Greetings from the Chair!

It is very difficult to see the city of Jerusalem and the neighboring towns, which many of us visited during our summer conference, turned into battlegrounds filled with violence and human tragedy. It is my sincere hope that I will see the day when the IFLA 2000 Conference City of Jerusalem is at peace.

IFLA 2000 was another exciting event for many of us. Our section’s co-sponsorship with the Management and Marketing Section and the Information Technology Section on changing work patterns was an enormous success with well over 300 participants attending the all day session. I like to take this opportunity to thank Tatiana Ershova, Christina Tovote, Yuri Hohlov and Rejean Savard and Hans Christoph Hobohm for their participation and contributions. I also would like to thank our section’s two speakers, Ronald Jantz (USA) and Kate Sharp (UK) for their paper presentations on a timely and stimulating topic. For full text access to all the papers presented during this session please check the IFLA website at http://ifla.org/IV/ifla66/66cp.htm.

Thanks are also due to Jakob Andersen and Hans-Christoph Hobohm for a very successful workshop on the evaluation of social science information gateways. The workshop was held at the beautiful Hebrew University Mt. Scopus campus. Melvin Thatcher once again led another successful discussion group under the theme “Providing Access to Genealogy and Local History Information and Sources through International Cooperation and the Global Sharing of Resources.” Over 40 participants attended the session.

In this issue of our section’s Newsletter, our colleague Ron Jantz contributes a short essay in which he shares his experiences and impressions as a first time IFLA participant. As Ron points out, there is an enormous advantage in building a global network of colleagues who are engaged in similar enterprises.

IFLA 2001 in Boston has already attracted much interest. Our section will co-sponsor another open forum on knowledge management for not-for-profit organizations. The topic of knowledge management attracted many IFLA participants at the section’s Discussion Group a couple of years ago. At that time, the topic was largely addressed from a for-profit-libraries’ point of view. Knowledge management, however, has become an increasingly important topic for those of us who are associated with not-for-profit organizations as well. I have already begun working with Lena Olsson, chair of the Government Libraries Section, and Michael E.D. Koenig, a member of the Standing Committee of the Management
and Marketing Section. Our colleague Michael Koenig is one of the leading experts on this topic having just edited a volume entitled Knowledge Management for the Information Professionals (American Society for Information Science, 1999).

I hope many of you will join us in Boston to share ideas and to help form a professional alliance with colleagues from around the globe. The city of Boston is at the heart of New England with libraries of all types and with many early American historical sites. I hope your plans to attend are already well under way.

I hope this message finds you well. My best wishes for a happy and healthy 2001!

Myoung C. Wilson
January, 2001

Standing Committee members, Vera Grigorieva and Jean-Philippe Accart, had given her prior notification of their absences.

The summary minutes of the Bangkok meetings were approved as distributed.

REPORTS: The Section Chair’s Annual Report was approved as distributed. Ms. Wilson made special note that the Section’s Secretary, Dr. Hobohm, has been elected Chair of Division II (Special Libraries) and also Chair of the Coordinating Board. She thanked him for his work on the Section’s Bangkok forum and for getting the papers given there published in INSPEL and the IFLA Journal. She also thanked Mel Thatcher for organizing a successful workshop in Bangkok.

A draft Financial Report was presented. The Section has 86 members, an increase of 10%. The administrative account has 1350 guilders (approximately $500 USD) remaining. The Education Library Directory Project has 522 DM (approximately $250 USD) in its account, which must be used by 31/12/00.

Dr. Hobohm noted that there are 180 members for the Section’s listserv. Ms. Kemp said that she has been contacted by the editor of Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian, a Haworth Press journal, about exchanging hyperlinks with the journal. Ms. Wilson said this issue could be discussed at the next 18/08/00 meeting, but noted that any such contacts must be mutually beneficial.

Dr. Hobohm stated that he now gets the newsletter for the Social Sciences division of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) and suggested thinking of ways to deepen our contacts with SLA.
The Financial and Secretary Reports were approved.

**ACTIVITIES IN JERUSALEM:** Mr. Thatcher’s workshop will be held in Room 314. No papers will be given, but there will be discussion of five topics. Mr. Thatcher asked about the future of discussion groups. Dr. Hobohm said the new statutes that are likely to be approved only have Sections and SIGs. Although all of the requirements for Section status were not known, there must be a proposal approved by the governing board. There are also questions about the status of SIGs. For example, it is not clear if they have a Section affiliation.

Mr. Thatcher then described a planned outside activity for Thursday, 17 August. An all-day excursion encompassing the Holocaust Museum, the Central Archives of Jewish History, and the Manuscripts and Microforms unit of the National University will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Dr. Hobohm said that the Corporate & For-Profit Discussion group has no convener at this conference, so he has asked Dr. Michael Koenig to chair the meeting on Sunday, 20 August. No topic was listed for the group, but in Bangkok, the group had voted to continue a discussion on knowledge management. The group is in its last year and will not continue.

Jakob Andersen’s workshop is meeting #185 in the program. It will be held Thursday at the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus. Nineteen people have pre-registered and there is room for 100. Members were asked to help publicize the workshop. It will be announced in the IFLA Express and at the Open Forum.

The Section is co-sponsoring this year’s Open Forum with the Management & Marketing and Information Technology Sections. It is an all-day forum to be held on 15 August. Our Section’s speakers will present between 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Wilson asked for volunteers to staff the IFLA booth (staffing is shared by section personnel) on Wednesday, 16 August. Jean Porter, Agneta Olsson, and Dr. Hobohm volunteered from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p. m. and Ms. Wilson volunteered from 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**NEWSLETTER:** Ms. Wilson stated she would like to have “regional reporters” to contribute news of interest. Ms. Kemp stated that she hopes to distribute 2 issues per year.

**BOSTON CONFERENCE PROGRAM:** Ms. Olsson presented two proposals from colleagues for possible presentation in Boston. This raised the issue of whether the Section will again co-sponsor an open forum and/or offer a workshop. Dr. Hobohm noted that the Management & Marketing Section is again interested in co-sponsoring a forum. After discussion it was agreed to revisit the topic at the Friday meeting, focusing on a forum on “Knowledge Management for Development” and a workshop on new, cutting-edge technologies.

Members were also asked to be prepared to discuss on Friday proposals for activities in Glasgow, 2002. There was general agreement that future programs should try to relate to one or more of the social sciences. Since Scotland was the birthplace of IFLA, one possibility for Glasgow would be to combine history and futurology. Political Science and Public Administration is considered a possibility for the Berlin Conference.

**IFLA SURVEY OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES OF EDUCATION:** Due to personnel changes in the USNLE, the Standing Committee members feel that the migration of the survey back to its original test site in Danish Education Library would be more efficient. Ms. Wilson indicated she would try to set up an appointment to discuss the issue with the appropriate NLE staff in Washington, D.C.
Members Present:
Myoung C. Wilson (Chair), Jean-Philippe Accart, Jakob Andersen, Hans-Christoph Hobohm, Barbara Kemp, Agneta Olsson, Jean Porter

Members Absent:
Yvonne Abitbol-Touboul, Chirawan Bhakdibutr, Mireille Fomenko, Vera Grigorieva (Chair notified), Eeva-Liisa Lehtonen,

Observers Present:
Tove Bang, Bill Bartenbach, Jacqueline Dubois, Ron Jantz, Sutannee Keesiri, Peter Ohly, Mel Thatcher

Discussion continued on sponsoring activities for the Boston Conference. Co-sponsorship for an open forum has been proposed with the Management and Marketing and Government Libraries Sections. The proposed topic is “Knowledge Management for Not-for-Profit Organizations.” Speakers from the World Bank and countries representative for Europe, Asia, and Africa will actively be sought. Several names were proposed and Ms. Wilson asked that we send her more names. She also noted that in the past, our discussion groups and workshops have been of great interest but questioned if we can take on more work. After thanking Ms. Wilson for her work on the Jerusalem Conference, Dr. Hobohm suggested that all the co-sponsors look for ways to encourage more discussion at the open forum.

There was broad discussion of ideas for a workshop at the Boston Conference. Ms. Porter said she would be willing to organize it if we have a clear idea of what we want. It was decided that an on-site “Technology Fair,” perhaps to be held at MIT, would be an excellent opportunity for interested parties to see demonstrations of new technologies.

Ms. Wilson suggested that we try to get a UK representative on the Standing Committee before the Glasgow Conference. The possible focus of History/Anthropology and Future Studies was again discussed, with a possible emphasis on the characteristics of social science libraries serving these areas. Among the topics mentioned were the digitization of photos, genealogical research, digitization of archival collections. Borrowing from a Rutgers University slogan, Ms. Wilson proposed “Explore Yesterday, Discover Tomorrow,” as a possible theme. Other potential themes suggested were “History as a Mirror of the Future” and “History Supported By Future Technologies.” It was agreed that the Section should issue a call for abstracts for papers and that the call should be issued as widely as possible. Jean-Philippe Accart, Mel Thatcher, and Bill Bartenbach volunteered to review the abstracts. Ms. Kemp will post a call for abstracts in other location and asked for help in identifying sources. Any other thoughts of the Glasgow activities can be sent to Ms. Wilson or, in the case of the abstracts, to Mr. Accart.

IFLA SURVEY OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES OF EDUCATION: Mr. Andersen and Ms. Wilson proposed that the Section take the project back and develop it as a test site. Once developed, it would go on as an IFLA survey site with Mr. Andersen as Project Director. Ms. Wilson will ask Mr. Steve Hunt of the NLE to serve as a Section advisor. She will also ask NLE to join IFLA and the Section.

OTHER PROJECTS: Ms. Wilson asked if there were other proposals for projects. It was noted that the Australian National Library has a standout gateway that could be used as a prototype for others.

Peter Ohly said that the Workshop speakers from Europe are planning to meet in London in June or July. He will e-mail others to see if they might also attend. Mr. Andersen might possibly represent the Section.

Mr. Thatcher is considering a project of creating a world directory of family history/genealogical associations.

Ms. Wilson noted that the Section has not marketed itself well and that one of her priorities is to improve efforts in this area. One project will be to revise the Section brochure and to issue it in multiple languages, enlisting members to assist in translating the text. Ms. Kemp distributed a draft revision for comments and suggestions.

Ms. Wilson also raised the possibility of a multi-lingual dictionary of social science terms, but she questioned the length of time this might take. Mr.
Thatcher noted that similar bilingual dictionaries might make the task easier.

JERUSALEM WORKSHOPS: The Genealogy and Local History workshop had approximately 48 attendees, about one half of whom were Israelis. The off-site visits had nine people in the morning and five in the afternoon. Unfortunately there was poor coordination at the Yad Vashem site, which had scheduled two groups at the same time. Several people expressed interest in a program in Boston. Dr. Hobohm said again that the future of the discussion groups is problematic. This group may become a full section within IFLA.

Mr. Andersen reported that his workshop went very well, with excellent presentations and lots of open discussion. There were about 30-40 attendees, but it was discovered that some people had difficulty in finding the right location. One evaluation termed the workshop the “most exciting event at an IFLA conference.”

Dr. Hobohm said that there will be a new Discussion Group, the Knowledge Management Discussion Group, to be convened by Dr. Michael Koenig.

OTHER:

It was decided not to act on the Haworth Press proposal for now. It should also be checked with IFLA Headquarters. Links will probably be made to all journals/publishers willing to join IFLA and the Section. Ms. Kemp will note the Table of Contents Link in the Section’s Newsletter.

Project Reports: Ms. Wilson suggested that UNESCO be approached about a long-term project to develop a multi-lingual thesaurus for the social sciences, possibly in cooperation with the Cataloguing Section. Mr. Andersen reported that to date only Denmark has responded to the Survey of National Libraries of Education. (see an update by Mr. Andersen below). Mr. Thatcher reported that the Genealogy and Local History Discussion Group is thinking of developing an international directory of genealogy and/or local history collections.

Back row from left to right: Ron Jantz, Toini Alhainen, Jakob Andersen, Peter Ohly, Hans-Christoph Hobohm, Kate Sharp, Jean-Philippe Accart, Myoung Wilson in the front.

IFLA Survey of National Libraries of Education

The survey is now under way in earnest. In November 2000, 152 letters and 23 e-mails were sent to 175 institutions all over the world. In four cases no appropriate institution could be found, and two letters have been returned with addressee unknown.

As of February 2001, there are eight countries represented on the list: Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Russia
and Switzerland. The last is an example of several institutions making up a collective national library: 25 institutions have been identified, and five have responded.

In six cases, paper copies of the questionnaire have been requested and sent.

The next step will be a renewed call for responses from approximately 160 institutions.

An introduction, the list of responding countries and templates for downloading the questionnaire may be found at: http://www.dpb.dpu.dk/survey/Index.html

I would most heartily suggest that national libraries (or library systems) of education respond.

All enquiries should be directed to
Jakob Andersen, Deputy Director
National Library of Education
P.O.Box 840
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Denmark
e-mail: jak@dpb.dpu.dk
Tel.: +45 39 69 66 33
Fax: +45 39 66 00 82

Experiences at the 66th IFLA General Conference
by
Ronald C. Jantz
Government & Social Sciences Data Librarian
Alexander Library
Rutgers University

When a colleague who is chair of the IFLA Social Sciences Libraries section asked me to present a paper at the 66th IFLA conference in Jerusalem, I jumped at the opportunity. I had been in the professional and business world for many years and I was relatively new to librarianship, having just received my MLS in 1997. Being a “late-starter”, I am always looking for opportunities to make up for lost time and participating in an IFLA conference seemed like a good way to get some exposure to many different aspects of librarianship with a special international perspective. The conference site, Jerusalem, was also an added attraction. The Camp David peace talks had been in the world news so there was much heightened interest in the political affairs of Israel.

I flew into Tel Aviv, grabbed a “sherut” (a shared taxi) and, after a short wait, we were all headed for Jerusalem. When in another country, I always try to use public transportation since it gives me a “feel” for the people and country. I found bus service in Jerusalem relatively easy to decipher and it was always an interesting experience watching people commuting and going about their daily activities.

I was fortunate to have several colleagues from Rutgers University at this conference. These colleagues frequently introduced me to others and this process formed a “human chain” that connected me to more of the conferees from other countries and other institutions.

Although my research interests are in information retrieval and digital libraries, I tend to find most aspects of librarianship interesting. I was delighted to see the variety at IFLA including startup discussion groups dealing with metadata and digital libraries and other venues dealing with map libraries, preservation, and performance measurement. In my session, I picked up some excellent ideas on new GIS (Geographical Information System) applications and possible applications of RF (radio frequency) technology in libraries. There were a number of specific conference highlights for me. One of the exhibits discussed the process for guiding journal acquisitions based on usage measurements and collaboration with teaching faculty. Although I have heard of many attempts to use more quantitative techniques, this exhibit appeared to describe a successful approach. I also attended the Social Sciences Data Workshop that described then critiqued individual social sciences gateways. The workshop had about 25 to 30 attendees and there was plenty of time for free-flowing dialog. Given that the main conference sessions are typically attended by many people with limited time for questions, this type of workshop was very effective for people to have an opportunity to say what was on their mind.

On a somewhat lighter note, I took the opportunity to participate in two of the conference organized tours. For one morning from 8 am to 12 noon, we took part in a walking tour of the old city in Jerusalem. This was a perfect introduction to this
historic city and allowed me to branch out and explore other areas in the old city on my own. I was also very fortunate to be able to participate in the tour of the Armenian library. This was a rare opportunity indeed since the library is not open to the public. There were about 40 conferees in the tour and we all gathered outside the ancient church in the courtyard. The guide, an employee of the library, introduced herself and, in turn, cycled fluently through five different languages as she greeted people from various countries. Although she was multi-lingual, her accents sounded a little too familiar. It turns out she was of Armenian descent but also a retired employee of the Los Angeles, California public library system. The tour of the library is hard for me to put into words; we had an opportunity to view 13th century religious texts and artwork, and observe first hand some of the special preservation issues. Interestingly, the library was built over an ancient well and the atmosphere is still quite humid, which is not a good environment for preserving these rare materials. Lastly, in keeping with the conference greeting, "The people of the book invite the keepers of the book", I was able to visit the Shrine of the Book and learn about the early origins of the Bible, the Essenes, and view some of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

From a professional standpoint, I met many people who are immersed in all facets of the librarian profession. As a new comer, everyone was willing to give me a hand and offer advice. [I’m still trying to understand the IFLA organization but that will take a little more study on my part.] I enjoyed presenting my paper entitled “Technological Discontinuities in the Library: Digital Projects that Illustrate New Opportunities for the Librarian and the Library”. I have since been notified that the article has been selected for publication in the IFLA journal. All in all, the conference was a very rewarding experience and I am sure that the 67th conference in Boston will be equally rewarding.

Genealogy and Local History Discussion Group Update

Minutes of the Discussion Group meeting, which was held in Jerusalem on 13 August 2000, have been posted on the IFLA website. Thanks to Ruth Hedegaard.

Preparations are underway for a Discussion Group meeting and library tours in Boston. The meeting theme will be "Genealogy and Local History Librarians Making a Difference in Social and Cultural Development.” We are looking for two or three individuals to give ten minute presentations to kick off group discussion. We hope to arrange tours of the Massachusetts Historical Society and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. These are the USA’s oldest local historical and genealogical societies, and both have magnificent holdings.

The Discussion Group has been encouraged to seek Section status within IFLA due to the level of participation during the past two IFLA conferences. Opinions of librarians are being sought through the group's GENLOC listserv. A simple questionnaire will also be sent to national libraries and national and regional library associations to assess interest at those levels.

WELCOME to two new section members! On 8 January 2001 the Oslo University College Library and Oxford University Library Services became members of the Section on Social Science Libraries.
67th IFLA Council and General Conference
Preview

Preliminary information for the 67th IFLA Council and General Conference to be held in Boston, 16-25 August, 2001 is available on the IFLA web site http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/index.htm

Plan Ahead

It is not too early to begin thinking about the IFLA 67th Council and General Conference! It will convene from 16-25 August, 2001 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The conference theme is “Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age.” Sub-themes are:

• Advancing the Leadership Role of the Librarian in the Information Age
• Delivering Lifelong Learning Across Space and Time
• Managing Information and Technology in the Information Age
• Developing Information Policies for the Knowledge Age
• Forging Collaborative Partnerships

Other IFLA dates and places to remember are:

18-24 August, 2002; Glasgow, Scotland, UK
68th IFLA
Theme: “Libraries for Life: Democracy, Diversity, Delivery”
Note: IFLA will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. It was founded in Edinburgh, Scotland, 30 September 1927.

1-8 August, 2003; Berlin, Germany
69th IFLA

2004; Buenos Aires, Argentina
70th IFLA

2005; Oslo, Norway
71st. IFLA

2006; Seoul, Korea
72nd. IFLA

News & Announcements

Did you know?

Haworth Press, the publisher of the journal, Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian, offers a “Table of Contents” alerting service via the Internet at no charge. Send an e-mail to contents@HaworthPressInc.com. The Table of Contents is e-mailed several weeks before the printed version is mailed. A free sample issue of the journal is available on request from the Print Journal Division, Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904, USA.

Upcoming Conferences

From Data Collection to Data Analysis

This short course will be presented 6-7 March 2001 at the University of Newcastle. The presenters are Roger Thomas and Elaine McColl. The standard fee is £260. For a registration form or further details contact:

Jane Schofield
CASS Secretary
Department of Social Statistics
University of Southampton
Southampton
SO17 1BJ
UNITED KINGDOM

E-mail: jms1@socsci.soton.ac.uk

Further details are also available at http://www.scpr.ac.uk/cass/docs/fr_course.htm
**E-Books 2001**

Sponsored by:
LITC, South Bank University
the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) / DNER
Dawson Books

Tuesday 20th March 2001  10.00 - 17.00
SOAS Brunei Gallery, London, UK
http://litc.sbu.ac.uk/ebooks2001/

Questions about the conference should be directed to Sarah Connolly at connolsm@sbu.ac.uk.

**LIBRARY RESEARCH SEMINAR II**

*Partners and Connections: Research Applied to Practice*

University of Maryland, U.S.A.
2-3 November, 2001
http://www.dpo.uab.edu/~folive/LRSII/index.htm

The Library Research Seminar II Planning Committee invites researchers, practicing professionals, and students to attend and contribute to this international dialogue on Library and Information Studies research. Proposals for advisory clinics, juried papers, panel presentations, and round table discussions are due 1 February 2001.

For more information, including submissions instructions, visit the Seminar’s web site: or contact:
Dr, Lynn Westbrook, General Conference Chair, Texas Woman’s University, School of Library and Information Studies, P.O. Box 425438, Denton, Texas 76204-5438, U.S.A.
Phone: 940-898-2609
Fax: 940-898-2611
E-mail: jwestbrook@twu.edu

**Recent Publications of Interest**


Submissions for <News & Announcements> can be sent to Barbara E. Kemp, Newsletter Editor. Section members are particularly encouraged to share information about their publications, upcoming conferences, etc. The Newsletter is published twice a year, in June/July and December/January.
Section of Social Science Libraries
Standing Committee Members

Yvonne Abitbol-Touboul (France)
Jean-Philippe Accart (France)
Jakob Andersen (Denmark)
Chirawan Bhakdibutr (Thailand)
M. Brykcynska [Observer] (Poland)
Mireille Fomenko (France)
Vera Grigorieva (Russian Federation)
Hans-Christoph Hobohm (Germany)
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(Kenya)
I. Olivera R. [Corresponding Member] (Peru)
Agneta Olsson (Sweden)
Jean M. Porter (U.S.A.)
Diann Rusch-Feja [Special Section Advisor]
(Germany)
N. J. Sebastian [Corresponding Member]
(India)
M. Syhir Janjar [Corresponding Member]
(Morocco)
Myoung C. Wilson [Chair] (U.S.A.)

Keep Up to Date

Subscribe to our section’s listserv by sending an e-mail message to:
listserv@nic.surfnet.nl
with the command:
"SUBSCRIBE SOC-LIB yourfirstname
yourlastname"

If you want to contribute to the discussion or send information to the social science libraries community, please do so by sending your mail to:
soc-lib@nic.surfnet.nl.

REMEMBER the IFLA Survey of National Libraries of Education at

http://www.dpb.dpu.dk/survey/Index.html