospital Libraries Committee renamed: the Hospital Libraries Sub-section

1968 New constitution of the section outlines areas of responsibility, including library services to handicapped readers (the blind, partially sighted, and physically handicapped)

1974 In Washington congress, the chief of NLS LC asked the Sub-section for help in establishing “an international platform for libraries for the blind within IFLA”

1975 Following the LC’s proposal regarding libraries for the blind, the Sub-section voted to determine if sufficient support was likely to be forthcoming. The section included a session on libraries for the blind at its meeting in Brussels, 1977.

1976 Re-drafting of the IFLA statutes caused the Sub-section to re-think its terms of reference,

specifically duplication of effort and whether certain disadvantaged groups should be covered by some of the other new Sections being established

1977 Sub-section renamed: Section of Library Services to Hospital Patients and Handicapped Readers

At the annual conference, the Section included a session on library services to the blind and subsequently recommended to the Professional Board that a library for the blind working group be set up.

1978 Libraries for the blind working group was formed in Strbske Pleso, Slovakia. The working group's chair became a member of the Section's Standing Committee.

1979 The working group was made a Round Table.

1981 The Libraries for the Blind Round Table sent an annual report to the section, noting that it planned to ask the Coordinating Board for section status

**1983** The Section's chair was pleased to note in Munich conference that the Round Table of the Libraries for the Blind became a full section in January 1983.

1984 Former section was renamed Section of Libraries

Serving Disadvantaged Persons. The new section's name was Section of the Libraries for the Blind. First chair was director of National Library Service Mr. Frank Kurt Cylke.

#### **Selection of LBS activities:**

1983 – 1992: Expert meetings held in Munich, Amsterdam, Washington, Tokyo, London, Sydney, Paris, Uppsala and Barcelona

1994: LBS session and workshop, IFLA, Havana, Cuba.

1996: LBS Session and Workshop, IFLA, Beijing, China.

1997: LBS Session, IFLA Copenhagen, Denmark.

1998: LBS Session, IFLA, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

1999: LBS IFLA Pre-conference, Penang, Malaysia

1999: LBS Session, IFLA, Bangkok, Thailand.

2000: LBS Session with Public Libraries Section, IFLA, Jerusalem, Israel.

2001: LBS IFLA Pre-conference, Washington, USA

2001: LBS Session with CLM, IFLA, Boston, USA

2002: LBS and FAIFE Workshop, IFLA, Glasgow

2003: LBS IFLA Pre-conference and Expert Meeting, Marburg, Germany

2003: LBS Session, IFLA, Berlin, Germany

2004: LBS Session, IFLA, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2005 : LBS Satellite Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden

2005 : LBS Session with Public Libraries Section, IFLA, Oslo, Norway

2006: LBS Session, IFLA Seoul, Korea

2007: LBS Satellite meeting, Grahamstown, South Africa

2007: LBS Session with Libraries for Children, IFLA Durban, South Africa

2008: LBS Session, IFLA Quebec, Canada

2009: **LBS P3 Conference : People, Public Libraries, Publishers**, August 17<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup>.

2009: Proposed LBS Session at IFLA, Milan, Italy: **Using Technology to Give the Past a Future: The Journey from Braille to XML**

## Global Library

The 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2008 was the beginning of great things. On that day, the DAISY Consortium and the Libraries for the Blind Section of IFLA jointly agreed to explore and develop a Global Library for the Blind. The members of these two structures represent Libraries and Organisations for the Blind from all over the world, e.g. the Nordic Countries, Europe, U.S.A.; Canada and South Africa.

It is estimated that there are 161 million blind and partially sighted people in the world. This figure is growing daily and not even considering print disabled people. It is an acknowledged fact that this group of people have access to less than 5% of the published material in the world.

With the advent of the information and electronic age, limitless possibilities are created to acquire material in digital format from a multitude of sources. Based on the above reading needs of blind and the print disabled people as well as the opportunities that are available, the concept of a global library for the blind became an option for consideration. Libraries for the Blind around the world recognized that it is not only possible, but imperative to seriously consider sharing and coordinating collection building resources and to use digital

technology to share content. The basis of the global library will remain with the concept that it will be a library with a collection of organized content reflecting works of imagination and information necessary to facilitate life long learning, career development and an informed citizenry.

A steering committee has been established to get this great initiative off the ground. Members of the Committee are from Australia, Canada, Denmark, U.K., U.S.A., Netherlands, Korea, Australia and South Africa. Vision Australia will be funding the initial phases of the project. Since February a draft project plan has been made available to all committee members. The plan was discussed during August when the Committee met for the first time in Canada during the annual IFLA conference.

A number of strategies will be developed to assist in making the vision of a Global Library a reality where people with print disabilities worldwide will be able to locate and access accessible library materials, any time, any where. Some of the strategies that will be considered are

- to enable libraries for print-disabled people to share resources,
- to develop partnerships with publishers nationally and

- internationally through global publishing arrangements
- to leverage international co-operation to deliver services to clients in a range of community languages
- to ensure full compliance with copyright legislation, etc.

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase report will be submitted to the Project Executive (Daisy consortium and IFLA LBS) during August 2009. The report will address issues relating to the concept of the Global Library for the Blind such as the development phases and timeframes, end-user discovery and access requirements; goals for shared collection development and exchange as well as cost, infrastructure requirements, policies and impediments associated with the establishment of the Global Library.

This is a very ambitious project considering all the countries and variables involved to put together the project. The success of the project is certain because of the tremendous support and willingness to cooperate by all participating organisations. Providing global access to reading material as planned will make a big difference to the age old frustration of blind and print-disabled library members not having access to sufficient material. On our own we are all

trying our best, but it is through joint efforts like these that we will be able to render a service we all will be proud of and our users will benefit from.

F.Hendrikz, South African Library for the Blind

## **Strategic Plan 2008-2010**

The revised Strategic Plan provides details about the Vision, Mission, and Goals of the LBS between 2008 and 2010:

### **Vision:**

Print disabled people have the right to have equal access to books, knowledge and information without delay or additional expense as everyone else.

### **Mission:**

Encouraged by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the mission of the Libraries for the Blind Section is to support the establishment and development of library services that are fully accessible to print disabled people.

The Section identifies closely with IFLA's priorities. Our main concerns are with IFLA priorities (c) promoting literacy, reading and lifelong learning; (d) providing unrestricted access to information; (e) balancing the intellectual property rights of authors with the needs of users; (f) promoting resource sharing; (i) promoting standards, guidelines and best practice, and (k) representing

libraries in the technological marketplace.

We also support IFLA priorities (a) supporting the role of libraries in society and (h) developing library professionals.

Our strategic plan has for some years recognized the importance of advocacy, and we are pleased to see that it features as the presidential theme 2007-9.

### **Goals**

The overarching Goals of the Strategic Plan are to:

1. To establish a global library for people with print disabilities by working together with partner organizations
2. To co-operate with the United Nations family of organizations to influence international policy on access to knowledge and information
3. To establish and support guidelines and best practice for accessible library and information services
4. Market and advocate for library services for print disabled people
5. To encourage training and continuing development of library staff serving print-disabled people
6. To support IFLA to become a model of accessibility to libraries around the world

7. To make the Section an effective and efficient organization.

Bente Dahl Rathje, The Danish National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

### **Satellite meeting in Mechelen, Belgium 2009: P3 Conference: People, Public Libraries, Publishers**

Our Libraries for the Blind Section organises its bicentennial preconference in 2009 from Monday August 17<sup>th</sup> to Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be a co-operation between different specialised libraries and organisations from Flanders (Belgium) and the Netherlands.

The P3-Conference is a three-day satellite conference to IFLA WLIC 2009 in Milan (Italy). This conference will highlight the importance of delivering better library services for print disabled people through partnerships and cooperation with Publishers and Public Libraries.



Provisional Programme:

The meeting starts on Monday evening with a get together moment and the opening of an

international exhibition of different companies and organisations.

On the first full day the focus lays on the 'Publishers': possibilities and obstacles for cooperation within the Global Library Project ; working with publishers to create accessible content: linking catalogues and adaptive content processing.

On the second full day the focus lays on the 'Public Libraries' : special and public libraries join together to create new ways of reading, to reach more people and to sustain lifelong learning ; public libraries will showcase the best practices for supporting print disabled people.

On the third and last full day the focus lays on 'People' : People's view on best adapted user services, tour and visit of the Adapted Reading Point in the Maastricht Public Library and optional tour to the Dedicon CD-distribution centre in Grave (NL).

In Collaboration with:

- Luisterpunt (Flemish Library for Audio Books and Braille), Flanders (Belgium)
- Dedicon (Developer of accessible Information), Netherlands
- Loket Aangepast Lezen, Netherlands (library for print disabled)
- Netherlands Public Library Association, Netherlands

With the support of:

- Flemish Ministry of Culture, Belgium
- Dutch Ministry of Culture, Netherlands
- Centre Céramique (Public Library Maastricht), Netherlands
- IFLA Public Libraries Section
- IFLA Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section

Venues:

- 17-19 August: LAMOT, Conference Center Mechelen, Belgium (Flanders)  
[www.lamot-mechelen.be](http://www.lamot-mechelen.be)
- 20 August: Centre Ceramique, Maastricht Public Library, Netherlands  
[www.centreceramique.nl](http://www.centreceramique.nl)

Mechelen is a small medieval town, located between Antwerp and Brussels. The city of Mechelen is easy to reach by car, train or air plane.

Registration will be possible from February 1st 2009.

Registration fee is €250, travelling and hotel accommodation not included

Reduced price for accompanying persons: €150.

Free entrance for people accompanying blind persons.

For more information you can email:

[P3conference@dedicon.nl](mailto:P3conference@dedicon.nl)

[Koen.krikhaar@dedicon.nl](mailto:Koen.krikhaar@dedicon.nl)

[Geert.Ruebens@luisterpuntbibliotheek.be](mailto:Geert.Ruebens@luisterpuntbibliotheek.be)

Geert Ruebens, Director, Flemish Library for Audio books and Braille, Belgium.

## **Report from Quebec: LBS shows the world's libraries how to "design for all"**

This year, the theme of the Libraries for the Blind Section (LBS) programme at the World Library and Information Congress was "design for all". The session comprised four presentations giving practical advice about accessible websites, buildings, presentations and print materials. It was great to see that the programme was extremely well attended by delegates from all kinds of libraries and generated very positive feedback.

The presentation on presentations(!) was based on guidelines commissioned by LBS from the Low Vision Committee of the World Blind Union that have now been adopted by IFLA.



Big thanks to our four expert speakers: (from left) Lesley McDonald, CNIB, Canada; Penny Hartin, World Blind Union; convenor Fran Cutler, Canada; Jon Hardisty, RNIB, UK and Jenny Craven, CERLIM, UK. Their presentations can be found on IFLA's website ([www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)).

Helen Brazier, RNIB NLS

## The Dayton Award



Left to Right: Mr. Andre Vincent, CNIB Library Board member, Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, President, DAISY Consortium and Mr. Kevin Burns, Chair, CNIB Library Board.

Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, President of the DAISY Consortium, is the newest recipient of the CNIB's

prestigious Dr. Dayton M. Forman Memorial Award. The presentation took place in August at a CNIB reception held during the International Federation of Library Association's (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress in Quebec City. Mr. Kawamura was recognized for outstanding leadership in the advancement of library and information access for persons with print disabilities throughout the world.

Over 80 IFLA delegates attended the award ceremony, including international guests from RNIB (UK), NLS (USA), ONCE (Spain), TPB (Sweden), SALB (South Africa), Dedicon (Netherlands), DBB (Denmark), Braillebibliotheek (Belgium), CELIA Library (Finland), and the Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (Japan).

## SC Meeting in Quebec Our first meeting on Saturday 9th August, 2008

Meetings and highlights of the coming IFLA Conference were considered. Members agreed to attend some off-site extra meetings, such as the Global Library Establishment Project meeting, the meeting with IELA, the Dr. Dayton Award ceremony; the meeting with HumanWare; and the OCLC lunch, to discuss the Global Library.

We met with the Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section to discuss possible ways of coordinating the work of our two sections after relocation into two different divisions. This was a very fruitful meeting. One output was to have a joint meeting in Melbourne before the WLIC in Brisbane.

Bente reported from the first Coordinating Board meeting in Quebec: The statutes of IFLA have changed and were accepted by postal ballot.

Next Mid-year meeting will be held in Paris on January 9th to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The LBS satellite meeting is called the P3 conference: **People, Public Libraries and Publishers** to be held August 18th to 20th 2009 in Mechelen, Belgium. The section of the Public Libraries and Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section are supporting this satellite meeting.

WLIC 2009 will be in Milan August 23rd to 27<sup>th</sup>. The theme is: "Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage". Ideas for LBS session were: Global Library Project; Braille past, present, and future (Louis Braille year!); creating Braille for indigenous people with oral tradition.

Project reports were discussed: International research on funding

and governance of libraries for the blind; Cataloguing standards for DAISY books. A report was given by Winston Tabb, chair of IFLA committee on copyright and other legal matters relating to the IFLA WBU copyright process with WIPO.

### **Second meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (off-site)**

The meeting included many observers. Thank you to those who attended for the overwhelming and very important interest in the work of our Section!

Reflecting on the first meeting, members generally felt that it took up too much time. Suggestions to improve this included:

- Get-together/welcome dinner on the Friday before SC1
- Mid-conference meeting to allow for more discussion
- Begin with important agenda points and save the minutes and checking of action points for the end of SC 1
- Don't go through the highlights list (but keep on making them as they are very useful)
- Observers will be invited to sit together at one end of the table to allow closer connection between the members during the meeting
- A round table session at the midyear conference to share information and activities.

A discussion on 2009 as a year of Elections. All SC members were urged to take note of the nominations deadline. HQ does not accept late entries.

A new name proposal was discussed and agreed. Chair will send the proposal to the professional board.

### **The third SC meeting on Friday 15th**

Started with reflections on our section session and poster at WLIC Quebec.

Our session: The presentations were excellent and very well integrated. There were 120 people attending, because the subject was attractive for a wider audience. We could have been more prominent in promoting the work of our section.

Our poster: The poster sessions area was rather tight. The first day was quite busy. A lot of positive feedback - people said that they would bring this information back to their organisations.

Division III session: Hiroshi Kawamura contributed with a short presentation on how Daisy can be used to reach person with disabilities, including multicultural challenges. We found the session a little confusing as most speakers were really rushed (10 min. only) The keynote speaker on the

program for indigenous people at the Regina Library was interesting and very special.

Reports from other section's meetings were then given. It was agreed that this a very useful exercise and should be looked on as a tradition for future WLIC.

Our joint project with DAISY consortium 'The Global Library' was an important subject on the agenda, as was the launch and progress of Right to Read Campaign.

Finally on the agenda was the following items; Section communications; Progress on Marketing plan; Strategic plan 2008-2010.

If, after reading this report, you should be interested in being an Observer at our meeting in WLIC Milan, you shall be most welcome. We would also be very happy to welcome you as a new member of our section!

On behalf of the section  
Best regards  
Bente Dahl Rathje  
Chair

### **Website Project**

The new IFLA website is progressing towards the proposed launch in January 2009. The new webmaster has now taken over as the

project lead. He is also IFLA's general Web Manager and will be in charge of the new website after its launch. Progress is as follows:

- The website has been designed to be standards compliant, accessible and quick loading.
- It aims to allow better promotion of IFLA events and activities and will provide tools to work online, such as file sharing, blogs, wikis, discussion boards, calendars and news (via an RSS feed).
- Resources will be provided in multiple languages (a translate button is offered in the official IFLA languages). It also plans to provide links to people who are willing to translate documents such as Section Newsletters.
- Two surveys have been conducted to discover what people want from the website. A working group of Information Co-ordinators was set up to provide feedback at each stage of development.
- User testing and testing with assistive technologies is planned, the LBS expressed an interest in being involved in this as we have some members who use assistive technologies and/or are visually impaired.
- 'IFLA Communities' will be set up and will include groups/sections/core activities and will provide the ability to set up a forum, blog, wiki, or combination of these, either for section officers, or for members, or for the public.
- New policy and guidelines will be developed concerning the website and its use, together

with "How-to" manuals/documents.

- In January 2009, Working Group Information Co-ordinators will be asked to help with setting up the site before the launch.
- The final launch of the new IFLA website is planned for March 2009.

Jenny Craven, LBS Information Co-ordinator, IFLA Website Working Group member.

## News

IFLA Management and Marketing Section in collaboration with Emerald Group Publishing Ltd. invites proposals for IFLA International Marketing Award-2009, in recognition of the best marketing project in any kind of library throughout the world. The Award winner will receive airfare, lodging and registration for the 2009 IFLA General Conference and Council in Milan, Italy, as well as a cash award of US\$ 1,000 which must be used to further the marketing efforts of the recognized organization.

Complete application material and form can be downloaded from <http://www.ifla.org/III/grants/marketing-award.htm>

Any library worldwide that markets library products or services is eligible to receive the award. Application must be written in one of the seven IFLA languages. The

version may be print or electronic. Application must be submitted before January 31, 2009 (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. +41-22-3798048

E-mail: Daisy.McAdam@unige.ch

**World Blind Union (WBU)  
Copyright and Right To Read  
(R2R) Working Group survey**

WBU are trying to assemble some evidence of accessible format materials in support of their campaign at WIPO.

WBU would like to know about the use of licences, exceptions and public domain for an Institution's whole collection, and also the same breakdown for their 2008 production. Also, if possible, an estimated total of their country's national published works for 2008 so that WBU can identify the percentage of accessible works against the total in print production.

WBU are hoping to collate this information in order to provide the Working Group with an interim report to back-up their participation in the IFRRO

Stakeholder Platform meeting being held under WIPO auspices on Jan 19th, and to then allow a deeper analysis for the next SCCR meeting in end May.

Your help would be much appreciated. Please send your response to Chris Friend at Sightsavers (CFriend@sightsavers.org).

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**Joint Information Co-ordinator: Minna von Zansen**, Service Manager, Celia Library for the Visually Impaired.

**Marja-Leena Ahola-vom Dorp**, Librarian, Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille.

**Galina Sergeevna Elfimova**, Head Librarian, Russian State Library for the Blind.

**Sanja Frajtag**, Director, Croatian Library for the Blind.

**Francois Hendrikz**, Director, South African Library for the Blind.

**Hiroshi Kawamura**, Technical Advisor, Information and Culture Center for the Blind.

**Kari Kummeneje**, Head of Lending Department, Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille.

**Margaret McGrory**, Vice President + CIO and Executive Director of CNIB Library.

**Luc Maumet**, Librarian, Association Valentin Haüy.

**Misako Nomura**, Deputy Director, Information Center, Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.

**Steve Prine, Jr.** Assistant Chief, Network Division, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress.

**Julie Rae**, National Manager, Vision Australia Information Library Service.

**Geert Ruebens**, Director, Flemish Library for Audio books and Braille, Belgium.

**Eugenia Viktorovna Shepovalova**, Director, St. Petersburg State Library for the Blind.

#### **Special advisers:**

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**Courtney Deines-Jones**, Principal and Founder, The Grimalkin Group.

**Christopher Friend**, Chairman, Sight Savers International.

**Beatrice Christensen Sköld**, Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille.

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