It was a great pleasure to meet many of you in Quebec at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress which was a great success. Quebec City was a friendly, hospitable and safe host for the Congress. We celebrated there also at the same time the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City. We could see people dressed in old-style clothes to perform on the streets or in the parks in small theatre plays telling about the history of Quebec. There were also concerts, circus, pantomime etc. all entertaining the local residents, conference guests and other tourists. You can get impressions of the WLIC in Quebec City from here http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/post-congress.htm

Here there are some highlights of the 2008 Congress:

MLAS Programme Session was a success
The whole-day Programme Session by MLAS in cooperation with CPDLW (Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section) and ALP (Action for Development through Libraries Programme) gathered 205 participants to the first part. After break we still had 100 listeners. After lunch 77 interested colleagues took part in the workshop. You find the Programme and papers here. Sessions 83 and 93 at http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm

MLAS SC Meeting well attended
MLAS SC had two meetings during the Congress, on Saturday and on Friday. In addition to the MLSS SC members we had IFLA President Claudia Lux, President-Elect Ellen Tise, Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson and Senior Policy Adviser Stuart Hamilton as our guests and also many observers. Minutes will be at the MLAS website in 2009 http://www.ifla.org/VII/s40/index.htm

National Library Associations Meeting
We got plenty of library associations to the National Library Associations Meeting. The programme was planned and conducted in cooperation with IFLA HQ and MLAS SC. After presentations and discussions we had a cocktail party/drinks, kindly supported by IFLA HQ. It gave colleagues a good opportunity to network with each other and to have some fun in between the tight Congress programme.

MLAS in Bratislava Feb 2009
MLAS SC and all interested members are welcome to the MLAS Mid Year Meeting in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia on the 12-14 Feb 2009.

MLAS in Milan - Aug 2009
In Milan MLAS has plenty of programme to offer to library associations. We have a programme session again with CPDLW and ALP http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/call-mlas-cpdwl-en.htm.
MLAS SC is also planning a new training session for library associations on Saturday afternoon. MLAS has also a Satellite Meeting together with Management and Marketing Section in Athens http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/satellite-marketing-call-en.htm.

Welcome to Bratislava and Milan!

Sinikka Sipila
Secretary General
Finnish Library Association
Chair, IFLA MLAS
sinikka.sipila@fla.fi
The next MLAS SC Mid-Year meeting will be in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 12 - 14th February 2009.

You can arrange direct, or combined flights to Bratislava (or Vienna airport, close to Bratislava) using Sky Europe

www.skyeurope.com

The main venue of our meeting will be the University Library in Bratislava, with it's historical buildings reconstructed a few years ago http://www.ulib.sk

The University Library is located at the Heart of the Historical Center of Bratislava

http://visit.bratislava.sk/en/

For travelling to Bratislava you can use 2 airports
- Vienna airport (Austria) - just 60 km far from Bratislava

www.viennaairport.com
- Bratislava airport (Slovakia)

www.airportbratislava.sk

December 2006 was when the Slovak Librarians Association celebrated it's 60th Anniversary and one of the events was the international meeting of library association representatives in the same meeting room.

A number of foreign guests have also been invited including
- Mrs. Marian Koren from Netherlands, Mrs. Ulrike Lang from Germany, Mrs. Zdenka Sviben, the president of Croatian Librarians Association.

I will be happy to provide you by any additional information, please just ask.

Best wishes from Bratislava,

Silvia

Silvia Stasselová
stassel@svf.stuba.sk

BOOKINGS FOR MILAN
You can register NOW for the Milan Congress ! Visit the website.

You can receive your letter of invitation for Visa purposes by following the link on the website.


Please note that the Standing Committee meetings are held on the day before and the day after the conference and all interested delegates from Library Associations around the world are most welcome to attend these meetings.

Watch for updates on the conference website http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/index.htm and on the MLAS e-list for updates.

Details of other satellite meetings are also on the conference website.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS TO IFLA

Library associations have a vital role in recruiting new members to IFLA. The MLAS appeals to all library associations to monitor the potential new members in their countries. New members from associations, institutions, professionals and students are important to the vitality and strength of IFLA.

Italian Library Association President,
Mauro Guerrini
MLAS - The Global Library Association Development programme (GLAD)

Mentors
Representatives of library associations with particular expertise in various aspects of association management may offer their services as Mentors. Potential mentors should submit an application through the GLAD website.

Mentees
Representatives of library associations who would like assistance with developing particular elements of their association work may request to become Mentees. Potential mentees should submit an application through the GLAD website.

Find out more:
http://www.ifla.org/VII/s40/
https://cs.ala.org/iro/GLAD/search.cfm

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DON'T FORGET: NOMINATIONS DUE SOON


and for IFLA Standing Committee members, 2009-2013. Information on the nomination procedure at http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/callscm-e.htm

IFLA HQ has sent nomination forms to all IFLA members. In case you have not received any of these nomination forms, please let IFLA Headquarters know and we will resend and/or fax the appropriate forms.

The deadline for nominations is 11 February 2009.

Council Meetings and Statutes - report from Quebec
Report from Sinikka Sipila, MLAS Chair

Reaching the quorum at the Council Meeting

MLAS SC was given the task to gather the simple majority of National and International Library Association members to the Council Meeting. Only when the simple majority is present, the Council can take decisions, according to the IFLA Statutes. We managed in the last minutes to get enough associations to take part in the Council. It was still too close that there would not have been enough associations present.

Next time we have to be sure that we reach the quorum without any problem at the General Assembly of Members as the Council Meeting is called from Milan on according to the renewed Statutes approved by the Council in Quebec City.

If your association cannot take part in the General Assembly of Members you can give a proxy to a representative from your country or to the Chair or members of the MLAS SC during the Conference. In the Quebec City there were enough associations had fetched their voting documents but all did not appear in the Council Meeting nor left the proxy. Next time every association taking part in the Congress in Milan is seriously asked to participate in the General Assembly of Members or to give a proxy!

The renewed IFLA Statutes approved
As mentioned above the Council approved the proposed changes to the Statutes. Now the Chair of MLAS is a permanent member of the IFLA Governing Board, no more a co-opted member. The professional structure is changed so that now there are five divisions as earlier there were eight. The sections are reorganised under the new divisions. There are changes also in the structure of the Congress from Milan in 2009 or from Brisbane 2010 on.
AN UPDATE –


Maria Cotera: m.cotera@cul.ac.uk

To receive news and contribute ideas – join our mailing list
WILL-L:
http://infoserv.inist.fr/wsympa.fcgi/info/will-l

The mission of the Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group (WIL) is the promotion, development and support of library and information services for the benefit of women, and society as a whole.

The Discussion Group, under the sponsorship and professional guidance of the Management of Library Associations Section, focuses on women as users of library and information services, as workers in the library field, and as providers of information.

WIL’s first programme in Durban discussed women’s professional contribution to the UNESCO Millennium Development Goals. The four presentations were truly inspirational and attracted lots of interest from the 200+ strong audience.

A meeting with 27 delegates held right after the programme helped the Discussion Group conveners to establish the focus of WIL’s session for Quebec – with this being identified as professional development of LIS women workers, and the programme style moving away from speakers presenting papers, to a “round tables” setting to facilitate discussion.

At the Quebec Conference, Loriene Roy, Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, and Immediate Past-President of the American Library Association set the mood for “Putting Women on the Agenda: Empowering Women Professionals to Lead in the Information Society” by inviting delegates to seek and find partnerships and collaborations.

This was followed by 45min interactive workshops in English and French. This format gave the 170+ delegates (including two men!) the opportunity to participate in two of the different sessions which interested them the most, under two different strands:

International Leadership Opportunities:
the sessions, focusing on specific examples of current models of partnerships and experiences, were led by Barbara Ford, Director and Distinguished Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and member of IFLA’s Governing Board; and Michele M. Reid, Dean of Libraries, North Dakota State University, who was also the programme coordinator. Discussion have continued via the list-serve WIL-L

Mentoring the mentors / launching the Big Sister - Little Sister Mentorship Scheme:
following on an idea born at the Durban Conference, WIL has launched an international mentorship scheme lead by women willing to help other women to learn their way around the IFLA structure and to develop their professional skills to their full potential in a multi-cultural, cross-sectoral mentorship scheme where women professionals from all over the world would contribute their time and knowledge.

Delegates’ feedback of the WIL programme has been really positive - comments included:

“Discussion gives another dimension to the topics”.

“Meeting people from other countries was my goal for coming to the Congress; the WIL session was an opportunity to do that as the round tables setting encouraged participation”.

At the after-programme meeting it was agreed that in Milan WIL would be advocating the role of women librarians as providers of information and our contribution to society to make the world a better place.

The programme would be a combination of short presentations by guest speakers during the first half, with time for discussion and networking during the second half at the Women’s Fair, which will showcase specific projects in which women professionals across the world are supporting other women (either women from their communities or LIS colleagues) in different ways.

For further information contact Maria Cotera, WIL DG Lead Convenor: m.cotera@ucl.ac.uk

*this was the title of the programme
There are of course various ways to advocate libraries and library politics to politicians. Norwegian Library Association (NLA) has practiced a way to do so, that we find quite effective, and that we want to share. Most Parliaments select special committees, often similar to the organisational structure of the governmental ministries. Usually there is for instance a Ministry of Culture, and ergo a Culture Committee in the Parliament.

Although the Norwegian public libraries are owned by the municipalities, NLA has been advocating that we need a national library policy, as we already have a national law on public libraries, and that all libraries are part of a national library system, with much the same duties and demands.

NLA has the suspicion that many national politicians know very little about the modern library and digital library services. We therefore decided to offer an update on their library knowledge. By contacting the chair of the relevant committees we asked if they were interested in a mini seminar, 3 – 4 hours, like “before luncheon or after luncheon”. In understanding with the library directors, we offered to bring them by bus or maxi-taxi to a well qualified public library in, or close to, Oslo. They were also offered a chat with the local mayor, representing the library owner, and a short guided visit in the library.

With some variations, the programmes were like this:
- welcome and short presentation of NLA - by NLA’s president (10 min.)
- information by the mayor or the library director, on the local library’s main priorities (10 min.)
- information by an ITC-freak writer (member of NLA’s board), on the libraries’ unused potential in the new digital everyday, like “Youtube”, mobile phone access etc. (15 min.)
- information by a professor from University College of Oslo, on the broad register of libraries’ potential as a tool to achieve political goals (20 min.)
- presentation on screen from a librarian of some of the new national digital library services, like “Wish Book”, national service like “The Library Answers” e.a. (20 min.)
- views on the main political challenges on the ITC area - (NLA’s president) – 15 min.
- questions and discussion

We chose to invite the following Parliament committees: Committee on Culture and Family Affairs, Committee on Communication and Transportation and Committee on Education and Research (to come). The committees were presented to relevant library information according to their main tasks, and of course we introduced them to the main political challenges and related problems. But mainly we wanted to point out how the libraries, as cultural, educational and democratic institutions, can be practically useful when it comes to putting political options into effect.

The direct background for NLA’s initiative was the presentation of the document “Library Reform 2014” from Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (under direction of Ministry of Culture). The final document will be presented to the Parliament during autumn 2008, but the initial document can be found in English version here:

So we wanted to give the PMs a “live” update on the national library situation, before they started to discuss it! But actually – we certainly did not need any special excuse for inviting them – they needed this update anyway. We have also decided to present this offer every fourth year. It is effective lobbying; no time-consuming study trips, it is cost effective and the library association sets the agenda – “Library on the agenda”.

Look Out for the new-look IFLA website being rolled out over the coming months and from March 2009.

http://www.ifla.org

Don’t forget to add your Success Story to the Libraries Success Stories database.
IFLA's New Professionals Discussion Group activities

During the past year IFLA's New Professionals Discussion Group (NPDG) actively planned programs for new librarians attending the IFLA Congress in Quebec, and started coordination of pre-conferences for Milan and Brisbane congresses. The NPDG also had a representative (Loida Garcia-Febo) in the Website working group collaborating with Fiona Bradley to suggest ideas for the soon-to-be launched new IFLA website.

Working in conjunction with the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning, the NPDG will present Moving In, Moving Up, and Moving On: Strategies for Regenerating the Library and Information Profession an IFLA pre-conference at the University of Bologna on August 18-20, 2009. Information about the call for papers and proposal submission form at http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/satellite-cpdwl-call-en.htm

The NPDG also plans a massive presence at the IFLA WLIC in Brisbane, Australia in 2010. Plans are already under way with our enthusiastic colleagues from the New Generations group. Currently, NPDG convenors are Liz Lewis (UK), Joanna Ball (UK), and Robyn Ellard (AUS). Loida Garcia-Febo (PR/US) and Andrew Cranfield (DK/UK) are now advisors to the DG. During the IFLA Congress in Quebec convenors encouraged new librarians to get involved in the DG and a number of them put their business cards forward. These were contacted and it is expected that a number of them join the NPDG as active convenors.

New Professionals Discussion Group @ IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Quebec City, Canada Below - a summary of our program in Quebec:

On Tuesday, August 12, the New Professionals Discussion Group presented a successful program that challenged librarians and library associations from around the globe to take a closer look at how they involve new librarians in their association's work. Speakers included Robyn Ellard, Assistant Director of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Keith Michaels Fiels, Executive Director of the American Library Association (ALA), Barbara Schleihagen, Executive Director of Deutscher Bibliotheksverband e.V. (DBV), Susanne Riedel, Executive Director of German Professional Association (BIB), and Jesus Lau, the Vice-President/ President Elect of the Association Mexicana de Bibliotecarios/ Mexican Library Association (AMBAC).

The panelists shared their wisdom to motivate new librarians to participate in association's work. Keith Michael Fiels started off giving three tips to get ahead: show up, take on work, and do it! Most times committees need members and those who attend their meetings have the opportunity to join that particular group. If a task needs to be completed, it is always a good idea to volunteer, and if you volunteer, make sure you finish what you start.

Jesus Lau encouraged new librarians to not be afraid of the crowds of the Congress or the big names of chairs of committees and divisions because they like all of us are only human too. The important aspect is to dare to participate and speak up. Robyn Ellard explained how ALIA’s New Generation Advisory Committee advises their Executive Board on matters related to recently qualified new professionals. This revolutionary approach has greatly helped ALIA to better serve its newest members.

Barbara Schleihagen stressed the importance of communication and interaction among colleagues to ensure understanding of what the needs are. She suggested that opening spaces for students to develop projects for library associations could motivate more involvement of this group in committee work. Susanne Riedel shared information about the Treff-session of the BIB which offers a reduced rate for first time members. This has proven to be a wonderful recruitment tool among new librarians increasing membership of this sector. The session included a healthy discussion about the points raised by the speakers. All the panelists agreed that library associations need to encourage employers to develop secession plans to proactively strategize for the big exodus of the baby boomers.

Bob McKee, Executive Director of the Chartered Institute of Information Professionals (CILIP), the association in the UK, summarized the discussion with five points:

1. It is important to run an effective association: people want to be involved in an association that is different.
2. Practice Euthanasia: people hang around for too long; give others a chance to work.
3. Bring them in: if you are a veteran, go where new professionals are; go online.
4. Give support: newbies need to know that veterans have their backs.

Photo: Liz Lewis and Loida Garcia-Febo with Loriene Roy, ALA Immediate Past President
The Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) & IFLA Annual Conferences
By Bau-Mei Cheng,
Editor of the National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan,
brenda@ncl.edu.tw

The Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) website:
http://www.lac.org.tw/

The Library Association in Taiwan was founded on November 12, 1953. It has made numerous contributions to the development of librarianship in Taiwan during the past six decades. For the new millennium, missions stated in the revised Charters of the Association are listed as follows: (a) to study the theoretical as well as the practical aspects of library and information science; (b) to cultivate the reading habit of the public to establish a learned society; (c) to set up the ethics of library professional practice; (d) to formulate and to expand library and information science related standards; (e) to promote on-the-job continuing education for library staff working in various types of libraries; (f) to enhance the development and utilization of the nationwide library and information resources; (g) to pursue the development of librarianship cooperatively; (h) to establish a national library information network; (i) to compile and publish library and professional publications; and (j) to conduct other necessary activities in furthering the missions of the Association.

In order to promote international library exchange and cooperation, and enhance the broader international experience and vision, the Association strongly encourages its members to participate international library activities and international conferences. For the IFLA annual conference, the Association provides financial support for delegates to present papers and poster exhibit. In addition, it also recommends the eligible candidates to serve the IFLA Standing Committees.

Three of the Association Presidents have led the delegation to attend the IFLA Conference respectively in 2003, 2004, 2006. In 2006, former Association President Huang Hong-chu led over 50 delegates to IFLA Conference in Seoul, Korea. The delegation has attended more activities during IFLA 2006 Conference than the past Conference, including 3 paper presentation, 1 poster exhibit, and 4 standing committee members. The poster with the topic ‘A Study on the Use of Public Libraries by the Homeless People in Taipei’ won the top prize in the Poster Session Award 2006 and also represented the first time that Taiwan has been honored with the award.

Since 2003 the author has started to attend the IFLA Conference as one of the delegate from Taiwan. Following are the activities from 2001 to 2008 she highlights in this report to provide an overview of the efforts the Association and libraries, as well as librarians from Taiwan have made together. According to the themes of papers and posters, the development of digital services, digital contents, digital libraries in Taiwan can be further referred at the IFLA Annual Conference website.
MLAS Milan 2009 Programme and satellite events

LIBRARIANS ON THE CAT WALK: COMMUNICATING FOR ADVOCACY TO INFLUENCE POLICY AND PRACTICE

This programme is collaboration between the Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS), and the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section (CPDWL), and Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP).

The World Library & Information Congress/IFLA General Conference takes place in Milan, Italy, August 23-27, 2009. The overall conference theme is “Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage”.

As part of the conference program the MLAS and CPDWL will host a one-day session:

Part 1: Papers will focus on topics including:
- Successful Advocacy Programmes
- Communication and Promotion
- Influencing the Political Agenda
- Identifying the Right Arena for Advocacy
- Working with Media

*Note: Invited speakers will be allocated 20 minutes presentation time after which there will be 10 minutes of discussion.

Part 2: Interactive practice in making presentations:
Two selected presentations will be given by volunteers. After the volunteers have finished, a film on presentations will be shown. The two selected volunteer presenters will be assigned mentors to assist with improving their presentations. To demonstrate lessons learned after working with their mentor, the same two presentations will be given again by the volunteers.

*Note: While the selected presenters are working with their mentors the rest of the audience will have an opportunity to work with other mentors with any presentations they have with them.

Service Strategies for Libraries in libraries

Dates: 19 -21 August 2009
Location: Athens, Greece
Contact Person: Christie Koontz, ckoontz@ci.fsu.edu, Antonia Arahova, tonia@idkaramanlis.gr, and Àngels Massísimo, amassísimo@ub.edu
Audience: Librarians in Public or/and Academic Libraries, from Library Associations – with emphasis on attendants from Eastern/Southern Europe, the Middle East and Northern African countries
Sponsors: IFLA Management and Marketing Section
Co-sponsors: IFLA Management of Library Associations Section; Greek Ministry of Education and Religious affairs

Moving in, moving up, and moving on: strategies for regenerating the library & information profession

Dates: 19-20 August 2009, with opening reception event 18 August (evening)
Location: Bologna, Italy
Contact persons: Roisin Gwyer, Roisin.Gwyer@port.ac.uk, and Loida Garcia-Fedo, loidagarciafebo@gmail.com
Website: www.ifla.org/VII/s43/index.htm
Audience: Anyone who is interested in issues of professional, workplace, individual and/or organisational development. Anyone interested in issues of working and managing across generations (at individual, organisational and whole-of-profession level)
Sponsors: IFLA Continuing Professional Development & Workplace Learning Section and IFLA New Professional Discussion Group
LOOK OUT ! on the web ....
We have updated the MLAS website
http://www.ifla.org/VII/s40/index.htm

How do I join the MLAS e-list ?? ...

Just contact Arlene Cohen directly at arlenegcohen@gmail.com and request to be joined up to the MLAS e-list.

Send your message to ifla-mlas@lists.sla.org - where members of the list can send messages.

For the Mid-year meeting :-

Bratislava - The Official Web Site
http://visit.bratislava.sk/en/

Slovak National Tourism Portal
(including information on Bratislava)
http://www.slovakia.travel/

Bratislava and Slovakia
http://www.slovakia.org/bratislava.htm

LIBRARIANS ON THE CAT WALK: COMMUNICATING FOR ADVOCACY TO INFLUENCE POLICY AND PRACTICE

The World Library & Information Congress/ IFLA General Conference and Council.

Please keep up to date with Conference programme news by monitoring the website at
http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/