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From Asian Federation of Library Associations (AFLA) to Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations (REFSALA) and beyond: a journey incomplete

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Abstract

Library and information (LI) profession is a dynamic profession. Library associations provide a common platform to LI professionals to share their experiences, expertise and concerns. Library and information professionals relate to and learn from stakeholders' problems and solutions. This basically leads to the best practice of identifying common concerns at local, state, regional, national and international level resulting in professional unity. Many efforts have been made towards regional cooperation by proposing a federation of library associations of different national library associations of Asia. In 1951, at the invitation of the Indian Library Association sent by its President Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, AFLA was formed. Soon it reached its dead end. Then the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) was established during 1970. In 1972 the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) included a number of library associations of Asia as its members. The networking has also led the LIS professionals of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to the conception of REFSALA at Kathmandu meeting during 2005 fully funded by IFLA ALP. Leaders of all the national library associations of SAARC countries then committed to the formation of REFSALA, but still it is a pending draft.

Introduction

Library associations provide a common platform to librarians, educators to share problems and bind together. They also offer a number of services, benefits to the members and look after their interests. A library association exists and grows because of its members who choose to belong to that particular association and play an active role for its development at local, state, regional, national or global level. The strength and weakness of a library association partly rests with its members as they are the main pillar of that association. The mission, vision, organizational structure, roles, objectives and functions of library associations are formally recorded in its constitution in published forms. These days most of them are available on its website. But information about all library associations is not available via the Internet as is the case in a few developing countries. "The basic mission of any library association is to develop products and services which offer practical solutions to the problems of this fast changing world, to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library services, to promote excellence through continuing education program, publications, communications and awards, and to undertake other such innovative programs. The purpose is to develop, expand and enhance the professional knowledge and status of the profession" (Ghosh, 2006).

The developments in the information communication technologies (ICTs) have transformed the LI profession and also the manner of communicating among professional colleagues. The Internet is a powerful tool as information is being exchanged via e-mail without ever meeting the other person. This has also led to a desire to know what is happening around the world or in the region with similar problems and exchange ideas and solutions. The best practice for a library association is to identify common areas of concern and then unitedly work for them at all levels. Hence, library associations should have (a) a clear vision of the future; (b) flexible policies; (c) bringing together other stakeholders in an information society; and (d) building on international partnerships (e) strong and stable publication programme (f) strategic plans as guidelines for future (g) awards, etc. From time to time there is a need to rejuvenate various areas of library association to keep abreast with the new developments and remain relevant.

"The region of Asia, like the United States and United Kingdom, although on a small scale compared to these two great countries, witnessed brisk activities in the area directed to library development with the establishment of library associations. The first library association to establish in 1892 in Asia some sixteen years after the founding of American Library Association was Nihan Bunko Kyakai (now called Nihan Toshokan Kyaki), the Japan Library Association (JLA). This is also the third oldest library association in the world" (Khurshid, 1989a). The Indian Library Association (ILA) was the third association established in Asia in 1933. There are still a few countries without any library association in the Asian region. There is regional cooperation among countries of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) was founded in Singapore in 1970 by the library associations of Singapore and Malaysia in response to a growing sense of Southeast Asian identity, fostered particularly by the formation of the Association of ASEAN.

Library Associations in SAARC Countries

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and in April 2007 Afghanistan became its eighth member. Out of these countries, India is the largest country. Pakistan and Bangladesh were an integral part of India till 1947 and 1971 when these countries got independent status. Hence, these countries have similar culture with major common problems. The other countries in the SAARC region also share common characteristics.

There is no library association in Afghanistan and Bhutan. Country wise (alphabetically) brief information about the national library associations of the six countries is discussed. The information has been gathered from their websites, printed literature and personal communications.

Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB): The Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) was founded in 1956 in Dhaka, and got its present name on 16 December, 1971. Its aims and objectives are:

- Promotion of library services to the people of the country.
- Provision and promotion of facilities for training for librarianship and of research in library science.
- Cooperation with libraries, library organizations and with such Associations as may have similar aims and objects in and outside the country, in furtherance of the cause of service to the people in the field of librarianship.
- Improvement of the status and service conditions of library personnel and
- To take over the assets of any association or institutions having objectives similar to be objects of the Association.

Its mission is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. LAB has a clear and succinct mission statement, all the activities the Association are suppose to match with the aims and objectives. Although the Association, from time to time changes its strategies, but the mission statement is very much generalized and has never been changed” (<http://www.lab-bd.org>).Regarding membership, there are mainly two types of membership provision in LAB, life and general member. Another provision is Patron member, for those who want to patronize (financially). It has more than 2000 members. There is no comprehensive strategic plan but there is consensus among members over common issues faced, but no concrete move has been made. The LAB secured its affiliation with International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) and Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA). LAB has a journal The Eastern Librarian, a Bengali newsletter Upatta, and published seminar proceedings and issue based booklets.

Indian Library Association (ILA): ILA is the outcome of the resolution passed in the second session (13th September 1933) of the first ‘All India Library Conference’ held at Calcutta (now called Kolkata) during 12-14 September, 1933. Father of Library Science,

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan was closely associated with ILA right from its inception till 1954, as President from 1944-53. It started with “three fold objectives which included:

1. The furtherance of the library movement in India;
2. The promotion of the training of librarians; and
3. The improvement of the status of librarians.

In 1935 two more objectives i.e. promotion of research in library science and co-operation with international organizations with similar objectives were added. The 1970 amendment to the constitution added four more objectives namely: (a) publication of bulletins, periodicals, books etc., which tend to the realization of the objects of the association, (b) establishment of libraries, documentation & Information centres and assistance to their establishment and working, (c) promotion of appropriate library legislation in India, and (d) to do all such other things as are incidental of above mentioned objects.

The latest amendment (4 January 1987) in the constitution has added three more objectives namely: (i) providing a common forum to all persons engaged or interested in library and information work by holding conferences and meetings for discussion on professional, technical and organizational issues, (ii) accreditation of institutions imparting library and information science education and training, and (iii) promotion as well as formulation of standards, norms, guidelines for management of library and information systems and services” (Vashishth, 1991). Thus ILA has always kept pace with the changing needs of the profession which has always been reflected in adoption of the objectives. (<http://www.ila-india.org/aboutus.asp>)

There are provisions for different categories of membership like, patron, honorary, life, institution, ordinary, associate, and library association member. There are about 7,500 members of all categories. It has not remained an active member of IFLA since 2003. ILA Bulletin and ILA Newsletter are its two important publications for communication with members. Since its inception ILA has been regularly holding conferences and after 1972 it has become an annual feature. Till date 53 conferences have been hosted at different places on different themes keeping pace with the developments in the subjects.

Maldives Library Association: "The Maldives Library Association was formed and registered in 1987. Its aim is to promote the libraries in Maldives, upgrading the standards of local libraries and strengthen the cooperation among libraries" (Maldives Country Report, 2006).

Nepal Library Association (NLA): NLA was formed on 23 October, 1980 with its own constitution approved by the King. It has been member of IFLA since 1990. NLA represents more than 200 individual and institutional members. Its main objectives are:

- Work for promotion of libraries and the profession;
- Establish close contact with information personnel and institutions both within the country and abroad;
- Create greater awareness regarding the importance of libraries and information centres;
- Conduct research, training, seminars and workshop programmes;
- Promote library education;
- Establish mutually beneficial contacts with similar organizations.

The first issue of Journal of Nepal Library Association was published in 1981. It was discontinued from 1988 due to financial constraints. (<http://www.nla.org.np>)

Pakistan Library Association (PLA): PLA was established in March 1957 to promote, support, and improve library services in Pakistan. It has five branches Baluchistan Branch Council, Federal Branch Council, NWFP Branch Council, and Sindh Branch Council. The head quarters of the association keeps changing and rotating from one province to the other after two years.

“Aims and objectives of PLA

1. Help to establish a comprehensive information service
2. Provide technical advice and assistance
3. Improve the existing library services in Pakistan
4. Conduct research in the field of library science
5. Improve the status and professional standing of libraries
6. Improve access to information through information technology” (Marwat, 1996).

On the website its Vision and Mission are stated. Vision-The educational, cultural, and economic conditions of the country will be advanced through greater use of libraries.

Mission-To provide leadership and to serve as a collective voice and advocate for advancement of libraries of the country, to educate the library community and users about contemporary library services, issues and technology, to provide members with a network for interaction on professional and social levels, and to promote the profession of librarianship and participation of libraries in regional, national and global library arenas.

(<http://pla.org.pk/default.aspx>) PLA publishes quarterly journal PLA Journal and bimonthly newsletter (PLA Newsletter) regularly. Although PLA had not been active and assertive since 1997 and no considerable activity was seen during the period 1997-2007. Its publications and professional activities remained suspended. It has more than 1500 members.

Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA): The SLLA was incorporated by Law No. 20 of 1974 of the National State Assembly and amended by act. No. 7 of 2004. It holds membership of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and IFLA. It's Vision- ‘To be the center of excellence in the field of Library, Documentation and Information Science through an educated and proactive membership and collaboration with other stakeholders in the field.’ Its mission states- ‘To act as the pivotal professional body for libraries, documentation and information services in the country, by providing library education programmes, setting professional standards, fostering cooperation between all individuals and organizations interested in the welfare of libraries, acting as the forum for the exchange of ideas among members of the association, safeguarding and promoting the rights, privileges and status of librarians and information scientists and playing a leadership role in chartering the course of future library needs in the country.’

According to Sri Lanka Library Association (Incorporation) (Amendment) Act, No. 7 of 2004 the objectives of SLLA are:

- to establish, maintain and promote the Library, Documentation and Information Services in Sri Lanka a ride to setup professional standards for such services

- to co-ordinate and co-operate with authorities concerned with planning, programming and developing of all aspects of library, documentation and information services
- to provide professional advice and to promote, facilitate and assist in the use of new technologies in the field of library science, documentation and information service
- to organize discussions, meetings, conferences and seminars relating to library science documentation and information service and encourage and facilitate the participation of person interested
- to safeguard, protect and promote the rights, privileges, status, interests and welfare of the Librarians and Information Scientists
- to organize, conduct and control the education and training of persons desiring to qualify as professional librarians and information scientists and for that purpose prescribe, approve and accredit appropriate courses of study
- to promote and facilitate the study, teaching and research on library science and information science and services
- to co-operate and co-ordinate with other establishments and associations both national and international, having objects similar to the corporation
- to unite all those engaged in library and information services and promote coordination and fellowship among them
- to promote co-ordination and cooperation between libraries in Sri Lanka
- to collect literature pertaining to library information and documentation science and maintain a library and documentation center
- to introduce a Code of Conduct and Ethics for the members of the Corporation and monitor the implementation of such Code; and
- to do all such other acts and things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects” (<http://www.slla.org.lk/obj.htm>)

After looking at the objectives critically, it is clear that international cooperation is elaborated in the objectives of only two national library associations, ILA and SLLA. There is need to identify common concerns among the participating countries of SAARC region.

Need for Regional Cooperation

There is always an urge to cooperate and collaborate among library associations due to common concerns and problems faced within the same region or sub-region. There are certain issues that have to be addressed at national level collectively. Countries in the SAARC region have many common issues concerning LI profession that have to be identified and dealt with at a common platform, hence paving way for regional cooperation.

Information about LI profession, different types of libraries, library education and training programmes, status of automation in libraries, their experiences, problems and solutions. Resource sharing and networking, information services among SAARC

countries will benefit the stakeholders who are looking for information on different subjects in the libraries of these countries. For exchange of information and developing open source software, it is essential to translate the literature available in regional local languages. A database of different types of library associations prevalent in participating countries should be prepared. There can be exchange programmes among LI professionals, educators, and students. Workshops, seminars and conferences on common issues can be organized by rotation in these countries to share experiences and expertise. Tsunami has awakened the binding spirit of LI professionals in this region.

It is essential to have regional cooperation among SAARC region as these countries have a composite culture and also spatially collocated. No doubt IFLA has a Regional Section on Asia and Oceania (RSAO), yet there is need for regional federation of library associations in South Asia as it is not possible for majority of the professionals in this region to go to various corners of the world to participate in IFLA conferences. For LI professionals in South Asian countries, affordability is a major issue. ILA finds it very difficult to renew its IFLA membership because of paucity of funds only. Until and unless there is fair representation of members of federation there will be no quality feedback and movement forward. There is also need for LI professionals of these countries to visit all the member countries to get first hand information. Hence, a regional federation of South Asian libraries is completely justified. This need was also felt by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan of India, who was a great visionary and Father of Librarianship in India. He had given importance to cooperation with international organizations as early as 1935 in the objectives of ILA. The need for spatial and sectoral cooperation is felt more today, therefore, in order to bring mutual co-operation and integrated action on matters of common concerns, Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) mooted the idea of forming the Joint Council of Library Associations of India (JOCLAI) especially of those at national level. The JOCLAI meetings take place during the national meets of each IASLIC and ILA. It has also formulated a Code of Ethics for the library profession in India.

Founding of AFLA

“At the invitation of the Indian Library Association sent by its President Dr. S.R.Ranganathan on 30 January 1951, representatives from Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka attended the Conference at Indore, India on 15 May 1951 with Dr. S.R. Ranganathan in chair and resolved to form the Asian Federation of Library Associations (AFLA)...The consent of library associations from Thailand, Burma, Pakistan, Iraq and Israel had also been received” (Khurshid, 1989b). Common areas of concern were identified by the participating national library associations.

“124 The Chairman then formulated by way of illustration the following nine problems which would admit of and would require joint pursuit by the Library Associations of all countries in. Asia. He further stressed that the exchange of library personnel among Asian countries would go a long way in promoting a sense of mutual respect and unity.

1. Training of library personnel; 2. Union catalogue of learned periodicals in the holdings of Asian libraries; 3. Directory of reference books and periodical publications published in Asia; 4. Code for rendering Asian names in bibliographies and catalogues; 5.

Preparation of detailed geographical schedules for Asian countries; 6. Scheme for transliteration of the several Asian languages; 7. Exchange of library personnel; 8. Exchange of publications; and 9. Co-ordinated relation with Unesco and Non-Governmental Organisations of international coverage.

125 The Chairman then formulated the following resolutions -which were adopted:

1. That the Library Profession in each of the Asian countries, in which there is at present no National Library Association, be requested to organise and establish a National Library Association;
2. That the National Library Associations of Asian countries be invited to form an Asian Federation of Library Associations (= AFLA) ; and
3. That a committee consisting of one representative each of the participating Asian Nations be formed and be requested to draft a constitution of the proposed that this be thereafter submitted to the several Asian countries and that an agreed draft be put up for consideration and adoption at a conference which may be convened at an agreed time and place

126 The Indian Library Association was requested to provide the Secretariat and pursue the subject further” (Bulletin of Indian Library Association, 1951).

After this the fate of AFLA is not known. In 1957 again an attempt was made by the Japan Library Association to coordinate activities of the associations on a larger Asian basis, but that also failed. Somehow, regional groupings are distinguished by conspicuous lack of success. Again during the 1986 IFLA Conference held in Tokyo matter was taken up but as in the past, this attempt also failed to bring about any unification. This was the time to identify the factors contributing to the failure of such ventures so that these could be avoided in the future.

IFLA in Context

“For almost 80 years, IFLA has served the library profession as a forum for exchanging ideas, promoting best practice and furthering international professional co-operation” (Lor, 2006). IFLA has a full fledged Section on Management of Library Associations for the promotion and development of effective library association practices worldwide. According to a decision of IFLA Governing Board ALP has now a new name Action for development through Libraries Programme which means that the acronym can be kept. The new name is more action oriented and describes what the programme aims to do. The mission of ALP is to further the library profession, library institutions and library and information services in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean. One of the special programme areas of ALP is development of library associations. IFLA ALP has till date initiated and completed many projects by providing funding and under "List of completed projects and activities REFSALA is also listed. Responsibility lies with Nepal Library Association and Professor Russell Bowden during September 2005. It was funded by Sida". (<http://www.ifla.org/VI/I/alp.htm>). The best practice would be not only initiating and funding various projects but to ensure their sustainability also.

REFSALA: Still a Pending Draft

For regional cooperation among national associations of SAARC region, the original idea was born in the Glasgow IFLA Conference in 2002. But some spade work was required to be done to have basic information about the national library associations of this region. As a project of UNESCO, on its request, Professor Russell Bowden had prepared 'Guidelines for the management of professional associations in the fields of archives, library and information work. Paris, UNESCO, 1989.' On the basis of these seven guidelines a 14 point criteria was extracted and a template was prepared to collect information from national library associations of five SAARC countries by Professor Bowden to present a comparative picture of library associations before the formation of REFSALA which is presented in his paper presented at NACLIS 2006 conference in Colombo. "The purpose of this paper, therefore, is to comparatively review the past performance of the SLLA against those of other library associations in SAARC countries and thereafter, based on this, to take a critical look into the future with the purpose of guiding the SLLA's developments over the next decade" (Bowden, 2006) .

'International Workshop on Empowering Library Associations for Effective Management in Asia' was organized in Kathmandu from 5 to 7 October 2004 by the Nepal Library Association and Tribhuvan University Library in co-operation with Professor Russell Bowden. It was attended by representatives of library associations from South Asian countries. The objectives were to strengthen the quality, management and efficiency of services provided by library associations and to assist library associations to encourage the adoption of internationally recognized standards of service and provision for library and information services. "The enormous success of this workshop encouraged IFLA's Regional Standing Committee (RSCAO) and the funding body, IFLA ALP (Action for Development through Libraries Programme), to speedily respond by agreeing to finance the birth of REFSALA. In the intervening ten months the Nepal Library Association, Tribhuvan University Central Library and professional Nepali colleagues along with Russell Bowden (Honorary Fellow of IFLA) assembled the agendas and papers for the two meetings necessary to bring REFSALA formally and legally into existence. They were helped in varying degrees by members of an Interim Committee" (IFLA RSAO Newsletter, 2005a). After the meeting the Mission Statement, Objectives, Constitution and next Actions were drafted, and these were forwarded to the library associations of the relevant countries for approval by their members. A lot of homework was done by the members to finalize all the legal formalities.

"On a mountain top in the Himalayas overlooked by mighty Mount Everest was born the latest organisation to be welcomed into the world-wide library and information community. (Can any library and information organisation have been brought into the light of day in a more spectacular setting?) This is the Regional Federation of South Asian Library Associations – REFSALA at Nagarkot in Nepal. At a two day meeting (preceded in Kathmandu by its formal Inauguration by the Honourable Minister of Education for the Kingdom of Nepal on 20 September 2005) the new federal organisation of library associations of the countries that make up the regional grouping of SAARC (Bhutan, represented by its National Librarian, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal,

Pakistan and Sri Lanka each formally and officially represented by their Presidents) brought itself into formal and legal being” (IFLA RSAO Newsletter, 2005b). It was also resolved that REFSALA will work in close collaboration with other associations also like CONSAL, IFLA and with RSCAO which had created this new federation. After setting the sails for REFSALA to sail, Professor Russell Bowden, the spirit behind this federation handed the oars to the President, REFSALA (President, Nepal Library Association).

But unfortunately, REFSALA like AFLA has not been able to embark on its journey and died a silent death before birth. Why, what happened? To find out the reasons a questionnaire was sent to the Presidents of national library associations of SAARC countries via e-mail. But only President, REFSALA from Nepal responded. The focus of the questionnaire was to know its mission, objectives, and common areas of concern, information about its website, contribution of NLA, problems faced, suggestions and future plans of REFSALA. The mission of the Federation is

1. Encourage cooperation and development of the library and information services and the library and information profession in the region.
2. Develop, promote and strengthen the national library associations in the region.
3. Promote high quality library and information services in accordance with SAARC areas of cooperation.

Objectives of the Federation are

1. Preservation and access to the cultural and oral heritage of the Region for research and other purposes.
2. Use of ICT and other means to bridge the gap between ‘information rich’ and ‘information poor’ in the region and with the individual countries.
3. Capacity building activities and exchange of human resources for improved LIS services in the region.
4. Implementation of IFLA’s policies and strategies relevant to the Region’s requirements.
5. Expansion of advocacy for recognition of the high quality of LIS profession and services in the region.
6. Increased cooperation in the region with the SAARC secretariat and to promote SAARC objectives.

The website of REFSALA was to be hosted by SLLA. To the best of my knowledge till today they have not been able to do it. Credit for the establishment of REFSALA was given by President, NLA to the vision, ability and devotion of Prof. Russell Bowden, and effortless contributions and follow up made by the Chief Librarian, Tribhuvan University Library, and President NLA.

Many problems were cited for the present state of REFSALA by President, NLA including financial, technical, political instability in the countries, lack of proper coordination among the library associations of SAARC countries. It was suggested that all the member countries should have common commitment for the implementation of REFSALA.

The best practice would be that since IFLA/ALP had given huge amount of money and expertise (Prof. Russell Bowden) there should have been some way not only to ensure the birth of REFSALA but also accountability of Nepal to IFLA for its present state. Prof. Russell Bowden also shared his unhappiness the way REFSALA got stuck.

Reasons for failure

For the demise of an association not a single reason is responsible. Many factors contribute to its failure. In case the national library associations are weak then it will be reflected in the federation of associations also.

“One of the significant problems which many LAs have experienced are the low level of vibrancy. This may be linked to the Associations’ lack of financial viability and might be reflected in reduced levels of participation by members in the affairs of the Association. This member dormancy, which can be observed by the fact that the same few people continuously offer themselves for office, may lead to a perception that the Associations are monopolised by a few. This perception may result in a feeling of alienation in some members, as well as in very selective involvement by others in the affairs of some LAs” (Ornager, 2005). In South Asian countries problems like insurgency and political instability contribute to the failure of cooperative initiatives. As the priorities of the decision makers shift to other important basic and burning issues like provision of drinking water, health, education, employment etc.

“The fluctuations in governments are very common. Whatever the best work in promoting the library development with the mediation of the Associations may or may not be continued. Hence the development of the libraries is hampered. Even the Associations have been inculcated the spirit of the political system and more involved in elections and making efforts to gain the power. This has resulted in slowdown of the development...Therefore the Associations have to have a plan of action to withstand the test of time” (Karisiddappa, 2002).

Referring to REFSALA, political situation in the country also contributes in the delay or absence of any action by respective participating countries. Politics dominates on profession and the leaders have vested interests and lack commitment. Objectives for regional cooperation are formulated by the library associations but there is no follow up. Lack of exchange of information is another significant reason for the collapse. Attitudinal and mind set problem cannot be ignored. In case of REFSALA, the responsibility for its present situation partly lies with Nepal Library Association's leadership as REFSALA's head quarter lies with them and also other member countries. It seems there was no follow up action for its present state. Some alternative or solution could have easily been found for the success of REFSALA.

The Latest Attempt

Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Tahami, President, Pakistan Library Association (Punjab Branch) was here in India in March 2008 as the Guest of Honour in a national workshop on "Quality Indicators and Best Practices for Academic Libraries" organized by the Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala. In his address, he talked about revival of REFSALA for regional cooperation. After this on 13 March 2008, there was an International Seminar on Library Advocacy at New Delhi. This seminar was hosted by the Max Mueller Bhawan, New Delhi and Dr. Claudia Lux, President of IFLA was also present there. The idea of taking the REFSALA to its logical conclusion was vehemently taken up with the IFLA President by Prof. Jagtar Singh, Standing Committee Member, IFLA Information Technology Section & EC Member of

ILA along with Mr. Tahami, President of Pakistan Library Association (Punjab Branch). Unfortunately, REFSALA is still a pending draft. Since so much public money has been spent on this project, efforts must be made to give concrete shape to REFSALA as it would serve as a best practice for Regional Cooperation. If you are worried about the future of REFSALA, according to my wisdom, it depends upon the attitude and commitment of the member countries and the IFLA.

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Useful links

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