



**IFLA Mobile Section
Newsletter Number 3
June 2004**

'Mobile Libraries : the Road to Learning From Womb to Tomb'

Catalunya Sq in Barcelona Spain - the setting for the annual St George's Day parade of mobile libraries by the cities public library department



The 23rd of April is Book Day in Catalonia. Saint George's is a very peculiar day, especially in big cities like Barcelona. Streets get full of roses, books stands, writers signing their books and lots of people (though it is not a holiday)... From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. the nine buses were open to everybody in the middle of the city. The buses usual staff plus staff from the Servei de Biblioteques answered questions and showed people around.

Thanks to Cristina Montserrat (Coordinació i Recursos Bibliotecaris, Servei de Biblioteques 93 402 25 45, Diputació de Barcelona) for this fine picture from Barcelona which makes a good introduction to Newsletter 3

Note: In the photos you can see the buses parked on Catalunya Square, in Barcelona, most of the people involved in the service and some of the visitors

IFLA 2004 Buenos Aires - Section 38 Mobile Libraries

The section will have a poster session and an open programme Wednesday 25 August 10.45-12.45.
Theme: **Using mobile libraries to achieve life long learning and social inclusion**

- Libraries on wheels: Mobile libraries in Portugal
RUI MANUEL NEVES (Montijo City Public Library, Montijo, Portugal)
- Análisis y evaluación del funcionamiento de las bibliotecas móviles de la República Argentina en la 2a mitad de la década del 90
SUSANA ELENA FIRPO (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- 101 things you wanted to know about mobiles, but were afraid to ask
IAN STRINGER (Barnsley Public Library, Barnsley, UK) and RUTH ORNHOLT

(Hordaland County Librarian, Bergen, Norway)

- o Mobile services in rural South Africa – fact or fallacy”

JUNE BAATJES (Western Cape Education Department, Cape Town, South Africa)



We have secured the use of the bibliomovil which will be on display outside the main conference hall every day at IFLA Buenos Aires

Bibliomovil - Library of the Argentine Congress

Convinced that language and books should be in the first place, the Library of the Argentine Congress has decided to develop different activities to promote reading and to reach to every part of the country.

The 'Access to Learning 2001' award granted by Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation funded the equipment of two containers, transformed into a reading room and a multimedia room, which are transported by land, water, air or rail. The BIBLIOMOVIL carries: Books - Information - Internet - Games - Puppets - Chess Games and much more for everyone. The BIBLIOMOVIL works together with cultural and educational institutions, libraries, schools and community dining rooms, conducting the activities and workshops selected for each place:

1. Book festival
2. Reading games
3. Poetry for everyone
4. Story telling
5. Digital stories. Puppet shows and theater performances
6. Chess for children and adults
7. Basic knowledge on the use of PCs and access to the Internet
8. Educational videos
9. Promotion of reading at distant schools
10. Story telling for disabled people
11. Workshop 'strategies for reading more' and 'integration of school libraries' directed to teachers, families
12. Creative games, painting, drawing.
13. Workshop communicators

From July 2002 to April 2004, the BIBLIOMOVIL travelled more than 11,000 km. More than 1,300,000 personas visited from 21 communes of the Province of Buenos Aires, the cities of Reconquista, Avellaneda and Villa Ocampo in the Province of Santa Fe and the city of Ushuaia in the Province of Tierra del Fuego.

In February 2004, the BIBLIOMOVIL visited the city of Pinamar, where more than 2000 families actively participated in the different reading activities.

In March, the BIBLIOMOVIL visited San Fernando (Province of Buenos Aires) and took part in the Third Meeting Of Popular Libraries, conducting different activities to promote reading and arts. They had more than 4,000 visitors.

In April, the BIBLIOMOVIL was carried by air to the Province of Entre Ríos, where it visited the city of Paraná, incorporating special workshops for teachers: "The School Library: a Cultural Space", "Radio and Photojournalism: Strategies for Reading More", "Play and Arts", "Playing and Chess", "Book Editing", among others. During the first 3 days, more than 2,500 persons actively participated in the activities to promote reading and arts.

Taobh Tíre research project - a better library service for rural areas

Elaine Burgess

Donegal lies in the north west of Ireland - the northernmost county. In cultural terms, its location adds to its distinct identity. Three languages are found: English, Irish and Ulster-Scots. Donegal's Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking area) is the largest in the country. Socially, Donegal has higher than average figures for unemployment, early school leaving and age dependency.

An Straitéis: the County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012 identified sustaining rural communities as a cross-cutting theme.



Taobh Tíre commenced with research and consultation. National and international models of best practice were researched and local service providers and stakeholders were consulted.

Main objectives of the project

- to contribute to sustaining rural communities
- to integrate libraries with social/economic initiatives, and
- to incorporate recommendations into the operation of the library service and strategic planning.

Target areas

Models will be implemented in 6 distinct areas, selected for their different characteristics (Gaeltacht, island, border, high percentage of older people etc).

Models

Models can be described under 3 headings: ICT, Inter-agency partnership and Community partnership.

Under ICT, free public access to the WebOPAC will be provided in 10 buildings such as resource centres, a post office/shop, a health centre, a co-operative etc. Requests can now be delivered to more accessible points.

The Inter-agency approach is discussing the use of shared resources with providers in health, education, rural development etc. A cross-border link with the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) has resulted in plans for a mobile library service shared between Donegal, Derry and Tyrone (see below for further information).

Community partnership is crucial to the success of Taobh Tíre. A local community bus service will deliver requests to housebound readers. At present there is no direct service to the housebound in Donegal.

Taobh Tíre is not only about physical stock. It is about extending knowledge of and access to the wider information resources available via a modern library service, tailored to the needs of its particular community.

Launch

The project was officially launched by Minister of State Pat 'the Cope' Gallagher on 13th February 2004. In his speech he said "Taobh Tíre is a unique project and has succeeded in developing partnerships with a very considerable number of community players". Following the speeches two local students told local stories and poems. The children of the national school next door had each painted a picture to welcome the visitors on the day. Pictures depicted local attractions such as the narrow-gauge railway, Lough Finn, the mountains, a local folklorist and so on.

Cross-border mobile library service between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

Elaine Burgess

For the first time in Ireland, a mobile library will serve both sides of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The WELB and Donegal County Library jointly applied to the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation under Measure 5.2. This measure relates to Improving Cross-border Public Sector Co-operation. Its objectives are to address the legacy of the conflict; and/or to take opportunities arising from peace. Cross-border co-operation is also a cross-cutting theme in *An Stráitéis*.

The area covered will be roughly a circle with Derry City to the North and the twin towns of Lifford and Strabane to the South. This area is culturally linked, although split in two by the River Foyle. Derry and Lifford/Strabane are the only places at which traffic can cross the river. To date each authority has provided a library service 'back-to-back'.

The WELB will manage the service. The joint catalogue of the five library authorities in Northern Ireland and the catalogue of Donegal County Library will be available to mobile library users. Internet access will be provided. Homework clubs and Mother/toddler groups will be supported. The 'Museum in a box' concept will be incorporated into the interior design of the vehicle, allowing a rotating display of artefacts. The Museum Services on both sides of the border will lend items of interest.

The livery of the vehicle will be decided following public competition. A Service Level Agreement has been drawn up and the post of Senior Library Assistant advertised. The service is expected to commence mid-2004. The service will be mainstreamed following the project end in 2006.

The above is a very short synopsis of both the Taobh Tíre project and the Cross-Border Mobile Library Project. There is great enthusiasm for these projects, recognising the need to increase the social, educational and cultural opportunities of every person in the county and the north-west region. It also acknowledges the importance of the library service as a true gateway to resources for children and young people, for learning and information, and for culture and the imagination.

If you know of or have been involved in similar projects, the Taobh Tíre Management Group would be very interested to hear from you. For further information on Taobh Tíre please contact Liam Ronayne, Divisional Manager and County Librarian – lrnayne@donegalcoco.ie or Eileen Burgess, Project Co-Ordinator – eburgess@donegalcoco.ie . For further information on the Cross-border Mobile Library Project contact Trisha Ward (WELB) at trisha.ward@ni-libraries.net or either of the above.

InfoBus in five Southeast European municipalities

Mercedes Sprouse

The Mobile Information and Communications Centres, or InfoBus, is a regional initiative, designed as an information delivery vehicle that travels to remote locations to bridge information inequalities in five Southeast European municipalities: Tirana, Albania; Prizren, Kosovo-UNMIK; Stip, Macedonia; Bijelo Polje, Montenegro; Prijeploje, Serbia.



The initiative was undertaken under the assumption that social and political stability largely depends on the extent to which marginalized, isolated, and disadvantaged groups can overcome information inequalities and access empowering tools to increase their participation in democratic processes and global trends.

As a Mobile Information and Communication Centre, InfoBus functions as a lending library and information provider (books, non-book-materials, news media, periodicals), an outreach vehicle for programs and services (government, non-governmental, schools, entrepreneurship), a multimedia mobile classroom and Internet access point (computer applications, Internet, e-mail), a

local language provider ("live", "canned" content and informative materials).

InfoBus is developing a combination of telecommunication services (Internet, e-mail, e-fax), office equipment (computers, printers, photocopiers), multimedia hardware and software (radio, TV, video), meeting space and facilities for a wide range of users. IT equipment includes



up to four PC/laptops and Internet access provided by GPRS or microwave/satellite solutions.

Per site InfoBus services 50-70 users daily to offer mandatory school curricula to rural schoolchildren, book lending services, on-site use of audio-visual equipment and non-book materials (VHS, DVD, cassettes), and on-site use of computers and Internet access. InfoBus is able to extend its IT capacity and resources in cooperation with local municipalities, schools, and libraries for special workshops and meetings. It must be stressed that InfoBus is the main source of ICT delivery for many local communities it serves -most users had never seen a computer before the arrival of InfoBus.

Public libraries manage and implement the services with support for operational costs provided by municipalities or Ministries of Culture and donor funding of specific projects. Each InfoBus includes one project leader and two staff members. Information content and activities are designed in collaboration with local government, schools, and non-governmental organizations.

InfoBus offers free of charge (donor funded) services for vulnerable (ethnic minorities, persons with special needs) and disadvantaged groups (poor, women, children/youth).

InfoBus was developed by the Information Program of Open Society Institute (OSI), with co-funding from Canadian International Development Agency (OSI) and support from municipalities or Ministries of Culture. Local donors include Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation offices in Macedonia and Kosovo, United Nations Development Programme offices in Albania and Kosovo, Swiss Art Council in Serbia and Montenegro, and foundations established by George Soros in South East Europe.

In 2004 InfoBus established Internet access and sought to organize and implement ICT education and training for additional activities connecting local public institutions to MICC/InfoBus in the areas of establishing lifelong learning; meeting information needs of disadvantaged, marginalized, vulnerable, special groups; and improving government-citizen communication/e-governance.

In May the InfoBus crews meet in Bijelo Polje, Montenegro for a seminar to outline future directions. Project leaders are searching for partners and those institutions who can assist or support that process. Email us if you have suggestions and comments!

Browse the InfoBus website and information in local languages: <http://www.infobus.org/>

For further information, contact the implementing libraries directly (non-English). For inquiries in English, contact the Regional Project . Manager, Mercedes Sprouse via email: www.infobus.hu

**Live Link up between Librarians in
Bijelo Polje, Montenegro and Birmingham, England
May 22nd 2004**

Ian Stringer

The Idea

Mercedes Sprouse, Regional Project Manager for the Information Program of Open Society Institute

in Budapest, contacted me about the possibility of a live video link to the annual meeting she was organising in Bijelo Polje, Montenegro for five public libraries managing InfoBus. We realised this was to take place at the same time as the UK mobilemeet. It was a good opportunity to exchange experiences in an alternative format and to connect UK and South East European library experiences in managing and operating Internet-equipped mobile libraries.

The Technical Issues

I therefore contacted the City of Birmingham Library Service who was the host authority in the UK. They were very obliging. An IT technician, Euan D'Netto was to be my liaison person and Mercedes had a similar liaison IT technician, Vladimir Dragovic.

In Birmingham the site of the mobilemeet was unfortunately unsuitable for a video link and we were given the use of Frankley Community Learning Centre. This is a very pro-active learning centre in the South West of the city and proved a very good venue. Stuart Hoy the manager made all his facilities available and we had the dedicated help of technician Shane Thompson.

Over in Montenegro, there was no phone line at the conference hall, but Mercedes and her IT team persevered and installed the necessary equipment and mechanics. An imbalance of technology was cured by Euan e-mailing appropriate software to Vladimir.

Excitement grows

The presentation day Saturday 22 May arrived and for half an hour we attempted a connection, finally the great moment was greeted with cheers from Montenegro, they could see us on screen! It was the first such linkup in Montenegro. We introduced each other and saw for the first time the people we were working with. It was very exciting. We found that the conference was on a break so we got things set up to perfection and with 10 minutes left we were all ready, when the screen saver came on and cut the connection! 5 frantic minutes ensued as we re-booted, re-connected and finally got pictures.

Warning

A similar thing had also happened in Bijelo, so here's a warning to anyone attempting video links - set your screen saver to indefinite.

The Presentation

My presentation, and that of Sue Cook from Leeds City Libraries, went very well and there were lots of questions. There were delegates from public libraries and local government from Albania, Serbia & Montenegro, Kosovo (UNMIK), Macedonia and Slovenia. They all asked questions, some of which were translated and the answers sent back and also translated. Everyone spoke slowly and the Yorkshire and Birmingham accents were understood.

This process went remarkably smoothly and so we eventually spent about 45 minutes on our link up.

New connections

The public library directors managing InfoBus are keen to develop further cooperation with other Internet-equipped mobile libraries and to establish partnerships with libraries in the UK and elsewhere. The ability of these teams to establish this high-tech enterprise in politically unstable, former conflict zones is somewhat revolutionary. SE European libraries rely on donor funding to operate InfoBus. Anyone searching for project partners or in possession of a few good ideas should contact Mercedes at infobus@osi.hu

Thanks

Thanks are due to Mercedes Sprouse of Infobus for the original idea, her technician Vladimir Dragovic; the Birmingham IT people, Euan D'Netto of EDIT (Birmingham City Council), Shane Thompson and Stuart Hoy of Frankley Community Learning Centre and Sue Cook librarian with Leeds City Libraries and fellow member of the UK's Branch and Mobile Libraries Committee.

The DOKO mobile libraries of Nepal

Suraj Dahal

We are glad to inform you that Nationwide Scholarship Program (NSP) of Society of Ex-Budhanilkantha Students (SEBS), alumni of the national school Budhanilkantha School, in partnership with Development Project Service Center (DEPROSC) is implementing "Sustainable DOKO DAI Mobile Library Project (SDDMLP) in Nepal.

SDDMLP was the recent award winner of the Development Marketplace 2003 of the World Bank. It was one of the top six projects to win an award of amount US \$ 166,771.00 amongst 2,700

applications from around the world. Out of the 182 finalists, it was one of the top amidst 42 other winners.

Though the project is funded for only a year, the sustainable project with income generating components will provide the mobile library services in rural areas of Nepal (Kanchanpur and Sindhupalchowk districts) on DOKO (bamboo baskets) carried on people's back on foot trails. The mobile library will serve areas that do not have access of roads. The library service will be made available from July 2005 at the latest. The Regional Community Centers (RCCs) are being constructed. These RCCs are located in Mahendranagar and Barabise, semi-urban areas with population of more than 30,000 and 20,000 respectively which will serve as the base for the mobile services in rural areas. Ten mobile trail routes and their stops have been identified for each of the project area serving more than 20,000 village inhabitants. Mobile services fan-out as far as 25 kilometers from the RCCs.

SDDMLP also has a integrated approach to promote literacy and capacity building at the local level by:

1. Providing scholarships to more than 300 children a year for secondary education (classes 8 to 10)
2. Imparting income generating and capacity building training programs such as computer literacy, first aid, Para vet, vegetable farming, bee keeping, library management, finance / accounting, report / proposal writing, facilitator training for non formal education and adult literacy.
3. Ensuring participation of local people in the decision making process through representation in the Management Committees of the regional libraries

Income to sustain the mobile services will be generated from the RCC services to the communities such as membership fees for the central regional library, phone (local and long distance), fax, email, internet, photocopy, rental charges for meeting hall, fees for computer use.

For more information on the mobile library, please visit our website: <http://www.doko.org.np/>



Mobile Section Workshop sessions in Ireland

Ian Stringer

Aims

One of the aims of the IFLA mobile section is to pass on best practise in mobile library work. Ruth

Ornholt and myself had both done papers in Berlin that were well received and had been asked to expand on these in Argentina. It was therefore decided that we could use this information as the basis of a one-day workshop.

We hoped that we could generate enough income from course fees to recouperate our expenses and possibly make a small profit, which could go into the section funds to help out with our special projects. Ruth and I are the committe members with resposibility for the Caterpillarproject so we decided any profits would go towards this.

Ireland

Whilst wondering where we could start I heard that a recent report on the mobile libraries in Northern Ireland had been less than favourable. Northern Ireland was close to home for me and reasonably accessible to Ruth so it seemed a good place to do a pilot.

I made a few inquiries and soon found the idea seized on by CILIP NI (the Library Association of Northern Ireland). Elga Logue was our contact and she made the suggestion that whilst we were in Ireland why not visit the Republic at the same time. Enquiries were made to her contacts in Dublin and our reception was as enthusiastic there.

Caterpillar

About this time we were planning the first Caterpillar meeting and when we realised that 2 of the 3 committee members would be in Ireland together it seemed logical to invite the third member June Baatjies to join us.

We all met in Dublin and took the train to Belfast. This was a lovely way to get the feeling of the two countries. We had time for a quick look round Belfast on the first evening and then had a good days course with delegates from all over Northern Ireland the following day. We had drivers, assistants and librarians from all 5 library boards in the country which is just about maximum coverage and proof of the attraction of the course.



We had done ample handouts and as an added bonus June was able to give a passionate view of mobile libraries in Africa and specific reference to the caterpillar project.

The next day found us in Dublin for a repeat performance. A slightly larger audience once again drawn from all over the country was very receptive to our papers and we got lots of feedback. A small display of mobiles was an added attraction at lunchtime.



So with the course safely out of the way we went out into Dublin for a small celebration. What a night to choose. Midnight was the official time for the expansion of the EU and representatives from all the new countries were in Dublin for celebrations. As Ireland holds the presidency all the EU leaders had come to Dublin and the celebrations were wonderful. We were treated to fireworks, searchlights, live music and all the trimmings. There was a protest march;

there were garda everywhere and helicopters flying overhead.

The outcomes

- It was a financial success.
- Delegates from two countries were able to gain from our IFLA experience
- We got valuable feedback which we can put to delegates in Argentina
- June was able to put forward the case for the Caterpillar project

- Ruth and I made enough profit to cover June's expenses, so effectively the first caterpillar meeting took place at no expense to the mobile section

With our success it is hoped that this could be the first in a series of workshops

Committee News

Unfortunately Stanley N'Gang'a from Kenya has had to leave the committee. He goes with the thanks of the committee for all the hard work he did for us especially in getting the group recognized as an Official Section. We have therefore to vote in a new Chair in Buenos Aires

This Newsletter is posted on the IFLA website and also sent to corresponding members of the mobile section by e-mail. If you would like to receive a personal e-mail copy please contact

Ian Stringer

IanStringer@barnsley.gov.uk

or

ian_bmlq@hotmail.com

or Ruth Ornholt

Ruth.Ornholt@hordaland-f.kommune.no

Equally if you have news or pictures of mobile libraries send details to either of us for inclusion in the next issue.

Finally if you are new to mobiles and desire information, or if you have particular questions don't hesitate to contact any of the committee. We will then do our best to give an answer or pass you onto someone who knows.

Editor and Acting Chair

Ian Stringer

Barnsley Public Libraries

Shambles St

Barnsley

S70 2JF

United Kingdom

IanStringer@barnsley.gov.uk

Or

ian_bmlq@hotmail.com

Information Officer

Ruth Ornholt

Director

Hordaland County Library

PO Box 7900

50226 Bergen

Norway

Ruth.Ornholt@hordaland-f.kommune.no

Secretary/treasurer

Joyce Jelks

Retired Public librarian

PO Box 10957

Atlanta

Georgia 3010-0957

Jej9572000@yahoo.com