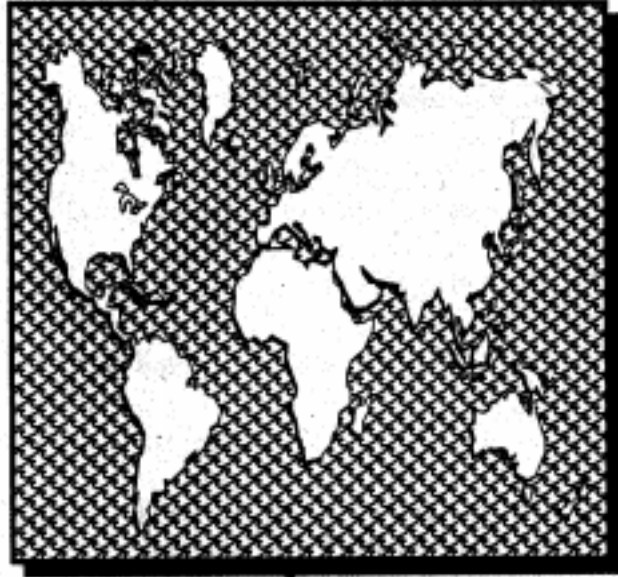


# Newsletter

of the IFLA Section  
on National Libraries



April 2000



International Federation  
of Library Associations and Institutions  
Fédération Internationale des Associations de  
Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques  
Internationaler Verband der bibliothekarischen  
Vereine und Institutionen

# Newsletter of the IFLA Section on National Libraries

December 1999

## Contents

	Pages
▪ IFLA Section on National Libraries Standing Committee	3
▪ Section on National Libraries Medium Term Programme 1998-2001	7
▪ Minutes of the Standing Committee on National Libraries :	
- 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting, August 21, 1999	9
- 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting, August 27, 1999	15
▪ Minutes of the General Research Libraries Division Coordinating Board,	
- 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting, August 20, 1999	19
- 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting, August 27, 1999	22
▪ Open Session of the IFLA Section on National Libraries :	
1. The Role of National Libraries in supporting public and school libraries, Peter Lor	27
2. The changing role of the National Library Advisory Service in Slovenia, Vilenka Jakac-Bizjak and Silva Novljan	29
3. The « national » role of the National Library Board of Singapore, R. Ramachandran	35
4. The National Library Service of Papua New Guinea, Daniel Paraide	41
▪ Joint Workshop of the IFLA Section on National Libraries :	
1. Electronic publications in (national) bibliographies, Werner Stephan	53
2. Inclusion of information covering electronic resources in national bibliographies : results of a survey conducted May-June 1999, John D. Byrum	55
3. Net publications and bibliographic control seen from Denmark with a view to Sweden, Randi Diget Hansen	61
4. Japanese electronic library project, Naoko Harai	64
▪ IFLA 66 <sup>th</sup> Conference, Jerusalem, 10-18 August 2000	69
▪ Some news of the National Libraries in the world	71

*Officers of the section of National Libraries*

Chair / Treasurer : Mr Winston TABB  
Associate Librarian  
Library of Congress  
Washington, DC 20540-4000  
Fax : (1) 202 707-6269  
E-mail : wtab@loc.gov

Secretary Ms Alix CHEVALLIER  
Delegate for the International Relations  
Bibliothèque nationale de France  
Quai François-Mauriac  
75706 Paris cedex 13  
Fax : (33) 01 53 79 50 45  
E-mail : [alix.chevallier@bnf.fr](mailto:alix.chevallier@bnf.fr)

\* \* \*

**IFLA Section on National Libraries Standing Committee**

**(rev. 8/10/1999)**

**1999-2001**

Ms Livia BORGHETTI	Director	Bibliotheca Nazionale Centrale di Roma Viale Castro Pretorio 105 00185 Rome Italy ☎: 39 6 498-9318 Fax : 39 6 445-7635 Email : <a href="mailto:l.borghetti@caspur.it">l.borghetti@caspur.it</a>
Ms Fernanda CAMPOS	Deputy Director	Biblioteca Nacional Campo Grande, 83 1749-081 Lisboa Portugal ☎: 351 1 798 20 22 Fax : 351 1 798 21 40 Email : <a href="mailto:fcampos@bn.pt">fcampos@bn.pt</a>
Ms Alix CHEVALLIER	Director for international relations	Bibliothèque nationale de France Quai François-Mauriac 75706 Paris cedex 13 France ☎: 33 1 53 79 59 10 Fax : 33 1 53 79 47 37 Email : <a href="mailto:alix.chevallier@bnf.fr">alix.chevallier@bnf.fr</a>
Mr Viktor V. FEDOROV	Director	Russian State Library Vozdizhenka 3/5 101 000 Moscow Russia ☎ : 7 095 202.73.71 Fax : 7 095 290.60.62 Email : <a href="mailto:lrgb@glas.apc.org">lrgb@glas.apc.org</a>
Ms Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJAK	Director General	Library Programs Slovenian National National and University Library Turjaska 1 1000 Ljubljana Slovenia ☎ : 386 61 21 57288 Fax : 386 61 21 3052 Email : <a href="mailto:vilenka@nuk.si">vilenka@nuk.si</a>
Mr Fariborz KHOSRAVI	Deputy Director	National Library of Iran P.O. Box 19395 6573 Tehran Iran ☎ : 9821 8881 966 Fax : 9821 8788 950 Email : <a href="mailto:fkhosravi@yahoo.com">fkhosravi@yahoo.com</a>

Mr Steen BILLE LARSEN	Deputy Director	Kongelige Bibliotek Postboks 2149 1016 Kobenhavn K Denmark ☎ : 45 33 47 47 47 Fax : 45 33 32 98 46 ou 14.21.70 Email : <a href="mailto:sbl@kb.dk">sbl@kb.dk</a>
Dr Tomas LIDMAN	National Librarian	Royal Library Box 5039 10241 Stockholm Suède ☎ : 46 8 463 40 01 Fax : 46 8 463 40 04 Email : <a href="mailto:tomas.lidman@kb.se">tomas.lidman@kb.se</a>
Dr Peter LOR	Director	National Library of South Africa P.O. Box 397 0001 Pretoria South Africa ☎ : 27 12 321 8931 Fax : 27 12 325 5984 Email : <a href="mailto:pjlor@statelib.pwv.gov.za">pjlor@statelib.pwv.gov.za</a>
Ms Anna LUCARELLI	Librarian	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Piazza Cavallegeri, 1 34122 Firenze Italy ☎ : 39 053 241 101 Fax : 39 053 234 2482
Mr Ian D. McGOWAN	Librarian	National Library of Scotland George IV Bridge Edinburgh EH1 1EW Scotland – United Kingdom ☎ : 44 131 226 4531 Fax : 44 131 622 4803 Email : <a href="mailto:i.mcgowan@nls.uk">i.mcgowan@nls.uk</a>
Ms Elisabeth NIGGEMANN	Generaldirektorin	Die Deutsche Bibliothek Adickesallee 1 60322 Frankfurt am Main Germany ☎ : 49 69 1525 1000 Fax : 49 69 1525 1010 Email : <a href="mailto:niggemann@dbf.ddb.de">niggemann@dbf.ddb.de</a>
Mr Bendik RUGAAS	National Librarian	National Library of Norway Postboks 2674 Solli 0203 Oslo Norway ☎ : 47 23 276 300 Fax : 47 23 276 395 Email : <a href="mailto:bendik.rugaas@nb.no">bendik.rugaas@nb.no</a>

Dr Marianne SCOTT	National Librarian	National Library of Canada 395 Wellington Street Ottawa Ontario K1A 0N4 Canada ☎ : 1 613 996 1623 Fax : 1 613 996 7941 Email : <a href="mailto:marianne.scott@nlc-bnc.ca">marianne.scott@nlc-bnc.ca</a>
Ms SUN Beixin	Deputy Director	National Library of China 39 Bai hsiqiao Road Beijing 100081 China ☎ : 86 10 684 82798 Fax : 86 10 684 19271 Email : <a href="mailto:bxsun@publicf.nlc.gov.cn">bxsun@publicf.nlc.gov.cn</a>
Mr Winston TABB	Associate Librarian for Library Services	Library of Congress Washington DC 20504 (ou 40)-4000 USA ☎ : 202 707 6240 Fax : 202 707 6269 Email : <a href="mailto:wtab@loc.gov">wtab@loc.gov</a>
Mr Gevorg TER-VARDANIAN	Researcher	Matanadaran 72 Terian Erevan, 375009 Armenia ☎ : 374 2 58 42 59 Fax : 374 2 52 97 11 Email : <a href="mailto:gtvardan@ac.am">gtvardan@ac.am</a> or : <a href="mailto:gtvardan@yahoo.com">gtvardan@yahoo.com</a>
Mr Gerard VAN TRIER	Senior Executive Officer	Koninklijke Bibliotheek P.O. Box 90407 2509 LK Den Haag Netherlands ☎ : 31 70 314 0463 Fax : 31 70 314 0651 ou 0561 Email : <a href="mailto:gerard.vantrier@konbib.nl">gerard.vantrier@konbib.nl</a>



## **SECTION ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES**

### **MEDIUM TERM PROGRAMME 1998-2001**

#### **Scope**

The National Libraries Section is concerned with the full range of functions within national libraries. The Section also works closely with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL). National libraries have special responsibilities, often defined in law, within a nation's library and information system. These responsibilities vary from country to country but are likely to include: the collection via legal deposit of the national imprint (both print and electronic) and its cataloguing and preservation; the provision of central services (e.g., reference, bibliography, preservation, lending) to users both directly and through other library and information centres; the preservation and promotion of the national cultural heritage; acquisition of at least a representative collection of foreign publications; the promotion of national cultural policy; and leadership in national literacy campaigns. National libraries often serve as a national forum for international programmes and projects. They may have a close relationship with national governments, may be concerned with the development of national information policies, and may act as a conduit for the views of other sectors of the profession. Occasionally they also serve the information needs of the legislature directly.

#### **Goals, 1998-2001**

1. To identify the range and nature of tasks of a national library allowing for differing historical, political, economic, cultural and other circumstances.
2. To serve as a forum to share and learn from the experience of the practical problems of national libraries.
3. To promote research in fields of interest to national libraries - such as acquisition, preservation and servicing of electronic publications - and the exchange of ideas and information, in cooperation with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries.
4. To further the Core Programmes of IFLA.

#### **Action Plan 2000-2001** (many actions support multiple goals)

1. To identify the range and nature of tasks of a national library allowing for differing historical, political, economic, technological, cultural and other circumstances.

Action 1.1 Convene workshop at Jerusalem conference on legislation for national libraries

Action 1.2 Participate in Library of Congress bicentennial symposium in October 2000, focusing on the past and future of national libraries.

2. To serve as a forum to share and learn from the experience of the practical problems of national libraries.

Action 2.1 Translate Section brochure into all IFLA languages in order to encourage broader participation by libraries throughout the world

Action 2.2 Publish Section newsletter, including conference papers and news relating to national libraries.



3. To promote research in fields of interest to national libraries - such as acquisition, description, preservation and servicing of electronic publications - and the exchange of ideas and information, in cooperation with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL).

Action 3.1 Initiate a project/survey of marketing/public relations programmes of national libraries and present results at a conference programme in Boston

4. To promote the study and sharing of practical experience about ways in which national libraries must adapt to the digital environment.

Action 4.1 Follow progress of CDNL working group on the use of persistent identifiers for digital objects by national libraries. This group is chaired by the Section Chair, and includes members from several national libraries.

Action 4.2 Co-sponsor (with IT Section) programme at Jerusalem conference on URN's.

Action 4.3 Update Section regularly on activities of the "G-7" Biblioteca universalis project.

5. To advance the core programmes and activities of IFLA

Action 5.1 Plan and deliver program at Jerusalem conference on the role of national libraries in the support of IFLA's core programmes and activities.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES**  
**65<sup>th</sup> General Conference, BANGKOK**

**Minutes**

**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING, AUGUST 21, 1999**

---

Chair-treasurer : Winston TABB (USA)

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Winston Tabb.

**Members present :**

- Livia BORGHETTI (Italy, Roma)
- Fernanda Maria CAMPOS (Portugal)
- Alix CHEVALLIER (France)
- Viktor V. FEDOROV (Russia)
- Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJAK (Slovenia)
- Fariborz KHOSRAVI (Iran)
- Steen Bille LARSEN (Denmark)
- Tomas LIDMAN (Sweden)
- Peter J. LOR (South Africa)
- Ian D. McGOWAN (United Kingdom)
- Elisabeth NIGGEMANN (Germany)
- Marianne SCOTT (Canada)
- SUN Beixin (China)
- Gerard VAN TRIER (Netherlands)

**Observers :**

- Upali AMARASIRI (Sri Lanka)
- Roza BERDIGALIEVA (Kazakhstan)
- Anara CHINYBAEVA (Kirghizstan)

**Guest :**

- John COLE (USA)

**Apologies from :**

- Marcelle BEAUDIQUEZ, secretary (France)
- Anna LUCARELLI (Italy, Firenze), represented by Antonia Ida FONTANA
- Bendik RUGAAS (Norway), represented by Bendt RIMER
- Gevorg TER-VARDANIAN (Armenia)

The continuing members and the new members were welcomed and all those present were asked to introduce themselves. The good attendance to the meeting was pointed out.

Winston TABB was sorry that Marcelle BEAUDIQUEZ could not attend the meeting and, on behalf of the Standing Committee, expressed her his great appreciation and his gratitude for the excellent work she has done as secretary.

## **2. Adoption of agendas for SC I and SC II**

Both agendas were adopted with the exception of point 9 of the agenda for SC I which was postponed to SC II.

## **3. Approval of minutes from Amsterdam meetings**

These minutes were published in December 1998 *Newsletter* and adopted as submitted.

## **4. Election of new Standing Committee Officers for the 1999-2000 term**

Only Standing Committee members present at the meeting who will be members of the Standing Committee during the 1999-2001 period have the right to vote and to be elected.

Winston TABB was re-elected chairman.

Alix CHEVALLIER was elected secretary.

## **5. Officer's Report**

### **5.1. Financial report**

As treasurer, Winston TABB reported that the section's finances remain in excellent position. The expenses have not exceeded 809 \$ and the cost of production and mailing of the December *Newsletter* has been taken in charge by the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

### **5.2. Professional Board and Coordinating Board I meetings**

The Chairman reported from the Professional Board and Coordinating Board I.

- Transport to and from BITEC : participants are invited to check the details of the arrangements for transport. BITEC is far from the city center and, due to economic constraints, buses will be available only on a few times all along the day.
- The next Conference has been confirmed to stand in Jerusalem. Last may, Ross SHIMMON and Derek LAW visited the Israelian authorities and the Conference Organizing Committee in Jerusalem and some special actions resulted such as admission of the Palestinian colleagues, simultaneous translation into Hebrew and Arabic. In addition, IFLA HQ supports the organization of pre- or post- conferences in Arabic countries, for instance in Jordan, in Egypt or some others.
- On the Opening of the Conference, a new fellowship sponsored by OCLC will be announced. Concerning four librarians of developing countries each year, it will consist in a visit to OCLC and libraries of North America for 4 weeks, all expenses paid.
- On Monday 23, at the Opening of the Conference, members are invited to be in their seats by 15.30 to welcome the Princess SIRINDHORN.

- Review of the IFLA Statutes : the discussion has focused on the role and running of the Core Programmes as well as on revision of the IFLA Statutes. See # 8 below.

## **6. Library of Congress Bicentennial Symposium**

Winston TABB announced that the Library of Congress will celebrate its Bicentennial in 2000 and, on this occasion, will organize exhibitions and symposia.

One of these events is the symposium which will be held at the Library of Congress on 23-26 October 2000 on the topic : « National libraries of the world : interpreting the past, shaping the future » and which is supported by several specialized library groups, among them IFLA and CDNL.

John COLE, director of the Center for the book at the LC, in charge of the Symposium organization, gave some more information :

- The Symposium will be divided into two parts :  
23-24 october : « Interpreting the past : libraries, society and culture »  
25-26 october : « Shaping in the future : current and future issues for national libraires ».
- It will gather between 150 and 200 participants maximum, speakers included, on invitation.
- The Symposium will combine brief individual prestations with panel discussions on the topics considered. It will focus on the history of libraries and will aim to provide perspectives and trends for National Library development.
- The Library of Congress is still shaping the program and will welcome recommendations about speakers.

The following discussion was mainly about the roles that national libraries would have to play in the future : national political role as information distributor to the society (Scotland, Sweden), national service for public and school libraries networking (South Africa), innovation role in the fields of information, communication and technology (Netherlands).

## **7. Review of programs of the Section at Bangkok meeting**

### **7.1. Open forum of the Section, August 24 :**

« The role of National Libraries in supporting public and school libraries ».

Peter LOR and Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJAK, in charge of the preparation, drew up the following schedule.

- Introduction : Peter LOR, Director, State Library of Pretoria, will point out the differences in the roles played by national libraries from country to country and will emphasize on functions which, mainly in developing countries, are concerned with the provision of national services.
- « The changing role of the National Advisory Service in Slovenia » : Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJAK, Director-General of Library Programmes, National and University Library, and Silva NOVLJAN, National Library Advisory Centre, Ljubljana, will describe the evolution of missions and tasks given to the National Advisory Service, i.e. to develop the profession and to organize library activities all over the country.
- « The national role of the National Library Board of Singapore » : R. RAMACHANDRAN, Director of the National Library, National Library Board of Singapore, will present the new National Library Board Act of 1995 and the responsibility it has given to the NLB for managing

the National Library and the public Libraries functions and for influencing the library development in the country.

- « The National Library Service of Papua New Guinea » : Daniel PARAIDE, National Librarian, National Library Service of Papua New Guinea, Waigani, will explain the role of the National Library which, by the National Library and Archives Act of 1993, is charged, in addition to its conventional functions, with the development of library services and offers support services to public and school libraries.

## **7.2. Joint workshop with the Section on Bibliography, August 26 :**

« Electronic publications in national bibliographies ».

Fernanda CAMPOS, in charge of the preparation, gave the following agenda :

- Introduction : handled by Winston TABB, Chair Section on National Libraries and Werner STEPHAN, Director, Universitätsbibliothek, Stuttgart and Chair, Section on Bibliography IFLA. It will stress the attention on the possibilities of bibliographic control for Internet-based electronic documents in order to facilitate their access.
- « Inclusion of information covering electronic resources in national bibliographies : results of a survey conducted Mai-June 1998 ». John BYRUM, Library of Congress, Washington DC.
- The BIBLINK European project.  
Sonia ZILLHARDT, Delegation for International Relations, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris.
- Net publications and bibliographic control, seen from Denmark with a view to Sweden.  
Randy DIGET HANSEN, Danish Library Centre, Copenhagen.
- Electronic publications and National Bibliography in Japan.  
Naoko HARAI, National Diet Library, Tokyo.
- « New working relationship between publishers of electronic material and national bibliographic agencies ».  
Klaus G. SAUR, publisher, Munich.

Due to the removal of registration, the Section members are invited to be present early in the meeting room. Besides the participants who have already committed themselves into electronic information management are invited to share their experience during the forum.

## **8. IFLA Statutes revision**

Winston TABB gave a brief progress report. More than 20 years have passed since substantial changes to IFLA statutes. For this purpose, following the IFLA Conference in Copenhagen in 1997, a Working Group chaired by Warren HORTON has been set up and presented a draft report to a joint meeting of IFLA's Executive and Professional Boards in December 1998. Its main recommendations, given to discussion during this Conference, are :

- the creation of a Governing Board replacing Executive and Professional Boards to avoid the overlap between the two groups ;
- an electoral mechanism based upon a combination of postal/electronic voting, allowing a more open and truly international vote ;
- a cycle of four years maximum for leadership of the Federation ;

- the reviewing of the present Core Programmes redefined in « core activities » ;
- the break-up of Division 8 and insertion of the IFLA regional entities activities in the other divisions and sections ;
- the implementation of the changes by the IFLA Jerusalem Conference in 2000.

The following comments focused on three main points :

- a stronger coordination between IFLA top structure, Core Programmes and Divisions and sections (France, Italy) ;
- the opportunity of disbanding the Division 8 : longer time must be given to sections for developing regions to share the process and to participate to the decision making (South Africa) ;
- the right time of implementing the statutes reform : in the opinion of most of the Section members, a quick decision would be preferable rather than waiting until the Boston Conference in 2001.

## **9. Section Brochure. Distribution and translation**

Postponed to SC II.

## **10. Medium-term Programme review. Action plans for 1999-2001**

The chairman proposed to look first at the scope statement and the goals, then at the action plans 1999-2001.

### **10.1. Scope statement and goals**

Peter LOR recalled the three main functions of a national library : heritage, infrastructure, central services. From the discussion, arose the necessity to moderate the present text, due to the different level of development from one library to other, and to take in account the new electronic environment. Cultural role, public relations and marketing aspects were also brought up.

The chairman will take these points in consideration for amending the existing version.

### **10.2. Action plans 1998-1999 Review**

The chairman acknowledged the Section members that most of the goals have been reached :

Actions	1.1 et 1.2 :	fulfilled
Actions	2.1. :	contract under way between UNESCO and the National Library of Canada
	2.2. :	the Section Brochure has been printed and is waiting for translations
Action	3.1. :	decision taken in Amsterdam of giving up this program
Actions	4.1. :	it will be fulfill by the Section Forum in Bangkok
	4.2. :	not fulfilled

The Section will have to develop its specific action plan for 2000-2001.

## **11. Public relations and marketing for National Libraries**

Bendik RUGAAS who was responsible for that project did not succeed to carry it out for Bangkok but will complete it by the Boston conference.

Different aspects about marketing were pointed out during the following discussion : promoting library, fund collecting approach, satisfaction of the users, selling products. Netherlands have already built a marketing plan for two years and Italy is developing a quality project integrating a marketing program.

The SC decided :

- to ask Bendik RUGAAS to define the content of the word « marketing » and to launch a survey about the practices in member national libraries ;
- to set up a working group to assist B. RUGAAS, constituted by Livia BORGHETTI, Gerard VAN TRIER and SUN Beixin.

## **12. « Round Robin » discussion of current activities or issues and concerns in member national libraries**

**12.1** Winston TABB related that the National library Service for the blind and physically handicapped at the Library of Congress was working with the Association of American publishers and the National Federation for the blind on project that would make it possible for the Library of Congress to make audio or Braille copies of US imprints on demand from qualified patrons (i.e., the blind and physically handicapped) without being required to seek copyright clearance.

Contact with associations for the blind have been taken too by the National and University Library of Slovenia and the work will start during autumn 1999.

**12.2** Peter LOR informed the Section members that the two National libraries, the State Library, Pretoria, and the South African Library, Cape Town, will be amalgamated to form the National Library of South Africa on 1. November 1999, in accordance with the National Library of South Africa Act 92 of 1998.

**12.3** Tomas LIDMAN reported the Swedish decision of making a pause in the digitization programme. In priority, libraries, archives and museums will look at standardization and technical aspects in order to build projects relating to electronic resources access on mutual principles.

## **13. Standing Committee representation at IFLA Booth, Tuesday August 24**

As usual, SC members were invited to represent their section at IFLA booth on Tuesday morning, from 11.00 to 12.00. Peter LOR is volunteer and will be there.

## **14. Adjournment**

Winston TABB adjourned the meeting at the end of agenda.

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

#### **Members present :**

- Livia BORGHETTI (Italy, Roma)
- Fernanda Maria CAMPOS (Portugal)
- Alix CHEVALLIER (France)
- Viktor V. FEDOROV (Russia)
- Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJAK (Slovenia)
- Fariborz KHOSRAVI (Iran)
- Steen Bille LARSEN (Denmark)
- Tomas LIDMAN (Sweden)
- Peter J. LOR (South Africa)
- Ian D. McGOWAN (United Kingdom)
- Elisabeth NIGGEMANN (Germany)
- Marianne SCOTT (Canada)
- SUN Beixin (China)
- Winston TABB (USA), chairman/treasurer
- Gerard VAN TRIER (Netherlands)

#### **Apologies from :**

- Anna LUCARELLI (Italy, Firenze), represented by Antonia Ida FONTANA
- Bendik RUGAAS (Norway), represented by Bendt RIMER
- Gevorg TER-VARDANIAN (Armenia), represented by Nerses HAYRAPETYAN

#### **Observers :**

- Roza BERDIGALIEVA (Kazakhstan)
- Levan BERDZENISHVILI (Georgia)
- Peter HADDAD (Australia)
- Manuel JORBA (Spain)
- KHIN Maung Tar (Burma)
- Yanee KUHARAT (Thailand)
- Amelia McKENZIE (Australia)
- Solomon MULUGETA (Ethiopia)
- Zarema SHAIMARDANOVA (Kazakhstan)

The chairman welcomed observers and members of the SC and then submitted to members approval a list of their addresses.

He expressed his satisfaction for the numerous participation in the SC meeting, due to a renewed interest.

### **2. Review of agenda**

The agenda was adopted as proposed.



### **3. & 4. Programmes of the 66<sup>th</sup> and the 67<sup>th</sup> General Conferences, Jerusalem, August 13-18, 2000 and Boston 16-25, 2001**

Winston TABB stated that differences went with the time between open forum and workshop. Originally, the idea of training was linked to workshop but now there is no clear distinction of orientation and purpose.

Furthermore, he asked SC members opinion on registration for the workshop. At Bangkok, registration was cancelled. For Jerusalem the SC has to take a stand on this issue : registration allows to book an appropriate room for registered people ; on the other hand, it restricts attendance. The general feeling was in favour of non registration.

Several topics were suggested for the open forum or the workshop, also for a pre- or post-seminar :

- public relations and marketing (Italy) ;
- presentation of national libraries of the countries surrounding Jerusalem (Denmark) : more appropriate for a seminar which could take place at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina ;
- preservation of electronic documents (Sweden, Portugal) ;
- cooperation between archives, museums and libraries (Portugal, Netherlands, USA, United Kingdom) ;
- relations between IFLA core programmes and national libraries (Germany) ;
- legislation for national libraries (Australia) ;
- legislation for legal deposit (South Africa, Denmark), in relation with an update of the UNESCO Guidelines.

Finally the following topics were proposed :

- for Jerusalem :
  - Open forum : « the role of national libraries in IFLA core programmes », to be organised par E. Niggemann with the support of W. TABB, A. CHEVALLIER, P. LOR, G. VAN TRIER ;
  - Workshop : « the needs for legislation about national libraries », with reference to Peter LOR'S « Guidelines for legislation for national library services ».
- for Boston :
  - Public relations and marketing (jointly with the Management and Marketing section) ;
  - « Cooperation between national libraries, archives and museums towards the global virtual library ».

Confirmation of these proposals will be given after the Professional Board meeting in december 1999.

### **5. CDNL follow-up**

- IFLA/UNESCO Survey on digitization and preservation :

The IFLA PAC and UAP core programmes, on behalf of UNESCO, have launched a survey of digitization programmes in major cultural institutions. The results will be available in a freely accessible database on the UNESCO website with direct links to the website of the digitized collection. This project has links to the UNESCO Memory of the world programme but is independant from Bibliotheca Universalis. National libraries are invited to provide details about their digitization programmes.

- International Conference on bibliographic services, Copenhagen, November 1998 :

The list of the recommendations resulting from this international conference, held under the auspices of IFLA and CDNL, was sent to the SC members before their meeting in Bangkok. They concern legal deposit, national bibliographies and international standards.

The chairman of the Section attended the conference in Copenhagen and is responsible for reviewing these recommendations within the section and encouraging their implementation among its members. In addition, appropriate section plans will have to be prepared to incorporate the recommendations within the medium term plan.

## **6. Bibliotheca universalis**

Alix CHEVALLIER summarized the meeting of the 13 National Libraries partners on August 23 in Bangkok. Following the agreement signed by the partners, a new organization has been set up, with the designation of a president, the president of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, for three years, assisted by a steering committee. Besides two working groups have been determined : one relating to the contents taken in charge by the Library of Congress and the other concerning the technical issues assumed by the National Library of Canada. The objective of the coming year is to select samples from the collections digitized by each library on the topic « Exchanges between people » and to detect the technical issues resulting in order to realize a prototype which will allow a common access to them.

## **7. Evaluation of Bangkok Conference**

The chairman thanked Peter LOR and Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJACK for the preparation of the open forum programme and Fernanda CAMPOS for the workshop. The papers were of good quality and drew a great attendance.

In spite of several negative comments from the members : distance between the city center and the Conference site, provision of buses to and from BITEC, air conditioning, lack of informal professional meetings, too large official receptions, it was generally considered that the Organization Committee has done its best to manage this Conference as well as possible.

## **8. Other business**

- Brochure of the section :

Winston TABB asked for translations of the brochure published in English. Four translations will be prepared by the Russian State Library (in Russian), the Bibliothèque nationale de France (in French), the Deutsche Bibliothek (in German) and the Library of Congress (in Spanish). 1<sup>st</sup> November will be the deadline.

- Newsletter of the IFLA Section on National Libraries :

The papers presented to the Section's meeting will be published in the Newsletter.

## **9. Adjournment**

Winston TABB adjourned the meeting at the end of agenda.



# GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES DIVISION COORDINATING BOARD

## 65<sup>th</sup> General Conference, BANGKOK

### Minutes

#### 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING, AUGUST 20, 1999

---

Chair/Treasurer: Winston TABB, USA

Secretary: Jennifer TANFIELD, UK

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was called to order.

Members present :

Winston TABB, National Libraries

Jennifer TANFIELD, Library and Research Services for Parliaments

Alex BRYNE, University Libraries

Kirsten ENGLESTAD, University Libraries

Jan KEUKENS, Library and Research Services for Parliaments

Also in attendance :

Nick BANNENBERG, Information Coordinator, Library and Research Services for Parliaments,

Kjellaug SCHIEI, University Libraries

Apology for absence :

Marcelle BEAUDIQUEZ, National Libraries

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda for CB1 and CB2**

The agenda was adopted.

#### **3. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the CB's meeting in Amsterdam were approved subject to the correction of two typing mistakes in CB1. The revised version would be circulated with the draft minutes for 1999.

#### **4. Professional Board Report**

Points to be borne in mind or passed on to Sections were :

- Election of new SC Officers. Officers were reminded that if there was more than one nomination for a post there had to be a secret ballot.
- Participants should be told to check the details of the arrangements for transport to and from BITEC as the initial arrangements were being amended.

- The calculation of administrative expenses for Sections had been amended. It would now be a little more generous but payment would still be based on bands of membership (e.g. 0-80, 81-150.)
- The Jerusalem Conference had been discussed in the light of protests from all the Arabic countries. Some special actions were being taken to encourage participation by Arabs, including simultaneous translation into Hebrew and Arabic. The suggestion had been made that pre or post conferences organised in Arabic countries would be welcomed by IFLA HQ. Universities Section reported that it was thinking about a meeting in Alexandria, but Parliamentary Libraries reported that an approach to the Egyptian Parliament had received the response that there could be no involvement with IFLA in 2000.
- The current membership of the sections in the Division was National Libraries 182, University Libraries 487, Parliamentary Libraries 109.
- Core programmes: the committee reviewing the Statutes was recommending that in future all the funding should not come from the National Libraries and that there should be stronger links with IFLA HQ.
- The Statutes Review Committee was also recommending the abolition of Division VIII, the Division of Regional Activities.
- Orientation sessions for new SC Officers would be held on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 August.
- Division I and II had been allocated a room which could be booked for special meetings of members of Sections in those divisions.
- Opening of the Conference. Participants should be in their seats by 15.30 on Monday 23 to welcome the Princess.
- OCLC would be announcing sponsorship for librarians in developing countries to visit North America for 4 weeks, all expenses paid. 4 librarians would be financed each year.

## **5. Review of Division and Section Finances**

None of the Sections reported that they were seeking money for new projects. The Division had a balance of \$194, so no new money was needed.

The financial reporting forms would be circulated to Sections with a deadline of 1 November 1999. Finance officers were reminded that the forms should be copied to Winston Tabb.

## **6. Section Program Plans for Bangkok**

Library and Research Services for Parliaments reported that it had held a one-day Pre-Conference hosted by the Thai Parliament. More than 70 participants attended the meeting, opened by the Speaker of the Parliament. The morning session had been held in the Royal River Hotel followed by an afternoon visit to the Parliament. There would be an off-site Workshop sponsored by Reed Elsevier which would deal with various aspects of management in a parliamentary library. For the third year there would be a special meeting on research, but IFLA had not been able to provide a room for the usual informal meeting.

University Libraries reported that they would again be holding a Discussion Group on Performance Measurement. The theme of their Open Meeting was "Implications of the Electronic Information Environment for Academic Libraries". The theme of their all-day Workshop was "Lifelong Learning in an Electronic Environment". The interest of members of the Section in the Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) meeting on "Value, Importance and Critical Elements of Copyright" was noted, together with the Science and Technology Libraries' meeting on "The Global Crisis in Science Literature".

National Libraries reported that the Directors of National Libraries would be holding their Conference involving 75 Directors off-site. The Section's Open Meeting theme was "The role of National Libraries in Supporting Public and School Libraries" and a joint Workshop was being held with the Bibliography Section on "Electronic Publications in Bibliographies [National]".

For Bangkok the PB had abolished pre-registration for Workshops and would be reviewing this. Contributed Paper sessions had also been suspended and this would also be reviewed. Points raised included that Workshops were usually fully booked but SC and other people with an active interest needed to be able to secure a place. There was support for the suggestion that Sections should choose whether their Workshop should be open or closed. The suspension of contributed paper sessions was generally welcomed, but there was a feeling that those who had previously applied for these slots were now trying to get slots in Section Open Meetings to justify attendance.

### **7. IFLA Statutes**

Two recommendations likely to give rise to discussion were covered in 4 above.

### **8. Review and Update of Section Medium-Term Programs and Action Plans**

Sections were reminded of the need to discuss and complete these reviews.

### **9. IFLA Booth assignments**

Sections were reminded of the times that they were expected to staff the booth.

### **10. SC Officer Elections**

The Chair asked each of the Sections what was likely to be the outcome of their election.

### **11. Boston theme**

The main theme was to be "Libraries and Librarians: Making a difference in the Knowledge Age". [There are also a number of sub-themes which are already on the Boston website - <http://www.ifla2001.org/>]

### **12. The meeting was adjourned**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING, AUGUST 27, 1999

---

Chair/Treasurer: Winston TABB, USA

Secretary: Jennifer TANFIELD, UK

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was called to order. The new members of the Board were welcomed and all those present were asked to introduce themselves

Those present :

Winston TABB, Chair, National Libraries  
Jennifer TANFIELD, retiring Chair, Parliamentary Libraries  
Alex BRYNE, retiring Chair, University Libraries  
Alix CHEVALLIER, new Secretary, National Libraries  
Kirsten ENGLESTAD, new Chair, University Libraries  
Jan KEUKENS, Secretary, Parliamentary Libraries  
Richard PARE, new Chair Parliamentary Libraries  
Cristobal PASADAS, new Secretary, University Libraries

Also in attendance :

Graham BULPITT, new Information Co-ordinator, University Libraries  
Nick BANNENBERG, retiring Information Coordinator, Parliamentary Libraries  
Marialyse DELANO SERRANO, new Information Coordinator, Parliamentary Libraries

### **2. Election of new CB Officers**

Winston TABB was re-elected Chairman  
Kirsten ENGLESTAD was elected Secretary

### **3a. Plans for the 66<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Jerusalem, 2000**

**University Libraries** planned the same pattern of meetings as at recent conferences. Their Open Session would be on “Library education: assessing outcomes for the professionals in university and research libraries”. They planned a half-day workshop on “Copyright, a question of balance: developing tools to facilitate access to copyright material to support research”. This might be held in conjunction with CLM (Committee on Copyright and Legal Matters) and might lead to a project to create an advice manual. There would be another discussion group meeting on performance measures, benchmarking and best practice, and a new discussion group on marketing for academic libraries might also be set up.

**Parliamentary Libraries** planned a Pre-Conference possibly in Athens [since confirmed] with participation of the Balkan countries and Arab countries including Palestine and Egypt. A Workshop on the lines of the 1999 one, with three simultaneous group sessions, would be held as well as a special Research Meeting, an Open Meeting and, if meeting rooms allow, an Informal Meeting.

**National Libraries** would hold a meeting on “The role of National Libraries in IFLA Core Programmes”, reflecting the interest of the National Libraries who at present provide the sole support to the Core Programmes. There would be a half day Workshop on “ The need for legislation for National Libraries” following Peter Lor’s *Guidelines for Legislation for National Library Services*. An update of *Guidelines for National Deposit* was also proposed. A further half-day meeting in conjunction with the Internet Group was under discussion.

### **Joint Division Post Conference**

The University Libraries Section proposed a two-day Post Conference for the whole Division to be held in Alexandria or Cairo with the theme , “The Alexandria Vision and Today’s Challenges: Developing Partnerships for Easy Global Access to Research Information and Documentation”. Two sub-themes were also proposed on what developing countries can do to develop partnerships locally/regionally and globally and on what developed countries can do to promote partnerships in developing countries and globally.

This proposal was discussed and given support as a method of involving Arab countries and furthering work in progress on “twinning” of libraries. A decision would have to be taken at IFLA General Secretary level, so a committee of the three chairs was proposed to see if the idea could be taken forward and finance provided. The possibility of help from the Library of Congress’s Cairo Office was noted.

### **3b. Plans for 67<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Boston, 2001**

**National Libraries** major focus would be on public relations and marketing, jointly with the new Marketing Section, and on the ways that national libraries, archives and museums work together in the digital environment. The ICA (International Council on Archives) and other professional colleagues would be invited to participate in the latter discussions.

**Parliamentary Libraries** were planning a Pre-Conference in Ottawa and their usual pattern of meetings at the main conference.

**University Libraries** planned a Pre-Conference on Leadership to be held jointly with ACRL (?Association of College and Research Libraries??). An Open Session or other meeting was expected to develop from the discussions on marketing in 2000.

### **4. Projects**

The Board was reminded that it was allocated NLG 3,000 per year for projects. There were no bids for this money from National Libraries or Parliamentary Libraries. University Libraries might need funding for a website in Spanish on literacy and to provide hard copy for those without Internet access. The Chairman reminded them that the deadline for the proposal was 1 November 1999 and that it must be sent to him as Chairman of the Co-ordinating Board.

A project following the proposed 2000 Post-Conference was mentioned but it was suggested that this would be a project for the Professional Board.

### **5. Evaluation of the Bangkok Conference**

Comments include reference to mistakes in the Participation List (especially email addresses), the provision of buses to and from the Conference Centre and the air conditioning, but it was generally agreed that the administrative arrangements had been good. The experiment of not holding contributed



paper sessions was welcomed, as was the decision not to invite registration for Workshops unless the section organising them wished to open up the meetings.

#### **6. Any other Business**

The suggestion of introducing just one nomination for Standing Committee members was not supported by University Libraries. A process for removing members of Standing Committees was to be suggested by University Libraries.

The Chairman reminded Section Treasurers that financial reports were due on 1 November 1999 and should be sent both to him and to IFLA HQ.

#### **7. The meeting was adjourned**

---

## ANNEX

### **Institutions and Email addresses of new Co-ordinating Board**

(see also Section pages of IFLA website <http://www.ifla.org>)

**Chairman:** Winston Tabb, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.  
[wtab@loc.gov](mailto:wtab@loc.gov)

**Secretary:** Kirsten Englestad, National Office for Research Documentation and Special Libraries,  
Norway,  
[kirsten@rbt.no](mailto:kirsten@rbt.no)<sup>2</sup>

Alix Chevallier Bibliothèque Nationale de France  
[alix.chevallier@bnf.fr](mailto:alix.chevallier@bnf.fr)

Jan Keukens, Tweede Kamer Library, Netherlands  
[jc.keukens@tk.parlement.nl](mailto:jc.keukens@tk.parlement.nl)

Richard Paré, Library of Parliament, Canada  
[parer@parl.gc.ca](mailto:parer@parl.gc.ca)

Cristobal Pasadas, Biblioteca, Facultad de Psicología, Granada  
[bibpsi01@ucartuja.ugr.es](mailto:bibpsi01@ucartuja.ugr.es)



## OPEN SESSION OF THE IFLA SECTION ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES

Bangkok, August 24, 1999

### “THE ROLE OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN SUPPORTING PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES”

*Chair* : Peter LOR, Director, The State Library, Pretoria, South Africa

#### 1. INTRODUCTION *by the Chair*

It is my pleasure to introduce this Open Session of the IFLA Section of National Libraries on «The Role of National Libraries in Supporting Public and School Libraries». This role is particularly important in developing countries, where national libraries are often not exact counterparts of their elder siblings in the industrialised countries.

Although they have a common core of national roles and functions, national libraries differ considerably from country to country. This may be because different dimensions of the concept of a «national library» are emphasised in different countries. An analysis of the contemporary literature on national libraries suggests that three dimensions of the concept «national library» can be discerned:

- *Heritage* (emphasis on the nation's literary production, treasures). The national library which emphasises this dimension corresponds most closely to the older, «classic» national libraries. Care of *collections* is the central concern.

- *Infrastructure* (emphasis on national coordination, facilitation, leadership, and services). The national library which emphasises this is a more modern development. Service to the country's *libraries* is the central concern.

- *Comprehensive national service* (delivery of services to end-users, not merely in a reading room in the capital city, but throughout the country). The national libraries which emphasise this are mainly found in developing countries. Service to *the people* is the central concern.

National libraries are usually defined in terms of their functions or responsibilities. The UNESCO definition of a national library, which in spite of its age is still widely cited, places the primary emphasis on functions related to heritage, with a secondary emphasis on functions related to infrastructure:

Libraries which, irrespective of their title, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a 'deposit' library, whether by law or under other arrangements. They will also normally perform some of the following functions: produce a national bibliography; hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature, including books about the country; act as a national bibliographical information centre; compile union catalogues; publish the retrospective national bibliography. Libraries which may be called 'national' but whose functions do not correspond to the above definitions should not be placed in the 'national libraries' category (Schick, 1971:8-9).

According to this definition the hallmark of a national library is its responsibility for acquiring and preserving the country's publications in terms of legal deposit. The emphasis is on functions related to the national library's role as custodian of part of the national heritage. They include, for example, acquiring and conserving publications emanating from the country and producing the national bibliography.

The UNESCO definition also refers to functions which are mainly concerned with providing an infrastructure for the nation's libraries, for example, compiling national union catalogues. However, certain other national library functions that are concerned with infrastructure are not mentioned, for example the administration of the national interlending system. And although this is a major function of the national library in many developing countries, the UNESCO definition does not mention functions relating to the provision of a comprehensive national service. In the *Guidelines for legislation for national library services* (Lor 1997) it was suggested that the UNESCO definition needs to be revised in the light of modern trends in national libraries. New definitions were proposed there for the terms «national library» and «national library service».

The latter term is used in many countries, mainly developing countries, for national libraries in which the provision of a national service to the nation's *population* is a significant responsibility. In these cases, the national library takes on for the country the role that a metropolitan, county, provincial or state library service performs for its city, county, province or federal state. This could involve the erection, equipping, stocking, servicing and staffing of branch or affiliated libraries serving communities throughout the country, including one or more of the following: public, school, hospital and prison libraries, and the special libraries serving the legislature and government departments and agencies.

Meeting in Amsterdam last year, the Standing Committee of the Section of National Libraries noted that this is an aspect of national library work that has not received much coverage in our meetings. We decided to take a closer look at the roles national libraries (or national library services) play in supporting, providing services to, or operating public libraries and school libraries.

We were fortunate to enlist speakers from three rather different environments:

Vilenka Jakac-Bizjak (Director-General of Library Programmes in the National and University Library, Ljubljana, Slovenia) will present a paper entitled «The changing role of the National Library Advisory Service in Slovenia». This paper is co-authored by Dr Silva Novljan, who is an advisor for public libraries at the National Library Advisory Centre and Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana.

Daniel Paraide, National Librarian, National Library Service of Papua New Guinea, Waigani, Papua New Guinea, will present a paper entitled «The role of the National Library Service of Papua New Guinea».

Mr R. Ramachandran, Director of the National Library in the National Library Board of Singapore, will present a paper entitled «The 'national' role of the National Library Board of Singapore».

In each of the three countries, the national library has a significant involvement with public libraries. But in each case the relationship is rather different. We hope that the differences will be instructive and will lead to a lively debate.

## References

Lor, P.J. (1997) *Guidelines for legislation for national library services*. Prepared by Peter Johan Lor with the assistance of Elizabeth A. S. Sonnekus. Paris: General Information Programme and UNISIST, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (CII-97/WS/7)

Schick, F.L. (1971) The international standardization of library statistics. *UNESCO bulletin for libraries* 25(1):2-11.

## 2. «THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY ADVISORY SERVICE IN SLOVENIA »

*by Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJAK and Silva NOVLJAN, National and University Library in Ljubljana, Slovenia*

### Introduction

When attempting to evaluate the development and the state of the art of a particular library and information system or library network in a country, the appropriate legislation, standards and financial support should be highlighted, as well as system organization on the national level and provision of adequate opportunities to develop the profession. The assessment must be done in the light of general development the country achieved, its public welfare and economic growth. Of course, the status and social standing of the profession are indirectly bound up with the state policy in this field.

After the World War 2 the national library of Slovenia (which was at that time one of the republics, i.e. federal states, of former Yugoslavia) was fully authorized to develop on the national (actually the federal state) level the library network made up of all types of libraries. By accepting this duty national library did in fact take over from the state a task that should normally be performed by one of the government offices. However, this was not the only duty of the kind bestowed on the national library – education and training of library professionals also fell within its competences due to the fact that, at the time, regular studies in librarianship were organized only on the college and not on the university level.

The introduction of legislation to govern librarianship and legal deposit in Slovenia dates from the early sixties. Thus the 1961 Library Act stipulated the foundation of a special advisory service within the national library. This service did include not only advising and developing tasks but supervisory as well. Standards were set for creation of union catalogues of holdings in libraries in Slovenia. In 1965 and 1968 new acts were passed to establish central cataloguing of national imprints. The National and University Library was also assigned the task of distributing catalogue cards with bibliographic data on national production to other libraries.

Concerning the development of the library network, the decision taken by the national library in the 60's was to base it on the English model of organization and functioning. Additionally to this decision, a special document setting forth the concept of Slovenian librarianship was prepared in 1974, based on guidelines and standards issued by international organisations in 1970 and 1974. Stipulations of this paper were implemented in practice, however, they were not immediately followed by any formal changes of legislation.

It was only the 1982 Library Act that formally and legally incorporated provisions of the above mentioned paper. The Act defined goals and objectives of the libraries, specified their services,

management, and organisational structure; postulated the role and duties of the National Library as well as those of other library types (particularly advisory centres on the regional level). The idea of a uniform library & information system to be coordinated by the national library was strongly put forward.

By passing the 1982 Act the Government confirmed and accepted principles which had to be observed in founding and financing libraries. The system eventually came into operation and institutions responsible for development, counselling and supervision were defined. In the mid-eighties standards for single types of libraries were passed. Those standards followed international standards, taking at the same time into account specific local situations and possibilities for application in Slovenia. The development of information and communication technology in the last two decades has brought about tremendous changes in operation of library and information system.

Therefore it is felt now that all the established standards will soon need to be revised in order to ensure maximum performance of the libraries. We are now discussing the third draft of the new Library Act to be passed within two years, a lapse of time considered to be necessary to address numerous problems and find best solutions. Responsibility for the new legislation is shared between two ministries, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The library & information system of Slovenia is made up of the National and University Library (which is in its second function acting as the main library of the University of Ljubljana), three university libraries, 69 academic libraries, 60 public libraries with 247 branch libraries, 167 special libraries and 700 school libraries.

Important institutes of the system are also: R&D Department at the national library, Department for Library and Information Science at the Faculty of Arts and Union of Library Associations of Slovenia (joining librarians of all library types).

Despite the fact that sources for funding libraries in Slovenia are very segmented and fall under the competencies of several ministries and local communities, Slovenian library & information system nevertheless works surprisingly well as a fairly consistent whole, which is doubtlessly due to the major role of the national library. At the same time, the system acts as an important component of the national information infrastructure. Along with information centres in research organisations, libraries are very well rooted in the information system. The national library develops and co-ordinates the entire library and information system, at the same time acting as an advisory centre at the national level, thus providing for the unity of the system through the provision of »parent« libraries, the uniform processing of library materials, the uniform way of keeping the catalogues and other documentation on library materials and the existence of union catalogues, the development and coordination of interlibrary lending facilities and continuing education schemes.

The main tasks of the state advisory centre are above all to develop the profession and organize library activities all over the country. Advisory centre takes care of training of library professionals, coordinates acquisition policies and maintains a directory of libraries in Slovenia. The advisory centre supervises and pilots the professional library activities by assessing information of reports handed in by libraries, and through the direct control of their activity. Libraries have to send to the advisory centre all statistical and other data on their professional activities in order for the experts there to survey their performance. The national advisory centre informs the particular library of its findings with the indication of professional deficiencies observed in its activities.

### **Organization of public libraries**

The attitude of the State towards librarianship is best reflected perhaps in the public libraries network, since those libraries happen to cover the widest population possible. Their role in spreading literacy, culture and education has long been acknowledged and is considered to be indispensable. Therefore it

is of vital importance for the network to be developed in such a way to reach also the remotest places of the country.

Up to the present there have been 60 public libraries in operation in Slovenia, covering 62 local government communities. I have already mentioned that public libraries have been assigned the tasks of parent libraries of respective communities, thus taking on the responsibility for the network within their territory. Altogether they established 246 library branches. Six public libraries provide mobile library services at 781 service points for the needs of the resident population within the area of their own local community and of neighbouring communities.

Public libraries are graded into five types, according to the number of population they serve, primarily on the base of municipality level. However, two basic library types can be identified: libraries processing local history materials with an active role in creating bibliographic records within the co-operative catalogue. This type is represented by libraries, covering municipality areas of more than 50.000 residential population, the second types exercises its activities within the less populated municipalities.

In 1995 a new local community administration was introduced. The number of local communities has doubled since then, which has completely overturned the public libraries network and system. Changes are concerned with founding bodies and their rights, finance, further expansion of services, as well as construction of new library buildings.

The just established new sistem of local government will enable the State (by way of the Ministry of Culture) to spend more money for acquisition of library materials, the newly formed communities themselves, however, will have to take over the financing of running costs of respective local community libraries and development of their activities. This will definitively prove to be a difficult task to accomplish in particular for all new communities of small size which are going to be preoccupied by problems involved in properly organizing their own functioning.

Library advisory centre of the national library translated the Unesco »Manifesto for Public Libraries« into Slovene language and distributed it to all mayors of newly formed local government communities with the appeal to be used to promote library activities under the motto »no community without the library«. Moreover, the centre also succeeded in its efforts resulting in the provision that libraries were specified as an integral part of the local government facilities in the newly passed Local government law. As part of the respective project, *instructions for planning a library network* within the local community, intended to be used by public libraries, were issued by the centre.

### **Library automation and networking**

Library automation and networking into a library & infomation system started on the national level in 1987. It began with the installation of the common mainframe multi-functional computer and telecommunication infrastructure and with the implementation of the shared cataloguing system COBISS. The overall plan and time-table for the libraries to join COBISS association were designed by the national library in close cooperation with IZUM (The Institute for Scientific Information), which acts as a system host.

The basic principle of the system is founded on cooperative data collecting and distributed data processing. There are about 200 libraries participating in the system, i.e. 20% of all Slovenian libraries. The co-operative database contains about 1,500.000 records, covering all types of publications: monographs, serials, non-book materials, and, to a lesser extent, also journal articles. Operation of the COBISS system is financially supported by all the three ministries. Communication expenses, acquisition and maintenance of hardware and software equipment are covered by the Ministry of Science and Technology. This ministry also provides funds for gaining access to the Internet services. In this way, every Slovenian library, if properly equipped, can access the Internet. The



Ministry of Culture financially supports public libraries programmes to join the shared cataloguing system.. On the other hand, the Ministry of Education covers the expenses of school and university libraries that wish to be included into the cooperative system, or want to use a local integrated library system.

### **The Information Society age**

Due to such developments it came about that libraries in Slovenia, organized in a fairly well run library network at the beginning of this decade, already had quite a clear idea of deficiencies preventing them from fully meeting the needs of information age users; advisory centre of the NUL responded accordingly by initiating activities encouraging their modernization.

Primary goals of centre's educational and advisory activities involving public libraries were as follows: *modernization and upgrading of public libraries in terms of library staff proficiency, acquisition of library materials, and technology applied with the view of meeting informational, educational, cultural, and pastime needs of population, which is to manifest itself in the increased numbers of registered users and better use of libraries, their holdings and services.*

*In order to achieve these goals action plans for the following areas were elaborated :*

- 1. consolidation and expansion of the public libraries network*
- 2. education and training*
- 3. improvement of working conditions in libraries*
- 4. work for target groups, setting up collections of special library materials, introducing new information resources.*

### **Education and training**

The degree of modernization of our libraries is most clearly reflected by subjects of educational programmes and in fact more than fifty percent of them are already covering issues and uses of new media and information and communication technology.

A regular service of the national library to public and school libraries are its publications giving information on news, events, and documentation in the field of librarianship in the form of listings of basic literature covering issues confronting public and school libraries, a monthly current awareness bulletin for periodicals of the current contents type (also containing information on forthcoming professional meetings), and a monthly library news bulletin »Knjižničarske novice«. A complement to these publications is the professional quarterly review »Knjižnica« (The Library), issued by the Union of Library Associations of Slovenia.

With the view of training senior library staff for modern organization and management as required by new conditions special courses are organized by advisory centre in collaboration with the Faculty for Economics of the University of Ljubljana. It was the need to better organize and manage their libraries that also induced the librarians to found a special Union of Public Libraries. This is the body with which the state advisory centre closely collaborates in planning and executing respective actions; the centre also cooperates with another professional body of a much longer standing, namely the Section for Public Libraries of the Union of Library Associations of Slovenia.

This year the state advisory centre is organizing a *study trip* to libraries in the Netherlands and an *international professional meeting* devoted to problems of new technology and library space planning as well as new requirements of nowadays society. The *project of writing a handbook on library buildings and equipment* (authors are librarians, architects, experts for conservation and preservation, also economists) is another action that should promote modern, economical, safe, and functional planning of respective activities that are undoubtedly also of great importance for public libraries.

In addition to everything mentioned so far, the advisory centre also founded a working group for juvenile (departments of) libraries with the primary duty of revising and bringing up to date *instructions for cataloguing and shelving library materials for juveniles*.

The advisory centre has also tried to tackle the issues of improvement of working conditions in the first place by making an analysis of the state of affairs; this is an ongoing task of which the first action to be completed was the revision of the questionnaire of working conditions and work accomplished by public libraries. To this end, a *working group for library statistics*, made up of selected representatives of public libraries, was established. The group has so far approved uniform definitions and numerical representations of data; novelties of the revised questionnaire were duly presented on a special course to concerned library workers together with an explication of advantages gained by the careful running of statistics. Preparing a draft of the revised version of standards for public libraries in collaboration with respective librarians may also be taken as an endeavour to improve working conditions within this type of libraries. Modernization should be the result of conditions properly utilized in the modern context to meet the needs of individuals for their future development with concurrent emphasis on target users groups that have not been taken sufficiently into consideration by libraries in their developmental endeavours up to now.

The NL advisory centre also provided *instructions for planning the bibliobus activities*.

A significant instance of collaboration of the national library with public libraries is in the field of *local history documentation and activity* that deal with events and historical background in the respective »micro location« and are consequently covered by the public library lending and information activity. The collaboration with the national library ensures, however, that local history materials as gathered by public libraries within their territories is processed and properly stored according to uniform standards. To ensure this, respective instructions how to organize the activity generally were provided by the advisory centre itself, for elaboration of issues of education and detailed professional questions, however, a suggestion was passed over to the Union of Library Associations in Slovenia for founding its Section for Local History.

### **Library users and their needs**

The user and his needs, in particular his information needs, have become the leading motto of any library development.

As a consequence, the advisory centre actively participates in transforming libraries into modern information centres, first of all by preparing and promoting *guidelines for organizing special information collections*, but also by taking part in user training and education schemes that stimulate their own use of information technology and new information resources. Moreover, the centre succeeded in joining public libraries to participate in the Phare project Publica with its own special contribution in promoting library activities in the field of information exchange. The result: libraries have started to build up their own data bases of information resources for general information. Some local governments even contributed their own data thus making true the principle that public information should be accessible to everybody in the library as well.

Section for Public Libraries of the Union of Library Association in Slovenia continues successfully to carry out the Publica programme by engaging Slovene librarians as teachers (for workshops, scholarships for visiting foreign libraries). There were also a few visits of representatives of libraries from Western Europe as a consequence of the success of the programme

### **Work for users target groups**

Participation of libraries in *continuing education programmes*, in particular in programmes for unemployed also represents one of the fields of work for users target groups. Theoretical foundations

for the purpose were elaborated by the advisory centre; the next step of the centre was to organize courses with the view of giving the libraries respective instructions or ideas how to collaborate with institutions of adult education. As a consequence, some libraries already offer *special services for unemployed* e.g. by helping people to find the employment, organizing certain programmes of supplementary education, and the like. Very successful are also the so called *knowledge exchanges* that have been introduced in some library premises by andragogical centres following the incentive of the NL advisory centre. People joining such programmes exchange, sell and buy knowledge while the library offers the requisite selection of literature as well as other services, increasing in this manner not only the number of registered users but also the use of the library and its materials generally.

In collaboration with andragogical and other educational institutions we can also find in certain libraries what is known as *teaching centres* which are actually special collections of library materials or, most usually, just certain areas within the library specially furnished to serve the needs of single users groups (juveniles, children, adults), i.e. places where they can also be given help or advice while learning.

In some public libraries we can also find quite successful instances of the *university for the third life period*: retired persons meet in the library which helps them to attend lectures or learning courses or just gives them the opportunity also to show their creativity; as 1999 is the international year of the aged, they can also be invited to act as *collaborators of the library in offering help to children while learning* or be engaged for reading or story telling, and the like.

The advisory centre has also been active in drawing attention to *children with learning difficulties* and the role public library can play in surmounting them. Library workers have already been told by special educationists which kinds of library materials they should acquire for such children and which are the most suitable instruments of help to be given to them.

### **Ethnic minorities**

The two ethnic minorities of Italians and Hungarians are in addition to children the only groups of population in Slovenia to which special attention has been paid up to now within public library activities. This year, however, the advisory centre in collaboration with a working group of public librarians and with the support of the Ministry of Culture (which allotted special funds for the purpose) have a plan to carry out a revision of library actions concerning *minorities*. This is to be followed in future by a programme of measures intended to extend library activities on equal footing to all minorities and immigrant groups. Some public libraries have already started project work for the purpose.

### **School libraries**

Latest analysis of the developmental image of school libraries carried out by the NL advisory centre showed that school libraries as well as the school library network are unequally developed. As a consequence of results of this analysis and following the respective initiative of the advisory centre, in close collaboration with the concerned school establishments, have already set to work systematically on the project to ameliorate the situation – the first outcome of this collaboration in the form of a document is an outline scheme of development of school libraries.

After several years of waiting to employ a senior advisor for school libraries the advisory centre finally succeeded in accomplishing this. In company with senior advisers for other types of libraries the new professional will see to it that school libraries will become more active members of the library information system of Slovenia, particularly for those operations that involve processing of library materials and collaboration of libraries in the co-operative catalogue, and that library workers will start to competently educate information conscious users in the technologically modernized libraries.

Obligatory primary education makes it namely possible for everybody to get acquainted with the library and to learn to use its services.

Successfully launched programme of modernization of the school libraries enabled the NL advisory centre to introduce the concept of *information literacy* into the new National Curriculum for primary and secondary schools and to actively collaborate in drawing up the *syllabus* for acquisition of abilities and skills in the use of libraries and their materials as well as in the utilization of requisite communication and information technologies. Furthermore, the centre also participated in educational activities that were organized for school librarians and other pedagogical workers and involve the introduction of this subject matter into the learning process.

### Conclusions

For carrying out its programme varied working methods were utilized: visits to the libraries, instances of personal advice, workshops, sessions and round tables, professional meetings and conferences, research and development projects, questionnaires, public presentations. What is also very important: the centre decided quite early to engage a wide selection of professionals, including professionals from other subject fields (e.g. economists, educationists, psychologists), into programmes for the development and promotion of libraries; professional associations and societies of different origin were also consulted and, not to forget mentioning, several professional bodies were founded on the initiative of the centre. It was with the help of all these factors that the centre succeeded in so widely spreading the consciousness of existence and importance of libraries on the one side and of complementing attainments of librarians with knowledge of other professions on the other. Notable is also the contribution made by the centre in the field of international cooperation of libraries, based partially on international schemes of financing projects (e.g. by the Soros Foundation), and its efforts to introduce Slovene libraries internationally enabling them thus to compare their own attainments with the developments of libraries abroad.

### 3. “THE “NATIONAL” ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD OF SINGAPORE”

*by R. RAMACHANDRAN, director of the National Library, National Library Board of Singapore*

#### Introduction

In most countries, the national library board manages and is responsible for the national library. The library board is accountable for national library functions. The influence on library development of the country, as a whole, is restricted to library grants provided for library related research, collection development policies and library technical standards. In addition, the board advises the government on library issues that affect the library development in the country as a whole.

In Singapore, however, the National Library from the outset has been directly responsible for both the **national** library and the **public** library functions. This was provided for by the first National Library Act (NLA) of 1958. The public library provisions of the NLA 1958 included the establishment of lending libraries to promote and to encourage the use of library materials as well as to make these materials available for loan and reference to the public.

On hindsight, the **dual functions** entrusted to the National Library have not been without adverse effects. With limited budget, the library was not able to fully develop its national library functions while simultaneously planning new and innovative public library programmes to reach out to the

community. In fact, the National Library then mainly concentrated on its public library function to the detriment of its national library function. While the NLA 1958 established effective control over the public libraries and the National Library, it had little influence over the development of other libraries (libraries funded from the public purse - such as academic libraries) that also play important roles in information provision in Singapore. As a result, the library services in Singapore were not effectively coordinated and the nation's information resources were not fully optimised.

### **Library 2000**

In 1992, the Ministry of Information and the Arts established the **Library 2000 Review Committee** to undertake a comprehensive review of the library services in the country against the changing environment and within the framework of **The Next Lap** - Singapore's blueprint for the future. The Committee was given the task of recommending how libraries could better serve Singaporeans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In its report, **Library 2000 : investing in a learning nation**, (hereafter cited as the Tan Chin Nam Report) published in March 1994, the Committee defined the vision of the library of the future as being one of "continuously expanding the nation's capacity to learn through a national network of libraries and information resource centres providing services and learning opportunities to support the advancement of Singapore".

To bring about the required transformation in the library services as envisioned in the report, the Committee recommended the setting up of a new statutory board to implement the recommendations in the Tan Chin Nam Report. Accordingly, a Bill to establish the **National Library Board** was passed in Parliament on 16 March 1995 and the National Library Board was set up on 1 September 1995.

### **National Library Board Act 1995**

The National Library Board Act (NLBA) is a completely new legislation which bears little resemblance to the NLA 1958 that it replaces. It is much more comprehensive as it takes into consideration the limitations of the NLA 1958 as well as the recommendations in the **Tan Chin Nam Report**. It spells out clearly not only the functions of the National Library Board (NLB) but also its powers. It includes provisions relating to staffing and funding as well as the Board's assets and liabilities.

The NLBA establishes a policy-making Board with executive powers, giving the Board greater independence in decision making and more flexibility in administrative matters, such as personnel and finance issues. The Board centrally manages the national library (1) and the public libraries (16) in Singapore. In addition, it jointly develops and helps to administer the 40 Community Children's Libraries with the PAP People's Community Foundation.

The NLB is also in charge of 44 staff (including paraprofessional staff) working in the Government Department libraries and in the 11 junior college libraries. This control of additional manpower and the influence over special library services which the original National Library had never enjoyed before has further enhanced the role of the NLB. Through direct control of the librarians in the Government Department and junior college libraries, the various specialised library services and collections are coordinated and administered more efficiently. To effectively develop the three functional areas of the NLB, namely national, public and Government Department/Junior college libraries, three separate directors have been appointed to be responsible for each one of them. This ensures that all the three types of libraries in the NLB system under the Chief Executive will be given equal emphasis and grow to play an important part in the total development of libraries in Singapore.

## **The extent of NLB's role in libraries and library development in Singapore**

The passing of the NLBA is a watershed in the development of libraries in Singapore. For the first time, a national organisation with sufficient powers has been set up not only to manage, oversee, control and coordinate the national, public, government library and junior college libraries' services in Singapore but also to influence the library development in the country as a whole. The NLBA has also expanded the legal deposit provision to include the deposit of non-print materials.

To facilitate this, the NLBA has broadened the definition of the term 'library materials' to include both print and non-print materials as follows :

- any printed book, periodical, newspaper, pamphlet, musical score, map, chart, plan, picture, photograph, print and any other printed matter;
- and
- any film (including a microfilm and a microfiche), negative, tape, disc, sound track and any other device in which one or more visual images, sounds or other data are embodied so as to be capable (with or without the aid of some other equipment) of being reproduced from it.

This revision facilitates the development of a comprehensive and in-depth collection of Singapore materials. The NLB can now develop not only a world-class public library system, but also pave the way to develop the National Library as the most important centre for reference and research on Singapore.

## **Publicly-funded libraries**

Though the NLB only has direct authority over the national, public, government department and junior college libraries, it can exert effective influence over library development in Singapore as a whole. The influence over the library system in Singapore as a whole is exercised indirectly through the powers vested in the NLB over **publicly-funded libraries**, which are defined in the NLB Act as "all libraries owned by the Government or any statutory body and such other libraries which are, directly or indirectly, funded by the Government (whether fully or partially) as the Board may determine". Almost all libraries in Singapore, except corporate libraries, are in this sense publicly-funded. The NLB's powers and potential influence over the library development process in Singapore are therefore extensive and far-reaching.

## **National Projects**

In cases of library projects and services that are strategically infrastructural in nature, such as a network of borderless libraries, the national union catalogue and the access to the various collections of the libraries in Singapore, the participation of publicly-funded libraries appears mandatory. For instance, in Section 7(2)(b) of the NLBA, the NLB is required "*to develop a computer network of libraries in Singapore*" and in Section 7(2)(d), it is authorised "*to coordinate and facilitate access to library materials in all publicly-funded libraries*".

In a similar vein, Section 11 of the NLBA requires all publicly-funded libraries to contribute their cataloguing and holding records to the Board for the establishment of an up-to-date National Union Catalogue (NUC). The establishment of an NUC to reflect the bibliographic records of the library resources available in all the publicly-funded libraries is consistent with the vision in the **Tan Chin Nam Report** for a **borderless** library network. At present, of the 500 publicly-funded libraries in Singapore, 131 participate in the Singapore Integrated Library Automation Service (SILAS), which is the NLB's bibliographic network. The Act will eventually bring the rest of the publicly-funded libraries into the network.

Section 12 of the NLBA requires all publicly-funded libraries to participate in an inter-library loan scheme that may be established by the Board. The NUC complements the inter-library loan scheme. It is useless to know that a particular piece of information that is needed by a user is available in Singapore unless the user also has access to it. This provision in the NLBA will lead to a more systematic inter-library lending among publicly-funded libraries and will foster a more active and positive attitude towards inter-library cooperation.

Section 7(2)(c) of the NLBA gives NLB powers “to define, develop and implement the national collection policy and strategy and appoint different libraries and centres to collect library materials on different subject areas of importance and interest to Singapore”. This will rationalise the development of library collections and minimise any wastage. Clearly defined and focused collection policies will lead to the emergence of specialised libraries and services. The library that the NLB appoints to specialise in certain subject areas will likely be one that is already developing its collection extensively in those areas, such as law and medicine in the National University of Singapore Law and Medical Libraries. Libraries that have developed over-lapping collections to serve their clients in certain fringe areas might find specialisation an inconvenience. However, the need to develop a national network of libraries that effectively integrates all the individual collections and services of the libraries into a whole cannot be ignored.

### **Endowment Fund**

The NLBA has empowered the NLB to establish a National Library Board **Endowment Fund** (Section 23). This enables the Board to solicit donations from private individuals and corporations. This Fund, when it is fully operational, can be used to finance library development and programmes, such as the provision of training and scholarships for librarians or other persons working in the libraries, addresses on library topics by distinguished speakers, sponsorships of major library promotional programmes and research on reading and librarianship. The NLB has been granted the status of an Institution of Public Character, thus exempting contributions to NLB from income tax. The NLB will use the resources of the Endowment Fund to fund or subsidize projects and research that determine the strategic directions of the library policies of the country. This will be an additional avenue to influence publicly-funded libraries and to initiate changes where necessary.

### **Manpower and training**

The NLB is also given greater powers to ensure that personnel for libraries in Singapore are adequately trained and equipped with the right and relevant skills. The NLB can influence library training through Section 6(e) which gives the power “*to establish standards for the training of library personnel in Singapore.*” This power enables the Board to play an active role in the training of the information professionals and library workers. Library training programmes that do not meet their standards may not be endorsed. The NLB has worked closely with the Nanyang Technological University to develop post-graduate library training programmes and also with the Temasek Polytechnic on para-professional training programmes to ensure that the training provided is not only relevant but of the necessary standards. The NLB also provides scholarships for its staff enrolled in the courses. It can use its resources from the Endowment Fund for this purpose. The Board has undertaken short training programmes for library professionals and library workers at all levels. The NLB has set up the National Library Board Institute (NLBI) for this purpose.

### **Working in consultation**

The NLBA has vested the new NLB with the authority to transform the vision of up-to-date library services into a reality. A statutory board with a national mandate has this influence over library development in Singapore. The NLBA is a pragmatic piece of legislation. It creates a national body to

oversee and direct the national and public library policies in Singapore. It gives the NLB full control of the public and national library systems as well as library staff in the Government Department and junior college libraries. The NLB has authority to implement certain library policies that are national in nature, such as library networking and national collection policies, that will benefit the library community and Singaporeans as a whole. All publicly-funded libraries would be required to participate in some key projects such as the NUC and interlibrary loan scheme. However, the participating libraries will be consulted in the planning and implementation of these projects. Section 12 of the NLBA states that “*all publicly-funded libraries shall participate in such schemes for interlibrary loan and interlibrary information services as may be established by the Board in consultation with such libraries.*” As for other general policies and administration of publicly-funded libraries, its jurisdiction seems to be more of an advisory nature as Section 6(h) of the NLBA suggests “*to advise the Government on national needs and policies in respect of matters relating to publicly-funded libraries and library information services in Singapore.*”

### **School libraries and other major library systems**

The advisory or consultative role of the NLB becomes clear when we examine the relationship of NLB vis-a-vis school libraries that are directly under the Ministry of Education (MOE). The NLB can effectively influence the development of school libraries development through the provision of advisory and consultancy services. Accordingly both parties have established a Steering Committee to promote and to provide an excellent school library service that supports Ministry of Education’s vision of “Thinking Schools, Learning Nation”. Initially, the two institutions will look into collaborating in the following areas:

- i) Centralised acquisition of library materials in all formats
- ii) Collection development in school libraries
- iii) Development of library facilities in new schools
- iv) Development of library services in schools

The NLB will work with the MOE and study how it can best help to widen the range of the materials in school libraries, promote and enable resource sharing, reduce duplication of library materials and improve the effectiveness of school libraries to support the teaching and information needs of MOE and the school community in general. The NLB plans to initially pilot this collaboration at one school so that the results and benefits of the NLB’s efforts can be fully demonstrated. The NLB’s collaboration with the MOE is bound to succeed as it already manages 11 junior college libraries which also come under the management of the MOE.

Closer co-operation and collaboration with other large library systems in Singapore in projects that are not ‘national’ are also being promoted through both formal and informal means. This is evidenced by the on-going exploratory discussions with the newest university, Singapore Management University (S.M.U.) to outsource to the NLB the management and delivery of its library and information services. In this context, the NLB also hopes to establish a Council of Chief Librarians comprising academic and research libraries in Singapore to foster greater cooperation and collaboration amongst them.

### **Conclusion**

In crafting the NLBA, the legislators understood that if the NLB’s powers were merely advisory in all aspects of library work, it would not be able to function effectively as a National Library Board that steers library development towards national goals. The NLBA therefore provides the NLB with these powers but it also recognises that such authority cannot be so absolute as to infringe on the autonomy of other publicly-funded libraries in Singapore. The NLB is an effective institution that is able to oversee, direct and optimise the libraries it manages and, at the same time, influence library and information services on a national level. Developing countries may incorporate some of its more salient and innovative features when restructuring their national library services so that they may



leapfrog and position their libraries as their nation's information gateway. However, it is imperative to note that an effective legislation and a national institution are not sufficient. The authorities must put in place a dynamic leadership at the helm and ensure the provision of sufficient funds to translate the vision into reality.

Références :

1. National Library Act (Chapter 197 of the Statutes of the Republic of Singapore, Rev.ed, 1985). Singapore: Law Revision Commission, 1986.
2. The National Library Board Act 1995 (No. 5 of 1995). Singapore: National Printers, 1995.
3. Singapore. Library 2000 Review Committee. Library 2000: Investing in a learning nation: Report of the Library 2000 Review Committee. Singapore: SNP Publishers, 1994. (Tan Chin Nam Report).
4. Singapore. National Library Board. Annual Report 1995/97 - Singapore : NLB, 1997.
5. Singapore. National Library Board. Corporate brochure. Singapore: NLB, 1999
6. Singapore : The Next Lap. Singapore: Published for the Government of Singapore by Times Edition, 1991.

---

1. Dr Tan Chin Nam was the Chairman of the Library 2000 Review Committee which issued this report. He is currently the Chairman of the National Library Board.

2. There are approximately 600 libraries in Singapore. National Library (1), public libraries (16), Community Childrens Libraries (40), academic libraries (6), special libraries (150) and school libraries (375).

#### 4. “THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA”

by Daniel PARAIDE, National Librarian,  
National Library Service of Papua New Guinea, Waigani, Papua New Guinea

#### Part I : Introduction on Papua New Guinea (PNG)

It is best at the start of this paper to put everyone in the picture with some geographical and demographical facts so that we can appreciate the scale we are dealing with in Papua New Guinea.

##### 1. Geography

Papua New Guinea is situated on the south-western rim of the Pacific Ocean basin, and occupies the eastern part of the largest non-continental island in the Pacific region; the island of New Guinea. The western half of the island of New Guinea is part of Indonesia. New Britain, New Island and Bougainville, the big islands in the New Guinea Islands region, are bigger than most of the island nations in the Pacific. There are also hundreds of smaller islands.

PNG, as it tends to be known, is a vast country of some 464 000 square kilometers. The mountainous terrain, hundreds of islands, river systems, swamp lands, and volcanoes provide an extremely rugged topography with numerous small, dispersed and isolated population centres. The geographical characteristics have greatly influenced the country’s social and economic development.

##### 2. Human Development

The United Nations Development Programmes **Human Development Reports**<sup>1</sup> published in 1993, ranks Papua New Guinea 129<sup>th</sup> out of 173 in its Human Development index rating, which takes into consideration such things as life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, mean years of schooling, and real GDP per capita. Basically it is classed as a low human development country. Neighbouring Pacific countries like Fiji (71<sup>st</sup>) Samoa (98<sup>th</sup>), and the Solomon Islands (118<sup>th</sup>) fare better in the ratings.

##### 3. Demography

PNG has a population of approximately 4 million people, with an annual growth rate of 2.03%.<sup>2</sup> Whilst it has the biggest population of the newly independent developing nations in the Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea still exhibits the common demographic trend of the developing nation, with 41.8% of its population under the age of 15.

Approximately 85% of the population is considered to be rural based, with a subsistence style of agriculture or involved in informal economic activity. Even those in the urban areas reside mostly in small towns. Seventy-nine urban areas were identified in the last census (1990), the classification determined by a area with a minimum population of 500 souls, a minimum density of about 195 persons per square kilometer, and provided with water, electricity, metaled roads, and shop and commercial facilities. Only the top 22% of the urban dwellers are located in ten major centres.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNDP. Human Development Report 1993. Oxford University Press (1993) p135-137.

<sup>2</sup> Papua New Guinea, National Statistical Office. 1990 National Population Census preliminary figures, census division populations (1992) p1-5

#### **4. Languages**

Another major effect of the isolation of centres of population caused by a difficult topography was the proliferation of languages. Papua New Guinea has, not ten or even one hundred different languages, but 869 at the last count. This represents approximately a third of the world's known languages. Just to illustrate the point, a quick survey of staff members of the National Library revealed that over 20 languages were spoken by 30 staff, some knowing four or more! It is not unusual for Papua New Guineas to drift in and out of different languages during conversations. Luckily the official language, and language of education is English. That ensures that there is a unifying influence, and with two other lingua francae, greatly eases the problems of communication.

The language question does raise serious challenges for the publishing industry and poses difficulties when disseminating development information to rural dwellers. The issue of English as a language of education has been actively debated, and with the educational reforms now being implemented, a child's first two years of schooling is given in the vernacular language. This is presenting many challenges to the education system, not least because basic primers and textbooks will have to be produced in the local languages, the majority of which still lack a written form.

#### **5. Literacy**

Literacy is still not universal. The 1990 census asked the question for those persons 10 years or over to 'indicate the language the person can read and write with understanding' a short simple letter or message. Only the three major languages, and an 'other' category, were surveyed. Preliminary data reveal an overall literacy figure of 45%. As expected, when broken down by sex, female literacy at 40.3% lagged behind male literacy at 49.5% a figure which regrettably parallels the lower rates of female enrolment in schools.

Of great importance to education and library planners is the loss of hard-won reading skills. There are no hard and fast figures on this issue, although most observers agree that it is happening in the rural communities where access to any form of reading matter is non-existent or extremely limited.

#### **6. Transport**

The transport system reflects the country's adverse topography and dispersed settlement. The road network (there are no railways) totals about 21 000 km, of which only about 7% is paved.<sup>3</sup> There is very little or no inter-regional connectivity, and the only extensive road system is found, paradoxically, in the most recently developed region of the Highlands. The Papuan region, although it contains the capital, is especially isolated. Port Moresby, the nation's capital totally isolated by road from any of the provincial capitals and towns.

Air travel is an essential feature of life, moving not only people but other cargoes including books and daily newspapers. However, although crucial in the country's development air transport is very expensive.

Coastal shipping services in maritime provinces are provided by private shipping companies.

---

<sup>3</sup>

Mawuli, A. and Temu, I (eds) Strategic options for transport development in Papua New Guinea. Dept of Transport and Dept. of Civil Aviation. (1992). P1-2

## **7. Information Services in PNG**

Media outlets at the moment include:

*Press* : There are two dailies; *The Post Courier* and *The National*. Both dailies are available on the Net. In addition there are two weekly publications; *The independent* and *Wantok*, a Tok Pisin newspaper. There are also many smaller sector or provincial publications.

*Radio* : The National Broadcasting Corporation has three networks; Karai Service (a national service in English), Kalang FM, and the Kundu Service. There are 19 provincial radio stations within the Kundu Service. They use either Tok Pisin or Motu and major languages from the respective provinces.

The PNG FM Company has Nau FM and Yumi FM; nation-wide commercial stations broadcasting in English and Tok Pisin respectively. Nau FM is available on the Net.

Radio broadcasts especially by the NBC's provincial stations have long played an important part in disseminating information to the majority of our people who live in the rural areas.

*Television*. There is one local television station and two cable TV services. Access to various overseas TV channels is available.

With satellite broadcasting now a reality in PNG, the potential for greater use of television as a medium for education will undoubtedly occupy the minds of educational planners. Access to education in the rural areas is a major issue on the government's agenda, and improvements in this area will obviously require technical as well as specialised broadcasting assistance (scriptwriters, producers, camera/studio personnel, etc.) if television is to be used as an educational tool.

There are also linkages with information provision and the role of satellite communications in helping to alleviate the information poverty experienced in the rural areas will become more important in the PNG context, and should be exploited.

*Internet in PNG*. Prior to April 1997, the level of access to and usage of the Internet within PNG was low, compared to some other countries within the Asia/Pacific region. A few institutions and organisations such as the University of PNG (UPNG), the University of Technology (Unitech), the PNG Trust, an NGO, and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) had some access, but mainly for e-mail. These organisations used commercial suppliers such as CompuServe. The SIL and PNG Trust used PACTOK. Full supplier rates and hefty packet switching telecommunications charges put even e-mail access beyond the means of most organisations and individuals.

In April 1997 Telikom PNG launched Tiare, the PNG Internet gateway service. There are five commercial suppliers.

Residential/private connections, companies and academic institutions comprised the biggest takers of Internet connection. Over 70% of Internet users are in the National Capital District.

## **Part II : The Office of Libraries and Archives**

In this next segment of my presentation, I will outline the situation that the National Library operates under.

### **1. Introduction**

Previously, the National Library and the National Archives comprised a division of the Department of Education. The National Library Service was established in 1975 by Cabinet Decision 11/75, when its

functions were broadly outlined. The National Archives was created as a separate archival activity in 1962, although a repository was established in 1957. It became a branch of the National Library Service in 1975.

The functions and responsibilities of these two national institutions were, however, regarded as more wide-ranging and pervasive than its host department, Education, and it was felt that some reorganisation would be beneficial. Consequently, the Office of Libraries & Archives, whose major role is to co-ordinate the planning and development of libraries and archives throughout the country was set up under the National Library and Archives Act 1993.

The provisions of the Act were brought into effect on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1994, so the Office now operates independently from the Department of Education, but is still an integral part of the Ministry of Education. Administratively, however, many activities are still supported by the Education Department. The office consists of two divisions: the National Library Service and the National Archives and Records Services. There are provisions in the Act for other bodies/functions to be incorporated into the Office, as directed by the National Executive Council.

The Office of Libraries and Archives is headed by a Director-General. The Director-General is responsible directly to the Minister for Education.

## **2. Functions of the Office**

The office is responsible for :-

- co-ordination and rationalisation of resources and services of government libraries;
- the national collection of Papua New Guinea materials, and the provision of national reference and information services (including computer database services) to assist the development process;
- advisory, information and bibliographical services to libraries of government departments and statutory bodies;
- advisory, centralised processing, and bibliographical services to the community, provincial and national high school system;
- advisory, centralised processing and bibliographical services to provincial public and rural libraries to promote literacy and encourage reading, and disseminate development information;
- public library services in the National Capital District;
- national film and video library collection to support both formal and non-formal education, and assist in the dissemination of information development;
- legal deposit of PNG materials into the national collection;
- national bibliographical services that facilitate the retrieval and dissemination of information for development, including the Papua New Guinea National Bibliography and the National Union List of Serials;
- the preservation of public records of permanent value;
- the coordination of archives administration and development, and advisory services to government instrumentalities;
- the microfilming and conservation of government records and printed material.

## **3. Organisational Structure**

The organisational structure inherited from the Education Department is being revised to reflect provisions of the Act. The present branch structure will change substantially, particularly with the upgrading of the status of the National Archives branch to a separate division within the Office of Libraries and Archives. The concerns for the state of provincial public libraries may also result in the addition of the provincial public libraries to the structure of the Office.

### **Part III : National Library and Archives Legislation**

The intention of this section is to outline the reasons for legislation, and the establishment of the Office of Libraries and Archives. I will dwell on the legislation a bit because of the changes it has brought about, and also because we hope it will lead to greater and more sustained library development nation-wide.

#### **1. Historical background**

In most countries separate legislation has been enacted for libraries and archives. Historical and professional factors no doubt contributed to this trend. In Papua New Guinea, however, library and archives developments have generally led to the strengthening of the relationships between the two professions. It is therefore not surprising that a combined legislative approach, which emphasises the many points of contact between libraries and archives, has been pursued to provide the necessary statutory powers for the operations of the National Library and National Archives.

The National Library and Archives Act recognises the need for professionals to work together under a broad grouping of libraries and archives, and will allow both the National Library and National Archives freedom to develop their particular professional areas as separate but complementary entities in the Office of Libraries and Archives. We do not foresee the powers of either institution being weakened by this approach.

Although the National Library Service was originally conceived to co-ordinate and rationalise the operations of all libraries funded by the government (apart from university libraries), no legislation was enacted at the time of its establishment to provide the necessary powers to carry out this important task.

After over twenty years of independence, Papua New Guinea has slowly built on the library and archives systems inherited from the Australian colonial administration. Most of the growth in libraries, however, has been random and quantitative, and in the field of tertiary and government departmental libraries, where small collections proliferate and a low level of service is provided. The need for a nation-wide approach to archives development has also been made obvious in the face of a burgeoning bureaucracy which has generated an ever-increasing number of records.

The ad hoc approach to library and archives development has not worked well, and statutory powers to rationalise, direct and co-ordinate developments have been sorely needed. The legislation should enable some of the problems being experienced by the National Library and National Archives, to be tackled effectively, to allow the realisation of the full potential of libraries and archives in the major task of nation-building.

#### **2. Scope of the National Library and Archives Act, 1993**

The Act provides a statutory basis for the specialised operations of the Office of Libraries and Archives. The legislation sets out the purpose of the Office and its library and archival functions.

In the case of libraries, the Act lays down the specific functions of the Office in terms of its responsibilities to provide information to users, to initiate and direct national planning and co-ordination of libraries, and confers powers to assist library development in Papua New Guinea. It also lays down, amongst other things, duties to maintain tools of bibliographical importance and to collect and preserve the national collection of PNG materials.

In the case of archives and public records, the Act confers certain powers to ensure the preservation of records of permanent value, promote better records keeping practices, provide access to information and co-ordinate archives administration and development.

### **3. Reasons for legislation**

The enacted legislation :-

- Gives the National Library and National Archives a separate legal status in dealing with other departments, organisations, the public, and establishes them as legal entities;
- Defines their respective roles and functions in serving the people of PNG;
- Establishes the machinery to plan and co-ordinate libraries and archives development in PNG, and promotes effective co-operation between such services;
- Confers necessary powers to enable the National Library to carry out its many designated functions, including the rationalisation of government libraries and the upgrading of public libraries.
- Provides the powers to enable the National Library to set and enforce standards for libraries, and permit regular inspectorial visits;
- Permits the National Library to enter into agency agreements with government instrumentalities to administer their libraries, provided that adequate resources are made available by the requesting office or agency;
- Permits the National Archives to preserve records of permanent value, promote better records keeping practices, lay down rules of access to information, and co-ordinate archives administration.

### **4. Present status on the implementation of the legislation**

National Library and Archives Board. The Act specified that the Minister establish a National Library and Archives Board to advise on library and archives matters. There were long delays in the drafting of regulations to determine the operation and structure of the Board. However, in early 1999 the regulations were finally completed, approved by Cabinet, and brought into force by Governor General. The Board has been set up. The composition of the Board, other than the Director-General, includes a representative from a number of sectors; including Education, Telecommunications, Media, Culture, Churches, Academic Institutions, Community, Government Information Services, and Literacy.

The Board is now set to begin its critical role of advising the Minister on policy matters concerning the development of libraries and archives and related information services.

***Co-ordination and Planning Powers.*** It is not clear whether sufficient powers have been granted to the Office to enable it to effectively co-ordinate libraries under different jurisdiction. Certainly, the power to request an annual report from government instrumentalities on library or archive development has been included, and the annual report to Parliament is also a useful device to ensure that the subject of library and archives development is brought under regular scrutiny of parliamentarians. Inspectorial powers are included, as well as the ability to establish and enforce standards, but the effective application of these powers will need further development through the enacting of regulations.

Further, the practical need to ensure that libraries are adequately resourced through the recurrent budget, would require the Office to have some powers to approve expenditure and staffing. This could be a vexing issue, but the solution may be to adopt the approach made by the Office of Higher Education which regularly vets and approves budgets of tertiary colleges operated under a number of different jurisdictions.

Staffing of all libraries from a common pool of librarians have been a major recommendation of previous reports on the operations of the National Library Service. If all government and public library staff are an integral part of the new Office's establishment (at least nominally) the benefits of staff development and training plus ease of replacing staff on recreation and other leave, would be a major plus factor to aid co-ordination and planning, and ultimately library and archives development.

***Provincial Public Libraries.*** The present composition includes the National Library and National Archives. The whole question of responsibility for provincial public libraries is still unresolved. In

1978 the Organic Law granted responsibility for provincial public libraries to the provinces. What has resulted in the following years is a decline in public library services, brought about mainly by the absence of proper funding support from the host provinces. A number of public libraries have actually closed, leaving those provinces without this important service. This is a continuing and very worrying trend. The total absence of concerted rural library development is also another consequence of the devolution of powers.

Ideally, and the National Library has argued this on numerous occasions, the responsibility should be brought back to the national level, with the new Office (utilising the National Library) given the powers to control and direct this important library sector. Clause 3c of the Act readily permits the public libraries to be amalgamated into the new Office without the need to change this legislation.

*Literacy and Awareness Secretariat.* The National Library maintains a close working relationship with the National Literacy and Awareness Secretariat (NLAS). The Library is also represented in the National Literacy and Awareness Council (NLAC). The NLAC, with its broadly-based committee representing government and non-government bodies, directs the role of the NLAS, recommends policy, and oversees national literacy activities.

The close liaison with literacy developments will benefit the much-needed thrust towards community information centres/libraries utilising the shell book concept, and support the strategies outlined in the National Policy for Libraries and Archives, and the National Policy on Information and Communication.

Closer liaison of libraries with literacy will also complement the COMMNET project. The Office of Libraries and Archives will be playing a major role in the project, forming part of the technical backbone of the network, along with the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Technology.

The objective of this innovative project is to provide dial-up access, initially from two provinces, to an electronic library of shell books located at the National Library. This will enable provincial Literacy and Awareness Materials Production centres to obtain literacy and development material in a form which allows ease of production and distribution at the provincial and local level.

## **Part IV : Provincial Public Libraries**

### **1. Introduction**

Public libraries currently only serve 5% of PNG's people. This 5% are mainly urban dwellers.

### **2. Background**

The Public Library Service of Papua New Guinea with 26 libraries in 1975 (including the 3 NCD public libraries) and controlled by the Office of Information, formed an essential element of the newly established National Library Service. It was seen also as a vital component to carry out its role in promoting literacy, encouraging reading, and the dissemination of information and ideas by the establishment of public libraries, mobile libraries and rural library services. Staff, collections and buildings were then duly amalgamated.

In 1978, during the same year that the National Library building was opened, all the public libraries outside Port Moresby and an important part of the new service, became the responsibility of the newly formed provincial governments.

The intention of the interdepartmental committee which recommended the creation of the National Library Service were thus frustrated and the new service has had to content itself with playing an



advisory role in the provinces, where the value of libraries in the development process, particularly in the elimination of illiteracy and supporting both formal and non-formal education, was not recognised.

In 1975 there were 22 provincial public libraries. In 1999 only 15 are operating. Over a period of 17 years this represents a 32% drop in service points, during a period characterised by increasing enrolments in both formal and non-formal education sectors, and a growing population. In most provinces, public libraries are poorly and irregularly funded, inadequately staffed, little used and generally struggling to provide a service.

The present status and condition of the provincial public libraries vary according to their respective history and support. In fact, five provinces do not have a public library. The current situation in the other provinces is that libraries are unable to maintain even basic levels of service. They cannot develop their collections to meet the needs of the community and are becoming more dependent on «donations» of books from overseas, which are often not appropriate.

Despite the transfer of functions various support services have continued to be offered by the National Library to assist and maximise the limited resources and varied skills available in the public libraries.

Public Libraries can become strong supporters of adult and non-formal education programmes. They have also much to offer in the fight against illiteracy, and through extension and outreach programmes, have the potential to reach a wide population (both rural and urban), particularly those outside the formal education system. Their value to the community has so far been under-rated and their use by the community severely hampered by the lack of support from provincial authorities.

In an attempt to provide guidelines, the National Library in 1983 published Standards for Public Libraries which set recommended levels of book stock, funding, services to be provided, and staffing for small, medium and large sized public libraries. These standard were duly endorsed by the Department of Education and the Library Council of Papua New Guinea. They were subsequently revised in 1991, but after 17 years of provincial control, no one provincial library, has approached the minimum required, and for book purchases the levels of expenditure are exceedingly poor.

The establishment of the Office of Libraries and Archives has brought some legislative powers. However, to be able to carry out the important function of rationalising the work of government-funded libraries, the Office, in consultation with the provinces, will need to resolve the issue of responsibility for provincial public libraries.

It is opportune to reconsider whether the devolved powers in relation to provincial public library services are being effectively carried out. There is a strong case to be made to recentralise the direction and administration of public library services so that they can take their important place in providing support for education, improving literacy levels and encouraging the development of rural information centres.

The fundamental premise behind the establishment of a truly national library service is that any economic, social and political system will perform more efficiently if a proper mechanism is provided to ensure that government officials, decision-makers, managers and researchers, and the general public, have timely and adequate access to up-to-date and relevant library and information services.

In late 1990, the Department of Education presented to the Select Committee on Provincial Government Review (chaired by the late Henu Hesingut) a paper examining the effectiveness of the provincial public libraries since 1978. It also recommended to that body that powers in relation to the provision of public libraries, devolved to the provincial governments in 1978, be re-vested to the appropriate national government department to be exercised and performed by them on their behalf, until the provincial governments were able to effectively direct, develop and control public library provision. None of these recommendations were incorporated in Hesingut's report.

The current political climate may be right for some readjustments of the respective powers of provincial and national government in relation to library services. Handled correctly, these could go a

long way to ensuring that proper rationalisation and development of library and information services is carried out.

### **3. Financial and staffing implications**

As part of the restructuring that is currently being carried out, it is being proposed that the responsibility for provincial public libraries be revested in the Office of Libraries and Archives. If this is approved, an adjustment to the Office of Libraries and Archives' budget will have to be made to permit the Office to operate an effective service, pay salaries and renovate and maintain buildings. At present, provincial establishments include positions for provincial public librarians. If powers are revested, the establishments will have to be transferred to the Office.

## **Part V : School Libraries**

### **1. Introduction**

Lack of money for the purchase of books and other library material is the chief obstacle to the development of school libraries in the country. This is brought about by the lack of active recognition of the value of books and libraries to quality education.

The result of this is manifested in the community school situation. Less than 25% of the 3 100 community and primary schools in the country have anything that could be called libraries. This means over 452 000 community and primary school children (out of a combined total enrolment of 565 000) do not have easy access to library books and other information sources. Where they exist, community and primary school libraries are inadequately housed in a classroom, headmaster's office or in a storeroom. The average collection size of less than 300 is made up significantly of donations.

The situation is worse in the newly established elementary schools. Currently, there are about 1 730 elementary schools, with a combined total enrolment of 73 100 pupils. None of these schools have adequate materials, much less libraries. The annual growth rate of elementary schools is put at 100%.

It is therefore easy to see how fast the demand is outstripping our ability to meet the library and information needs of our children.

School and provincial authorities are responsible for school libraries. In spite of this, the National Library provides support services in aid of school library development. Indeed, we are the main and, in most cases, sole support base for school library development in the country.

### **2. Services to Schools**

*Advisory Services.* Many smaller libraries in the country rely on the National Library for advice and guidance in their management and technical service tasks. One of the major responsibilities of the National Library is to provide assistance, and the Advisory Branch was specifically established for this purpose, and for the coordination of those libraries.

Advice given include the planning and design of libraries, staffing, stocktaking, classification schemes, collection arrangement and development.

Regular advisory visits are made and reports drawn up recommending ways in which library services should be improved. Standards have been established for all types of libraries and these are constantly being revised to meet changing needs. Inspectorial powers conferred by the Act gives us the capability

to enforce standards. If and when we use these powers, it will be within reason, taking into account what resources are available to school authorities.

The Advisory Branch runs provincial and national workshops, not only for librarians but also for teachers who might have to assume responsibilities for school libraries.

The library skills syllabi for Grades 7-10 and accompanying resource books were produced under the guidance of the Advisory Branch. These books are now being used in high schools throughout the country.

*Administration of School Library Development Grants.* For a number of years the national Department of Education has provided support to school libraries, mainly through an allocation for high school book purchases, and the community school kina-for-kina book subsidy scheme provided funds to subsidise the amount of money individual community schools raised to purchase library books. The scheme proved a good incentive for school, community, and provincial authorities to make funds available. It generated much interest in the development of school libraries.

In 1998, the amount allocated for the community school book subsidy scheme was K104,000; the equivalent of K47.27 per community school. At the average children's book price of K9.00, this amount could buy only five good books. A 100% subsidy was given in that year. In 1989, due to budget cuts to the National Library Service, a total of K58,000 was allocated, and a 50% subsidy was offered to schools. In 1990 and 1993, no funds were made available to maintain the subsidy scheme. Funds were made available in 1992 when K106,000 was allocated, partly from National Library's recurrent budget and the remainder from a redistribution of school funds, as directed by the Minister as a result of the 1991 Education Ministers' Conference. Even under the World Bank project, only K130 is allocated per school.

High school library development has received more support from the NDOE compared to community schools. Since 1984, from funds totaling approximately K90,000 per annum, each high school received a straight grant through the Education III Project, and latterly from recurrent budgets. A noticeable trend was for most high schools to rely on the grant as the only source of funding for library materials. Few schools made allocations from school funds for these vital resources. The World Bank project now gives matching grants to this sector. Nearly all high schools have purpose-built libraries.

Since 1992, vocational centres have been supported to establish libraries. The National Library allocates K500 per centre, and purchases books to set up seed collections, and under the World Bank project a similar amount of funds are being made available to develop this area.

Provincial public libraries have been encouraged by a matching grant scheme, to update deteriorating book stocks. College of Distance Education (CODE) students' information needs, however, are being met by the World Bank project, and books purchased specifically for their requirements. These materials, located in provincial libraries, amount to approximately K1000 per CODE centre.

All these developments are in line with the Education Sector Study recommendations and the 1991 Council of Education Ministers' Conference. With radical changes being implemented in the education system, it is vital that the library sectors are properly resourced to cope with the 'topping up' of both community and high schools. Such changes will place a premium on good access to information resources.

### ***The Library Development Project***

This project, referred to in the previous section as World Bank Project, is one of the components of the Education Development Project (EDP). The project proper started in 1993 and officially ended in 1998. However, the Government of PNG negotiated an extension of the World Bank loan for a further period of three years (1999-2001).

The total funds for the Library Development Project over the six-year period was K5,548,200.00. This included project expenses and grants to schools and other educational institutions.

### ***Centralised Ordering and Processing Services***

The National Library provides a centralised ordering and processing service for community and primary school book orders. This service is necessitated by the fact that most community schools libraries, where they exist, are run by teachers with little or no library training. A warehouse is maintained to facilitate quick processing of orders. Books for the warehouse are purchased in bulk from local and overseas suppliers, and sold to schools at cost price.

### ***Books for the Children of PNG Project***

PNG's ultimate goal should be to have in every school a proper school library building or room, stocked with good books and other information resources, adequately staffed and meeting the educational and interest needs of the school community. However, such a development would need a concerted effort from authorities at the local, provincial and national levels.

In the meantime, there is a real hunger in our children for books, and that hunger must be satisfied.

The *Books for Children of PNG Project* is an initiative taken by the Friends of the National Library. Its aim is to place folding, lockable, moveable cases stocked with good books in all community schools in the country that have no library. The project will meet the immediate hunger for books and reading.

The *Books for Children of PNG Project* is seen as a stop-gap measure. The books provided through this project will meet immediate needs, but our efforts will not end there. We hope the project will give school, district, provincial and national authorities the impetus to provide proper library and information services for our children. Quality education for our children and PNG's future are too important to continue to ignore.

### ***Film and Video Learning***

The National Library has a very active lending programme for videos and films to over a thousand registered borrowers throughout the country. The collection was specifically established to service the information needs of institutional borrowers, such as government organisations, libraries, schools, churches, youth and other community groups. The scope of the collection is restricted to educational or documentary materials to support the development process.

The present lending collection consists of over 2,000 VHS video tapes and 4,000 16 mm educational and documentary films.

Films and video tapes produced about Papua New Guinea comprise a separate archival collection. Master copies of video tapes originally produced by the former Office of Information are also held in the archival collection. These are not for loan.

A video catalogue and a film catalogue listing the titles in the National Library's lending collection and including a brief description of the subject matter, are supplied to registered borrowers.

## **Part VI : Impact on Conventional National Library Functions**

Up to now, and will be case in the foreseeable future, the National Library's support for public and school library development, and indeed taking on public library functions, seems natural and necessary. Unlike the university libraries, we do not turn away the children who flock into the

National Library to use our collections and services. We do not consider it demeaning to serve school children. After all, many of these people will in a few short years return as serious researchers to use our collections and services.

The staffing for the World Bank funded Library Development Project was three. It was not possible for these three people to carry out all the project tasks. Because the National Library considers the development of libraries in schools and other educational institutions very important, staff from other branches were given project tasks in addition to their own duties. As a result, this project was the best performing of the Education Development Project components.

The National Library has continued to carry out its conventional functions in addition to the public library and school library support services that we offer. Indeed, the National Library is charged with the development of library services nation-wide, and therefore, any service that we render to other organisations are viewed as a normal part of our duties.

### **Conclusion**

In a CDNLAO meeting a few years back, the Director of one of the national libraries in the region spoke strongly against national libraries taking on public library roles and serving children. PNG of course disagreed with him, because we feel what we are doing is only for the good of the nation.

Sometime down the road, the National Library of PNG will become a conventional national library. But the change will be more gradual and be dictated by several factors, including development of adequate library and information services to schools, adequate public library services in all provinces, and the development of a good human resource base in the library and information sector. How well we carry out our current responsibilities for, and the services we provide in developing libraries nation-wide will determine when we become a conventional national library.

# JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE IFLA SECTION ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES

## WITH THE SECTION ON BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bangkok, August 26, 1999

### *“ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS IN (NATIONAL) BIBLIOGRAPHIES”*

*Chairs : Winston TABB, associate Librarian for Library Services, Library of Congress, Washington D.C., U.S.A. and chair IFLA Section on national libraries, and Werner STEPHAN, director, Universitätsbibliothek, Stuttgart, Germany and chair IFLA Section on bibliography.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

*by Werner Stephan*

The fast pace of technological change is apparent and the impact on the competitive “book” environment is evident. But change yields also the opportunity to do things which are new and different. Not only in our field of work new responsibilities accompany new roles: Librarians have moved on from managing information **within** a library, with books on shelves within four walls, to information management. If we understand our job in this way, it is now the responsibility of librarians to know what information is available and to facilitate access to information, no matter where and in which form that information resides.

One of our traditional tools to tell us what information is available are bibliographies, but the one or other may ask whether this is still valid for electronic publications or in other words, people may raise the question if bibliographies are still meaningful in the case of electronic documents and the given possibilities of using powerful Internet-based search engines. Is there really a need for bibliographic control for electronic publications, or as Edward Valauskas said a “desperate need for a bibliographic understanding” (ICBC, 28 No1, 1999) ? And if yes how do we get from where we are to where we want to be? And do we really know what we want to have?

A host of electronic documents have appeared in the last years, beginning with “off-line” offers on physical data carriers but moving soon more and more to Internet-based online documents. The first category seemed to be no problem for librarians, except the problem of long term availability. In any case the creation of an bibliographic record was solved easily by adding a field for the form. For the integration in catalogues and bibliographies these materials were treated like print materials. Now the Internet-based online documents provide real challenges in terms of bibliographic citation and analysis, storage and archiving, and acquisition. The professional public is discussing these themes with emphasis, we all know. For this workshop we want to stress our attention mainly on the possibilities of bibliographic control for Internet-based electronic documents. John Byrum will give us an excellent basis for our discussion in presenting his survey about the integration of electronic publications in bibliographies.

Bibliographic information in common is created for notification, selection and access to original documents. In theory the bibliographic record could be seen as an extract of the original document, following given rules for it's creation. We all know the different cataloguing rules, not only different for alphabetical and subject cataloguing but also different from country to country and in some cases

also different within a country for different forms of bibliographies. At all a lack of standardisation is evident.

In many cases this bibliographic information is accessible electronically and, more over, can give users direct access to the document if description and document are “linked”. The question is still whether this description must follow “bibliographic” or cataloguing rules or whether users can probably create their own “description” during the online research. Most of our colleagues, and I imagine most of the researchers anyway, are convinced that a defined description of electronic documents, using a controlled vocabulary or at least a defined format, is necessary for making the documents known and for an easy and comfortable access. And as I said before bibliographies or catalogues are still an instrument our customers are used to use for satisfying their information needs.

So the question seems to be not **if but how** the bibliographic information should be given: How should the structure look like, is it a cataloguing format, are metadata like Dublin Core the answer, or a certain SGML-based document type definition (DTD)? You all know that the professional public in connection with the Internet do not speak about cataloguing and bibliographic data but about metadata and metadata production. But for no misunderstanding: metadata is something that librarians have been dealing with for a long time. “Library OPACs are a good example for very-high- quality metadata (Juha Hakala, in: ICBC Vol.28 No1,1999)”.

Especially with the structure and using of the Dublin Core metadata set a lot of projects are running, in Europe and world wide. I only want to refer to some projects :

- to the EU sponsored BIBLINK project, of which we will get more detailed information from Sonja Zillhardt later on ;
- the German Metadata Project, where I can show you, if we have the time, the solution of the university library of Stuttgart how we convert DC sets, created by the authors, into the German national MAB format;
- the Scandinavian Metadata Project, the INDOREG (Internet Document Registration) Project which, I assume, Randi Diget Hansen will mention in her paper.
- DTD projects are concentrated in the US, they are based on using SGML (Standard Generalised Markup Language) for the creation of the electronic document itself and using the so structured text through the application of the principles of TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) to create a DTD SGML. Divers DTD TEIs have been developed and tested in various projects, e.g. Electronic Text Centre (University of Virginia Library) and Library of Congress American Memory DTD for Historical Documents.

At all, the various description possibilities represent only a part of all possible solutions and I am keen to hear whether colleagues in other parts have found different solutions. So I am very happy to have Ms. Naoko Harai with us, presenting a report about the Japanese Electronic Library Project and how will handle electronic publications in their national bibliography.

Earlier I talked already about Metadata, unfortunately you will not found very much of them in the Internet. This is not only the responsibility of libraries or bibliographic agencies, but also in the responsibility of publishers and authors. Only in a few cases there are direct bibliographic links and standardisation is more or less an unknown word. To improve this situation the EU supports the already mentioned project BIBLINK under which main objectives belongs the development of a tool for a direct bibliographic link between publishers and (national) bibliographic agencies, which will facilitate adequate bibliographic control over electronic publications, especially those which are published via Internet.

Publishers are involved in our field of work in at least two ways: they produce and offer the electronic document itself and they publish (national) bibliographies or bibliographic databases respectively. Some of them have large experiences in running bibliographic databases and are quiet successful in selling them. Should we encourage publishers to set up their own bibliographic databases for the electronic documents they produce themselves? We all know that some publishers work already in this

way. The question is whether and how we can use or better reuse the records they create. I personally am convinced that we will find a way by fostering standardisation and cooperation, but if everyone wishes to keep the tradition whilst enhancing and improving content, we can not resolve the problem easily. Our last speaker today, Klaus G. Saur, will take a look on new working relationships between publishers of electronic material and national bibliographic agencies. It may be that we will hear some annoying truth, but I'm sure it will help us to see problems clearer and probably in finding ways to make electronic publications easier accessible.

## **2. INCLUSION OF INFORMATION COVERING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES : Results of a survey conducted May-June 1998**

*by John D. BYRUM*

*Library of Congress, Washington D.C., U.S.A., with the assistance of Patricia MYERS-HAYER*

### **Introduction**

In early summer 1998, questionnaires were sent to the membership of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) to solicit information regarding inclusion of information for electronic resources in national bibliographies. The purpose of this Survey was three-fold :

(1) To establish the extent to which coverage was now being provided for this recent and increasingly important material and the extent to which greater attention to electronic resources was intended for the near future.

(2) To ascertain the nature of the cataloguing conventions -- rules, standards, and local practices -- being followed in representing entries for electronic materials in cases where National Bibliographic Agencies (NBAs) are providing coverage.

(3) To determine how NBAs are dealing, in particular, with remote access electronic resources, such as materials available on the INTERNET and to ascertain what solutions they have instituted to meet the unique problems of such entities.

A large number of institutions, totaling 61 and representing agencies in 59 countries, replied to the questionnaire, providing input from National Bibliographic Agencies from Albania, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark (1), Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Great Britain, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Madagascar and Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia (2), Scotland, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, [University of] South Pacific, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, United States, Venezuela, and Wales. As a result, participation is world-wide in nature, although regions are not represented equally: 2 replies from North America; 6 from Central and Latin America; 20 from Western Europe ; 13 from Eastern Europe; 2 from the Middle East; 9 from Sub-Saharan Africa; 9 from Asia and Indian/Pacific Ocean countries.

### **Coverage**

In revealing coverage for electronic resources, the Survey provided respondents with a broad definition for the medium :



Electronic resources are those materials encoded for manipulation by a computer, basically comprising "data" and/or "programs". "Data" includes text (e.g. books, journal, articles, both issued electronically and electronically digitized), numeric data, representational data, while "programs" include database programs, desktop publishing programs, word processor programs, systems programs, other electronic application programs, etc. For the purpose of the Survey, electronic resources were divided by format into the following categories: Electronic resources on optical discs, including CD Roms, Photo Cds, et; Electronic resources on disk(ette)s; Electronic resources on magnetic tape; and Remote electronic resources, such as those on the Internet and/or World Wide Web, and online services. In addition, Interactive Multimedia, which combines media residing in one more physical carriers, was included as a category.

Within this scope of this definition, NBAs representing 34 countries indicated current coverage of at least one type of electronic resources ; many of these include entries for two or more categories. Below is given more detailed information regarding the extent to which the different kinds of electronic materials are now being included in national bibliographies :

Table 1

Category of Electronic Material	No. of NBAs reporting coverage
Material on optical discs	29
Material on disk(ette)s	30
Material on magnetic tape	09
Remote resources	17
Interactive Multimedia	21

Regarding each category of material, respondents were asked to report the date at which coverage began and approximate number of bibliographic entries for the latest issue of your national bibliography. The information in Table 2 reflects replies overall, giving a general impression, with replies falling outside the "norm" not included :

Table 2

Category of Electronic Material	Coverage began	No. of entries (latest issue)
Material on optical discs	Late 1980s	300
Material on disk(ette)s	Late 1980s	100
Material on magnetic tape	1980s	100 or less
Remote resources	Mid-1990s	100-200
Interactive Multimedia	Mid-1990s	100-300

Thus, it appears that those national bibliographies including electronic resources began to do so in the mid- late 1980's, in some cases expanding coverage to include remote access and interactive multimedia in the mid-1990s. In the usual case, the quantity of titles included in the latest issue is still modest.

Electronic material can take on a variety of manifestations in terms of kind of publications they manifest. The Survey revealed that national bibliographies providing coverage produce entries which fully reflect the gamut of possibilities :

Table 3

Kind of publication represented	Number of NBAs reporting coverage
Serials (e.g. journals)	27
Texts (e.g. books)	32
Directories & databases	27
Bulletin Boards & discussion lists	2
Digital reproductions	10
Online services	6
Web sites	5
Programs (e.g., word processors, games, desktop publishing)	16

Respondents were asked to indicate the source(s) by which they acquire the electronic material they cover in their national bibliographies. Their replies revealed a mixture of acquisitions strategies, including purchases (19 NBAs), gift/exchanges (20 NBAs), but most importantly, legal deposit (28). Regarding the latter, it was clear from replies that, where updated to cover electronic resources, legal deposit requirements have been changed only recently, and in several nations such changes are still in draft. In some cases, legal deposit may not treat hand-held resources and remote access publications similarly, with the former more likely subject to deposit; this is also true regarding some jurisdictions where proposals to expand legal deposit laws are under consideration. As a result, instances were reported where the electronic versions might be subject to deposit arrangements more of a voluntary than legal nature and were negotiated on a case-by-case basis with publishers. Also reported were arrangements that involved returning material to publishers after bibliographic entries are prepared. In one report, the author observed "...remote electronic resources are not to be the subject of legal deposit [under the proposal to review the current law] and should be acquired selectively by contract." One respondent observed that while the national bibliographic agency did not download and archive the electronic resources which it describes, it did provide links to their Web addresses and observed that "this can not probably be called 'legal deposit'."

Of those already providing coverage for electronic materials in their national bibliographies, 28 reported that they will expand coverage of electronic materials in the future. Expansion could occur as a result of including a greater number of items for categories of resources already covered, initiating coverage for categories not currently within scope, or both. One category mentioned frequently in this regard was remote access material relating to the nation, while more than one reporting NBA cited digital videodiscs (DVDs) as another likely candidate. Most respondents expecting to increase coverage stipulated increased coverage of more traditional formats, however. In several cases, anticipated changes in legal deposit requirements were cited as governing the nature and size of increased representation of these materials in national bibliographies. Most anticipating an opportunity to increase coverage of electronic material indicated that such expansion would occur very soon -- in several cases in 2000 or before.

Of those NBAs replying to the Survey which currently do not provide coverage for any electronic materials, 22 are planning to initiate some kind of activity in this area in the near future. (Within this group, however, some indicate that they encounter electronic materials issued as accompanying material for printed publications; when this happens these NBAs provide for the electronic component within the bibliographic entry for the host document.) Some respondents reported that not only did their legal deposit requirements not cover electronic resources, but that few electronic publications within the scope of their bibliographies were being produced at this time. A large number of respondents from national bibliographic agencies in developing nations were among those which do not yet cover electronic materials but plan to do so soon, although surprisingly there were also some prominent Western European countries still in the "planning for coverage" phase. In many instances, those anticipating expansion of national bibliographies to include electronic resources directly link it to revision of requirements to extend legal deposit to add one or more types of electronic material.

## **Policies for bibliographic description**

The respondents providing coverage for one or more types of electronic materials were asked a series of questions intended to establish the cataloguing practices and policies used for the bibliographic descriptions to appear in their national bibliographies. Most reported that their staff follow the national cataloguing rules, with 24 indicating that their descriptive policies are based on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition, either the English text, a translation of it, or an adaptation. Also used are the CONSER Cataloging Manual : Module 31, which covers descriptive cataloguing of remote access computer files, and in some cases Cataloging Internet Resources by Nancy B. Olson (ed.). UNESCO Guidelines for Bibliographic Description was cited by one respondent. In some cases, respondents indicated that they employ national cataloguing codes in conjunction with one or more of the standards mentioned above.

Respondents from Australia, Austria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Korea, Peru, Singapore, Slovak, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia reported that their national cataloguing rules have been revised to incorporate more up-to-date provisions covering electronic materials, such as those presented in the recently issued International Standard Bibliographic for Electronic Resources (ISBD(ER)) (3) . In Armenia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Hungary, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, and the U. S. projects to revise national rules were reported as having begun; in most instances, these too will base changes on the provisions of ISBD(ER). Revision of AACR2 was initiated with the appointment in early 1998 of a task force by the American Library Association's Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access to recommend amendments to incorporate features of (ER), but the rule revision process is labor intensive and publication of approved revisions is not likely until 2000 or later. In other cases, staff at the NBAs are using ISBD(ER) in conjunction with existing national rules or AACR2. In all but a few cases, respondents felt that the cataloguing rules used in-house provided adequate guidance for preparation of bibliographic entries for electronic materials.

Bibliographic descriptions for electronic resources may be shorter, fuller, or about the same as those for other materials, depending on the rules and policies followed by the NBA. When asked for information regarding their practices, one of the respondents indicated that their staff were producing briefer records for these materials, while nine reported that their entries were more extensive due to the technical features of the medium which they include in descriptions for them. The vast majority, however, felt that bibliographic entries for electronic resources were more or less the same as those for other publications, noting that the level of cataloguing is the same regardless of the physical format.

Given the intangible nature of electronic publications, where the content is usually not accessible without machine manipulation, the Survey sought to learn the sources of information used by staff at NBAs for the entries they devised. Table 4 reveals the response to this inquiry, with most replies indicating use of more than one approach to obtain the necessary information.

Table 4

Source(s) of information used for descriptive entries	Number of NBAs reporting
From information within the material itself	31
Through examination of material on the Internet	12
From information supplied by publishers	25
From Dublin Core metadata supplied by the creator	5

As with most other kinds of non-book publications, users of national bibliographies often expect to be alerted to the nature of the format when encountering entries for electronic materials. Such notification can be handled in a variety of ways -- by including within the bibliographic description the General Material Designation and/or Specific Material Designation or by giving the information in a note; in

the case of the machine-readable version of the national bibliography, this information can also be conveyed by giving a code or tag in the fixed field portion of appropriate records. When asked to indicate the techniques their national bibliographies employed to alert users to electronic materials, respondents revealed multiple approaches in most cases, as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5

Identification technique used	No. of respondents reporting use
Giving General Material Designation	25
Giving Special Material Designation	26
Giving information in notes	20
Giving code or tag	21

### **Remote access electronic resources**

Because of the proliferation of electronic documents on the World Wide Web and through the Internet, a recent development which introduced many new bibliographic and other related problems, the Survey included a series of questions intended to focus on materials available through remote access. As Table 1 above indicates, 17 national bibliographic agencies report coverage of such materials; however, only 14 of these supplied information with regard to these specific questions. As for future coverage of remote access electronic resources in particular, nearly 20 NBAs indicated decisions to do so or are seriously exploring the possibility. Not surprising, where provided, coverage is usually limited to resources originating in or related to the geographic/linguistic or other coverage of the bibliography.

First, respondents were asked to advise as to whether their national bibliographies provide separate entries for remote access resources which are the same or similar to material in another format, e.g. as a printed publication. Fourteen reporting NBAs replied to this question in the affirmative and seven in the negative, thereby establishing a preference for separate bibliographic entries for various manifestations of the publication. In two cases, respondents indicated that a Universal Resource Locator (URL) is added as a note to the bibliographic entries for printed publications in lieu of separate bibliographic entries, while in two other cases, respondents indicated that a separate entry is originated but the entry for the other version is amended to include the appropriate URL to link it to the electronic version (4).

Next, respondents were queried as to whether their cataloguing staff encountered particular difficulty in ascertaining any of the data elements to be included in descriptions for remote access works. Several replied in the affirmative, citing especially (1) determination of the chief source of information to be used for the description; (2) "imprint" information, such as place and date of "publication"; (3) dealing with differences which affect the appearance of the publication depending on particular format (e.g. PDF, HTML); (4) discovery of the title proper, giving a variety of titles to choose from among in the case of many remote access publications; (5) identification of editions, given their dynamic nature of remote material; (5) lack of numbering for remote versions of serials, which often may be more in the nature of a data base; (6) closely related to this, the frequent difficulty of determining when a serial publication started or if/when it ceased. For the most part, the "fluidity" of remote access materials explains many of the difficulties cataloguers encounter when describing them.

In particular, information regarding the URLs for electronic publications was considered subject to change and therefore more likely to be unreliable in terms of a data element within the bibliographic record. Nevertheless, all respondents reported that such information is routinely given in the case of remote access material. (In some cases where the national bibliography is available in machine-readable form, mention was made of "hot links" by which users might access the material directly from the URL in the bibliographic record.) But, because of the highly labor intensive nature of

catalogue maintenance work, only a few respondents indicated a policy regularly to monitor the reliability of URL information, although a few cited the possibility of utilizing programmatic approaches to the task which are now under development. Others reported that they might update this data element if necessary when encountered or when the issue was brought to attention by way of "error reports" from publishers, the public or staff.

### **Research projects and investigations**

The Survey concluded by inviting respondents to indicate research in which staff of the NBA might be engaged as related to bibliographic control and access to electronic resources and to provide citations to any resulting publications. This request elicited a substantial amount of information about several projects undertaken or in development on the topic, but especially as related to remote access material. In some cases, respondents cited URLs to provide links to Web sites and electronic publications where the visitor may discover important information on the topic covered by the Survey.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/business/beonline/beohome.html> (Project BEOnline, Library of Congress, USA).

<http://www.nla.gov.au/nla/staffpaper/> (Research on archiving and long-term access, Australia).

<http://hosted.ukoln.ac.uk/biblink/> (BIBLINK Project, European Union).

<http://www.dbi-berlin.de/projekte/projekte.htm> (Metadata initiatives, Germany).

<http://purl.dk/rapport/html.uk/> (Project INDOREG, Denmark).

<http://orcdev.oclc.org:6990> ; <http://www.oclc.org/oclc/man/9256cat/toc.htm> (InterCat Project, OCLC, USA and related documentation).

[http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/cps/elec\\_res.html](http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/cps/elec_res.html) (ER Cataloging Guidelines, Library of Congress, USA).

<http://kulturarw3.kb.se/> (Project to collect all Swedish Web pages).

<http://www.svesok.kb.se/> (Swedish cataloguing and search service project).

Respondents also provided citations to information available in print produced by members of their staff regarding their approaches to providing access to electronic resources and other related topics :

- Bulletin d'informations de l'Association des bibliothécaires français, no. 163, 2e trim. 1994; p.88; Bulletin des bibliothèques de France, 1995, no. 3, pp. 34-38.
- « Handling Electronic Publications: Practices and Projects. Presentation at the 6th National BAD Conference, Averio, 7 May 1998" by Marco de Niet (National Library of the Netherlands) [unpublished ?].
- « Deposit for Dutch Electronic Publications: Research and Practice in The Netherlands" by Trudi C. Noordermeer (National Library of the Netherlands). In: Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries (Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science 1334) (1998?).
- « En Undersøkelse av Norske Tidsskrifter på Internet" by Anne M. Langballe (National Library of Norway) (to be published in Bok og Bibliotek 1998, no. 3).
- "Remote Access Electronic Serials and the National Library of Norway" by Anne M. Langballe (Paper presented at the 64th IFLA Conference, Amsterdam, 1998).
- "Elektronnye izdaniia" by A. B. Antopulskii and K. V. Vigurskii. (Scientific Research and Development Centre "Informregistr", Moscow) In: Informativnye resursy Rossii (1998, no. 1).
- "La Biblioteca electrónica en España" by Carmen Caro (National Library of Spain). In: LIBER (at press).
- "Publicaciones Electrónicas y Depósito Legal" by Mclero Garcia [and others] (National Library of Spain). In: Jornadas de Arquivos, Bibliotecas e Museos de Galicia. A Coruña, 1997; p. 325-336.
- "La Digitalización de Materiales Bibliotecarios en la Biblioteca Nacional" by Francisca Hernández and Xavier Ajenjo. In: Boletín de ANABAD, v.45, no. 3 (1995).
- "Los Recursos Electronicos" by Ma. Lusia Martínez-Conde. In: Los Materiales Especiales en la Biblioteca. Gajón: Trea, 1998.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the author would like to express great appreciation to the more than 60 respondents to his Survey for the time and thought they invested in their replies. The information, he believes, provides a clear picture of the situation at the close of the 1990s and clear evidence that throughout the world national bibliographic agencies are responding to the challenges posed by the advent of electronic resources, both hand-held and remote access. It is clear, however, that many are preparing their policies and procedures and that other circumstances now in progress, such as changes to legal deposit requirements, will considerably alter the findings of this Survey in the near term. Therefore, the author recommends that a follow-up investigation be undertaken within the next five years in order to enable the profession to up-date its understanding of how national bibliographies are furthering their efforts to fulfill their responsibility to record these materials within their national heritage.

### **Endnotes :**

1. From Denmark, replies were received from both the Royal Library and the Danish Library Center.
2. From Russia, replies were received from both the Scientific Research and Development Centre "Informregistr", Moscow and the National Library of Russia, Saint Petersburg.
3. Munchen: K. G. Saur, 1997 (UBCIM publications; N. S. vol. 17)
4. Regarding archiving policy, one respondent indicated that the practice is not to "collect" any electronic resources where in-print versions provide an alternative form.

### **3. "NET PUBLICATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL : seen from Denmark with a view to Sweden"**

*by Randi DIGET HANSEN, Bibliographic Department, Danish Library Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark*

At the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services held in Copenhagen, November 1998, the UNESCO recommendations on national bibliographies were changed.

Concerning coverage of the national bibliography it now says : national bibliographies should include the current national output, and where practicable they should also provide retrospective coverage. When necessary, selection criteria should be defined and published by the national bibliographic agency.

Going back to 1977 the recommendations describe the national imprint - monographs and first issues and title changes of serials, including official publications - and other categories of materials.

In 1982 a working group issued recommendations concerning levels of coverage of documents - and the vocabulary was changed from "imprint" to "document". In 1998 the vocabulary changes again to "output" and there is no attempt to describe the physical forms of the national output.

## The development in publishing

The development through the last few years in the field of publishing must necessarily have a great influence on the production of the national bibliography and bibliographic control on the whole.

When we no longer back than 1994 talked about bibliographic control we felt confident of the future. We were dealing with documents having a physical and final form, books, videos, discs, cd-roms etc. and we had precise definitions of monographs and periodicals. We also had an idea of the amount of information produced in a country and the publications did not have a tendency to change or disappear without a trace.

### **Indoreg and the development in Denmark since 1996**

To be at the forefront of the development in the publishing field the Danish Library Centre in 1996 decided to launch a project to find out whether net publications could and should be subject to bibliographic control in the same way as printed and electronic publications in fixed physical form. The reason for this was that we felt the existing search engines on the net suffered from the general problem of searching in unqualified data and generally replying with excessive amounts of data. We also felt that the information contained in net publications not necessarily differed from the information in publications in fixed physical form, if net-borne publications are excluded from bibliographic control, there is a risk that many people will find it difficult to gain access to an increasing amount of the information citizens need.

In order to obtain a model for a national bibliographic registration that includes net publications the project focused on the following areas in particular

### **Inclusion criteria**

They operate with the concepts of static and dynamic publications - with homepages as an independent category under dynamic publications.

These principles reflect the criteria that exist for publications in fixed physical form, since there are formal requirements with regard to both size and (to a certain extent) content. For instance, it is proposed that publications of a commercial, internal, highly local og private nature should not be included.

### **Registration method**

The proposed registration method inside the new Danish Cataloguing rules seeks to cover the special needs of net publications in terms of description and format. The problems of describing static and dynamic publications vary. Self-registration by authors/publishers using metadata was regarded as a necessary supplement if very large amounts of information are to be registered.

### **Tracing and maintenance**

A PURL server was established to ensure the constant validity of addresses. It was also concluded that if an international number system like the ISBN system should be adopted, it should of course be used.

### **Storage in DanBib**

Finally we decided that the registrations of the net publications should be stored in DanBib (the joint Superstructure-system for the complete Danish Library System) alongside the national bibliography and the total list of publications at Danish libraries.

The project ended up in a proposal to the Danish State saying that :

- National bibliographic registration should be started according to the principles and rules developed during the project.

- The understanding of all national bibliography functions should be modernized to cope with net publications, and in particular that emphasis should be placed on satisfying current national information requirements and less on the industrial dimension.

Finally we concluded to the question whether it is worth registering publications that may disappear again, that it is important to focus on the "quality" of the document registered and that we feel convinced that net publications will tend to become more permanent.

The Project Report was handed to the Danish National Library Authority in July 1997. A new law on legal deposit took effect 1st January 1998. This new law, which took effect 1st January 1998, contains all information carrying media including publications of digital works in databases. It is described in the appurtenant announcement what legal depository digital works include:

"A database is defined as a digital network, hereunder especially the Internet, wherefrom a user - with or without charge or special agreement - can purchase a piece of a work..... As works are considered limited amounts of information, which constitute finished and independent units. An ongoing updated (dynamic) unit; e.g. a homepage on the Internet is therefore not legal depository as a whole, but finished (static) and independent works, which can be purchased, hereunder from a homepage, are legal depository".

And since then we have also had a Danish National Bibliography in the area. The amounts have been limited. Until 1st April 1999 there have been 5-600 notifications to the legal deposit form on [www.pligtaflevering.dk](http://www.pligtaflevering.dk) - and about 2/3 of them have been included in the national bibliography according to the inclusion criterias. In April 1999 the Royal Library has made a new campaign towards the producers, and it has resulted in about 50 notifications a week most of them with qualified metadata.

In Denmark the interested parties have also agreed on a Danish recommended use of Dublin Core and a publication from the Danish Library Authority called "Metadata in Danish Net publications" has been published in the beginning of 1999.

Included in the Supplementary Agreement to the National Bibliography Agreement of 22nd December 1998 is another project on net publications, which concentrates on 3 areas:

Selection of dynamic net publications, extension of Danish Article Index with articles from Internet periodicals and an evaluation of what the individual registrations will cost.

In connection with this project we have examined, how large an amount of the till now registered publications that have disappeared without a trace, this counts for more than 2%. Furthermore, we have examined the Danish part of the Nordic Web Index; a harvester which automatically is searching the net for metadata - Here we were concentrating on 3.000 links, which indicated having Dublin Core Metadata. 1% could meet the inclusion criteria for the National Bibliography.

### **The Development in Sweden**

Svesök - the libraries' Swedish web-guide opened in October 1998. The combined harvester and catalogue functions as national bibliography on Swedish net publications. Svesök consists of two databases, one with robot-collected links and the other with a catalogue of selected catalogued links.

The dimension in number between the harvested links and the selection of quality marked and catalogued links are, that the last mentioned will present almost a thousand of all Swedish material, which can be found on the net. The whole, however, can be presented for the citizen and be searched at the same time.



## **Conclusion**

The work with arranging the Internet constantly demands for development work. It is unrealistic to believe that we during a period of 4-5 years should be able to find the definitive models for handling of net publication, not least in respect for the constant development in the publishing area.

I think, however, the experiences in this area since 1997 can be used in the future work with bibliographic control.

- It is still relevant that the national bibliography results in the citizen in a country getting access to qualified information on the internet, even though various combinations and solution models may appear.
- Self-registration by authors/publishers using standardized metadata is still regarded as a necessary supplement.
- The amount of qualified documents on the Internet, which can meet the inclusion criteria of the national bibliography, is not larger, yet, than the task is practicable, if it is combined with a co-operation with the producers.
- The assumption on the disappearing of the documents does not apply in particular, when talking about qualified publications. This is also supported by another Danish project, which has been working with foreign libraries' catalogues.

When you look at the number of works, which are qualified for actual bibliographic description compared to the number of harvested resources you could get the opinion, that the net will not be able to provide us with that many more works, but instead has enriched us with enormous amounts of "pamphlets".

The utmost important fact is that the bibliographic environment with expertise in giving qualified access for the citizens to qualified information also develops to including the publication forms of the 21st century.

I will end with a quotation, which I think, we shall take as the challenge it is to our work. The quotation comes from the Norwegian author of crime novels Kim Småge and is taken from the book "The Container Woman" of 1997. The novel is about the principal character a female detective inspector: "She herself can spend hours on the net, the Internet, searching for some information, the librarian is able to provide her with in few minutes". "Probably because she is not able to ask the Great Net the real questions, she has not been trained in the accurate question-formulation on the net. And her patience is too short, regarding experimenting her way forward".

## **4. "ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS AND NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY IN JAPAN"**

*by Naoko HARAI, Book Processing Division, Books Department, National Diet Library (Japan)*

The National Diet Library (NDL) has already reformed its Japan/MARC to include bibliographic data of physical format or tangible electronic publications such as CD-ROMs ; the Japanese National Centre for ISDS, located in the NDL, has also begun to give ISSN to electronic journals. How to deal with remotely accessible or intangible publications is, however, yet to be settled<sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>4</sup> NDL differentiates two categories of electronic publications :: physical format (the Library calls it « packaged ») and remotely accessible (« networked »). The former is electronic information fixed on physical media ; the latter is what is

Before getting down to the theme *Electronic Publications and National Bibliography*, first, I would like to draw your attention to the *Electronic Library Concept* of our Library and the recent trend of its legal deposit system reform.

### **Electronic library concept**

NDL is aiming to make its electronic library a reality in 2002 when the Kansai-kan, its new facility, opens. This is why NDL announced its *Electronic Library Concept* in May 1998, which depicted what its electronic library should be and how it should operate. The Concept emphasized the following framework.

- a. Reinforcement of the services for the Diet (Japanese Parliament) taking advantage of electronic library functions
- b. Acquisition and preservation of domestic electronic publications
- c. Compilation of bibliography for and bibliographic control of electronic publications
- d. Supply of electronic publications to the public and navigation to the information resource
- e. Coordination and cooperation with domestic and foreign organizations in digitizing materials and developing electronic libraries.

It especially referred to administrative information as one of the primary collections.

Following this Concept, NDL experimentally converted and made available print typesetting information, drew up a guideline for image data conversion, carried out various other trials and examined a great many aspects, mainly focusing on the technical side and in cooperation with other organizations. It also made up an experimental plan for the acquisition, preservation and supply of administrative information, which pointed out the necessity of an administrative information database that would enable us to retrieve digital media and paper media equally.

This fiscal year we set up the Electronic Library Development Office as an executive body to materialize the Electronic Library Concept. NDL is also planning to experimentally preserve administrative information on the Internet Web sites of six of 25 central government offices, which it is deleted.

### **Acquisition of electronic publications**

NDL acquires optical discs and magnetic discs published in Japan via donation, purchase and other methods. In 1997 it received some 1,000 items. We do not collect intangible electronic publications.

It is essential to reform the current legal deposit system in order to enhance our acquisitions in years to come, in response to the rapid increase of electronic publications. At present we are preparing an amendment to the pertinent regulations, which will allow us to acquire physical format electronic publications through the legal deposit system, perhaps from 2001. On the other hand, intangible electronic publications will still remain outside the legal deposit system for the time being and will be collected selectively by contract.

---

transmitted via telecommunications such as the Internet, personal computer communications and satellite communications.

## **Bibliographic control of electronic publications**

As the recommendation of ICNBS (International Conference on National Bibliographic Services, Copenhagen, November 25-27, 1998) declares, we should assure no less accessibility of electronic publications than that of other media.

In international terms ISBD (International Standard Bibliographic Description) changed from ISBD Computer File (CF) to ISBD Electronic Resource (ER), around the time when in Japan the Committee of Cataloguing of the Japan Library Association made public the draft revision of the *Nippon (Japan) Cataloguing Rules 1987(NCR)* as it concerned the *chapter 9 Computer File*. Because the draft was based on ISBD (CF) second edition, the Committee is now revising the draft again, taking account of the coordination with ISBD (ER).

NDL, the central library of the nation, has been examining the bibliographic control of electronic publications as part of the improvement of its national bibliographic services<sup>5</sup> while keeping an eye on the NCR revision. I would like to elaborate on this next.

## **Physical Electronic Publications and Japan/MARC**

The National bibliographic services of NDL are now experiencing the greatest change since the launch of Japan/MARC. NDL revised the principle of its national bibliographic services in February 1997, partly to cope with electronic publications.

We had to expand the coverage of Japan/MARC and enrich its data elements in order to fit into physical format electronic publications. The coverage was broadened in April 1997 and in January 1998 the Japan/MARC format was revised and its data elements were increased. We have already started to carry physical format electronic publications in Japan/MARC since this March. NDL will make continuing efforts and revise the MARC again in future to add to the data elements and to improve its bibliographic information.

The Japan/MARC format is quite different from the UNIMARC format despite the initial intention to model it on the latter, because it was conceived before UNIMARC could handle Japanese. UNIMARC has itself been changing to cope with different languages and diverse materials. Reflecting also on global distribution, in 1998 NDL began to develop a Japan/MARC-UNIMARC version. It will be distributed on magnetic tape like the present Japan/MARC, and we also made special efforts to develop the CD-ROM version. The format is common for monographs and serials, as is retrieval software. Authority data, which has already been distributed in UNIMARC format as Japan/MARC (A), will come out in a new version and in its CD-ROM version the retrieval software will be shared with bibliographic data.

When the Japan/MARC-UNIMARC version comes out, the above-mentioned problem of how to fit into MARC electronic publications will disappear. Paper materials and electronic materials will be retrievable equally, though at the moment « electronic » materials means only those of physical form. Now, one CD-ROM is for serials and others for monographs. However, it will be settled eventually and then the difference between monographs and serials will be gone forever when you search Japan/MARC.

---

<sup>5</sup> NDL compiles Japan/MARC, a machine readable version of Japanese National Bibliography. Its national bibliographic services include not only those for paper media but also for magnetic tape, CD-ROM and other machine readable forms.

## **Intangible electronic publications and national bibliography**

Now I would like to move on to the issue of the bibliographic information of intangible electronic publications. We have started to study this year, sent questionnaires to foreign national libraries as well as domestic libraries and are trying to identify what is important; this will include, for example, bibliographic control and keeping common foundations with materials in other media, handling data elements unique to intangible electronic publications, the problem of which unit (URL, etc.) is to be treated as an entry in the multi-linked environment. the creation and use of metadata. and cooperation with other organizations.

In Japan only a few libraries collect intangible electronic publications at the moment. Their holdings are such things as databases, electronic journals and dictionaries. Catalogues are quite often not compiled and, as to bibliographic data, the situation is that some libraries have mere lists of their holdings on the Web site while others just have plans to produce some sort of bibliographic information. Regarding metadata, general studies and research are being carried out. It can be described as a wait-and-see situation with the expectation of improvement of bibliographic control such as the revision ofNCR and Japan/MARC.

NDL is now studying how to acquire and organize electronic publications and is conducting relevant experiments, in the process of bringing the Electronic Library Concept to life. We will be committing ourselves to solving a pile of problems in order to make the national bibliographic services appropriate for the ever-advancing information society. We will keep in touch with publishers of electronic materials and other organizations, and make efforts to create a cooperative rapport with them. In the international society, NDL will enhance its cooperation with IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), CDNL (Conference of Directors of National Libraries) and the G8 Electronic Library project, and keep pace with international standardization. We are firmly determined to make our Electronic Library Concept come true.

## **IFLA 66<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**JERUSALEM, 10-18 AUGUST 2000**

### ▪ **Section for National Libraries – Previsional agenda**

As far as we know at the present time :

- the Standing Committee will meet on Saturday 12 August, 14:30-17:20, and Friday 18 August, 10:30-12:15 ;

Besides, several working parties organised by our Section are planned :

- an open session on the theme « The role of national libraries in IFLA core programmes », Tuesday 15 August, 8:30-11:00 ;
- a half-day workshop, organized by the section for Information technology jointly with the section for National libraries and the UDT core programme, on the theme « From library automation systems to digital libraries », Wednesday 16 August, 8:30-11:00 ;
- a half-day workshop on the theme « Legislation for national libraries », Thursday 17 August, 8:30-12:30.

### ▪ **IFLA Council meetings**

Two Council meetings will be held during the IFLA Conference in Jerusalem :

- on Sunday 13 August, 16:00-18:00, voting is scheduled on the revision of IFLA's Statutes and on resolutions from the Executive Board on the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure ;
- on Friday 18 August, 15:00-17:00, a summary on hearings held during the conference week on the Division of Regional activities will be given.

**SOME NEWS**  
**OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN THE WORLD**

▪ **BOTSWANA**

Due to the end of contract of Mr G.K. MULINDWA, former director, Mrs Ratanang MOTLHABANE, who has been his understudy, is now acting as Director of Botswana National Library Service.

▪ **CHILE**

As a result of the recent elections in Chile, Ms Clara BUDNIK who was previously Head of Librarians (national and public) has been named Head of the National Directorate of Libraries, archives and museums (DIBAM). In addition, Mr Gonzalo CATALAN, formerly Head of special projects for the Sala Medina of the National Library, has been appointed as Sub-Director of the National Library of Chile.

▪ **CONGO (Democratic Republic)**

At the beginning of 2000, Prof. G. Mulumba KALONGA has been commissioned as General Director of the National Library of Congo.

▪ **MALAYSIA**

Ms Shahar BANUN JAAFAR has been appointed as the Director General of the National Library of Malaysia, succeeding Ms Mariam ABDUL KADIR. She has been Acting Director since June 1999.

▪ **NIGERIA**

Mrs O. OMOLAYOLE has been appointed as the new National Librarian of Nigeria, due to the retirement of Mr Mu'azu H. WALI. She was for many years the Director for Collection development in the National Library.

▪ **SOUTH AFRICA**

With effect from 1 November 1999, the State Library, Pretoria, and the South African Library, Cape Town, have merged to form the National Library of South Africa.

▪ **UNITED KINGDOM**

To succeed Brian LANG who will be leaving his position in the next months, Ms Lynne BRINDLEY, currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor and University Librarian at the University of Leeds, has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the British Library. She will take office on 1 July 2000.

This *Newsletter* is duplicated and circulated by  
the Bibliothèque nationale de France,  
as a matter of courtesy

**April 2000**