



International Federation of Library Association and Institutions

Information Point (The Government Libraries Section Newsletter)

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Reminder ... Reminder ... Reminder ... 2009 Is an Election Year

The Government Libraries Section is seeking interested information professionals to join us as an elected member. Numerous vacancies exist for the 2009-2013 term. If interested contact Jerry W. Mansfield, Chair or Rebecca Davies, Secretary/Treasurer, IMMEDIATELY at their email addresses below.

Editorial Note:

This is the official newsletter of the Government Libraries Section of IFLA. It is published twice yearly. The newsletter may be reproduced and printed in electronic formats without permission, provided acknowledgement is made. Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Section Officers or the Editor.

We would like to see more global representation and would welcome a volunteer from each continent to supply a continental update or perspective to the

newsletter – if you are interested please contact the Editor. Copy may be submitted to the Editor, Jane M. Wu at janemarywu@yahoo.com in plain ASCII text format, in MS Word or in the body of an email message. Accompanying photographs are welcome.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback to the newsletter editor at janemarywu@yahoo.com.

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Chair's Column

It has been four months since our successful and busy Québec conference and much has been going on since then. No sooner had we finished one conference, we began working behind the scenes for the next two conferences. The Minutes of the Québec conference now appear on our IFLA website and the strategic plan has been updated. We also have a call for papers for the 2009 Milan conference for our section theme, "Transforming Learning Cultures: Government Libraries As the Treasures Within". We hope to receive papers which focus on the departmental or government library as the learning institution within their agency or organisation. During the Québec conference Jane Wu volunteered to be our Information Coordinator. In this role she will be responsible for having updates posted to our website and she will be the editor of The Information Point, our biannual online newsletter.

2009 Elections

This is an election year for all IFLA sections. The Government Libraries Section officers have been communicating with

individuals and nominating institutions to garner nominations before the early February 2009 deadline. We hope to add seven to eight new members to the section including the elevation of several corresponding members to elected member status.

Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments

In June of 2008 IFLA published our Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments as No.106 in its Professional Reports Series. A printed and paperbound copy is available for purchase from IFLA or the publication can be downloaded from our section website:

[<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s4/index.htm>]. Watch the section website for translations of the publication into several languages throughout 2009. In October 2008 we used our remaining Administrative Funds to purchase and mail copies to libraries of government departments in Africa, India, and Asia. It is our hope that we learn about and hear from librarians who have put to use some of the ideas presented in the Guidelines or who have adapted an idea to work in their particular environment. To this end we are planning a mid-term workshop of two and a half day's length in Barcelona in mid-April 2010. The Graduate School of Library and Information Science faculty at the University of Barcelona have graciously agreed to provide us with meeting space for this event. At this workshop we hope to talk about comments received on actual use of the Guidelines, possibly talk about expanding the publication, and we will have one other theme of interest to be determined.

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2010 Brisbane Conference

Although we have yet to determine our section's theme for the Brisbane conference, we have accepted an invitation to collaborate with the Australian Government Library Information Network (AGLIN) for a pre- or post-conference satellite meeting in Canberra in August 2010.

Best Wishes to All in 2009!

Jerry W. Mansfield
Chair, Government Libraries Section

Call for Papers for Government Libraries Section for the World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly "Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage" 23-27 August 2009, Milan, Italy Theme: Transforming Learning Cultures: Government Libraries As the Treasures Within

We are seeking papers that focus on the departmental or government library as the learning institution within their agency / organisation. Libraries and, most importantly their staff, are playing central roles in supporting, delivering and improving the learning cultures within their organisations.

Tell us about it. Share your experience. What is happening? What is unique? What programs have been established by the library or information center to provide for a

learning culture within the agency? Are there instances where no learning was taking place and the library took the lead and established classes/training on research, the use of databases, word processing, the use of the specialized internet technologies such as social networking (wikis, blogs, de.licio.us, etc.)? Have you joined up with your Personnel / Human Resources department to address the wider organisational learning needs? Are you supporting knowledge sharing about learning experiences?

Please send a detailed abstract (1 page or at least 300 words) of the proposed paper (must not have been published elsewhere) and relevant biographical information for the author(s)/presenter(s) by 30 January 2009 via email to Rebecca Davies at: rebecca.davies12@wales.gsi.gov.uk The abstracts will be reviewed by members of the [Government Libraries Section](#). Proposals selected will be identified by 28 February 2009. Completed papers will be due by 24 April 2009. Papers should be no longer than 15 typed pages. A maximum of 20 minutes will be allowed for a summary delivery of the paper during the Section's Open Programme in Milan. Members of the Section will work with authors to ensure a quality and timely paper.

Please note that the expenses of attending the Milan conference (including travel, conference fee, and any other expenses) will be the responsibility of the author(s) /presenter(s) of the accepted papers.

Librarians' Voice heard at Internet

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Governance Forum 3rd meeting of IGF held at Hyderabad (India): Report by Sanjay K Bihani

{The Full Report was accepted for publication in IFLA Journal and the final (edited, revised and typeset) version of full report will be published in IFLA Journal, Vol 35 Issue No 1, March 2009 by SAGE Publications Ltd, All rights reserved. © Sanjay K. Bihani. For more information: www.sagepublications.com}

The third meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held in



Hyderabad, India from December 3- 6, 2008 and focused on the theme of “Internet for All”. It was

attended by over 1200 participants from 94 countries representing Government, Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia, Library and Information Professionals, Internet Community and Media. This reflects and reiterates the multi-stakeholder and democratic nature of the Forum.

The IFLA Team included Stuart Hamilton, IFLA Headquarters; Sanjay Kumar Bihani, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi & Standing Committee Member of IFLA-Government Libraries Section and Asia and Oceania Section ; ARD Prasad, DRTC Bangalore, Marilen Daum, Goethe Institute New Delhi and Renu Seth, Goethe Institute New Delhi.

The IFLA Team, led by Mr. Stuart Hamilton, raised the voice of Librarians and Libraries in the IGF 2008 meeting. He spoke representing IFLA as a panelist in two major IGF 2008 workshops.



IFLA Team: ARD Prasad, Renu Seth, Stuart Hamilton, Marilen Daum and Sanjay K Bihani (from left to right)

In the first workshop organized by IP Justice on “Dynamic Coalition: Access to Knowledge (A2K)” Mr. Hamilton was one of the five panelists, along with representatives from Google India, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and a member of the Brazilian Government.

He spoke on the needs of libraries in the electronic information society and the problems libraries face just getting connected to the Internet in many parts of the world. Mr. Hamilton then focused on the important role that copyright exceptions and limitation play in helping libraries provide access to knowledge. There seemed to be a good consensus among the panelists that a move towards standardizing exceptions and limitations for use of copyrighted works would contribute positively to an increased flow of information online.

In the second workshop, entitled “Freedom

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of Expression in Cyberspace: Internet Filtering and Censorship”, Mr. Hamilton was one of five on a panel which included representatives from Freedom House, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OCSE), Google, and an individual called Issac Mao, who has the distinction of being referred to as China’s first ever blogger. Mr. Hamilton spoke to an audience of around 100 participants on the subject of Internet filtering and censorship. He discussed IFLA’s World Report, and the worrying trend of increasing use of filtering software in libraries world-wide. He described the role of IFLA as a true global representative of librarians and libraries, having more than 1400 members in 150 countries. Mr. Hamilton also emphasized the role of National Library Associations of various countries in regard to development of libraries and the need for Internet governance in Libraries. He replied to the specific questions on children and the Internet in libraries, and the filtering situation in Russian libraries, etc. This was a great session. We had overviews of censorship around the world.

ARD Prasad from DRTC, Bangalore and one of the extended IFLA team members, spoke at the Workshop on “Access to Public Held Information with a Development Perspective”. He spoke on the “role of libraries” in accessing public held / public sector information”, approaching the topic from an Indian perspective, outlining how libraries can play an effective role in making freedom of information legislation real for users, by providing access to the right channels and offering advice on how to find the information users are looking for.

I attended about 15 workshops and Open Forums during IGF meeting also related to

many aspects of modern librarianship. It was a great experience to attend so many workshops and forums in one conference. I also participated in one workshop on “Low Cost Sustainability Access” and spoke for the Access group on the requirement of low cost Internet access for libraries, so that the benefits of Internet could reach out to all.

In my view, free Internet access in libraries can thus fulfill the theme of this year’s IGF “Internet for All”. Libraries used to be a major source of information dissemination and should be in the future as well.

[Sanjay K Bihani works in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi. He is a standing committee Member of the IFLA - Asia and Oceania and Government Libraries Sections and is also a member of the CLM Committee of IFLA and the Editorial Committee of IFLA Journal. He may be contacted at alio@mea.gov.in or bihanisk@hotmail.com]

Remembering IFLA 2008: A Personal Reflection, by Jane Wu

Four months after the 2008 IFLA Conference, memories have faded a bit but there will still be some outstanding presentations or events which stay with us. This Newsletter features a few of the highlights and personal recollections. To complement and enrich our fading memories of the 2008 Conference, I strongly recommend a visit to the 2008 Conference website which features much more than one would expect, including, numerous video clips and excellent coverage of the very difficult-to-document events, such as the lunchtime seminars.

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In fact, for me, the most unforgettable session was indeed a lunchtime speaker who demonstrated, through personal experience and achievement, the important relationship between literacy, libraries and a way out of poverty. Not only did the speaker, the Honourable James K. Bartleman, manage to escape from grinding poverty but he went on to show how he used this experience to save and enrich the lives of thousands of disadvantaged people. He escaped illiteracy and poverty to become a distinguished Canadian diplomat, was appointed Canadian Ambassador to a number of different countries, establishing embassies in new countries, such as Bangladesh where he spearheaded the inoculation campaign, saving the lives of hundreds if not thousands of children during the world's most recent smallpox epidemic. He was then appointed, Lieutenant Governor of then Canadian Province of Ontario from 2002 to 2007.

During his presentation I took notes quickly and copiously but a few days ago when I started to write this brief account I found they were almost illegible! Imagine how thrilled I was to be able to listen once again to the speech made at the Quebec Conference, courtesy Library and Archives Canada and the IFLA website! Here I will therefore be very brief as I am certain it will whet your appetite for numerous visits to the IFLA 2008 website.

Most attendees at the IFLA Conference experienced middle class Canada, a very different, more sophisticated, much wealthier Canada from that described by Mr. Bartleman. Who would have thought that children born in Canada would have to rummage through the garbage dump to find something to read? Mr. Bartleman, born

December 24th, 1939 in Orillia, Ontario, son of a poor white labourer and a native Canadian, a Chippewa of Mnjikaning First nation, did precisely that! The small family was extremely poor, forbidden to live on the native reservation because his father was white. Their first family home was a tent beside the garbage dump. This was in the Muskoka region, summer cottage country for many wealthy Americans and some Canadians. His father and, later on, James and his brother, did odd jobs for the cottagers. They also waited eagerly for the weekly garbage truck and ran to pick through the dumped garbage. Thus James assembled his first reading material and built his first library from comic books discarded by the rich children, comic books which eventually helped him learn to read.

Throughout his illustrious career Mr. Bartleman has kept in touch with his mother's people and was pleased to see great improvements in living conditions and opportunities. When he became the first native Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, he decided that one of his projects would be to visit all of the native reservations and communities throughout the province. He described to us the serious problems of the Canadian natives in the north, describing it an area larger than France where native Canadians live in third world conditions. Previously a proud people with native traditions, they have been displaced for various reasons from their traditional hunting grounds and for many years were discouraged from practicing their native traditions. Thus dispossessed, the young people grow up with no hope, unable to fit into the white man's world as portrayed on television, without a place in the world and a feeling of having a future. Young children from the age of ten give up and create

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suicide pacts among themselves. Huge numbers of children have killed themselves over the past ten years, over 350 in that one area. The band leaders called upon Mr. Bartleman to help.

Mr. Bartleman visited the native reservations, the native communities, the native schools and talked to the children. Immediately Mr. Bartleman saw the schools were very poorly equipped and there were no books in the school libraries, only empty shelves. He asked the children if they had books at home. Finally one little girl said she had a book at home. He asked her to bring it in the following day. She did. It turned out to be a mail order catalogue! Mr. Bartleman said that he had known poverty and prejudice but early on he had understood that reading was a key to a better life. Unlike him, Mr. Bartleman said, these children have never had equal opportunities, have never had books in their libraries, have never had the chance to dream. People think native children are not interested in reading. He noted that native children have not had exposure to books during their pre-school years and consequently over 50% are defined as special needs kids when they enter the schoolhouse door.

When he returned south, Mr. Bartleman talked to retired teachers and librarians, to police departments and other community workers and established partnerships between the native leaders of native Communities and people of good will. . He spearheaded a campaign to bring books to these schools. He did not care about entitlements and who should have provided the books, whether it was the federal or provincial government. All he saw was a child needing to dream, a child needing a book to read. Through this program more

than two million books have been airlifted to these communities in Northern Ontario and four tractor trailer loads of books to children in northern Quebec as well as many to Nunavik in the far north. More recently, collaborating with many community groups, Mr. Bartleman has also established summer literacy camps as well.

What an inspiration and a challenge presented by this one speaker! I personally intend to help it shape my future activities and hope there will be many others joining in as well!

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