



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

SECTION on READING *Newsletter*

No. 23

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A MESSAGE FROM SECTION CHAIR GWYNNETH EVANS

Dear Colleagues

As we enter this New Year, I send greetings and best wishes to each and every one of you. Our common interests in literacy, reading and lifelong learning bind us in all the richness and diversity of our cultures and environments. Our ties focus on a vision of an Information Society that ‘promotes an inclusive society in which everyone will be able to find, create, access, use and share information and knowledge.’



To enable access to information by all peoples, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions is committed to the fundamental human rights to know, learn and communicate without restriction. It opposes censorship and supports balance and fairness in intellectual property regulation. IFLA is also vitally concerned to promote multilingual content, cultural diversity and the special needs of indigenous peoples, minorities and those with disabilities.’ (Preamble to the IFLA Strategic Plan).

IFLA’s Governing Board approved an IFLA Strategic Plan for 2006-2009 in December 2006. This plan may be found at: <<http://www.ifla.org/V/cdoc/IFLA-StrategicPlan.htm>>. The plan allows much scope for all members of IFLA to make a contribution to its fulfillment.

Planning for South Africa 2007

The planning for a satellite meeting in Pretoria and a session in Durban has been going on for months. Those attending our meetings in Seoul made it clear that they wished the Durban session jointly hosted by the Reading and the School Libraries and Public Libraries sections to be positive in approach. Hence the topic is ‘Libraries in Good Health: Resources and Practices Designed to Support Community Development and Outreach in Health-related Issues.’ This is a very important topic, because it points to the relevance of collections and services to community groups and individuals in all stages of their lives. And it complements and illustrates the wonderful general theme of the next Congress: "Libraries for the Future: Progress, Development and Partnerships." If any of you who have a proposal to make on this subject, I would like to receive it before 20 January 2007.

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Chair's Message continued:

The satellite conference will take place in Pretoria. Its theme is: "Multicultural Library Innovative Services For All" with special reference to literacy, learning and linguistic diversity. There is a great deal of scope for members of the Reading Section and others. Please check the instructions and the deadline for submission of proposals at: <<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/satellite-en.htm>>.

Our Division VII is planning a session entitled: "The Internet, libraries and the changing information behaviour: perspectives from research and education." If you know people who have done research in this area, please let them know of the opportunity to present at this session

Part of the planning for South Africa is focused on the participation of our partners: the members of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and the International Reading Association (IRA). Those two associations bring authors, illustrators, publishers, teachers and literacy agencies to the table and allow us to share our common goals and concerns. We encourage you to come to know and work with members of these organizations at the local and national levels.

Research with IRA and IFLA

In January, I shall be sending some of you questionnaires that a team from the IRA and IFLA has developed to identify the success factors of a literate society. We very much hope to have the responses and views of people in every part of the world. I am counting on you for your input.

UNESCO and IFLA

UNESCO and IFLA are working together on a number of strategic issues: library statistics; post WSIS issues and action lines; Information for All Programme (IFAP) including many sub-themes related to digital libraries and preservation; information literacy; intellectual property issues; and multicultural diversity. These specific issues relate to some of the priorities that face governments, cultural and educational institutions and libraries in an interconnected, globalized world where coordinated effort in policy and standards at the multinational, international and national levels is needed. They do not reflect an abandonment of the ongoing concerns for literacy and reading identified through the Decade of Literacy to 2012.

Nominations in 2007

All institutional and association members of the Reading Section are encouraged to consider nominating someone to the Reading Section Standing Committee. If you have vote but no candidate (because there is already a person from your country on the committee, for instance) please write to me at: gwynnethevens@sympatico.ca. The deadline for all nominations is 7 FEBRUARY 2007. Please check the letters that your association or institutional members have received. In the summer of 2007 at Durban, there will be the election of officers for the Reading Section Standing Committee.

Last but not Least – A New Bookmark!

This autumn, the Reading Section had a bookmark printed and laminated in English to use as promotion for the Section's activities and accomplishments. It is on the Web site at: <<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/pub/s33-bookmark.pdf>>. (See also page 3 of this newsletter).

We now need some translators to render the contents into the IFLA languages. By the way, the Strategic Plan is being translated into the IFLA languages by the end of January and Chinese and Arabic have been added to the list of IFLA languages.

We do want to know what you are doing and what progress is being made in your countries around literacy, reading and lifelong learning. Please let the officers know.

Gwynneth Evans -Chair, Reading Section and Division VII, Education and Research ■

The Section on Reading Bookmark

What is the Reading Section?

The Reading Section provides a focal point for the study and discussion of literacy, reading and readers. It aims to stimulate leadership, research, good practice, information and exchange on the role of libraries in these issues. Through discussion, conferences, publications, website links, partnerships, training and special projects, the Section examines these activities within the cultures of both print and electronic media and seeks to understand and support the basic rights and approaches of all citizens to access to information, knowledge and works of the imagination for personal and community learning, enjoyment and development.

What has the Reading Section achieved?

Find copies of the following on our website:
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/index.htm>:

- Celebrate Reading Worldwide: An Interactive Calendar of Children's Reading Promotions
- International Reading Survey: Presentation of Findings
- Guidelines for Library-Based Literacy Programs: Some Suggestions (Translated into several languages, including French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian)

What does the Reading Section do?

We publish:

- A Newsletter twice a year
- All the papers delivered at the Reading Section's Sessions at the World Library and Information Congress are combined in Conference Papers 1994-2006 (Several of the recent papers are translated into some of the IFLA languages)
- Minutes of meetings, plans and reports

We share information, knowledge and experience:

- We host sessions and conferences, often with other sections
- Links to interesting research, publications and websites, including IFLA partners: the International Reading Association (IRA) at: www.reading.org and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) at: www.ibby.org

What is in progress?

- More reading surveys
- A publication on reading promotion is being published in English and Russian
- International comparative research on the hallmarks of literate cultures with IRA
- Sessions at the World Library and Information Congress in Durban (2007), Quebec City (2008) and Milan (2009)
- Support for publishing in local languages and training in reading promotion and bibliotherapy are being planned with our partners.

How do I join?

Membership in IFLA is open to associations and institutions; affiliation is open to individuals and students. For further information, please contact:



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**SECTION ON READING
MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
Seoul, Korea - 19 August 2006**



Present:

Standing Committee Members: Gwynneth Evans, Leikny Haga Indergaard, Alec Williams.

Associate Members: John Cole, Briony Train

Other participants: Nafisah Ahmad (Malaysia), Alim Garga (Cameroon), Samia Kamarti (Tunisia), Ahmed Ksibi (Tunisia), Adolfo Rodriguez (Mexico), Eric Weber (France).

1. Introduction of Members, and apologies for absence:

Gwynneth Evans welcomed all participants, who briefly introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Elke Dreisbach, Lisa Krolak, Mariétou Diongue Diop, Gertrude Mulindwa, Martine Jan, Jérémie Desjardins, Valeria Stelmakh, Maureen White and Jofrid Karner Smidt. Cindy Lombardo had resigned from the Reading Section in last year for personal reasons.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda, as printed in Newsletter No. 22 (August 2006), was approved. (*Proposed* by Leikny Haga Indergaard, and *Agreed*)

3. Approval of the Minutes (Oslo Conference, August 2005):

The minutes were approved (*Proposed* by Alec Williams, and *Agreed*)

(*The original agenda order of items 4 and 5 were reversed in the meeting*)

4. Report from Chair:

Gwynneth Evans reminded delegates about security at the Conference Opening Ceremony (Sunday 20 August), and brought to their attention the 'Hearing' session on Sunday 20 August that related to proposed changes in sections. The main changes proposed were:

- That sections should comprise at least 50 members
- There should be 10 members on Standing Committees
- Sections not meeting these criteria could form Special Interest Groups

Gwynneth appealed for as many members as possible to attend the Hearing, and stressed its importance to the Reading Section

Gwynneth Evans also drew members' attention to the meeting with UNESCO, and to our own section's Open Session, held in conjunction with the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section, at which Briony Train and Eric Weber would be speakers. An English translation of Eric's paper would be available. The other joint session would be on 23 August at 2pm, and would comprise a visit to the National Library for Children and Young Adults, with some storytelling.

Other items about which Gwynneth reminded members included:

- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Access to Learning Award event on Monday 21 August
- The joint meeting with IBBY and IRA representatives, to progress the Zagreb Memorandum of Understanding about literacy projects.
- IFLA's overall Strategic Plan -draft emailed to sections 7 July and on the IFLA Web site at: http://www.ifla.org/V/pr/IFLA-Strategic-Plan_Draft-June2006.pdf .

5. Review of the Section's Strategic Plan 2006-7 (see Newsletter No. 22, pages 12 - 13):

Gwynneth Evans gave an update on all the points of the Strategic Plan (*numbered references are to paragraphs in the plan – see Newsletter for full description*)

First Meeting Minutes continued:

- a) (1.1) The brochure *Library-based Literacy Programs: some practical suggestions* continues to prove useful to many libraries. It is on the Reading Section Web site in French, German, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese and Farsi.
- b) (1.2) Plans for marking the UN Decade of Literacy continue, via the IFLA/IBBY/IRA Memorandum of Understanding – see also paragraph 1.3 of the plan.
- c) (1.4) John Cole gave an update on the expansion of the Russian “Book Centers” project. With support from the Pushkin Foundation, there are now 36 such centers.
- d) (1.5) Web site developments are noted as part of Briony Train’s report, below.
- e) (2.1, 2.2) The Reading Events and Celebrations work is continuing.
- f) (2.3) The Open Session was scheduled for Monday morning 21 August, and a good audience was expected.
- g) (2.5) The publication of last year’s Pre-conference Event had been delayed following the sad news of Anne Clyde’s death. Details of the proceedings are on the IASL site, and a link to the page is already included in the Reading Section’s own site (see under ‘2005’ at <<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/papers.htm>>)
- i) (2.6) John Cole reported. The English and Russian bilingual handbook with good ideas for reading promotion is now scheduled for publication in December 2006. Well illustrated, it includes examples from Russia, the USA, and the UK. Funding has been obtained from the Center for the Book, the Pushkin Foundation, and the British Council. It will be entitled: *Building Nations of Readers*. He also reported that there had been an exchange of nationals between Russia and the USA in connection with book festivals. Mrs. Putin, like Mrs. Bush, is very interested in authors, book festivals and reading.

Alec Williams expressed a wish to see some of the more innovative rural promotion projects reported on in future, and Gwynneth Evans mentioned a Canadian-produced DVD on isolated or remote libraries and two books on reading. The information promised at the meeting is found at the end of the minutes. (See page 8 of this *Newsletter*.)

- j) (3.1) Elsa Ramirez is working on a census of good practice on the promotion of reading in Latin America. (Items 3.2 – 3.3 of the plan are covered in the Information Officer’s Report, below.)
- k) (3.4) The proposed joint research project with the IRA (on identifying the hallmarks of literate societies) was discussed. Gwynneth Evans reported on progress, noting that email conversations had been ongoing about this topic, and comments would be welcome. These can be submitted via the Global Learning Portal, at www.glp.net, using ‘IRA-IFLA’ as an activation code. If Reading Section members are interested in joining the discussion, they should e-mail gwynneth.evans@sympatico.ca and also follow the instructions on <<http://www.glp.net>> and join the Culture of Literacy Discussion Group.

6. Report from the Treasurer:

Gwynneth gave a summary of the section’s financial position, and also brought up the topic of increasing the section’s membership, suggesting a bookmark in different languages. Funding is available for an initiative such as this. Members endorsed the idea of a bookmark and Gwynneth will design something before the end of the year.

7. Reports from the Secretary, the Information Officer and the Newsletter Editor:

From the Secretary:

Alec Williams reported on his contribution to planning the Joint Open Session; he had been asked to chair the second half of this session. Alec also reported on current membership of the Reading Section, noting that Cindy Lombardo had now left the committee.

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First meeting minutes continued:

From the Information Officer:

Briony Train reported on activity in connection with the section's Web site. She had added regularly to the site throughout the year, which now includes:

- Conference Papers from the 2005 Oslo Conference
 - Minutes from meetings
 - The Annual Report
 - The Strategic Plan, 2006-7
 - Newsletters
 - A Russian translation of the section's *Library-based Literacy Programs: some practical suggestions* publication.
- In addition, she had removed out of date links, and added a number of new ones.

Briony asked members to look for any gaps, and to let her know any content that could be added. In particular, she asked for any news of research on reading, in two types:

- Publications (any journal articles or books that can be recommended)
- Reading Research Reports

Items in languages other than English are especially welcome.

From the Newsletter Editor:

John Cole thanked Briony on all her work on the Web site, and confirmed that with help from Maurvene Williams from the Center for the Book, all newsletter issues are now up on the site.

8. Section Projects:

Gwynneth Evans had referred earlier to the *International Reading Celebrations* project, and the IRA/IFLA research on 'Cultures of Literacy' (see 5k, above), so she opened a discussion on the proposed open session for the 2007 Durban conference. This would be a session arranged between three sections – Reading, School Libraries, and Public Libraries – and would focus on health, particularly HIV/AIDS. Contributions from those at the meeting included the following:

-Eric Weber: Eric had visited a lot of African countries, and the book provision contrasted starkly with developed countries – 3,000 books per reader in France, for example, compared with less than 10 books per reader in French-speaking African countries. This is the essential issue – the sheer lack of numbers of books. Eric felt that HIV/AIDS alone was too narrow a focus for the session.

-Ahmed Ksibi: Why are we talking about AIDS? We need a more positive spin to this session – local publishing successes, for example.

-Samia Kamarti: There is a huge shadow between statistics and actual practice. Africa is an immense continent, and no one reality is correct.

-Adolfo Rodriguez: Reality certainly differs a great deal between different regions of Africa and even parts of one country, as he knows from his own nation, Mexico.

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First meeting minutes continued:

-*Eric Weber*: One measure to use in making comparisons is the amount of funding each country's government gives to reading promotion, because every country in sub-Saharan Africa has a different approach.

-*Alec Williams*: Figures on books in libraries and schools, if available, may also be a measure.

-*Samia Kamarti*: As well as simply funding, it's important to have commitment, inspiration, and training.

-*Alim Garga*: Inclusion could be a possible theme for Durban.

-*Gwynneth Evans*: Since three sections combining would make a generous time allocation, HIV/AIDS could become a sub-theme, in the context of the other points mentioned, bringing in local publishing, school/public library partnerships, and families. Development, progress and partnerships (the general theme of the Durban Congress) could be a way of structuring the session.

This conversation was useful for those meeting with the other sections to plan the Durban session.

9. Programme for Seoul:

The 'Family Reading' joint open session, together with Libraries for Children and Young Adults (see earlier mention in Item 4 above), had come together well. General papers would begin the session, followed by a break for storytelling, arranged by Young Sook Song. The second half would be devoted to shorter case studies, and Ingrid Bon, from the Children Section, would chair the final question session.

10. UN Literacy Decade: Continuing involvement:

The section was continuing to play a part in this, mainly through the IFLA/IBBY/IRA Memorandum of Understanding, and Gwynneth Evans once again reminded members of the meeting on 22 August, when she would chair a discussion on how to move this initiative forward.

11. Section Membership

Gwynneth Evans reported that the Section's membership currently stood at around 70, but that there was a great need to recruit more, both to the section and the Standing Committee itself.

Leikny Haga Indergaard offered to recruit within Scandinavian countries, and Nafisa Ahmad offered to ask her organisation (the National Library of Malaysia) to sponsor her as a Standing Committee member.

Alim Garga spoke enthusiastically about how the Reading Section could help his own and other African countries.

Letters will go out from HQ to those associations and institutions eligible to nominate persons to Standing Committees and the present officers will concentrate on increasing the numbers of Standing Committee members over the next months.

12. Any Other Business: Sharing Good Ideas: A conversation among all the participants

a) John Cole mentioned a popular idea in Russia: a "literary train" which traveled through a portion of the country promoting reading, books and local authors.

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First Meeting Minutes continued:

- b) Nafisa Ahmad reported on a booklet produced by the National Library of Malaysia, about promoting reading in the family. This had been done as part of their National Reading Campaign, a campaign which also included pressure to create libraries in rural areas. This 'Rural Area and Reading Programme' involved libraries getting two PCs, and children keeping a record of books they read, with a competition for those who read the most. More information about this is available through the reading portal of their Web site (see <<http://www.pnm.my>>)
- c) Gwynneth reported on a school at Rankin Inlet, Hudson Bay, Canada, which was acting as a dual-use library. A professional storyteller and writer had taken the lead in an interesting storytelling project and other events had been organized. See <http://www.worldlit.ca/kamac2c_rankin2004.html>.
- d) Leikny Haga Indergaard reported on a 'Sport and reading' project to enthuse boys, who were proving difficult to motivate (as elsewhere!). Footballers were involved, as role models, and visits to stadiums had been arranged.
- e) Alim Garga reported on a project in which the best students were given prizes at the end of the school year. These prizes were all books, in an attempt to encourage children to keep reading for pleasure.
- f) John Cole reported on the 'Letters about Literature' initiative, which encourages young people to read, be inspired and write to an author - past or present - who has somehow changed their view of the world or of themselves. Last year, over 48,000 letters were sent from schools; each state chooses a winner, who is then considered for the national winner. Commercial sponsorship has been secured, so that the seven short-listed winners can be brought to the National Book Festival. See: <<http://www.loc.gov/letters>>.
- g) Gwynneth Evans reported on a Canadian Summer Reading Programme, which has received financial support from a large banking group, Toronto-Dominion Bank Financial Group. The partners are Toronto Public Library for the content (then translated into French). Libraries across the country are free to join the Summer Reading Club, receive the materials and manual with ideas and tailor the programme to local needs. The Web site is: <<http://www.td-club-td.ca>>.

13. Close

The time being finished and there being no other business, the meeting closed, with thanks to all participants.

Alec Williams

October 2006

****Information from Gwynneth Evans

Ruurs, Margriet. *My Librarian is a Camel: How Books are Brought to Children around the World*. Honesdale, Penn.: Boyds Mills Press, 2005. 32 pages.

Winter, Jeanette. *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*. New York: Harcourt Books, 2004. (unpaged)

Francescutti, Paul. 'Remote Access: Distant Libraries of the World'. See: <<http://www.remoteaccess.ca>>.

**SECTION ON READING
MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
Seoul, South Korea - 27 August 2006**

Present:

Standing Committee Members: Gwynneth Evans, Maria Vedenyapina, Leikny Haga Indergaard

Associates: John Cole

Visitors: Samia Kamarti (Tunisia), Ahmed Ksibi (Tunisia), Nafisah Ahmad (Malaysia).

Regrets: Those from the first meeting (noted in the minutes of 19 August) plus Briony Train and Alec Williams who had left Seoul on Thursday evening.

1. Introduction of Members and Visitors

Gwynneth Evans welcomed all participants, who introduced themselves.

2. Debriefing on the Open Session:

A total of 319 people attended the Section's Open Session on 21 August. The papers given from the Reading Section were on a broad level of research and practice, and there were 4 case studies. We have many translations of most papers. Asia was very well represented in the session – and there was a surprise: storytelling and some red bean soup, supplied by our hosts. All the papers are on the IFLA Web site (see: <<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm>>). Scroll down to Session 81.

3. Debriefing on the Storytelling Session

Story Showcase and Korean Picture Book Exhibition: the Historical Review - a Storytelling Programme accompanied by the Exhibition of Korean Picture Books.

A total of 84 people participated at this session in the National Library for Children and Young Adults. It was a new, hi-tech and very bright library, with nice exhibitions.

4. Selection of Paper for possible publication in the *IFLA Journal*:

The Section Officers proposed that the paper from Eric Weber: “ Ameliorer l'intégration de la lecture publique dans les politiques culturelles des pays francophones en développement “, should be put forward. This was *agreed*. Gwynneth Evans will notify Ivanka Stricevic from the Services to Children and Young Adults Section and the editor of the *IFLA Journal*.

5. Discussion of programmes for Durban 2007:

Pre-Conference Pretoria, 2007:

Gwynneth Evans informed the group about the Reading Section's (RS) plans for a Pre-Conference in Pretoria together with the Multicultural Section (MS) and the Children and Young Adult Section (CS). The theme for the Pre-Conference is: *Innovative Multicultural Services for Children, Young Adults and Adults with Special Reference on Literacy, Learning, Linguistic Diversity and Reading*. CS and RS will make links with IRA and IBBY to encourage people from our sections and our partner organisations to propose papers on the theme. Gwynneth will send us updates of the conference plans.

Conference, Durban 2007

The Open Session in Durban will be together with the Public Libraries Section, The Section of School Libraries and the Reading Section – and will be a 4-hour session. The theme will be: “Libraries and good health: programmes to support community building and outreach.



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Second Meeting Minutes continued:

The conversation in the first SC meeting assisted Gwynneth and Alec in contributing to the programme planning. We will invite NGO's, IRA and IBBY to participate. The members of the Committee will learn more as the Call for Papers is issued.

The meeting on the IFLA/IRA/IBBY Agreement allowed many IFLA members to become aware of what was happening to implement the partnership especially as we planned for Durban.

Conference Quebec 2008

The WLIC in 2008 will be in both French and English. There will be a pre-conference in Montreal with the Public Libraries Section and this may give Reading an opportunity to do something related on the promotion of reading.



6. Development of Section Priorities, 2006-2007:

Gwynneth Evans conducted a discussion of priorities for the persons present:

Cooperation with NGO's like "Friends of the book". Most of the nations in Africa have such organizations
National Reading campaigns in Malaysia, U.K, Russia and Norway
2007 – National Year of Reading in Russia.

The Reading Section's Guidelines for Literacy Programmes is translated to Russian.

An internet portal "Reading 21" combines the interests of the professionals and young readers.

The Library of Congress cooperates with Pushkin Library in Russia (and the British Council)– a Best Practice in Reading Promotion book will be published in Russian and English in autumn 2006. This is a result from cooperation within the Reading Section.

On the IFLANET - on the Reading Section's site (<<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/>>) there are some articles which study the factors that influence reading within a society.

7. Section Reviews and Status on the Process

The Reading Section has about 70 members, but not enough members of the Standing Committee. The date for new elections is in February 2007. The members will make contact with their own countries and other countries, where they are known, to get new SC members . We are very happy that Samia Kamarti will join the section. Leikny will make contact with the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Nafisah Ahmad will talk to her colleagues in Malaysia and Indonesia, Gwynneth and John will make contact with Latin America, USA and Canada. Maria will promote the Section to Russia and the Eastern part of Europe. And we all will encourage outgoing members from the Children's Section to go to the Reading Section.

8. Follow-up to the IFLA/IBBY/IRA Agreement Meeting

IFLA signed a Memorandum of Understanding between IFLA, IRA and IBBY on promoting reading, producing children's books of good quality and encouraging production and distribution of books in different local languages. The Reading Section will invite IRA and IBBY to our next meeting in Durban and to the pre-conference that we are joining with Children's Section and Services to Multicultural Populations. The members are encouraged to make contact with the local representatives of IRA and IBBY in their own country for cooperation (see the notes from the special meeting on the IFLA/IRA/IBBY meeting in Seoul).

9. Any other business and close

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Leikny Haga Indergaard, September 2006

SECTION ON READING STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2008

Mission

The Mission of the Reading Section is to assist IFLA in effectively fulfilling one of its key professional and strategic priorities: promoting literacy, reading, and lifelong learning. This priority is comprehensive in its understanding of literacy, from basic literacy to information literacy, and its comprehension of reading and of lifelong learning. (See the description of this priority)

IFLA has organized all its activities within three Pillars: Society: Profession and Membership. The mandate of the Reading Section is both outwardly focused toward Society, but also supportive of both Profession and Membership

In undertaking support for and coordination of activities related to literacy, reading and lifelong learning that increase the literacy of all people, the Reading Section recognizes the importance of former President Raseroka's theme for 2003-2005: Libraries for Lifelong Literacy and also the UN Decade of Literacy 2003-2012. The Section will contribute to plans to ensure the contribution of libraries to this Decade. It also incorporates the importance of partnerships, recognized as the theme of President Byrne for 2005-2007 and the need to have Libraries on the Agenda, the theme of Incoming-President Claudia Lux.

The nature of this professional priority ensures that strong programming related to research, education and training and best practice will, by extension, support the other priorities: supporting the role of libraries in society; defending the principle of freedom of information; preserving our intellectual heritage; developing library professionals; promoting standards, guidelines and best practices; representing libraries in the technological marketplace; providing unrestricted access to information; balancing the intellectual property rights of authors with the needs of users; and promoting resource sharing.

As literacy is the foundation of the work of all division and sections, the Reading Section welcomes the opportunity to work cooperatively, both within IFLA and beyond. It is pleased to act in an advisory and resource capacity to any group wishing to know more about the role of libraries in literacy and reading promotion programmes.

GOALS:

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

Actions

1.1 To distribute, demonstrate and promote the use of the brochure "Library-Based Literacy Programs: Some Practical Suggestions"; to promote its translation into all of IFLA's official languages and as many national languages, as possible; to make the translations accessible on the Web; and, where possible, to support the printing of those in IFLA languages.

1.2 To mark the UNESCO Decade of Literacy (2003-2012) and to promote the contribution and recognition of libraries in research and in the development and practice of literacy, information literacy and lifelong learning, taking into account the diversity of cultures, languages and economic and social circumstances, and supporting the theme "Libraries for Lifelong Literacy."

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2006-2007 STRATEGIC PLAN continued:

1.3 To assist IFLA in the concrete implementation of the formal Partnership Agreement with the International Reading Association (IRA) and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

1.4 To continue to develop, share the results, and possibly expand to other nations the "Book Centers" reading promotion project launched in 2001 by Russian and U.S. reading promoters with the support of the Open Society Institute.

1.5 To serve, through IFLANET and with links to and with other Web sites, as a resource and advocate for information about literacy and reading promotion projects/programmes and events worldwide.

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

Actions

2.1 To identify and encourage the sharing of research and best practices in the sponsoring of appropriate literacy and reading events and celebrations, in cooperation with other national and international cultural, literacy, and reading organizations (e.g., marking International Literacy Day (8 September) in cooperation with the International Reading Association and its national associations and the International Literacy Network; marking World Book and Copyright Day (23 April) in cooperation with UNESCO and its national commissions; and to honour specific achievements in the worlds of literacy and reading development in cooperation with the International Book Committee, the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and other groups, such as the International Reading Association and its national/regional associations).

2.2 To continue to support and maintain "Celebrate Reading Worldwide: An Interactive Calendar of Reading Promotions" begun in 2003 as a Reading Section project and coordinated at the University of Houston, Clear Water.

2.3 To plan an Open Session at the 2007 IFLA conference in Durban, South Africa, in cooperation with the Public Libraries and School Libraries and Resource Centres Sections, on the theme of 'Libraries in Good Health: Resources and Practices Designed to Support Community Development and Outreach in Health-related Issues.', based on the general theme of "Libraries for the Future: Progress, Development and Partnerships" and to President Byrne's theme of "Partnerships", and to contribute to the Satellite Conference, entitled 'Multicultural library Innovative services for all, with special reference to literacy, learning and linguistic diversity' in Pretoria through cooperation with Library Services to Multicultural Populations and Library Services to Children and Young Adults.

2.4 To encourage the participation of members of IRA and IBBY and publishers and literacy agencies in the South African conferences through communication, promotion and contributions to planning the events.

2.5 To support and take part in Division VII's Programme, when the topic is relevant.

2.6 To promote, in cooperation with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Russian libraries and the British Council, their reading promotion "handbook" that illustrates and describes good ideas for promoting reading from around the world.

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2006-2007 STRATEGIC PLAN continued:

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

Actions

3.1 Building on the Section's 2001-2002 survey of reader-centered services in public libraries, support extending the research and research methodology to Latin American libraries, in cooperation with the Latin American Section.

3.2 To continue and strengthen the "Reports on Current Research in Reading and Literacy" column in the Section on Reading *Newsletter*.

3.3 To ensure that the papers presented at the Reading Section's Open Session at the 2006 conference in Seoul are on IFLANET, and to encourage the publication of the papers as widely as possible in relevant journals and newsletters.

3.4 To continue the development and implementation of a joint research project with the International Reading Association (IRA) on the hallmarks of a literate environment to support the learning and practice of literacy and the love of reading and writing.

3.5 To explore opportunities for joint training and cooperative projects among members of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and the International Reading Association (IRA), especially in areas specifically identified in the Joint Agreement of August 2005.

3.6 To explore opportunities for the Reading Section's participation in the IFLA Congress in Quebec City and in satellite meetings in 2008.

4. Increase membership on the Standing Committee and in the Section on Reading.

Actions

4.1 To prepare and publish the Section's membership bookmark on IFLANET in as many IFLA languages as possible, and, where resources allow, to make print copies available to target members.

4.2 To increase the Section's visibility by cooperating actively with organizations outside IFLA, such as the International Reading Association and the International Board of Books for Children (IBBY) and with IFLA units that have similar interests.

4.3 To publicize the Section's activities and achievements systematically and encourage more IFLA institutional members to join the Section on Reading.

November 2006

Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature

Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature brings news and analyses of international literature for children to subscribers in seventy three countries. Published quarterly, it includes articles about literature, brief reviews of books, updates on professional books and events in the field, and a "Focus IBBY " section that contains news about the projects and activities of the International Board on Books for Young People, the parent organization for the journal. It is one of only a few journals focusing on international literature for children.

Most issues are open to any topic in the field of international children's literature and all issues have authors from around the world. Issue number 2 for 2006, for example, includes among others an article comparing an English with a Czech timeslip novel, one looking at young adult fiction in South Africa, one describing the Berlin International Literature Festival, and one analyzing the novels of Jostein Gaarder.

Authors of articles in this issue are from the Czech Republic, Ireland, South Africa, Norway, Germany and Switzerland. The editors, Valerie Coghlan and Siobhan Parkinson, from Ireland, said when they accepted the editorship that they wanted the journal to be lively and interesting, to appeal to "the whole community of readers interested in children's books, not just to specialists." To this end they have worked to build interest without in any way lowering the academic standards. They work in cooperation with an international Editorial Review Board, guest reviewers and correspondents, and column editors.

Every two years, in conjunction with the Congresses of the International Board on Books for Young People, one issue of the journal is devoted to the authors and illustrators nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen award, with a special focus on the winners and finalists. Biographies of the nominees and a selected bibliography of the work of each are presented.

Often the journal will highlight the region where the biannual congress is to be held. This September, the Congress was held in Macau. Issue number 3, 2006, of *Bookbird* is a monograph on Chinese children's literature, what the editors describe as "a sort of orientation course" on the topic. We think it is a superb reference and presents information not available elsewhere.

Individual subscriptions to *Bookbird* are 40 US dollars for US residents; 64 Canadian dollars for Canadian residents; and 48 US dollars or 41 Euros for residents of all other countries. To subscribe, contact the University of Toronto Press – Journals Division, 5201 Dufferin Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3H 5T8, or log onto their Web site, journals@utpress.utoronto.ca . Payment may be by credit card or check made out to the University of Toronto Press.

Contributed by Joan Glazer ■

SEE THE SECTION ON READING BOOKMARK AT:

<<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/pub/s33-bookmark.pdf>>

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The Section on Reading needs more members. Please consider joining us in our important work of promoting reading and literacy in the digital age. Contact any of the members in this issue or IFLA Headquarters, % Cynthia Mouanda, Membership Manager, P.O. Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands, fax: +31-70-3834827, e-mail: <membership@ifla.org>.

This newsletter is edited by Standing Committee Associate Member John Y. Cole, Center for the Book, Library of Congress; news and articles are welcome and should be sent to <jcole@loc.gov>. It is produced and distributed by the center with the assistance of Maurvene D. Williams, Program Officer.

Visit the Section on IFLANET at: <<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/sr.htm>>.