

**IFLA Section of Public Libraries
Newsletter
Issue no 25, Februari 2002**



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The PL Guidelines are also available now in Dutch, Russian and Spanish. In addition, 12 to 15 translations are on their way, from Albanian and Chinese to Italian!



Standing Committee IFLA Section of Public Libraries

Standing (back row) from left to right:

Klaus-Peter Boettger (Germany), Vladimir R. Firsov (Russia), Assumpta Bailac Puigdellivol (Spain), John Lake (United Kingdom), Borge Sondergard – Secretary (Denmark), Jan-Ewout van der Putten – Information Coordinator (Netherlands), Mary Sherman (USA), Florence Poncé (France), Tuula Martikainen (Finland), Bernard Margolis (USA)

Sitting (front row) from left to right:

Clara Budnik Sinay (Chile), Jarmila Burgetová (Czech Republic), Kerstin Hassner (Sweden), Barbara H. Clubb – Chair (Canada), Lek Choh Ngian (Singapore), Torny Kjekstad (Norway), Gunilla Konradsson Mortin (Sweden)

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Editorial



Borge Søndergård



Jan-Ewout van der Putten



Anne Hottenhuis

Dear reader,

You are looking at what is already the twenty fifth edition of the newsletter of the IFLA Section of Public Libraries. The fine job of editing this newsletter rests, from this issue onwards, on the shoulders of the new information co-ordinator, Jan-Ewout van der Putten, with the assistance of Anne Hottenhuis, both at the NBLC, the Dutch public library association.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the former editor, Børge Søndergård, both for his work on previous issues and especially for his very helpful and welcome advice concerning the newsletter and website.

Due to the relative unfamiliarity of your co-ordinators with the new tasks in hand, and despite this happy occasion, you will see that this issue is somewhat Spartan. We hope to make up for this however in Glasgow, where a much more festive occasion will take place later this year with the seventy fifth anniversary of IFLA. Some information on this conference is contained within the newsletter. There also is a draft programme for the forthcoming spring meeting in Singapore. Up-to-date information on the Singapore meeting will soon be available at:

www.ifla.org/VII/s8.

We wish you a very good and productive year

Jan-Ewout van der Putten, information co-ordinator

Anne Hottenhuis, editorial assistant

Midwinter meeting Singapore

Draft Agenda

Date:	Thursday March 7 and Friday March 8, 2002
Time:	9:00 am to 5 pm (Thursday) followed by dinner in town, 9:00 am to 4 pm (Friday) followed by dinner in the evening. On Saturday and Sunday Ngian will arrange visits for those, who stay longer
Location:	

Opening and Announcements (Clubb)

Welcome to Singapore (Ngian)

Approval of the Agenda

The Chairs Report (Clubb)

Approval and Follow-up of the Minutes from the Boston Meeting, August 2001

Report from Coordination Board, Division III (Clubb and Sondergard)

CB is holding its winter meeting in Denmark, March 14 and 15, so it will only be possible to report on the agenda, but on the other hand it gives the members a chance to bring forward comments for Borge to bring to the meeting.

Report from Professional Committee

The Minutes of PC meeting in December have been e-mailed to the members, please bring them with you.

Report on Membership (Sondergard)

Finances

Financial Report (Clubb) to be distributed by Email.

Determining which project funds to apply for after Glasgow

Strategic Plan 2002-2003

Draft 3 of the Strategic Plan has been distributed to the members. Please bring with you. Professional Board has approved the strategic Plan, but we need to finalise it and decide on who is working with which project/working group and spend some time developing strategies. Members should come prepared with their plans for developing and joining new projects. Some of you have already indicated an interest in certain new projects, please be prepared to share your thoughts and preliminary plans for the project.

Review of Ongoing Projects

Life Long Learning (Bailac & Kjekstad)

Computer Literacy (Poncé & Sondergard)

Marketing Guidelines (Clubb)

African Strategy

South American Strategy

Website and Newsletter (van der Putten)

Also news on Public Library Legislation on the website

Programme for IFLA 2002 Glasgow

Decisions on the contents of the Open Forum, workshop and discussion groups. Please bring with you suggestions to contents.

Decisions on responsibilities and work.

Preliminary Programme for IFLA 2003 Berlin and 2004 Buenos Aires

Other Reports and Items

Closing

Annual meeting in Boston 18. and 24. of August 2001

First meeting: 18. Aug., 8.30AM to 11.20AM in Boston Public Library.

Present: Assumpta Bailac Puigdemivol, Klaus-Peter Boettger, Clara Budnik Sinay, Jarmila Burgetova, Barbara H. Clubb, Vladimir Firsov, Kerstin Hassner, Torny Kjekstad, John Lake, Lek Choh Ngian, Bernard Margolis, Tuula Martikainen, Mary Sherman, Jan-Ewout van der Putten, Borge Sondergard, Britt-Marie Häggström, Frode Bakken, Philip Gill, Ilona Glasshof, Tuula Haavisto

Apologies: Florence Poncé, Gunilla Konradsson Mortin

Absentees: Georgeta Clinca, Elena Boretti

Observers: Eight during the first meeting

Second meeting: 24. Aug., 8.00AM to 10.00AM in Hynes Convention Center, room 303

Present: Assumpta Bailac Puigdemivol, Klaus-Peter Boettger, Clara Budnik Sinay, Jarmila Burgetova, Barbara H. Clubb, Vladimir Firsov, Kerstin Hassner, Torny Kjekstad, Gunilla Konradsson Mortin, John Lake, Lek Choh Ngian, Bernard Margolis, Tuula Martikainen, Florence Poncé, Mary Sherman, Jan-Ewout van der Putten, Borge Sondergard, Philip Gill, Ilona Glasshof

Absentees: **Georgeta Clinca, Elena Boretti**

Observers: Ten during the second meeting

Opening and announcements

The Chair Barbara Clubb expressed a warm welcome to outgoing, continuing and new members of the Committee. She also welcomed the many observers. Then she thanked Bernard Margolis for hosting the meeting in his library. Then followed a round of individual presentations. B. Margolis gave direction to the Committee's dinner on the same evening in Legal Seafood Restaurant and asked how many members and accompanying persons planned to attend. B. Clubb mentioned that due to some misunderstanding, Robert Pestell, Australia, had resigned too late from the Committee to replace his seat. That is why, there are only 19 members of the Committee

the next two years. She also mentioned, that the Committee had never been able to get in contact with the Romanian member, Georgeta Clinca, and that Ms Clinca had yet never attended any meetings. The Committee had therefore, still with no success though, tried to get IFLA HQ to expel her and replace with another member from the postal ballot in the Spring.

Welcome to new members of the Committee and Announcement of election of Officers
Welcome was dealt with under item 1. Chair asked Britt-Marie Häggström to announce the election. B-M. Häggström (as outgoing Secretary) advised the members, that this year was election year, and that the IFLA Officers post (2001-2003) as Chair and **Secretary**,

together with the post as Information Co-ordinator, were up for election. B-M. Häggström announced that Barbara H. Clubb was willing to stand as Chair (second term) 2001-2003, and that Borge Sondergard had indicated, that he would be delighted to take over the job as Secretary after herself. Jan-Ewout van der Putten had indicated, that he would be willing to take on the job as Information Co-ordinator. B-M. Häggström urged members to consider carefully for the next hours if they would like to stand for the posts, as election would take place under item 13 at the end of first meeting.

Approval of the Agenda for the Annual Meeting

Approved

The Chairs Report

As there had only been a very brief meeting in Coordinating Board of Division III, there was very little to report. B.H. Clubb went through the Sections Conference programme in Boston, and gave much attention to the launch of the new Guidelines on Wednesday morning. There will be a banner, flyers and flowers. There was a plea from John Dunne, Childrens Library Section for a Committee member to join the "Books for All" Session. Kerstin Hassner will attend.

Approval of the Minutes from the Prague meeting, February 22.-24.2001

Comments from I. Glasshof: The Guidelines will not be translated into German paid for by UNESCO, as German is not an official UNESCO-language.

Comments from F. Bakken: F. Bakken was not listed as participant in the Prague meeting. Here was very much so!

Comments from B. Sondergard: Paper on project on Computer Literacy is not planned at the African conference, but at the Glasgow Conference.

Otherwise the Minutes were approved.

Report from Coordinating Board and Report from the Professional Board

These two items were dealt with together.

B. Häggström reported that this year is election year, and that a new Professional Committee will be formed on Saturday 25. which will elect a new Chair of PC - after the elections of Chairs of Divisions on Friday 24.

PB has agreed to allow 6 satellite meetings to be held in conjunction with the Glasgow Conference. This is far less than this year in Boston (about 30 Satellite meetings). Agreed upon are:

Management and Marketing: "Marketing Library Associations and Marketing the Librarian's Competence"

Library and Research Services for Parliaments: "Developments in Library and research Services for Parliaments, focussing on current developments in the House of Commons Library and some other Parliamentary Libraries in the Region"

Art Libraries: "Theme will be decided upon in Boston"

Continuing Professional Education (RT): "5th World Conference on Continuing Professional Education for the Library and Information Profession"

Government Libraries: "Informing Government: Government Library and Information Services in the Information Age"

Statistics: "Theme to be decided in Boston"

It is known, that also Mobile Libraries and Libraries for the Blind would like to hold satellite meetings. Deadline for wishing satellite meetings in Glasgow was March 15th this year, so it is far too late for us, had we wanted one. B. Margolis stated that too many pre-conferences generates problems, as it is hard and almost impossible for many IFLA Conference goers to attend both pre-conferences and the main IFLA Conference. He would strongly advice against too many pre-conferences. It is also known to be a fact, that IFLA Executive Committee would like to shorten the main IFLA Conference, but it may take years before this is accomplished. New "Rules of Procedures" is on their way from IFLA HQ.

The application for project-money is soon. Division III has some unspent money for small projects. These will be decided upon Friday 24th. The Section will go for some money for the dissemination of the Guidelines. On the PB Meeting there had been two inspiring papers, one on libraries and the blind and one on mobile library service conducted by camels and donkeys.

P. Gill wanted to remind the Section on the so called "Red Thread" in Glasgow next year, which is: "Building on the past, investing in the future". He very much urged us to bring this Red Thread into the Section's programme.

New IFLA Structure: Round Tables are not to exist in the future. They can either be sections, discussion groups, join up with another section or be "free floating". In Division III there are 3 Round Tables: ROTNAC (library service centres), Mobile Libraries and INTAMEL (Metropolitan City Libraries). It is known, that Mobile Libraries will apply for becoming a Section (application must reach IFLA HQ before October 1st). ROTNAC has some problems with the new structure, they want to stay on in IFLA on the present conditions, which means as a RT. ROTNAC has to be "handled with care", as they represent some of IFLA's bigger sponsors. ROTNAC is supposed to decide on the future during the week (*latest: they did not, and the dispute goes on!*). The Standing Committee strongly supports the keeping of ROTNAC within the Division and some obligingness towards ROTNAC must be shown. Maybe they can become "Official Affiliates". INTAMEL we never here anything from and they never attend the CB-meetings. Judging from their website, they are "alive and kicking".

Last important message from CB and PB: The four year Medium Term Programme is to be replaced by a two year Strategic Plan from the beginning of 2002.

Report on Membership and Information

B. Sondergard gave a report. Since the Jerusalem meeting two newsletters had been published, both in 2001. Still one newsletter is to be expected this year. The website had been kept up-to-date, but many problems had occurred the last two month, due to the transformation of IFLANET from the National Library of Canada to the Hague. Four new members have joined the section, which should mean, that we pass the magic number of 300, which will secure more funding from IFLA HQ. B. Sondergard had produced a new (temporary) membership-folder to be used in Boston in 1500 copies.

Financial Report

The latest report as of July 12th 2001 was circulated. The Section is in good standing with an income of 29.299 NLG and expected expenditures of 27.661 NLG. The Section rejoiced the new money from IFLA PB for the UNET evaluation (9.000 NLG), the Pan African Library Conference (5.000 NLG) and the reprint of the UNESCO Public Library

Manifesto (3.000 NLG). The Committee expressed gratitude to the Chair B. Clubb for undertaking the finance so well.

Review of the Midterm Programme and preparation for new programme

The Medium Term Programme 1998-2001 has come to an end, and a successful one. The Committee was pleased with the accomplices, noting especially that the last unfinished business – the African Conference – will take place in September 2001 in Rabat, Morocco. Medium Term Programme concluded!

New two year Strategic Plan 2002-2003 must be decided upon before October 1st. For the discussion in the Committee there were two documents, one made by M. Sherman, A. Bailac and F. Poncé building on the IFLA Professional Priorities and the recommendations of the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group as goals for the Section. To each goal there were actions attached. The other document was made by B. Clubb – also based on the IFLA Professional Priorities, but also listing continuing priorities and new possibilities. The Committee had a lively discussion on various topics: marketing via websites, local community services, lifelong learning matching a lot of goals and actions, twinning libraries/sister libraries should they be matched according to size or should they come together as poor and rich?, developing countries preferring other conferences than IFLA's and what to do about it?, the importance of networking (PULMAN-project), marketing UNET – it's cheap and simple, focus on the need of the user, attend other conferences to promote new guidelines and many other topics. It was decided, that B. Clubb should try to combine the two documents and the many comments made during the meeting, and present a new draft on Friday 24th. She did, and the Committee was pleased with the result, but had yet a lot of new suggestions. B. Sondergard warned that we only have two years to accomplish the actions in the plan and not four years as usual – our level of ambition should reflect that fact. But the Committee members were very eager to work and volunteered as project-leaders and –members for several projects. B. Clubb will rewrite the Strategic Plan 2002-2003 and will send it to the Committee members for feedback and volunteering on all projects. The

time for decision is very short as we have to send in a final plan before Oct. 1st.

Review of the projects

Guidelines project (Philip Gill): Concluded and the first print in English is now available (so is the English version on our website in pdf-format). The Guidelines will be officially launched at a press conference on Wednesday 22nd. P. Gill encouraged the translation into as many languages as possible, but remember to get permission from Sjoerd Koopman from IFLA HQ. A. Bailac requested a timetable of the UNESCO-language translations, but no precise time could be given. The question was raised, whether there were any other money for translation than the UNESCO money - this was doubted very much. B. Clubb and B-M. Häggström expressed the Committee's gratitude and deep appreciation to P. Gill and I. Glasshof for their devotion to the project and presented presents.

UNET (Kerstin Hassner): The Project is now engaged in a comparative review of the evaluation of the Public Library Manifesto in the municipalities/countries participating in UNET. An evaluation group around K. Hassner has been formed and a final report after eight years of work with UNET is due in September 2001. K. Hassner will give a report on the UNET project on the Section's Open Forum on Tuesday 21st.

Lifelong Learning (Britt-Marie Häggström): A major draft report of August 8th 2001 has been published on the Section's website and has been sent to the members of the Committee. The Project is continuing as planned and the IFLA money is secured. B-M. Häggström reported specially on the EU situation on lifelong learning and a report will be given on the Section's Open Forum on Tuesday 21st.

Computer Literacy (Florence Poncé and Borge Sondergard): A project report was handed to the members with a short description of the result of a questionnaire, which had been sent out as a pilot survey. The project-leaders asked for the Committee's advice on how to proceed. There were no more IFLA money in the Project, and a world-wide questionnaire - and the handling of it - was a very big job. It was decided, that collecting best practises is far more important than statistics. The project is to work closely with the lifelong learning project, a pre-conference seminar arranged together with the Scottish L.A. in Glasgow to gather best practises and to produce a leaflet and

articles in the Newsletter should be the main tasks. Lek Choh Ngian will join the project.

Programme for the Boston Meeting

The Programme was presented by B. Clubb, and she especially made recommendations of "Public Libraries for the Future" on Sunday, the "Libraries as the Cornerstone for Democracy discussion group" on Monday, The Open Forum on Tuesday, The press conference for the Guidelines and "Public Libraries and Telecentres" on Wednesday.

Election of Officers for the Section for Public Libraries 2001-2003

The outgoing Secretary B-M. Häggström chaired the election. As Chair was nominated and seconded: Barbara H. Clubb, Canada for her second term. No other nominees. Barbara H. Clubb serves as Chair 2001-2003. As Secretary was nominated and seconded: Borge Sondergard, Denmark for his first term. No other nominees. Borge Sondergard serves as Secretary 2001-2003. For the job as Information Coordinator, Jan-Ewout van der Putten, Holland, was nominated and seconded. No other nominees. Jan-Ewout van der Putten serves as Information Coordinator 2001-2003.

Programme possibilities for the IFLA 2002 Glasgow meeting and the IFLA 2003 Berlin meeting.

Based on the Boston experiences the Committee agreed, that the programme this year was a good one to build on. The Open Forum should have fewer speakers and more time for discussion. Maybe next year invite Bertelsmann Foundation to lecture on the best practises in public libraries. The use of PowerPoint is crucial and further the understanding for non-English speaking people. The Richmond session on Library for the Future should be continued every year, in Glasgow with some Scandinavian libraries (G. Konradsson-Mortin and T. Martikainen will look into this). The Glasgow "Red Thread" should be taken into account - if possible. The developing countries issue should be forwarded, maybe in conjunction with Carnegie or Gates Foundation. Carol from Gates F. would like to make the contact. The Libraries as the Cornerstone of Democracy Discussion Group should be permanent on every IFLA Conference. A new topic on the Glasgow Conference could be public libraries and public/government/consumer

information - service and contribution to the community (Horsens, Denmark could give a paper). There must be a pre-conference workshop on Computer Literacy (Poncé, Lek Choh Ngian and Sondergard). Finally B. Clubb had a long list of joint sessions with other sections and groups. B. Clubb will revise. Preliminary information describing the content of the Open Forum must be sent to IFLA HQ before November 15th.

Berlin 2003: Ilona Glasshof informed that a pre-conference on library buildings was an object. There seems to be a similar project in France at the same time. Could they work together (F. Poncé)? The Section would like to focus on "user needs" in Berlin, and also the multicultural issue and codes of ethics/democracy. Ilona Glashoff said that she would be very pleased to welcome the SC in Hambourg (no particular topic). Florence Poncé said that there is a project in the SC Building on a pre-seminar in France about Building public libraries, and suggested that we could do a joint pre-seminar with the SC Building.

Both Glasgow and Berlin will be on the Agenda for the Midyear meeting in the Committee.

Getting new sponsors
Nothing to report

Marketing the Section's goals and means
Was heavily discussed under item 10

Report from Division III Extra Coordinating Board meeting
The new coordinating Board of Division III had an extra meeting on Sunday 19th to elect new Chair and Secretary:

Minutes taken by: Borge Sondergard

Chair 2001-2003: John Day, Section for the Disadvantaged
Secretary 2001-2003: Glenys Willars, Section for School Libraries

Other reports and items

B-M. Häggström reported from the FAIFE meetings and the Cuban issues. K. Hassner reported that the "Books for All"-project is finally concluded. Sarah Long (observer) reported from the discussion group on Sustainable Communities - it seems to be a problem of only USA concern (only Americans attended the discussion), the Europeans can't relate to the issues. The committee promised to have a look at it at the Midyear meeting.

Midyear meeting locations and dates

Midyear meeting 2002 is to take place March 7th-8th in Singapore. There were some doubt about how many could afford to go to Singapore (please report back to B. Clubb, everyone). Bologna, Italy, will be the alternative meeting location.

Midyear meeting 2003: Barcelona, Spain
Midyear meeting 2004: Ljusdal/Malmö, Sweden

Closing

The Chair heartily thanked Britt-Marie Häggström, Frode Bakken and Tuula Harvisto, who are leaving the Standing Committee. Ilona Glasshoff gave a warm thank you to Bernie Margolis for his hospitality and presented him with a gift. Barbara Clubb thanked everybody for the active participation and wished everybody a safe trip home and hope to see you all in March 2003.

68th IFLA General Conference and Council

Libraries for Life: Democracy, Diversity, Delivery
August 18th - 24th 2002, Glasgow, Scotland

Travel grant to Glasgow for delegates from public libraries

The Africa Regional Section, through funding made available to them from INASP (the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications), supported by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, is once again able to contribute, on a cost-sharing basis, to the participation cost of a limited number of delegates from Africa to the IFLA Conference. The Travel Grant will cover air ticket, registration fee and a small out of pocket allowance. The cost of accommodation and meals will be met by the delegates.

Applicants should meet the following conditions:

- * Must be working in a public library
- * Must have a minimum of five years of professional experience
- * Must be a national of the listed countries; Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Zambia and Botswana
- * Must include a motivation statement in the application

Priority will be given to younger professionals and applicants who are not regular IFLA conference attendees. If your institution can afford to sponsor you on the basis of this cost-sharing package, please apply by filling the form given below. Only those delegates who are able to contribute their part of the cost should apply.

Return the completed application form before March 12th 2002 to:

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werej@yahoo.com

OR Henri Sene
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etise@uwc.ac.za

For further information or to request the application form, please contact Jacinta Were or Ellen Tise.

IFLA/ AFRICA REGION TRAVEL GRANT-APPLICATION FORM
(Please type or print neatly.)

Family Name: _____

First Name and other names: _____

Date of Birth: Day / Month / Year _____

Sex: Male/ Female _____

Institution: Country: Present Job title _____

Highest Level of Formal Education (Phd. M.A. B.A etc.): _____

Highest Level of Professional education _____

Professional Experience (Years): _____

Postal Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Tel: Fax: (country - area - town codes included) _____

Passport Number _____

Visa for U.K required: YES/NO

Earlier IFLA conferences attended: _____

Organization/person paying for part of your conference costs _____

I hereby accept the conditions attached to the IFLA/ AFRICA Regional Section Travel Grant and acknowledge that the information supplied is true.

Name/Signature: Date: _____

Breakdown of conference costs (US \$ for a minimum of 8 days)

ITEM Est. cost in US \$

*Air Ticket - paid by the Travel Grant

*Registration - 469 (paid by the Travel Grant)

*Accommodation - 728 (paid by delegates)

*Meals - 224 (paid by delegates)

*Out of pocket - 56 (paid by the Travel Grant)

IFLA/ AFRICA REGIONAL SECTION TRAVEL GRANT MOTIVATION STATEMENT (To be completed by the applicant)

How will your professional colleagues in your country benefit from your experience at the 2002 IFLA Conference? (Maximum 500 words)

Visa for IFLA 2002 Glasgow

Are you planning to attend IFLA 2002 in Glasgow and want to know more about visa requirements for entry to the United Kingdom? Then this message is for you.

So who needs a visa?

Nationals from the following countries should obtain a visa before travelling to the United Kingdom:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus (North), Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, The Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Korea (North), Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Sao Tome an Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Zambia.

But this list is subject to change so do contact your nearest British Mission or check the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at www.fco.gov.uk/ukvisas for up to date information.

When should you apply?

Visa sections at British Missions are busy especially during peak periods, e.g. in the run up to the British summer so do submit your application in good time. In March/April, information about the conference will be sent to all British visa issuing operations to facilitate the process.

What do you need to do to obtain a visa?

You should complete form IM2A which you can get free of charge from the nearest British Mission offering an entry clearance service. Your application form must be submitted with your passport, two recent passport sized photographs and the entry clearance fee. Please do check the following website www.fco.gov.uk/ukvisas.

What can we do to help?

The IFLA 2002 National Organising Committee will issue an official letter of invitation to facilitate visa applications. If you require such a letter please tick the appropriate box on the registration form or contact the Conference organisers at the Library Association at ifla@la-hq.org.uk.

I look forward to seeing you in Glasgow.
Rachel Roberts, K IFLA National Organising Committee

Computer literacy and public libraries

It is well known that the readers and writers of web pages are mostly located in a small number of developed countries, especially in North America and Northern Europe. Within every country, the gap between the "information rich" and the "information poor", dependant on social status, age, sex and place of residence, also plays an important role.

For us, professional librarians, it is clear that public libraries have an important role to play in the development of the Information Society, as libraries have long-standing experience with information dissemination and the promotion of culture amongst our users. Public libraries can easily provide public access to electronic resources on CD-Rom and the Internet, and can also organise courses to teach users the basic computer knowledge they need to use these electronic tools.

In some countries, an information policy based around public libraries has already been developed. But globally, it is still a challenge to persuade local authorities of the important role that public libraries can play in the field of Information Technology.

The Public Library Standing Committee has been involved in these matters for many years. The Hellen Niegaard study on National Information Policy was a first step. Using this as a base, the standing committee (F. Poncé, B. Sondergard) developed a "computer literacy project" for the period 1999-2003. The aims of this project are :

collecting examples and best practice of Information Technology training in public libraries, in order to help librarians deal with this topic and to provide them with examples to persuade local authorities ;

lobbying in European and international organisations to promote the role of public libraries in the Information Society, as undertaken by the PubliCA European network (Copenhagen Declaration).

The main tool is a questionnaire on public library and computer literacy, which is still available. A first analysis was done from a sample of answers and this was discussed in the committee (2001). Relations have been established with the Internet Discussion Group, the User Education Round Table and the Scottish Library Association.

Further steps by the computer literacy project are to be discussed during the committee meeting in Singapore. A workshop on Information Technology training in public libraries during the Glasgow Conference is one of the possibilities under discussion.

Florence Poncé, Borge Sondergard

Report on 'Pan African/Pan Arab Conference on Public and School Libraries'

Rabat, Morocco 19-22 September, 2001

This conference was organised jointly by IFLA Headquarters, the Regional Section for Africa, the Section of Public Libraries and the Section for School Libraries and Resource Centres. The conference was funded by UNESCO and IFLA. Its main purpose was to promote the IFLA/UNESCO manifestos on Public Libraries and on School Libraries and the new IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Guidelines. Delegates were also consulted on the content of the School Library Guidelines, which are in draft. The conference was held in Ecole des Sciences de l'Information (ESI), Rabat and hosted by M. Mohamed Benjelloun, Director of the ESI. This was the third in a series of conferences organised with the regional sections to promote the Public Library Manifesto. The conference with the Asia and Oceania Section was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 1997 and with the Latin American and Caribbean Section in Salvador, Brazil in March 1998. This conference was attended by 46 delegates, including representatives from 23 African and Arab countries, many of whom had undertaken lengthy and arduous journeys to reach Rabat. In addition Kay Raseroka (President-elect IFLA), Sjoerd Koopman (IFLA Professional Co-ordinator), Birgitta Sandell (Programme Director, ALP), Winston Tabb (Chair, IFLA Professional Committee), Henri Sene (Regional Manager, Africa), Abdelaziz Abid (UNESCO), and Philip Gill (Chair, Working Group on the Revision of IFLA's Public Library Guidelines) took part in the conference.

The conference was opened by the Minister of Economic Forecasting and Planning, M. Abdelhamid Aouad. The Minister for Education was also present. Kay Raseroka gave the keynote address and Abdelaziz Abid spoke about UNESCO's "Information for All" programme. Philip Gill talked about the Public Library Manifesto and introduced the new IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Public Libraries and every delegate received a copy of the new guidelines. Sjoerd Koopman spoke about some of the issues that have arisen during the preparation of the School Library Guidelines.

Country reports were presented by delegates from 19 of the countries represented. These were remarkable accounts of the dedicated effort by many librarians in Africa to develop public and school library services in difficult and sometimes appalling situations. Lack of resources, profound social problems and, in some countries, continuing military conflict are some of the factors which African and Arab librarians are working to overcome to provide their communities with public and school libraries.

Delegates then formed discussion groups to discuss the following issues arising from the guidelines and manifestos. For ease of communication discussions were held in Anglophone and Francophone groups.

Public Libraries

Place of the public library in the technology age

The public library's role in lifelong learning

The promotion of reading and literacy

Networking and co-operation among libraries

The promotion of the public library guidelines and manifesto

School libraries

1. Organisation

2. Accommodation

3. Resources

4. Staffing

5. Promotion of library programmes

Library usage

The resolutions and recommendations of each group were then reported at the plenary session. Kay Raseroka then presented a summary of the conference. The conference proceedings will be published by IFLA. During the conference delegates visited a multi-media centre, a public library and the National Library of Morocco. They were also entertained to a memorable dinner hosted by the Ministry of Economic Planning. On the final day there was time for a tour of Rabat and its sights with many delegates finishing their tour in the fascinating walled market.

This was the first time the Section of Public Libraries and the School Library and Resource Centre Section had taken part in a conference in Africa. It was both an interesting and illuminating experience providing an insight into the challenges facing African librarians and the ways in which they are meeting them. Many useful contacts were made and the resolutions, which will be included in the proceedings, will help to inform the future work of both sections. The commitment of African colleagues was apparent from the long and difficult journeys many undertook to attend. I am sure the benefits of this ground-breaking event will bear fruit both in Africa and in the work of the IFLA Sections involved. Our thanks go to M. Benjelloun and his staff for being such charming and attentive hosts and for the work they put into ensuring the success of the conference.

On a personal note I am the only person who has had the privilege of attending all three conferences involving the Public Library Section and the Regional Sections. Each conference has been an important and seminal event, bringing benefits to all involved. It is my hope that the contacts that have been made can be maintained and developed as they add a new and important dimension to the work of IFLA in the sphere of public libraries. The exchange of experience and expertise with public librarians in all parts of the world is a key function of the Section of Public Libraries. These three conferences have provided an exciting opportunity to bring the experience of public librarians world-wide into the work of the Section. I hope that the work of these conferences and the contacts they have created can be built on for the future benefit of both the Section and the librarians it represents.

Philip Gill

Report on the meeting in Medellin

First Latin American and Caribbean meeting on community information services
(I Coloquio Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Servicios de Información a la Comunidad)
"For the creation of local information services in public libraries"

Comfenalco Antioquia, in association with the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), the Inter-American Faculty of Librarianship at the University of Antioquia and the Ministry of Culture, convened and held the "1st Latin American and Caribbean Meeting on Community Information Services" in Medellín from 18 to 21 September with the express aim of stimulating the interest of member countries in these services, creating an academic forum for reflection and communication and of socialising the experiences through their design and provision.

The central theme at the meeting was citizen's and community information as seen from four axes: the process and identity of globalisation; conveying information and encouraging reading; the right to information, community participation and public policy and information transfer technology at the service of local communities. The methodology employed consisted in papers given by experts, round table discussions, descriptions of experiences and work groups.

The 1st Meeting achieved its aims and the expectations held for it by both those attending and the organising committee. The Meeting was attended by 205 people from many countries: Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, México, Panama, Peru, Spain, United Kingdom and Venezuela, as well as many Colombian cities: Apartadó, Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cali, Cartagena, Honda, Ibagué, Ipiales, Medellín, Pasto, Quibdó, Tunja, and Villavivencio to mention just a few. The results of the work groups and the ties formed open up positive horizons for public library work in our region.

Some of the conclusions resulting from the work groups which took place during the course of the proceedings are as follows:

- The integration of information services with the community as an essential tool to carry out the public libraries mission. To this end, the commitment of Latin American librarians is required for its administration and development.
- The opening of a continuing debate on the development and provision of such services. In order to achieve this a strategy was proposed of holding biennial meetings of the "Latin American and Caribbean Meeting on Community Information Services" in a Latin American country and the creation of an agenda of topics to be discussed addressing the matter as part of IFLA's public library programme.
- The creation of a librarians' training strategy on community information services in latin american countries with the participation of public and private institutions both at the national and international level.

The other conclusions, as well as the results of the work groups, papers, descriptions of experiences and other documents and audiovisuals of the Meeting proceedings can be consulted on a CD which will be available in December and which can be requested via the following e-mail address: abetancur@comfenalcoantioquia.com.

The success of this event was due to the support given to it by the various national and international institutions which recognise public library community information services as providing a substantial contribution to the creation of informed, participative, communities aware of their surroundings and empowered to transform them.

Assumpta Bailac Puigdellivol

Order form Public Library Guidelines

Comfenalco - Antioquia

November 2001

Translated by Diputació de Barcelona. Servei de Biblioteques
s.biblioteques@diba.es

The Public Library Service
IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development

Prepared by a working group chaired by Philip Gill
on behalf of the Section of Public Libraries
2001. XVI, 116 pages
E 54.00 (IFLA Members E 36.00)
ISBN 3-598-21827-3
(IFLA Publications; 97)

[International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions]

The eagerly-awaited public library guidelines have now appeared in the IFLA Publications series as The Public Library Service: IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development. These guidelines have been framed to provide assistance to librarians in any situation to develop an effective public library service meeting the needs of their local community.

Philip Gill, Chair of the IFLA Working Group which prepared these new guidelines, said: "The publication of these new IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Public Libraries, following wide consultation, present librarians worldwide with standards and guidelines which will help them develop public libraries relevant to the information age. In this exciting and complex information world, it is vitally important for those in search of knowledge, information and creative experience that they succeed. I believe that these guidelines will help public librarians around the world meet that challenge."

A distinctive feature of these guidelines is the inclusion of examples of provision from around the world. They provide snapshots of what is happening in public libraries in many different countries and a glimpse of imaginative solutions to specific challenges.

These guidelines are essential reading for everyone involved in the provision of public libraries. They will become an essential reference tool for public library development and planning.

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