



Reading Section

Annual Report 2003-2004

This report for 2003-04 is based on the Reading Section's Strategic Plan, 2003-2005. It will highlight the Section's accomplishments and identify those areas where work still needs to be done. It is hoped that the report will also lead to the preparation of a more rigorous evaluation of the Section's work that all sections have been asked to complete by 2007. The Strategic Plan may be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/annual/sp33-04.htm>

Statistics for 2003-04

Number of members in the Section: 79 as of Sept. 03 (HQ figures)

Budget of the Section for 2004: \$971.61 CAN (deposited Apr. 1, 04)

No. of Standing Committee Members: 15

No. of Corresponding/Associate Members: 4

Strategic Goals for 2003-2004

Goal 1

Help libraries worldwide develop projects and programmes that encourage and support literacy, reading and lifelong learning.

Actions

1. 1 Translate, demonstrate, distribute and promote the use of Library-Based Literacy Programs: Some Practical Suggestions ...

Results: Translation and distribution in of the Guidelines in pdf. on the Reading Section website
French (Martine Jan, France)
Spanish (Elsa Ramirez, Mexico)
Portuguese (Elizabet Maria Ramos de Carvalho, Brazil)

German (Elke Dreisbach, Germany)

The guidelines have also been translated into Malay and Russian

Brochures of the Guidelines

English

Spanish, published in cooperation with the International Reading Association (IRA)

French

Promotion of the Brochures

The Center for the Book, LC, the International Reading Association (IRA) and individual members have distributed the brochures. They have also been available at the conferences.

A workshop based on the Guidelines was conducted by Gwynneth Evans at the Pan-African Reading for All conference held in Kampala, Uganda in August 2003; proceedings of this conference are to be published in 2005, before the next conference in Swaziland.

Briony Train spoke on the work of the Section at the Division VII Open Session in Buenos Aires

1.2 Develop a plan for the Governing Board to assist IFLA and its members to mark the UNESCO Decade of Literacy and to ensure the recognition of libraries' roles in literacy, reading and lifelong learning

Results:

IFLA's governing Board has set up a Presidential Committee Section on the International Agenda on Lifelong Literacy. Its remit is to identify:

- priorities and propose strategic actions in the international agenda on literacy, information literacy and ICT library
- the role of IFLA in fostering the overarching concept of lifelong literacies as one of the main contributions of libraries in society.

The Chair of the Reading Section is on the Committee

The UN Decade on Literacy has been cited in every issue of the Newsletter

A meeting to explore the possibilities of joint research with the International Reading Association was held in Buenos Aires. Forty persons took part. As a result of this discussion, work has continued throughout the fall of 2004.

1.3 Continue to develop, share and possibly expand the "book centers' reading promotion project launched in 2001...

Results:

Maria Vadenyapina reported that Reading Centres were opening up in many parts of Russia, supported by the Open society Institute. Five new centres opened in 2004 and more are expected in 2005 and 2006. Children's books for reading outside the classroom are being published, as a cooperative venture with public and school libraries, the British Council and local newspapers.

A group of American librarians, led by John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the book, Library of Congress visited the Centre for the Book in South Africa, May 2004. There will be a visit of a staff member of the South African Centre to the USA in 2005. th

1.4 Serve as a clearinghouse of information about literacy and reading promotion projects/programmes worldwide

Results:

The website has been enriched throughout the year.
Information on the Reading Section has been shared with IRA, IBBY, UNESCO and other organizations
Individual groups working in the field have been introduced to the Reading Section and to IFLA by members

Goal 2

Through meetings, discussion, research, publications and widespread dissemination of IFLANET, encourage a better understanding of reading, literacy and the book culture in specific cultural milieus.

Actions

2.1 Identify and encourage the sharing of best practices related to international celebrations on literacy, books and reading

Results:

A draft calendar of celebrations was presented in Buenos Aires. Individuals with knowledge of celebrations in their region or country were asked to contact Section members Maureen White or Briony Train

Several meetings have been between IRA, IFLA Reading Section and LC Center of the Book The Chair has been in contact with UNESCO, British Council, La Francophonie, IBBY , La Joie par des livres etc

Over the autumn discussion on a joint research proposal have continued with IRA staff. The chair completed a literature search on the hallmarks of a literate environment to support the learning and practice of literacy early in the new year.

2.2 Plan an event in Buenos Aires

Results:

Libraries, language and literacy: linking continents through reading promotion programmes (SI) was held on August 27, 2005 with an audience of about 200. There were 3 papers, followed by comments from two specialists and questions and answers. The papers are on the website in several languages.

2.3 Take part in Division VII's Programme

Results:

Briony Train spoke on behalf of the Section August 23 in Session entitled: *Breaking barriers to literacy: contributions from the Education and Research Division.*

2.4 Plan a pre-conference in Norway in 2005

Results;

The School Libraries and Resource Centres and the Reading Sections will host a one-day invitational meeting on literacy in Oslo in August 12, 2005, before the opening of the conference. More information is available at: <http://www.iasl-slo.org/ifla2005.html>

2.5 Publish a reading promotion “handbook” in cooperation with the Center for the Book and the Open Society Institute

No update available

Goal 3

Monitor, promote and disseminate research and research results about reading, readers, reading promotion, literacy and library services to readers.

Actions

3.1 Encourage the extension of the Section’s 2001-02 reader-centered services in public libraries to other areas not covered in the first survey.

Comment: This research has not been picked up by other regions but the Section is exploring a joint research proposal with the IRA (see above)

3.2 Continue and strengthen research reports in the Newsletter.

Results: Information is being added to the website and is reported in the Newsletter.

3.3 Encourage the presentation (and translation) of papers on IFLANET and the publication of papers as widely as possible

Results:

Papers from recent conferences are on the website in a number of languages.

The Section has decided to publish a series of “best practises” based on the questions raised in the Guidelines

Goal 4

Increase membership in the Standing Committee and Section

Actions

4.1 Revise the membership brochure

The Chair contributed a section on the Reading Section for the divisional membership brochure.

In progress

4.2 Increase visibility within and outside IFLA

There have been a number of initiatives to increase membership, including the special meeting in Buenos Aires.

This is the responsibility of all members

4.3 Publicize the Section’s activities and encourage institutions to join.

In progress – membership numbers are rising
Responsibility of all members

There are a couple of activities that were not identified in the Strategic Plan. They relate to my review of a UNESCO draft handbook on book donation programmes, to raising awareness among governments, libraries and NGOs of IFLA's interest in these fields and to the development of partnerships for the longer term. We have made progress in raising these areas with national, multilateral and international NGOs (and governments) working in the areas of literacy and reading.

In cooperation with CODE, A Canadian NGO working in literacy, libraries and local publishing, the chair has edited this UNESCO manual in English. It will be published and distributed in the Spring of 2005

In closing, I wish to thank all those who have contributed to the accomplishment of the Section's Goals. I see the work as a collective effort. I thank particularly those who have translated documents and texts, those who have been on the committees to plan programmes and events, those who have reported during the year to the Newsletter or website, and those who have responded to the call of an officer.

To the officers, Briony, Alec and John, my special thanks for their companionship over the Internet and their considerable contributions to the Section's administration and the fulfillment its goals, programmes and projects.

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 **Reading Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/>