



Science and Technology Libraries Section

Annual Report 2008

Scope

The Science and Technology Libraries Section supports librarianship and professional competencies of librarians in the fields of science and technology. The Section takes interest in and responds to current challenges about collecting materials in, and offering access to information relevant to physical sciences, engineering and technology. Activities include monitoring the dynamic environment in the field, promoting discussions, as well as exploring and sharing best practices among members who serve in research, public, corporate and government libraries. Working with colleagues in developing nations is a high priority. The Section has established relations with other IFLA Sections and international professional organizations relevant to the field.

Membership

The Section has 26 standing committee members and one corresponding member. Section membership stands at 100+ members, including personal members. The Section has members from all continents of the world.

Officers

Chair

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Meetings – Quebec conference

The Science and Technology Libraries Section was quite busy during the 2008 IFLA World Conference held in Quebec, Canada. Our Section planned and held a pre-conference, “National Science Policies and Science Portals”, in Montreal at the Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal. The program was a great success and evaluations were very positive. Please see the agenda for this all day conference at http://lib.tkk.fi/ifla/IFLA_Science_Portals/

The Science and Technology Libraries Section’s open forum session was also a great success. We were pleased to have a wonderful panel of speakers who addressed: “Science across libraries: provision of science and technology information resources and services in diverse settings”. Our speakers addressed this topic from a global to a local perspective. Please go the following URL and look for the Science and Technology Section program #109 at 10:45-12:45. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm#12August>

Note: We are extremely pleased that the paper by Nancy Gwinn and Constance Rinaldo was selected for publication in the "IFLA Journal".

Our third successful program was sponsored by our Agricultural Libraries Special Interest Group that provided, "Trends in agricultural information transfer systems worldwide". If you wish to read the papers from this session, please go to <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm#13August>. This program was held on Wednesday, Aug 13, from 10:45-12:45; see session number 141.

Programs plans are underway for the 75th IFLA World Conference which will be held in Milan, Italy. The theme for the Science and Technology Section's program is "**Open Access to Science and Technology Research Worldwide: Strategies and Best Practices**" <see IFLA website for details: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/call-set-en.htm>>. The deadline for submitting a paper proposal is January 30, 2009. We have a selection committee composed of six members: James Andrews, Deva Reddy, Josee Saitn-Marseille, Liu Xiwen, Janet Webster, and Jill Mayer.

One of our members, by Janet Webster, wrote a report of the 2008 and 2009 IFLA World Library and Information Congresses. These are on our web page, under Conferences: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s7/index.htm>

Other activities

After the meetings in Quebec several members of the Science & Technology Libraries Section Standing Committee prepared a copyright statement and urged IFLA to respond to the call for comments concerning the European Union Green Paper entitled "Copyright in the Knowledge Economy". IFLA's position paper "Response from IFLA to the European Commission's Green Paper 'Copyright in the Knowledge Economy'" did include the concerns of the section.

http://www.ifla.org/III/clm/p1/IFLA_Response_Green-paper-copyright.pdf

Sincerely yours,
Jill Mayer, Chair, Science & Technology Libraries Section