

GIVING THE GLOBAL VIEW

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SWITZERLAND'S LITTLE BIG CITY

ZÜRICH

Switzerland is the location of this year's INTAMEL Conference to be held in Zürich, 19-24 September. Hosted by the Pestalozzi-Bibliothek Zürich (PBZ), the City's public library, the conference sessions will focus on libraries in Zürich and on the Swiss library system.

Noting that this is the first INTAMEL Conference to be held in his country, PBZ Director Christian Relly describes Swiss libraries as "poor institutions in a rich country". He reports that preparations for the Conference are well advanced with over 50 registrations from 19 countries, including Australia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Russia and the USA.

The programme's many attractions include general information on Swiss libraries and visits to libraries in Zürich and elsewhere, as well as discussion on themes of common interest: library services for young adults and for multilingual populations. In addition to the key topics,



1999 INTAMEL CONFERENCE

Pestalozzi-Bibliothek Zürich: 19-24 September

there will be contributions from Zürich and from INTAMEL delegates who have volunteered papers on new developments, projects or problems in their own city libraries.

"Zürich is the largest and in many respects the most important city in Switzerland", he explains. "It has 350,000 inhabitants – though it is not really a 'big city'. Nevertheless it has three large and a number of

smaller libraries. PBZ is the public library with branch libraries in different parts of the city; but it is not really the city library. One of the two big University Libraries is at the same time the city library (Zentralbibliothek).

"The PBZ was founded in 1896 by a group of rich and educated citizens as a private institution. And even today it is a private foundation, supported by the City of Zürich. It has no big central library but offers in all its agencies a good service, and is very well regarded by the public."

Christian reports that PBZ can reduce or waive the Conference registration fee for a small number of participants whose libraries have difficulty in funding their attendance (contact details below).

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Photo: Elisabeth Buchmann

Youngsters at a branch of the Pestalozzi-Bibliothek Zürich

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 19 September

- 18.30 Welcoming Reception

MONDAY 20 September

- Welcome by the City Council and Pestalozzi-Bibliothek Zürich (PBZ)
- Papers on Switzerland and Zürich Today, and Libraries in Switzerland
- Visits to the Zentralbibliothek Zürich
- Public Libraries in Switzerland and in Zürich; visit to the Zentralbibliothek Zürich – special interests
- Dinner Meeting with Swiss Library Association representatives

TUESDAY 21 September

- Subject Session 1: Library Service for Young Adults; Young Adults in Switzerland; members' contributions
- Bertelsmann Foundation: Public Libraries Projects
- Options: a) 2 PBZ branch libraries
b) the Swiss Social Archives
- Reception by Zürich City Council
- Evening with Swiss librarians

WEDNESDAY 22 September

- Library Service for a Multilingual Population: tour to Biel/Bienne, German/French speaking City on linguistic border
- Visit to City Library in Biel
- Bus to Solothurn – guided walking tour through the Baroque town
- Reception at the Schweizerische Volksbibliothek
- Swiss Folklore evening in Waldegg Palace (Solothurn)

THURSDAY 23 September

- Open session: members' contributions
- INTAMEL Business Meeting
- Options: a) Guided tour to literary Zürich; b) Subject Session 2: Library Service for a Multilingual Population; members' contributions

FRIDAY 24 September

- Library Services in Mountainous Areas: visits to the Glarus and Altdorf County libraries
- Farewell dinner in Lenzburg Castle

DECLARATION

IFLA/FAIFE

IFLA has reaffirmed the role of libraries in freedom of information, and declared its support for intellectual freedom through a landmark statement drawn up by FAIFE, its Committee for Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression.

"Libraries are key institutions in securing access to information, ideas and works of imagination", said IFLA President Christine Deschamps, launching the statement. Calling on members to promote its widespread adoption, Madame Deschamps stressed the importance of librarians: "Librarians are in the front-line. They provide access to information to people regardless of their ethnic origin, creed and gender."

The *Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom* is as follows:

- IFLA supports, defends and promotes intellectual freedom as defined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- IFLA declares that human beings have a fundamental right to access to expressions of knowledge, creative thought and intellectual activity, and to express their views publicly.
- IFLA believes that the right to know and freedom of expression are two aspects of the same principle. The right to know is a requirement for freedom of thought and conscience; freedom of thought and freedom of expression are necessary conditions for freedom of access to information.
- IFLA asserts that a commitment to intellectual freedom is a core responsibility for the library and information profession.
- IFLA therefore calls upon libraries and library staff to adhere to the principles of intellectual freedom, uninhibited access to information and freedom of expression and to recognize the privacy of library user.
- IFLA urges its members actively to promote the acceptance and realization of these principles. In doing so, IFLA affirms that:

- Libraries provide access to information, ideas and works of imagination. They serve as gateways to knowledge, thought and culture.

- Libraries provide essential support for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development for both individuals and groups.

- Libraries contribute to the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom and help to safeguard basic democratic values and universal civil rights.

- Libraries have a responsibility both to guarantee and to facilitate access to expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity. To this end, libraries shall acquire, preserve and make available the widest variety of materials, reflecting the plurality and diversity of society.

- Libraries shall ensure that the selection and availability of library materials and services is governed by professional considerations and not by political, moral and religious views.

- Libraries shall acquire, organize and disseminate freely and oppose any form of censorship.

- Libraries shall make materials facilities and services equally accessible to all users. There shall be no discrimination due to race, creed, gender, age or for any other reason.

- Library users shall have the right to personal privacy and anonymity. Librarians and other library staff shall not disclose the identity of users or the materials they use to a third party.

- Libraries funded from public sources and to which the public have access shall uphold the principles of intellectual freedom.

- Librarians and other employees in such libraries have a duty to uphold those principles.

- Librarians and other professional libraries staff shall fulfil their responsibilities both to their employer and to their users. In cases of conflict between those responsibilities, the duty towards the user shall take precedence.

● The statement is at <<http://www.faife.dk/policy/iflstat.htm>>

SUPPORT FUND

INTAMEL

"Some members' budgets are so low that they cannot afford to maintain membership nor attend annual meetings without some support", writes INTAMEL President Dan Wilson. "I intend to place this topic on the agenda for the meeting to be held in Zürich. We need



Jan Boman

to hear from those in need as well as from members able to assist.

"If any members are in a position to

make a donation to the scholarship fund", says Jan Boman, INTAMEL Secretary and Treasurer, "this can be indicated by including a donation with the 1999 dues payment".



Dan Wilson

Dan Wilson adds: "The value of the many formal and informal contacts through INTAMEL far exceeds the annual dues. The experience with every Conference and meeting has been that members come away with new ideas and a determination to improve our libraries' assets". ●

FROM EAST EUROPE

QUEENS

The Queens Borough Public Library, New York, is welcoming four librarians from Eastern Europe to study how the Library serves its public. The program is funded by a grant from the Open Society Institute, whose work helps in the democratisation of Eastern European nations.



At the Cyber Center opening – (from left) Gary E. Strong, Borough President Claire Shulman and Congressman Gregory Meeks.

Two librarians from Croatia began their studies in April, a third was expected from Russia in July, and the fourth, from Romania, in the Fall. Chosen from several applicants who, among other qualifications, speak English, they work in public service units throughout the Queens system.

"We are pleased to be able to share how an American public library operates with our colleagues from Eastern Europe", says Library Director Gary Strong. "It will also help us in acquiring information and materials from that part of the world."

While in Queens, the librarians will encounter the new state-of-the-art Cyber Center which has 48 networked workstations and printers. Here customers can write term papers and resumés, create spreadsheets, surf the Internet, do research on electronic databases or multimedia CD-ROMs, search the Library's InfoLinQ catalog, or conduct online search requests. ●

INTAMEL is a Round Table of IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

IFLA CONFERENCE DATES

1999 August 20-28, Bangkok	2001 August 19-26, Boston
2000 August 13-18, Jerusalem	2002 August 18-24, Glasgow
	2003 August 1-8, Berlin

ADAPTING TO INDEPENDENCE

RIGA

Riga Central library (Riga CL) has been operating for 93 years and during this period has experienced different periods of development. Overall, the regular quantitative and qualitative increase in the library's operation and services offered during the years of the Republic of Latvia (1918-1940) was replaced by a heavy fall during the occupation years of the USSR communist regime (1940-1941, 1945-1991) and the German fascist regime (1941-1945).

During this long occupation period (1940-1991) thousands of books and other forms of information were destroyed, and several libraries were subjected to repression, while the rest were forced to serve the communistic ideology, russification policy and misinformation of society.

The real functions of library work – informative, educational and entertainment – returned to Riga CL when Latvian independence was restored and the state embarked on the establishment of democracy and a market economy.

At present there are 806,000 inhabitants of Riga and 47 public libraries. Riga CL is the administrative, economic and methodological centre of these libraries.

Dr. Aivars Beika, Director of Riga Central Library, introduces one of INTAMEL's newest members from Eastern Central Europe.

Among the 47 public libraries, six are specialised and four are libraries-clubs. The latter are located at remote housing estates of city, where there are no other cultural institutions in the infrastructure and thus the library performs additional untypical functions. For example, singing, dancing, gymnastic and other hobby groups are active in organising the leisure time of youth and children.

Five libraries are for children only, and there are children's departments in 24 libraries.

The total budget of Riga public libraries in 1998 was 1,185,000 LVL (2,008,474 USD). Total attendances were 1.1 million, with 3.9 million loans.

The largest social group of readers at Riga public libraries is composed of young people up to the age of 20, the second largest of people from 20 to 30 years, and the third of senior citizens. The library's collection development policy reflects these facts. First we obtain useful reference and branch literature and then Latvian original literature and foreign fic-



Riga Central Library Reading Room

tion – for the sum of 120,000 LVL (203,400 USD) from our budget.

Of course, we cannot buy everything that has been published in Latvia. We purchase only one copy for each or separate libraries.

Since 1998 we have entered all recently purchased literature in the electronic general catalogue. At present the users of three but, by the end of this year, users of eight libraries will be able to use the Internet to access the latest information.

The effects of occupation are felt not only in terms of the small budget, but also in terms of library

premises. As the majority of libraries are situated in old houses which have been legally returned to previous owners or their heirs, the libraries, unable to compete with business organisations regarding rent for the premises, are forced to look for new ones. During the process of moving libraries, mergers take place.

Riga City Council has approved a development plan for public libraries up to 2009.

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CYBERPARAMEDICS

BALTIMORE

The Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore has established a Cyberparamedic Program and coursework for its staff. Writing in *Public Libraries* (Jan/Feb 1999), Patricia E. Wallace explains the decision "to empower and educate ourselves in basic PC maintenance and troubleshooting in order to help supplement our overworked but

dedicated technicians. Having a healthy happy fleet of PCs and a staff certified in Computer Printer Resuscitation for PCs seemed the answer".

Awards for successful completion of the course include a personal repair kit with tweezers, screwdriver and screen wipes. But more important for many staff is the opportunity to grow and to learn new areas not previously in their job descriptions. ●



Riga Central Library Lending Department

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OLDEST AND LARGEST LIBRARY

TEL-AVIV

Sha'ar Zion - Beit Ariela is a thriving center of culture which provides public library services as well as interesting exhibits, courses and workshops for adults and for children. It is the home of the main library, which is the oldest and largest municipal public library in Israel.

The Sha'ar Zion library is even older than the city of Tel-Aviv itself. It was established in 1886 in a private home in the city of Yafo (Jaffa), and only in 1910 was it moved to the newly established



Dr. Ora Nebenzahl introduces Sha'ar Zion - Beit Ariela, the main library of the Tel-Aviv - Jaffa Public Library System, which is home to important Israeli collections and a flourishing cultural centre

town of Tel-Aviv. The mission of the library changed many times over the years. Originally, it aimed to provide useful information for the Jewish pioneers, later to serve as a national cultural resource for Jewish heritage and intellectual writings. Finally, in 1922, it was recognised as the municipal library of Tel-Aviv.

Beit Ariela, the current home of

Sha'ar Zion, opened to the public in 1977. It houses several important collections, such as the Rambam library of Jewish theology, the Ahad Ha'am library of Jewish history, culture, and the history of the land of Israel, the Ramba special collection of Jewish periodicals and newspapers, a comprehensive collection of Hebrew poetry and prose, as well as children's literature and a law library. It also includes the only dance library in Israel and the Israeli Dance Archives, the Israeli Graphotek art collection, an extensive picture collection, and the Alice Gitter music library.

In addition to the main library with its unique collections, the Tel-Aviv - Yafo public library system has 25 branches throughout the city. Each provides reference, circulation and cultural and community programs. The 26th branch opened to the public in July 1999.

There are two special libraries in the system. One is The Felicja Blumental Music Center and Library. It houses music literature and important Israeli music and musician archives, as well as a collection of rare musical instruments. The center initiates concerts, exhibits and other programs. The other special library is the Bialik house, which is the home of Israel's most famous late national poet. It includes the poet's archives and his valuable library.

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CELEBRATING ALICE

International and Israeli experts attended the The Sha'ar Zion - Beit Ariela 7th International conference on Literature for Children and Young Adults in June. A tribute to Lewis Carroll, the Conference featured an unusual exhibit ceremony, in addition to the discussions, lectures, workshops and meetings. 'The Alice Wonder Fashion Show', featured the work of selected Israeli fashion designers who had responded to the challenge to design a new wardrobe for Alice. The event was a grand celebration of the new Hebrew translation of Carroll's works. ●



Sha'ar Zion - Beit Ariela, the main library in Tel-Aviv

VALUE FOR MONEY

ST. LOUIS

A Services Valuation Study has used a variety of techniques to develop a practical methodology that large urban public libraries can use to estimate the direct return on annual taxpayer investment. The findings from St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) show that public library services generate a positive dollar return on that investment. "While claiming to be essential to the social fabric of

urban communities and therefore worthy of precious public resources", comments SLPL Director Glen Holt in *Public Libraries*, March/April 1999, "libraries must now respond to the cries of fiscal gadflies who say, 'Prove it!'".

As a result of the study, SLPL can now tell its Board and the City that the Library's users are receiving \$4 in direct benefits for every \$1 of tax revenues invested annually in the institution.

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ROUNDUP

Self-service libraries

The *National Library Board of Singapore* has a policy to do away with staffed issue points. One hundred and fifty 3M self-issue machines are installed across the Singapore system of over 50 community libraries.

● <<http://www.lib.gov.sg>>

State-wide Web site

Public Librarians Online is a new Web site developed by the *Library and Information Service of Western Australia* (LISWA) for public library staff throughout the State. The aim is to use the Internet to improve communication and service delivery between LISWA in Perth and WA's 235 public libraries. Librarians use the site's interactive features to communicate and share information, and many LISWA services and publications can be accessed 24 hours a day.

● <<http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au>>

Empowering card

The Power Card is a new name and a new look for the *Houston Public Library Card*. The name was chosen to signify how libraries can empower young people by providing them with access to books, magazines, the Internet, and other resources. The Power Card Challenge is a program of the Mayor and City of Houston and the Public Library. The Card is available free of charge to all children and adults living within the city limits. In addition, the City Council has agreed to waive the non-resident fee for 18s and under who live in contiguous counties, encouraging young people throughout the whole Houston area to "Pack the Power".

● <<http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us>>

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Several members send us their library newsletters, press releases and other news items. These help in editing Metro and spreading information about new activities and developments.

Send your news to the editors - by mail, fax or e-mail (details, page 1). Stick a reminder note on your desk or computer screen - better still, put us on your mailing list.

● Copy date for the next issue: Friday 22 October 1999.