

IFLA Express 8

The final Chapter from Berlin

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World Library and Information Congress Succeeds in Berlin!

More than 4,500 participants from 131 countries attended the World Library and Information Congress, the 69th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, which was held in Berlin from 1-9 August.

The theme of the Congress, '*Access Point Library: Media - Information - Culture*' was symbolised by the Congress logo, based on the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and reflecting the role of libraries of all kinds as gateways to information, knowledge and culture.

Country Representation

As at most conferences the host country, Germany, turned out in massive numbers, with 972 participants in the conference.

Runners up were:

USA	495
UK	227
Netherlands	170
China	151
France	148



Facts and Figures about the conference

4582 Total participants	486 Speakers and Presenters
2509 Full time delegates	10,625 Copies of IFLA Express in all languages
278 Day registrations	159 Exhibitors combined to an exhibition of
95 Flying visitors	2,542 square metres
288 Accompanying persons	234 Meetings
424 Exhibition visitors	35 Workshops
197 Volunteers	34 Meetings with Simultaneous Interpretation
1123 First timers	78 Poster Sessions
131 Countries represented	21 New members joined IFLA
80+ grantees thanks to generous grants from, amongst others, the following institutions:	197 Papers
25 Bibliothek und Information International	160 Papers in English
17 Comité Français IFLA, France	15 Papers in German
15 USA Library Associations	13 Papers in French
5 Swedish Aid Organisation, SIDA	8 Papers in Spanish
15 Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie	1 Paper in Russian
	147 Translations from original papers

Highlights

Iraq

Freedom and equity of access to information and freedom of expression were pervasive sub-themes throughout the Congress, reflected dramatically in an account of the destruction and looting of libraries in Iraq by **Jean-Marie Arnoult, the only librarian in a recent UNESCO mission** sent to assess the effects of the war on Iraq's cultural heritage.

Delegates were stunned by distressing photographs of damaged and destroyed libraries and archives, and various pledges of assistance were made during the discussion. A resolution urging action by governments to help restore the library and information infrastructure in Iraq was passed by the Congress in its closing session.

Anti-terrorism legislation

Lively debates also took place on the impact of the anti-terrorism legislation being introduced around the world, which often impedes free access to information.

The Congress also approved a resolution deploring the introduction of legislation which violates fundamental human rights to privacy and unhampered access to information in the name of national security, and calling for the repeal or amendment of all such legislation in order to protect these rights.

World Summit on the Information Society

Outstanding among several important keynote addresses was a presentation on the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society by **Adama Samassékou, President of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit** and formerly Minister of Education in Mali.

Describing the destruction of the Berlin Wall as *'an historical celebration of liberty and solidarity'*, Samassékou went on to note that *'there are other walls which divide human beings'*; there are those who can read and those who cannot; there are the information rich and the information poor.

We speak of our planet as *'globalized'*, but in reality it is torn by many divides - not only the so-called *'digital divide'*. ►

New Members join IFLA!

IFLA welcomes the following new members, who joined IFLA during the congress in Berlin.

2 National Association Members

- Association des Documentalistes du Gabon, Gabon
- Association Nationales des Bibliothécaires, Archivistes, Documentalistes et Musiographes, Guinea

1 Institutional Member

- International Children's Digital Library, USA

14 Personal Affiliates

Allison Standen (Canada), Inka Behn (Germany), Bronislaw Zurawki (Poland), Peter Lor (South Africa), Eduard Jacob (Netherlands), Phil Smith (Canada), Caroline Adhiambo Kayoro (Kenya), Chinwe Agbakoba (Nigeria), Hesbon A. Shikuku Kionge (Kenya), Jeane dos Reis Passos (Brazil), Louis Edwouard Ndiaye (Tanzania), Fiona Williams (UK), Oluremi Jegede (Nigeria), José Adalberto Fuster Retali (Argentina), Joyce Jelks (USA).

3 Student Affiliates

Dick Kawooya (Uganda), Rosidalia Garcia Salazar (Guatemala), Kerstin Ochudlo-Höbing (Germany)



Klaus Saur, Keynote Speaker at the Opening Session

Discussing the nature of the transition towards an Information Society, Samassékou declared: *"I am profoundly convinced that the role of libraries and information services in the creation and diffusion of knowledge and in formal and informal education will not only continue to be indispensable, but will become more and more important"*.

Reflections on the 2003 World Library and Information Congress

Access Point Library: Media – Information - Culture

Winston Tabb, as outgoing chair of the Professional Committee concluded the conferences professional programme at the closing session.

The full text will be published on IFLANET. Here are some of the highlights.

‘The theme of this World Congress, “Access Point Library: Media - Information - Culture,” gave many opportunities for IFLA’s professional units to focus on the ways in which libraries of the future will not only fulfil their traditional roles but serve a broad range of information-provision needs in their communities and in the global network. Planning programs, discussion groups, and poster sessions emanating from this theme gave sections, core activities and individual members opportunities to re-enforce the Federation’s core values [...].

The impact that an ever-widening array of **media** is having on our profession and services was stressed in programs such the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section’s program, “Audiovisual and multimedia as part of the curricula in library schools and continuing education”; the Art Libraries Section’s program, “The evolution of the art library: from early collecting to virtual services”; and the Serial Publications and Reference Work Sections’s joint workshop on “Electronic journals: how they are changing our lives.” Library visits to a broad range of special libraries, archives and museums gave additional opportunities for delegates to be exposed to the ways in which various media are affecting our profession.

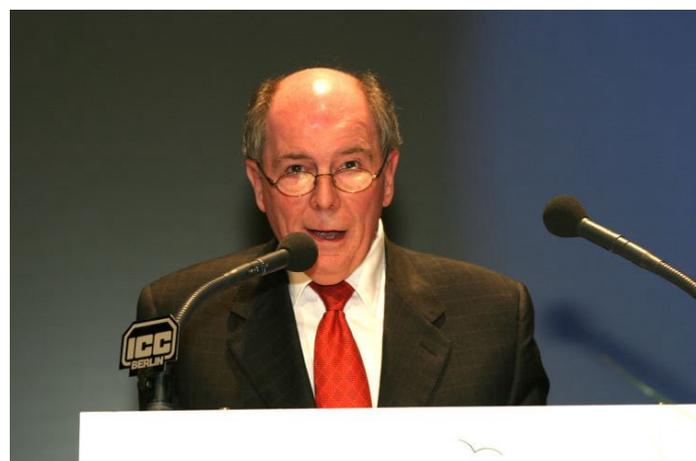
Challenges in strengthening **information** content and services by building strategic alliances and serving special information needs were addressed in the Government Libraries Section’s program, “Changing governments, changing libraries;” and in the Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons Section’s program, “Library services to prisoners: accepting the challenge and making it happen.”

Plenary sessions, such as Rainer Kuhlen’s talk, “Change of paradigm in knowledge management - framework for collaborative knowledge production,” further promoted this sub-theme.

The third sub-theme, guaranteeing human **culture** and values struck a responsive chord with many sections, such as Latin America and Caribbean, which presented a program on “Access to Cultural Information in the Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean”; the Africa Section, whose program was on, “Libraries and cultural values in the changing information world: African perspective”; and Libraries Serving the General Public Division’s program, “Libraries as vital partners in the social and cultural fabric of modern society.” The cultural role of libraries was also a popular theme among the members who volunteered to present poster sessions, such as Donald Davis’ poster on “Library and Cultural History.”

He also commented on the second President-Elect’s brainstorm session: ‘Following on the highly successful brainstorming session hosted by Kay Raseroka in Glasgow last year, approximately 150 delegates from 39 countries gathered to develop specific action items they would like to see IFLA’s sections pursue during the next two years to support our incoming President’s theme, “Libraries for Life-long Literacy.” ‘

Winston Tabb also announced the winners of the Best Poster Session, the Best Newsletter and the IFLA/3M International Marketing Award. See further on in this issue of IFLA Express.

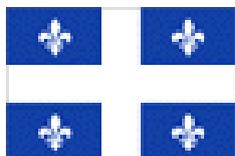


Winston Tabb at the Closing Session



Québec City host of World Library and Information Congress in 2008!

During the closing session, Derek Law, interim chair of the Conference Planning Committee announced Québec City, Canada as the winner of the bidding process for the 2008 World Congress.



A response from the Convention Centre in Québec: 'By selecting Quebec City, IFLA has indeed chosen to experience a memorable event in 2008! The Mayor of Quebec was also enchanted to learn that IFLA would be an integral part of the festivities, as the 400th anniversary of Quebec will be a celebration of culture!'

Future Bidding Process

In the past the decision on a future conference venue was made 5 years in advance. However with the appointment of Congrex Holland as Core Professional Conference Organiser such a long lead-up time is no longer necessary. The IFLA Governing Board has therefore decided to postpone the start of the bidding procedure for the 2009 World Congress until 2005.

Resolutions at Council II

At the second Council meeting quorum was reached and therefore voting could take place on the proposed resolutions.

There were 3 resolutions on the situation in Iraq, so a consolidated resolution on Libraries in Iraq was put before Council.

After voting, all resolutions, some with slight amendments were passed.

The full minutes of the Council Meetings and the texts of the resolutions will be posted on IFLANET <www.ifla.org> soon and they will also be distributed with the convening notice for the next Council Meetings in 2004.

Best Section Newsletter 2003

Three years ago the Professional Board decided to ask its chair to offer an annual prize for the best newsletter to promote and re-enforce the urgent need for IFLA to communicate with its members through regular Section newsletters.

This task proved to be so difficult again this year that Winston Tabb, outgoing chair of the Professional Committee, selected four newsletters, from those received by July 15, to receive honourable mention: (listed alphabetically) Education and Training, Latin America and the Caribbean, Library and Information Science Journals, and Library Services to Multicultural Populations.

But the Preservation and Conservation Section was announced as the winner of the Best Newsletter Award 2003. John McIlwaine, as Chair of the Section, came forward to accept the hand-bound copy of the winning Newsletter

Did you enjoy yourself?

Come to Buenos Aires next year!

With a splendid tango performance at the closing session, the Buenos Aires Organising Committee gave all delegates a preview of the exciting event the World Library and Information Congress promises to be next year in Buenos Aires.

The conference schedule has some slight changes so please keep an eye out for the announcements to make sure that you don't miss anything. The Sections have already started planning the programme and it promises to be a truly global programme with lots of input from Latin America.



See you in Buenos Aires, 22-27 August 2004

IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2003

The IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2003, *Intellectual Freedom in the Information Society, Libraries and the Internet* was launched during the Berlin Conference.

The *World Report 2003* has responses from 88 different countries - equivalent to 58% of IFLA member countries - almost double the number of countries represented in the *World Report 2001*.

Alex Byrne, Chair of the IFLA/FAIFE Committee, said: "*The World Report 2003 makes very interesting reading. The countries included are very different and display a diversity of approaches to library and information service and access to the Internet. But the peoples of all the countries share a thirst for knowledge and it is our responsibility to assist them by providing and promoting unrestricted access to information.*"

The World Report 2003 can be ordered through the IFLA/FAIFE Office. For more information see: <http://www.ifla.org/faife>

Winners of Free Registrations

At the closing session 3 winners of a free registration for the Buenos Aires conference were announced. The Buenos Aires Organising Committee drew 1 of the names from a collection of cards at their booth and the other 2 names were drawn from the conference evaluation forms.

A third winner will be drawn from the all evaluation forms, including those forms that were sent to Niels Ole Pors at the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark. IFLA would like to use this opportunity to thank Mr. Pors for collecting and compiling the information from the evaluation forms and providing us with a great tool for development and improvement.

The winners of the free registrations are:

Margaret Hill, University of Houston, USA
Elena Tikhonova, National Library of Russia, Russian Federation
Carolyn Kayoro, Kenya National Library Service, Kenya.

Venezuelan Winner of Guust van Wesemael Literacy Prize 2003

In June IFLA announced that the **Asociacion Civil Banco del Libro of Caracas, Venezuela**, is the winner of the Guust van Wesemael Literacy Prize 2003.

The objective of this award of 3,000 Euros is to sponsor a public or school library in a developing country to perform activities in the field of literacy: collection development, promotion, training, policy development or otherwise.

Banco del Libro is a private, non-profit Civil Association dedicated to investigate, experiment, innovate and carry out formative activities for readers. Its main objective is to encourage the reading of high-quality books in libraries, schools and homes.

Leer para vivir, or *Read to Live* is the award-winning project that was submitted for IFLA's Guust van Wesemael Prize this year.

It was conceived in the bibliotherapy setting, as a means of support to those affected by the landslides which took place in December 1999 in the State of Vargas. Fundamental activities within the project include story telling and workshops for information dissemination to teachers and librarians.

Its most important achievement has been the establishment of a significant "human network" which currently comprises 62 schools and four communities filled with readers.

On hearing the news of the Prize, Maria Elena Zapata, Project Officer *Banco del Libro*, was very happily surprised. She stated that the money will be used in the framework of *Leer para vivir*. An article containing further detailed information will be submitted for a future issue of IFLA Journal.

The award was handed out at the Berlin Conference.