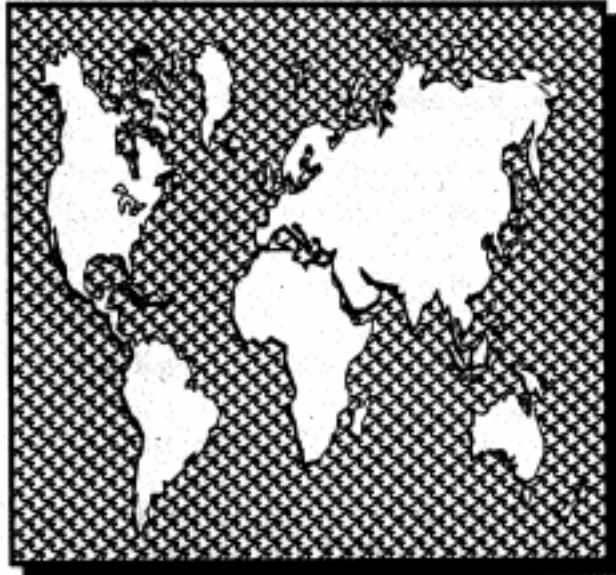


Newsletter

of the IFLA Section
on National Libraries



June 2001



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

June 2001

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* * *

IFLA Section on National Libraries Standing Committee

(rev. 20/4/2001)

1999-2001

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Observers :

- Ms Maria Luisa CABRAL (Portugal)
- Ms Vinyet PANYELLA (Catalonia, Spain)

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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" Bibliotheca 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

66th General Conference, JÉRUSALEM

Minutes

1st MEETING, 12 AUGUST 2000

Chair-treasurer : Winston TABB (USA)

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

Members present :

- Livia BORGHETTI (Italy, Roma)
- Alix CHEVALLIER (France)
- Viktor V. FEDOROV (Russia), assisted by Svetlana ARTAMONOVA
- Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJAK (Slovenia)
- Peter J. LOR (South Africa)
- Ian D. McGOWAN (United Kingdom)
- Marianne SCOTT (Canada)
- Gerard VAN TRIER (Netherlands)

Observer :

- Vinyet PANYELLA (Spain)

Apologies from :

- Fernanda Maria CAMPOS (Portugal)
- Fariborz KHOSRAVI (Iran)
- Steen Bille LARSEN (Denmark), represented by Erland Knolding NIELSEN
- Tomas LIDMAN (Switzerland)
- Anna LUCARELLI (Italy, Firenze), represented by Antonia Ida FONTANA
- Elisabeth NIGGEMANN (Germany)
- Bendik RUGAAS (Norway), represented by Sissel NILSEN
- SUN Beixin (China)

The chairman welcomed the members present and the new observer.

2. Adoption of agendas for SC I and SC II

Both agendas were adopted with the addition of one point for SC I : « Programme of the 67th General conference, Boston, 16-25August 2001 » and the postponement of point 9 « Medium-term programme review » to SC II.

3. Approval of minutes from Bangkok meetings

These minutes were published in April 2000 *Newsletter* and adopted as submitted.

4. Officer's Report

4.1. Professional board and Coordinating board I meetings

Report was given by the Chairman.

- New policy for the registration fees at IFLA conferences : for the first time, with the Boston conference, a discounted registration of 50\$ has been decided for IFLA membership. As to membership, a campaign of explanation has to be done to let the major part of the attendees understand that they are not personal members but that it is their institution or association which is member.
- Reduction of the number of workshops associated with the improvement of quality, transversality and interactivity*. As workshops have increased too much and have become difficult to schedule and manage, decision has been taken by the PB to reduce them to 4 full-day and 6 half-day sessions on site ; professional groups (sections, divisions or core activities) are encouraged to collaborate and organise joint workshops.
- Statutes revision :
The ballot was done by 1st August 2000 : 99 % was in favour of revision. All section's members are invited to attend the extraordinary Council of Friday 18 August where the final vote will take place.
- Participation in the Jerusalem IFLA conference : 1600 people have been registrated, among them 300 from Israel.

** « Workshops are programmes that allow for concentrated discussion on every specific topics ... that normally would not fit into the conference structure, that also would appeal to smaller groups. Workshops should be structured to provide the greatest opportunity for interactivity of both speakers and the audience».*

4.2. Financial report

As treasurer, Winston TABB reported that the section's finances show a positive balance of 831\$, thanks to the support of the Library of Congress and to the Bibliothèque nationale de France which have taken in charge part of the costs.

5. Review of programmes of the section at Jerusalem meeting

5.1. Joint workshop with Information Technology section, 13 August :

« Uniform resource identifiers and the library community».

The session has been prepared by Yuri HOHLOV and Winston TABB. The following agenda has been set up :

- Name services
Keith SHAFER and Terry NOREAULT (OCLC, Dublin, Ohio, USA).
- Handle system overview
Larry LANNOM (Corporation for National Research Initiatives, Reston, Virginia, USA).

- CDNL/CENL activities with identifiers
Titia VAN DER WERF (Royal Library, Netherlands).
- Uniform resource identifiers and digital libraries
Terry KUNY (XIST, Inc., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada).
- Identifiers and links : overview and outlook
Arnoud DE KEMP (Springer-Verlag, Germany).

On the occasion, Winston TABB reminded the members present that he chairs a working group on persistent identifiers under the CDNL umbrella.

5.2. Open forum of the Section, 15 August :

« The role of national libraries in IFLA's core programmes ».

This topic has to do with the IFLA process of reviewing its statutes and the role of its core programmes.

It has not been planned earlier because the section had to wait until July for the publication of the statutes.

Two components have to be considered :

- Near term issues :

After an introduction given by Winston TABB, chair of the National libraries section,

Derek LAW, IFLA treasurer and chair of the Working group on core programmes, will explain the context and the financial situation.

Ross SHIMMON, IFLA secretary general, will present IFLA proposals for the future structure of the IFLA's core activities.

Wim VAN DRIMMELEN, CDNL vice-chair, will respond on behalf of the CDNL Group of the 7 (the four national libraries hosting the IFLA core programmes and the national libraries of Australia, Netherlands and Japan) set up in Bangkok and tasked with liaison with IFLA.

Among its proposals, the Group of the 7 asks for more flexibility of the core programmes and suggests that other libraries than national libraries contribute also to accomplish the IFLA priorities. Besides more consistency between the core programmes and the IFLA objectives will have to be researched.

- Long term prospects :

Ralph MANNING, chair of the Professional board, will introduce the PB's new draft on « IFLA's professional priorities».

Sally McCALLUM, former chair of the IFLA Professional board, will present possible directions for the core programmes.

Then ample time will be allocated for comments from all those present.

5.3. Workshop of the section

« The needs for legislation about national libraries ».

Due to his commitment in the organization of the new National Library of South Africa, Peter LOR was unable to organize it. Therefore the workshop was cancelled.

As regards legal deposit, a revised, enlarged and update edition of the *Guidelines for legal deposit legislation*, first published by Jean LUNN in 1981, is carried by Jules LARIVIERE with funding from UNESCO. Marianne SCOTT will give some information about the new issues at the CDNL meeting.

6. Programme of the 67th Conference, Boston, 16-25 August 2001

During last conference in Bangkok, at the SC I, it was decided that Norway will complete the project on the topic of « Public relations and marketing for national libraries » by the Boston conference. At the SC II, it was agreed to hold a half-day workshop on this topic jointly with the Management and marketing section. Sissel NILSEN will be in charge of its preparation with the assistance of Jerry J. MOREE (Royal Library, The Hague, Netherlands), Livia BORGHETTI and Ian McGOWAN.

A discussion arose about the content of « marketing ». People are often tempted into confusing marketing with selling. Among the issues which could be considered : is it necessary to market national libraries ? does a country need to maintain a national library ? how to market its contents, what media to use, especially in a digital environment ? how to cope with cultural, education and touristic purposes ?

7. IFLA statutes revision

At the IFLA conference in Bangkok, the Working group on the revision of IFLA's statutes presented a paper containing 13 recommendations which mostly met approval. However many expressed a strong opposition against the recommended abolition of Division VIII, the Division of regional activities, and a new advisory group, chaired by Marjorie Bloss, was set up which has produced a paper for discussion in two open hearings at the Jerusalem conference.

The approved recommendations were incorporated in the proposed new statutes which will be submitted to a final vote at the next Council meeting. A postal ballot last spring gave 99,5 % in favour but the return rate was only 27 %.

8. IFLA's professional priorities

The document, adopted by the Professional board on 11 August, is now submitted to the standing committees of all sections (see Annex 1). Each president of SC will fit back the comments of the section to the PB.

The document presents the priorities of IFLA as those of a library association. Each PB member was assigned to write two or three items. It shapes the core activities of IFLA and, in the future, each project will have to prove its links with these priorities. As for the section, the review of the Medium term programme will be the first concerned.

Comments :

- « Providing free and open access to information »: for Marianne SCOTT and Peter LOR the word « free » is confusing ; « equitable and unrestrictive » would be more adequate.

- « Safeguarding the intellectual property rights of libraries and authors » : for Gerard VAN TRIER, in this chapter, the link between legal deposit and copyright is abusive and redaction of the passage must be amended.

9. Principles guiding the development of identifier systems (for digital objects)

(see Annex 2)

The Task force set up by the CDNL (Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, USA) met a second time in The Hague on March 2000. A draft is in preparation regarding the organisational and technical implementation issues of the NBN (National Bibliographic Number) and is expected to be ready for fall 2000. The main results achieved by the Task force and future directions will be presented during this Conference by Titia VAN DER WERF.

10. Medium-term programme review : action plans for 2000-2001

This point of the agenda was postponed to SC II.

11. Section Brochure. Distribution and translation

The Spanish translation has been published by the Library of Congress ; the French version will be soon. The Russian one is still expected from Ludmila KOZLOVA (State Library of Russia).

12. “Round Robin”, discussion of current activities or issues and concerns in member national libraries

- United Kingdom, Scotland :

Since January 2000, the British Library has obtained voluntary deposit of electronic publications on physical carriers by agreement with publishers.

- South Africa :

Since the creation of the National Library of South Africa on the 1st November 1999, the services are involved in transformation consultancy. The task is quite difficult as resulting of different organizations and cultures in the two libraries of Pretoria and Cape Town. Six national programmes have been established concerning both sites. Besides an IT strategic document was drawn up with colleagues of other libraries and request for proposals launched. This programme is supported by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

- France :

In November 1999, the Bibliothèque nationale de France initiated the process of building for the first time a strategic plan. The process which involves the whole staff will take about one year. Colleagues of other libraries, professional associations and library users are solicited for suggestions and a specific “Council for the project” has been set up. This strategic plan will serve as basis of discussion for an “objective contract” with the Ministries of Culture and Budget.

- Netherlands :

The Royal Library launched a tender procedure for building a system for storing and monitoring electronic publications (very similar to the one ordered by the British Library). A contract was signed with IBM.

- Italy (Rome) :

Mention is given of the third international Conference on Digitization organized in Paris by the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the New York Public Library in June 2000.

- Russia (Moscow) :

The main recent event is the availability of an Internet access to its catalogue offered to readers.

The financial situation of the library is always difficult and a strong need of increasing the knowledge of the national libraries role by the politicians exists.

- Catalonia :

An agreement has been concluded between the National Library of Catalonia and the University on a Catalan digitization programme around Cervantes, with the creation of a website ; a communication programme aimed at marketing the library has been drawn up.

- Norway :

The National Library has a lot of actions in progress :

- a strategic plan,
- projects on a common digital radio archive with the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation,
- competition for a new information system,
- storage of foreign electronic periodicals,
- conversion of printed national bibliography back to the 1930s,
- bilingual database of full text documents relating to Norwegians emigrated to North America in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Moreover, a Report to the Parliament on archives, libraries and museums has given high priorities to the National Library matters.

- Slovenia :

Facing lack of storage for its collections, the National and University Library of Slovenia which already managed 9 different stacks locations in Ljubljana had to rent a new building in last July. This building will host stacks and technical services with the transfer of 50 persons.

- United States of America :

The Library of Congress has been mainly involved in actions dealing with the electronic environment :

- planning about digital future : 9 million \$ received for programmes serving young people,
- participating in a group of Academic libraries preparing its entry into the new century : “to move faster and to do more”,

- working with publishers of electronic journals : agreements have been signed with some of them,
- contracting with the directors of Internet Archives to capture documents published on line.

13. Standing Committee representation at IFLA booth, Tuesday 15 August

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

14. Adjournment

Winston TABB adjourned the meeting at the end of agenda.

ANNEX 1

IFLA'S PROFESSIONAL PRIORITIES

Final draft, 13 July 2000

Supporting the Role of Libraries in Society

IFLA supports the establishment and maintenance of libraries by serving as an international advocate to ensure that the vital role of libraries in the digital age is well understood and acted upon. IFLA seeks to make the case for libraries with government officials and community leaders, using all available avenues to secure appropriate funding and staffing of library services worldwide.

Defending the Principle of Freedom of Information

IFLA believes that all people have a fundamental right to create and acquire information and to express their views publicly. The right to know and the freedom to express are two aspects of the same principle.

Libraries play a key role in securing these rights, and IFLA supports this role by defending the ability of libraries to acquire, organize, preserve and make available the widest variety of materials, reflecting plurality and diversity in the society, and thus to protect and enhance democracy and a free debate; by defending the ability of libraries to ensure that selection and availability of material and services are governed by professional principles, not the political, moral or religious views of individuals or governments; and by defending the ability of libraries to make materials and services available to all users, with no discrimination due to race, creed, gender, religion, age or any other subjective reason.

Promoting Literacy, Reading, and Lifelong Learning

IFLA's programmes promote literacy in many aspects, helping libraries worldwide to develop programmes that support increased literacy for all people, including basic literacy (the ability to use, understand and apply print, writing, speech and visual information in order to communicate and interact effectively), reading (the ability to decipher print and other forms of notation, to understand written language and its construction, and to comprehend the meaning of the written word), information literacy (the ability to formulate and analyze an information need; to identify and appraise sources; to locate, retrieve, organize and store information; to interpret, analyze, synthesize and evaluate that information critically; and to evaluate whether the information need has been satisfied) and lifelong learning (providing for the needs of all learners, whether formal or informal, helping to raise the aspirations and achievements of individuals of all ages and abilities).

Providing Free and Open Access to Information

IFLA seeks to influence political and economic decisions that have information ethical impacts so that all persons throughout the world have the same opportunity to participate in modern information life without regard to physical, regional, social, or cultural barriers. Ongoing technological progress seems

to widen the gap between the information rich and the information poor world-wide. IFLA supports programmes which provide support for information access in developing regions of the world.

Safeguarding the Intellectual Property Rights of Libraries and Authors

IFLA assumes a dual responsibility, both to the producers of intellectual property, because safeguarding the products of the mind is fundamental to the growth of knowledge, and to libraries as representatives of information users, because assuring open access to information is essential to library service.

IFLA works to protect the rights of authors and of libraries by playing an active role with organizations such as WIPO and UNESCO in the drafting of appropriate treaties and legislative models and in ensuring that international agreements are both subscribed to and adhered to.

IFLA also works to assure that intellectual property rights support the universal availability of information by such activities as encouraging national legislation for legal deposit (which is frequently linked with the securing of copyright), assuring the right of libraries to make copies of published documents in a manner consistent with principles of fair use. Safeguarding these rights must involve both the owners of intellectual property and its users. It necessitates working in collaboration with publishers' associations, librarians, copyright licensing agencies, and standards organizations.

Promoting Resource Sharing

IFLA serves as an international forum and advocate for sharing information in all its forms across national borders. It promotes the communication of bibliographic information which is the basis for all resource sharing, it works to develop cooperative principles for international lending, and it supports a voucher scheme to liberate lending reimbursements from national currencies. IFLA works to encourage the sharing of resources, by supporting traditional lending and document delivery, by promoting the communication and easy exchange of bibliographic information, and by encouraging the development of virtual libraries whose holdings will be accessible without regard to geography or national boundaries.

Preserving Our Intellectual Heritage

Although responsibility for the preservation and conservation of the intellectual heritage in their custody is ultimately the responsibility of individual libraries, IFLA works to promote the establishment of regional, national and international priorities and the application of the best scientific knowledge in the fulfillment of this responsibility. One of IFLA's primary activities is to ensure appropriate coordination at the international level through programmes such as advocacy, training and the development and dissemination of standards and best practices. IFLA also participates in international activities related to disaster preparedness and recovery.

Developing Library Professionals

IFLA works to strengthen the abilities and knowledge of library and information science professionals and paraprofessionals throughout the world in order to improve service to the user. Programmes supported by IFLA encompass all educational processes, including library and information science curricula and continuing education activities such as lectures, seminars, workshops and in-service training.

Promoting Standards, Guidelines, and Best Practices

IFLA actively promotes standards, guidelines and best practices to provide guidance to libraries throughout the world in how to perform core functions well, and in many cases how to perform them in the same manner. The latter is particularly important in areas such as electronic communications where conformity with clear, established and widely accepted and understood standards is indispensable for the exchange of information in cost-effective ways.

Supporting the Infrastructure of Library Associations

IFLA supports the infrastructure of library associations, especially in countries and regions where these are poorly developed, because they provide the essential means for accomplishing IFLA's goals at the national level. Library associations provide many valuable services to librarians. They work to develop effective library programmes and services that meet the needs of library users and advance societal objectives and interests, ensuring public access to information, and preserving and protecting cultural resources.

Representing Libraries in the Technological Marketplace

IFLA serves as an international advocate for libraries and their users, seeking to influence the development of technology in the world marketplace, especially technology that controls the flow and availability of information. IFLA represents both the sophisticated interests of high-tech libraries and the practical concerns of more traditional users. It negotiates on behalf of libraries (and for the benefit of library users) in discussions on international trade and telecommunications, and it also works to encourage the development of affordable technologies that will bring information to all the populations of the world.

ANNEX 2

Principles Guiding the Development of Identifier Systems

The library community views the establishment of effective identifier systems as being essential to enabling long-term public access to information by ensuring the distribution of persistent location information. Persistent identifiers are critical to meet the needs of educational research, the continuation of fair use, and the preservation of electronic information. The objective of an identifier infrastructure is not only to support electronic commerce but also to facilitate access and retrieval of electronic resources. In support of this objective, it is recognized that a fundamental relationship between identifiers and metadata exists and that the international library community has a partnership role with content providers in establishing how this relationship will evolve.

In support of this development, the international library community recognizes:

- that an identifier architecture for networked information needs to be persistent, sustainable, extensible, and effective,
- that persistent identifiers should serve the public good and need to be supported by the international community of information providers,
- that any identifier architecture should be based on open, international standards and accessible to the broadest range of information providers without prejudice and within reasonable cost,
- that the identifier scheme itself should be in the public domain,
- that the global resolution service for identifiers (as distinct from access to resources identified) should be universally accessible,
- that charges for assignment and administration of identifiers, if any, should be on a not-for-profit basis,
- that different sectors of content producers have diverse needs for the development of effective mechanisms to support electronic commerce and information access, of which an identifier architecture is one such need,
- that an identifier assigned to an entity should never be re-assigned to another entity,
- that the assignment of one identifier to an entity should not preclude the assignment of another identifier to the same entity,
- that a plurality of identifier systems may evolve and may need to be interoperable with each other.
- that memory organizations (such as national libraries) have a responsibility to provide last-resort resolution services for identifiers of cultural heritage resources

2nd MEETING, 18 AUGUST 2000

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was called to order by the chairman

Members present :

- Livia BORGHETTI (Italy, Roma)
- Alix CHEVALLIER (France)
- Vilenka JAKAC-BIZJAC (Slovenia)
- Tomas LIDMAN (Switzerland)
- Peter J. LOR (South Africa)
- Anna LUCARELLI (Italy, Firenze)
- Ian D. McGOWAN (United Kingdom)
- Elisabeth NIGGEMANN (Germany)
- Marianne SCOTT (Canada)
- Gerard VAN TRIER (Netherlands)

Observers :

- Emmanuel AZIZA (France)
- Christopher CHIA (Singapore)
- Clifford LAW (Australia)
- Valery GEDROITS (Belarus)
- Vinyet PANYELLA (Spain)
- Tan Siew KIM (Singapore)
- Natalia S. SANTUCCI (Italy, Roma)
- Philippe SAUVAGEAU (Canada)
- Mirna WILLER (Croatia)

Apologies from :

- Fernanda Maria CAMPOS (Portugal), represented by Rosa GALVAO
- Viktor V. FEDOROV (Russia), represented by Ludmila KOZLOVA
- Jean-Frédéric JAUSLIN (Switzerland)
- Fariborz KHOSRAVI (Iran)
- Sten Bille LARSEN (Denmark), represented by Erland Kolding NIELSEN
- Bendik RUGAAS (Norway), represented by Sissel NILSEN
- SUN Beixin (China)

The chairman welcomed observers of the SC and expressed his satisfaction for the numerous participation in the SC meeting. All those present were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Review of agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of these points : “Medium-term programme review”, “Elections 2001” and “Newsletter of the section”.

3. Programme of the 67th General conference, Boston, 19-26 August 2001

The preparation of the programme is on good tracks.

3.1. Pre- or post-conference satellite meeting (co-sponsorship of Division I, General research libraries, with Division VI, Management and technology) on international development of library consortia and how these consortia can and could be making a difference for libraries.

The proposal of this conference, adopted by the Division I Coordinating Board I, 11 August 2000, came from Arnold HIRSHON, executive director of NELINET (New England Library Network), the regional OCLC consortium for New England. A. HIRSHON has been moreover very active in the work of the International coalition of library consortia (ICOLC) and serves as the editor of Library consortium management : an international journal (MBC Press) ; he is confident that he could attract international participants at such a session.

3.2. Half-day workshop (jointly with Section on Management and marketing) on “Marketing national libraries”

The organization of this workshop is lead by the National Library of Norway (Sissel NILSEN). With the participation of the informal group constituted during the SC I meeting, she has carried on a draft programme which is submitted to members approval. The session should be divided in four parts :

- Is it really necessary to market national libraries ?
- How to convince the politicians that a country needs a strong national library ?
- National libraries : not for researchers only / marketing the collections content.
- Marketing tools.

The introduction to each part is meant to be short (10 minutes) to allow sufficient time for discussion (30 minutes).

3.3. Half-day workshop (jointly with Section on Bibliography) on developments since the International conference on national bibliographic services (Copenhagen, 1998) and implementation of ICNBS recommendations.

This workshop takes place in the framework of the Section medium-term programme and will focus particularly on the digital environment. It complements the CDNL efforts and work in this field.

The chief investigators for organizing the workshop will be Fernanda CAMPOS and Marianne SCOTT for the National libraries section and John BYRUM for the Bibliography section.

These two workshops will be held either on Sunday or on Thursday.

3.4. Open session on legislation for national libraries

Peter LOR could lead such a session ; he proposed to associate the Asia / Oceania regional section but finally decision was taken to seek the support of the whole Division VIII. This topic will be examined in connection with the revision of the UNESCO Guidelines for legislation for national library service.

From the discussion following, suggestions were made to get information about the database constituted by the Russian State Library on the national libraries legislation and to ask the CDNL to collect from its members the general laws determining the status of their libraries.

4. Future IFLA conferences

4.1. Programme of the 68th General conference, Glasgow, 18-24 August 2002.

An open session and probably two workshops will be organized around the issues raised by electronic documents : selectivity of collecting, management, preservation access, copyright, interlinking, cooperation. The open session will be general presentation while the workshops will have more specific focus. Responsible : Winston TABB who will try to put together some sections.

The section stressed on the urgency of handling the electronic documents management.

4.2. Programme of the 69th General conference, Berlin, 1-9 August 2003

The main theme of the conference is not yet defined.

Two proposals were put forward by section members :

- one relating to statistics and performance indicators,
- one relating to the users role in defining the national libraries plans and politics.

Information was given by V. JAKAC-BIZJAK that a working group on performance indicators for national libraries has been set up by the Conference of European national libraries (CENL) during its last meeting.

4.3. Alexandria Library Symposium, “Alexandria Visions and the new millenium : freedom of access to information, freedom of expression and librarianship”, 2001.

It is a joint international conference organized by the International federation for information and documentation (FID), IFLA and the General organization of Alexandria library (GOAL) to be held on the occasion of the international opening ceremony of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Fall 2001?). Kirsten ENGELSTAD) is acting as representative for both IFLA and FID in the planning committee.

This symposium was planned at the origin as a pre- or post-satellite meeting of the IFLA 67th General conference in Jerusalem but, due to the conflictual relation between Israel and the Arab and Islamic countries, it had to be postponed and not to be linked to the Jerusalem conference.

As W. TABB who had distributed to the Section members the provisional programme asked for comments, P. LOR observed that the African librarians associations were not at all listed among the invited participants. On W. TABB's proposal, he will send to K. ENGELSTAD the name and address of the concerned associations.

5. Medium-term programme review : action plans for 2000-2001

Most of the actions planned have been achieved, except the action 1.1., workshop on “the needs for legislation about national libraries” and the action 2.1., still in expectation of the translation of the section brochure into the Russian language.

- Action 1.1.: adjustment will be made with the provisional programme of the Boston conference
- Action 2.1.: translation of the section brochure in Russian is expected
- Action 3.: the Section provisional programme for Boston reflects these topics

- Action 4.: a new committee has been set up by CDNL on digital preservation. The Section chair is one of its members.

W. TABB will modify the present medium-term programme as necessary. The agenda of the next SC meeting in Boston will include brainstorming around the 2002-2003 Section programme, which will have to take more specifically into account the IFLA's professional priorities and to focus more on IFLA core goals.

6. Bibliotheca Universalis

The two working groups set up in Bangkok in 1999 presented their results :

- As regards the contents, samples from their existing digitized collections on the theme "Exchange among people" have been identified and described by ten of the national libraries partners and collected by the Library of Congress. It appears that there was a very few coherence between the samples and the practices of the different partners. So the decision was taken to adopt a realistic approach.
- As to the technical issues, the National Library of Canada made the proposal to create a Bibliotheca Universalis gateway to these digitized samples. Then it could be planned to establish the grounds for interoperability. To reach this aim, the participants agreed to hold a workshop concerning the interoperability of their digitized databases in early Spring 2001 in North America and, beyond, to develop a larger cooperation for their policy of digitization and for a better compatibility.

7. Newsletter of the Section

A. CHEVALLIER proposed to use the Section Newsletter as a vehicle for national libraries current news, particularly those concerning the work in progress on the main issues of the national libraries.

M. SCOTT found it consuming of time, which is already lacking for the current job.

E.K. NIELSEN observed that to get relevant information is very hard and that fax or e-mail could better serve as carrier for information of value.

W. TABB announced that, on the occasion of the IFLA Council II, information will be given about sections' newsletters. But in this transition period, IFLA invites to continue publishing both printed and electronically.

A. CHEVALLIER invited then members to present suggestions on the subject at the next SC in Boston.

8. Evaluation of Jerusalem conference

The quality of the content of the conference was underlined and the work in the discussion groups appreciated.

From an organisational point of view, if everyone has been satisfied by the proximity of the conference Center and the hotels, some have complained about :

- insufficient information about the liaisons between the conference center and its environment,
- insufficient signaling in the conference center and acoustic problems,
- insufficient quantity of computers in the Internet Café and lack of computers with floppy disk entrance and printer,
- technical problems for film projections,
- need of electronic assistance.

As regards the IFLA booth, P. LOR observed that, during his permanence, he did not receive the visit of anybody asking information about national libraries. Wouldn't it be possible that the IFLA staff indicate clearly on the stand the name of the host section.

9. Elections 2001

2001 will be IFLA elections for next years. W. TABB gave some precisions about the IFLA rules of procedure and the situation of the Section standing committee.

9.1. Section members

20 people maximum can stay on the SC at one time.

11 current members will reach the middle of their first term in 2001 and will stay ; 4 will reach the end of their first term (F. CAMPOS, S. Bille LARSEN, T. LIDMAN and P. LOR) and can be elected for a second four-year term ; 4 will be leaving (M. SCOTT and W. TABB who have served for two terms of four years, G. TER-VARDANIAN and V. EGOROV) ; one seat is vacant. So elections will be opened for 9 seats.

To be elected as a section member, each new candidate now needs only one nominator. W. TABB expresses the wish that elections will bring as new members a broad representation of all geographic regions.

9.2. Section officers

In 2001, each section standing committee will need to elect a chair and a secretary. The present chair of the section will call for nomination for the posts of chair and secretary of the section to serve for the period 2001-2003 and elections will take place at the SC I in Boston.

10. Adjournment

W. TABB adjourned the meeting at the end of agenda.

GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES DIVISION COORDINATING BOARD

66th General Conference, JERUSALEM

Minutes

1st MEETING, 11 AUGUST 2000

Chair/Treasurer : Winston TABB, USA
Secretary : Kirsten ENGELSTAD, Norway

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair opened the meeting.

Members present :

- Alix CHEVALLIER, Secretary of Section on National Libraries
- Kirsten ENGELSTAD, Chair of Section on University Libraries and other General Research Libraries (URL)
- Jan KEUKENS, Secretary of Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments
- Richard PARÉ, Chair of Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments
- Winston TABB, Chair of Section on National Libraries

Informal Observers :

- Marialyse Délano SERRANO, Chile
- Kjellaug SCHEIE, Norway
- Karen L. SITTON, Israel

Apology for absence :

- Cristobal PASADAS, Secretary of Section on University Libraries and other General Research Libraries

2. Adoption of Agendas for CB1 and CB2

The agendas for CB1 and CB2, received by fax from the Chair, were adopted.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Coordinating Board Meetings, Bangkok, 1999

The minutes of the two CB meetings in Bangkok were approved with comments on errors in the address-list (see Annex).

4. Professional Board Report

The Chair of our CB for Division I, Winston Tabb, is also the Vice-Chair of the PB. He reported on the following issues dealt with in the Professional Board the last year, and asked the members to pass on the information to their Standing Committees and report back the reactions in the CB2 meeting :

- The PB in November 1999 approved the new Discussion group on Marketing of Library Services to Academic Communities. URL/SC convenor is Barbara Ford.
- IFLA will offer a new benefit to the membership by granting members a discount of US\$50 for registration in Boston.
- In the future as now, workshops have to be sponsored by sections, Round Tables or professional groups and be approved by the PB one year in advance. However, there is a proposal to reduce the number of workshops to be held in one single IFLA Conference to 4 full-day and 6 half-day workshops. If this reduction is finally approved and enforced, there will be a strong competition between sections and Round Tables to arrange workshops. The reasons behind the proposal are the concern for quality as well as a problem of the capacity of the conference premises. The PB is encouraging sections and Round Tables to cooperate in organizing workshops so as to reduce duplication of topics covered, improve quality, and minimize competition for program time slots.
- The letter to the PB declaring that the University Libraries Section sponsors the ACRL/URL Pre-Conference in Boston on Leadership in Academic Libraries, is on the way.
- The PB encourages all Sections and Round Tables to produce at least two newsletters per year and also to publish them on the IFLA website. The PB Chair will award an annual prize, beginning this year in Jerusalem, for the best newsletter in terms of content, design, etc.

5. Review of Division and Section Finances

Per March 2000 the current membership of the sections in Division 1 was: University Libraries 473 (487), National Libraries 177 (182), and Parliamentary Libraries 108 (109). (The numbers in parentheses refer to the 1999 membership.)

The level of administrative funds allocated to each Section for a given year is related to the size of its membership. It means that the Section on University Libraries receives 4050 NLG, National Libraries 1800 NLG and Parliamentary Libraries 1350 NLG.

The financial reporting forms for the last year will be circulated to Sections with a deadline of 1 October 2000. The treasurers of the Sections should send the annual financial reports to Winston Tabb no later than October 1.

The PB will put in place a stricter control of projects, because many projects have received money without presenting visible products.

The University Libraries Section is the only section in Division 1 with an ongoing project with project money from the CB. It is on "Information Literacy Materials in Spanish". The project is running well and according to schedules under the leadership of Cristobal Pasadas.

The management of finances in IFLA will have to become more businesslike in the near future. In Jerusalem there will be mandatory special training sessions for all IFLA officers on financial issues.

6. Section Program Plans for Jerusalem

6.1. Section on University Libraries and Other General Research Libraries

Sunday, 13 August, 08:30 - 10:20

Performance Measurements in Academic Libraries Discussion Group.
Theme : "Benchmarking and best Practice"

Responsible in SC/URL: Alex Byrne and Gunnar Sahlin

Monday, 14 August, 08:30 - 10:20

Marketing of Library Services to Academic Communities Discussion Group.

Theme : "Raising the Profile of Academic Libraries and Librarians"

Responsible in SC/URL: Barbara Ford

Wednesday, 16 August, 12:30 - 15:00

SC/URL Open Session

Theme : "Library Education: Assessing Outcomes for the Professionals in University and Research Libraries. What do we want from library education?"

Responsible in SC/URL : Hannelore Rader

Thursday, 27 August, 13:00-17:00

SC/URL Workshop (in cooperation with CLM)

Theme : "Copyright : A Question of Balance"

Responsible in SC/URL : Kirsten Engelstad

Thursday evening : Dinner for the SC/URL members

Responsible : Kirsten Engelstad

6.2. Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

Sunday, 13 August 2000, 08:30 - 17:00

Off-site Seminar at the Knesset

Theme : "Library and Research Services in the Knesset"

Responsible : Neomi Kimhi

Monday, 14 August, 08:30 - 12:30

Seminar with three panels

Theme : "Research Services"

Responsible : Hugh Finsten

Tuesday, 15 August, 8:30 - 11:00

Open Session

Theme : "Information for Cooperation : Creating the Global Library of the Future"

Wednesday, 16 August, 08:30 - 17:00

Off-site Workshops at the Knesset

Theme : "Library Management"

Responsible : Margareta Brundin, Keith Cuninghame, Anita Dudina, Rob Brian

Thursday, 17 August, Evening

Reception at the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI)

6.3. Section on National Libraries

On Tuesday, the Section is holding an open program on the «Role of National Libraries in IFLA's Core Programmes.» Speakers include IFLA Secretary General, Ross Shimmon; IFLA Treasurer, Derek Law ; PB Chair, Ralph Manning ; and Sally McCallum, past PB Chair and member of IFLA's Committee on the Revision of IFLA Statutes.

On Thursday, the Section is co-sponsoring a half-day workshop with the Section on Information Technology, on «Permanent Identifiers for Digital Objects.»

7. Division Sponsorship of Boston Satellite Meeting : international developments for library consortia

The Division has been asked to co-sponsor, with Division VI, a satellite meeting in Boston on international library consortia. The proposed satellite meeting has been planned by Arnold Hirshorn, director of NELINET, and active member of ICOLC. The CB agreed to co-sponsor, and expressed the desire that this satellite meeting be convened following the conference, if possible, so as to minimize conflicts with other already-schedule satellite meetings.

8. IFLA statutes

In Bangkok last year the Statutes Review Committee presented their first draft for new statutes for IFLA. Many reacted against the recommended abolition of Division VIII, the Division of Regional Activities. Therefore a special group has further developed this issue. In the postal ballot this Spring, 99% were positive to the proposed new statutes. However, only 25% of the membership participated in the postal ballot. Before the vote in the Council the coming Sunday, there will be two public hearings at the Jerusalem conference.

9. IFLA Professional Priorities and Core Programmes

A draft document on "IFLA's Professional Priorities for the Medium-Term Programme" was distributed to the CB members. The document represents a new approach to medium term programmes. New projects will be assessed and approved by PB if they concur with the IFLA professional priorities listed in the document. The Chair asked for comments in the Standing Committee-meetings and for a report back on reactions in CB2.

There is concern of the future of the IFLA Core Programmes in the Standing Committee on National Libraries. So far the national libraries have been the primary source for funding of the core programmes. However, some have now ceased their contributions, and many other national libraries have new directors, who may not see these programmes as priorities for funding. The problem will be addressed in the Section's Open Session in Jerusalem.

10. Raising Quality Standards in IFLA Conference Papers: recommendations from Ian Johnson

The Chair presented a paper with suggestions from Ian Johnson for procedures to raise the quality in IFLA Conference Papers. Members of the CB expressed their scepticism both to the argumentation and the suggestions in the paper. In particular, members want to minimize the bureaucracy surrounding program planning; want to promote diversity ; and see presentation of papers by less experienced staff as opportunities for coaching young professionals.

11. IFLA Booth Assignments

The Chair reminded the CB-members of the times that they were expected to represent their sections in the booth.

12. Mandatory Training for SC Officers

The Chair reminded the CB-members of the mandatory training sessions in Jerusalem for officers of the sections.

13. Mandatory Training for SC Information Officers

The Chair reminded the CB-members of the mandatory training sessions in Jerusalem for information officers of the sections.

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting till CB2 on Friday 18 August.

2nd MEETING, AUGUST 18, 2000

Chair/Treasurer : Winston TABB, USA
Secretary : Kirsten ENGELSTAD, Norway

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair opened the meeting.

Present Members :

- Alix CHEVALLIER, Secretary of Section on National Libraries
- Kirsten ENGELSTAD, Chair of Section on University Libraries and other General Research Libraries (URL)
- Jan KEUKENS, Secretary of Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments
- Richard PARÉ, Chair of Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments
- Winston TABB, Chair of Section on National Libraries

Informal Observers :

- Kjellaug SCHEIE, Norway

Apology for Absence :

- Cristobal PASADAS, Secretary of Section on University Libraries and other General Research Libraries

2. Plans for the IFLA 67th Council and General Conference 2001 in Boston

The main theme will be «Libraries and Librarians : Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age». (cf <http://www.ifla2001.org/>)

2.1. Section on University Libraries and Other General Research Libraries (URL)

- Pre-Conference on Leadership joint with ACRL
Responsible from URL : Hannelore Rader and Susan Nutter.
- Discussion Group on Performance Measurement in Academic Libraries
Responsible : Gunnar Sahlin. He will be in touch with both the chair of the Statistics Section for a possible cooperation, and with Roswitha Poll. He will try to combine the presentation of the Manual on Cost Analysis in Academic Libraries, with a special focus on the electronic environment, and with a presentation of the project EQUINOX with the testing of performance measures for electronic services in several libraries.
- Discussion Group on Marketing of Academic Libraries
Responsible for URL: Barbara Ford, in cooperation with Tom Wilding (Section on Management and Marketing). They will continue with the format of very brief presentations and lively discussions.
- Open Session on New Partnerships for Academic Libraries
Responsible : Toby Gail Stone, Toby Bainton and Niels Mark.

The open session will be followed up by :

- Off-site Workshop on Managing Partnerships
Responsible : Hannelore Rader, Alex Byrne and Alexander Plemnek. They will prepare the workshop in close cooperation with the open session convenors.
Off-site Workshop to present the findings and outputs of the ongoing two-year project on Information Literacy Materials in Spanish.
Responsible : Cristobal Pasadas, Barbara Ford and Jesus Lau.

2.2. Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments

There will be a Pre-Conference in Ottawa. At the main conference the section will follow the well-established and successful pattern of meetings.

2.3. Section on National Libraries

- Satellite meeting (or post conference?) on «International Development of Library Consortia», co-sponsored with Division VI and organised by NELINET (New England Libraries Network)
- Open Session on «Legislation for National Libraries,» led by Peter Lor, for which the support of Division VIII will be sought. This topic will be examined in connection with the revision of the UNESCO Guidelines for National Libraries.
- Half-day workshop following up recommendations from the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services (Copenhagen, November 1998) jointly with the Section on Bibliography. The focus will be on digital resources.
Responsible for the National Libraries : Marianne Scott and Fernanda Campos. For the Section on Bibliography : John Byrum.
- Half-day workshop on Sunday or Thursday on «Marketing National Libraries,» co-sponsored with the Section on Management and Marketing. Responsible : The National Library of Norway.

3. Plans for the IFLA 68th Council and General Conference in Glasgow, 18-24 August 2002

The main theme will be "Libraries for life : democracy, diversity, delivery".

3.1. Section on University Libraries and Other General Research Libraries (URL)

- Open Session on Change and its Impact on Staff. The focus will be on human resources and staff issues, new skills and staff training for librarians in an academic setting.
Responsible for URL : Heinz Fuchs and Cristobal Pasadas in cooperation with Tom Wilding, the Section on Management and Marketing.
- Workshop on Distance Learning and Digital Learning Material
Responsible : Alexander Plemnek and Elizabeth Lemau. A Russian-French project «Encyclopédie sonore» dealing with the production of multimedia teaching materials by academic libraries, will be presented. The contact persons for the project is Elena Krepkova, Russia and Christiane Guillard, France.
- Workshop on the Role of University Libraries in Promoting Democracy and Diversity.
Responsible : Alex Byrne, possibly in cooperation with FAIFE and Division VIII.

3.2. Section on National Libraries

An Open Session and probably two workshops will be organised around the issues raised by electronic documents : selectivity of collecting, management, preservation, access, copyright, interlinking, cooperation. The Open Session will be general presentation while the workshops will have more specific focus. Responsible : Winston Tabb.

4. Projects

4.1. Alexandrina Visions and the New Millenium

Kirsten Engelstad reported on the ongoing planning of the Alexandrina Conference. Now the local organising committee has set the date to Autumn 2001. Engelstad is now acting as representative for both IFLA and FID in the planning committee. A provisional programme had been distributed to the CB members, but the final programme will surely be different. The procedure of approval from the Egyptian authorities seems quite bureaucratic and slow.

4.2. Information Literacy Materials in Spanish

Cristobal Pasadas is the leader of the project «Information Literacy in Spanish,» which is proceeding well and according to schedule. The results will be presented and discussed in a special workshop in Boston.

4.3. Cost Analyses for Academic Libraries

The project on Cost Analysis in Academic Libraries started as a venture of the Section on University Libraries and with financial support from IFLA. However, the nature of the subject and the absence of practical expertise forced the project leaders to take quite a different approach and change it to a German project funded by the German Higher Education Authorities. The results have already been published in German as a handbook plus software. The problem has been that IFLA has right of first refusal for publication of IFLA-funded projects. Fortunately, the Chair reported that Roswitha Poll and the German publisher have agreed to an English version being published as an IFLA publication.

Both the Chair of CB and the Chair of URL underlined that Roswitha Poll has produced a very successful work. Besides the German and English versions, Russian, Spanish and French translations are also planned. The IFLA Headquarters will clarify whether these translations will be published as IFLA official publications.

4.4. Other Projects

The Chair of the Section on University Libraries, Kirsten Engelstad, reported on the ongoing translation of «Performance Measurement in Academic Libraries» into Russian. The French version is ready for publication.

4.5. New Proposals

There were no proposals for new funding from the CB. The University Libraries will probably request funding for a new project in Boston, either on standards for electronic submission of theses based on the Virginia Tech experience or on the role of university and academic libraries in a civil society.

5. Evaluation of the Jerusalem Conference

The content of the conference was, as a whole considered varied and interesting. It was recommended that next year in Boston library visits should not be organised simultaneously with workshops. However, many had complained about the lack of facilities for small meetings and lack of tables and chairs to facilitate exchanges and chats between sessions. Four computers in the Internet Café were insufficient to meet the needs.

Some reflected on the increasing costs for attending the whole IFLA conference, and expressed concern that the anticipated cost for accommodation in Boston could discourage the participation of libraries from less wealthy countries. IFLA decision-makers might therefore consider reducing the length of the annual conferences.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Comments to the PB proposal to reduce the number of WorkShops

The members of the Standing Committee on University Libraries reacted negatively to this proposal from the PB to reduce the number of workshops. The members argued that open sessions might be reduced before thinking of reducing workshops, which are the most convenient and flexible fora to deal with very up-to-date and specific professional issues. If the reduction in number of workshops is enforced, and limitations continue on the number of participants in each, this could mean that only 500 participants could take advantage of workshops; that is, only a quarter of the average number of participants in any IFLA Conference. Workshops are also the best way to attract librarians from developing countries to exchange professional practices. For most professionals in developing countries IFLA conferences present a possibility of continuing professional development. The Chair was asked to take this unanimous concern for reduction of workshops further to the PB.

6.2. Comments on PB proposal on stricter control of project funding

The members of the Standing Committee on University Libraries were concerned that this was another example of the many small moves by the PB recently in the direction of more IFLA bureaucracy. The result might be poorer conditions for innovation and less flexibility to react to unexpected but vital issues for all of us. However, phased payment in project funding would be a fruitful approach. The Chair was asked to pass on this recommendation on stage payment for projects to IFLA HQ and the PB.

6.3. Comments on the proposed new statutes for IFLA

The members of the Standing Committee on University Libraries considered the proposals beneficial for IFLA. However, they were concerned that people in countries where the communication infrastructure is not so well developed may not be positioned yet to take full advantage of the proposed new [electronic] voting procedures.

6.4. Newcomers to attend IFLA conferences

The members of the Standing Committee on University Libraries had asked their chair to ask the Chair of the CB to pass on to the PB the question on how to make IFLA conferences more welcoming and more profitable to newcomers.

6.5. Comments to the draft on IFLA's eleven professional priorities

The members of the Standing Committee on University Libraries were generally with the new professional priorities, which will be used to guide the next Medium Term Programmes. One of its members, Toby Bainton, submitted comments for the Chair of the CB to pass on to the PB.

6.6. Election of new IFLA Officers

Next year there will be changes in the Standing Committees' membership ; some will be eligible for re-election, but others not. If there are more nominations than seats in a Standing Committee, there has to be a mail/electronic ballot. The Chair said that all should be active in the process of securing good new members for our Standing Committees.

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., U.S.A.
wtab@loc.gov

Secretary: Kirsten Engelstad, National Office for Research Documentation and Special Libraries, Oslo, Norway
kirsten@rbt.no

Alix Chevallier, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France
alix.chevallier@bnf.fr

Jan Keukens, Tweede Kamer Library, The Hague, Netherlands
jc.keukens@tk.parlement.nl

Richard Paré, Library of Parliament, Ottawa, Canada
parer@parl.gc.ca

Cristóbal Pasadas, Biblioteca, Facultad de Psicología, Granada, Spain
bibpsi01@ucartuja.ugr.es

**JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE IFLA SECTION ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES
WITH THE SECTION ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Jerusalem, 13 August 2000

“UNIFORM RESOURCE IDENTIFIERS AND THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY”

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 Yuri HOHLOV, Institute of the information society, Moscow, Russian Federation and chair IFLA Section on information technology.

1. “NAME SERVICES”

by Keith SHAFER and Terry NOREAULT, OCLC Online Computer Library Inc., Dublin, Ohio, USA

“What’s in a name . That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

While Shakespeare may have been right about rose fragrances, the same cannot be said about Web-based names. We have entered an age where naming plays a role in who can access and provide services for an object. Here we propose that references on the Web reflect standard library names because these names provide a means for developing services that will better serve libraries, library patrons, and scholars.

Every object we encounter has at least one name, sometimes more. We use names because we need simple monikers for things we describe and build services around. On the Web, we often think of a URL as a name for the item it points to. Of course, this is not quite true. The item can move, invalidating the URL name, and the item described might not exist on the Web, like a car or old book. What has commonly been called a name on the Web is really just a "reference". A traditional reference in the paper world would include many pieces of information about the object in question. On the Web, it is assumed that the complete unique identification of an item can be accomplished in a single URL. The URL is really a reference or service request, not a name in and of itself. The real name of the object is independent of the service being provided or any URL that might refer to some manifestation of the object.

The idea of naming objects instead of relying on URLs is not new. Work on Uniform Resource Names (URNs) as a replacement to URLs is nearly a decade old. There have been many eloquent articles written describing the need for digital object names as well as the pros and cons of naming solutions. Interest in more natural names on the Web is quite widespread. For instance, on March 14, 2000 Steve Ballmer, president and CEO of Microsoft, announced Microsoft’s further commitment to Real Names Corporation Internet Keyword solution. This technology relates phrases like "ford explorer" to appropriate URLs. This brand name to URL lookup manifests itself today in several Internet browsers and search engines.

The library community deals with standard names of many different forms every day. Some of these traditional names and services need to be carried over to the Web to offer patrons and scholars the level of service they require. Consider a book. The book’s title is a name. It provides a reader with a set of words to help them identify and remember the book. We can also say that the book’s ISBN is a name. While the ISBN is not used to entice a potential reader or recommend

the book to a friend, it is much easier to use than a title when building services since it more uniquely identifies the book.

We would like to propose that identifiers on the Web reflect the names used before the Web came into being. This would allow many of the traditional library services to be provided along with many new services. In essence, we suggest that the name is not a URL or URN or URL-like link. The real name of the object is somehow unique in the physical world and the Web. The name should be part of a URL that designates a service request. For instance, if the name for a book is the ISBN, a standard reference could look something like :

<http://purl.org/isbn/ISBN-NUMBER>

Since this is a simple URL, the resulting reference might be a display with the book's title and a list of available services. We could even make specific services, like a title/author display available as links :

<http://purl.org/isbn/title-author/ISBN-NUMBER>.

Many services become possible because of the fact that the ISBN is a known standard supported by many systems with additional metadata. If, however, the reference for a given book is just an arbitrary URL or private identifier, these enhanced services become very difficult, if not impossible to provide.

As an example of third-party services and the power of open naming, we are researching prototype name services using ISBNs and metadata to which we have access. These services show that naming on the Web can reflect standard names from pre-Web days. They also show that third-party services do not have to be complex for end-users to benefit from them. For instance, the following two live references in our prototype use ISBNs as suggested above :

<http://names.oclc.org/ISBN/0-590-33314-3/>

<http://names.oclc.org/ISBN/title-author/0-207-15338-8/>

Of course, the idea of building name services does not address the issues of access and rights. Just because names are well known, does not imply that all services on the names will be free. Services may very well be restricted, as in the case of document delivery. However, standard references would even help make these services more robust. If references contain the standard name, sites receiving requests that they cannot fulfill can take the standard name in the request and put new links on the resulting page to jump-start the patron elsewhere. One such link might be something like:

<http://purl.org/NAME-TYPE/NAME>.

Hopefully, the default name service for this name would then help the patron find an appropriate copy or at least provide enough metadata for the patron to inquire further from their information provider. The default service might even help the patron properly authenticate themselves with the site that could not fulfill the original request - or provide a hidden id/password automatically for them.

The idea of default services and services that help patrons after unsuccessful access attempts take on increased importance in light of some recent developments elsewhere. The publishing community recently announced an initiative to ensure that article references can be resolved to the original publisher so the article can be retrieved. This is a wonderful step towards better scholarly research on the Web. Hopefully, this will result in quicker access to the articles and wider dissemination of the materials. However, this effort has several important implications for OCLC members.

OCLC members require multiple suppliers for many resources. They do not want to be put in a situation where there is only one supplier for the information and services their patrons require. As a simple example of why a single source is not sufficient, imagine that a consortium has reached an agreement with a publisher to host a copy of the journals for a given period at the consortium headquarters. When a reference is seen by a patron from the participating institutions, the consortium would want the article retrieved from the local copy, not the remote supplier.

Simple resolution back to the original supplier may not sufficiently address this appropriate copy problem.

One possible solution to the appropriate copy problem would be for third-party services to act as resolvers for standard references. These services could take the requested reference, match it against complex profiles based on IP addresses, id/passwords, and administrative and resource metadata to pick the appropriate copy for the patron. The reference and the metadata needed to determine which copy to retrieve need not be (and probably would not be) bound together. We do not believe that each information provider or naming service is going to want to deal with all this complexity. It is therefore likely that name services will have to be provided by parties other than the original content providers. Also, patrons will need help should they come across a reference to a site which they do not have access.

We believe that many services should be built using names that the library community already uses like ISBNs. It is interesting to note that many of the items for which ISBNs have been assigned are not available on the Web. That does not diminish the importance of these names and services. The names can still be used on the Web if appropriate services are built around them such as purchasing, cataloging, referencing, and lending. While we have focused on ISBN examples in this article, similar arguments can be made about ISSNs, SICIs, and other unique identifiers in the library and publishing worlds. It does not take too much effort to think of all kinds of potential services once well known names are applied to objects. Technology is not the limiting factor. We need groups like the OCLC members and publishers to agree on open names. We then need organizations to step forward and commit to services on these names. Maintaining these services will be a big effort. The library community should promote the use of these names and services. If name services are lightly used, the effort to build and maintain them is probably not worthwhile.

2. “HANDLE SYSTEM OVERVIEW”

by Laurence LANNOM, Corporation for National Research Initiatives, Reston, Virginia, USA

The Handle System® is a general purpose distributed information system designed to provide an efficient, extensible, and secured global name service for use on networks such as the Internet. The Handle System includes an open set of protocols, a namespace, and a reference implementation of the protocols. The protocols enable a distributed computer system to store names, or handles, of digital resources and resolve those handles into the information necessary to locate, access, and otherwise make use of the resources. These associated values can be changed as needed to reflect the current state of the identified resource without changing the handle, thus allowing the name of the item to persist over changes of location and other current state information. Each handle may have its own administrator(s) and administration can be done in a distributed environment. The name-to-value bindings may also be secured, allowing handles to be used in trust management applications.

This paper covers the evolution of the Handle System, including its origins and current use, provides a technical overview of the system, and concludes with a discussion of some of the more interesting and important issues which are currently being addressed in its use in digital library and electronic publishing applications.

Evolution

The Handle System was originally conceived and developed at CNRI as part of the Computer Science Technical Reports (CSTR) project, funded by the Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) under Grant No. MDA-972-92-J-1029. One aspect of this early digital library project, which was also a major factor in the evolution of the Networked Computer Science Technical Reference Library (NCSTRL - see <http://cs-tr.cs.cornell.edu/>) and related activities, was to develop a framework for the underlying infrastructure of digital libraries. It is described in a paper by Robert Kahn and Robert Wilensky¹. Subsequent work on the Handle System has been supported in part by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency under Grant No. MDA972-92-J-1029.

Early adopters of the Handle System have included the Library of Congress, the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC), the International DOI Foundation (IDF), and, most recently, the CrossRef service offered by the newly formed Publishers International Linking Association, Inc. (PILA). Feedback from these organizations as well as NCSTRL, other digital library projects, and related IETF efforts have all contributed to the evolution and deployment of the Handle System. Current status and available software, both client and server, can be found at <http://www.handle.net/>. This web site, as well as the DOI site (<http://www.doi.org>) also provide many examples of the use of handles.

The Handle System has evolved within the digital library and electronic publishing communities, particularly as part of the continuing move of scholarly and technical publication from paper-centric to digital-centric systems, but it was conceived and built as the naming component of an overarching digital object architecture, as described in Kahn/Wilensky¹ and subsequent papers^{2, 3, 4}. It has potential application not only beyond the early adopters such as the IDF, DTIC, and LC, but also well beyond the digital library area. As a general purpose indirection system that resolves identifiers into state information, the Handle System can be used to advantage in any dynamic network environment as part of the overall process of managing digital objects. Interest has been expressed by organizations in application areas as diverse as telephony (linking individuals with multiple phone numbers, 'telephone number for life', etc.), and crisis management (resource tracking). Any given application area would have to build its own tools and approaches, but the Handle System, especially as part of the larger digital object architecture referenced above, can serve as an information management substrate for a wide variety of application areas.

Technical Overview

Need for a General Purpose Naming System. The need for a general purpose naming system has increased with Internet growth. While there are existing services and protocols that cover some of the functionality proposed in the Handle System, and while we make no claim that the Handle System is the only such service that is now or ever will be needed, we do believe that the Handle System provides needed functionality that is not otherwise available.

There are several services that are in use today to provide name service for Internet resources, of which the Domain Name System (DNS)^{5, 6} is the most widely used. DNS is designed "to provide a mechanism for naming resources in such a way that the names are mappable into IP addresses and are usable in different hosts, networks, protocol families, internets, and administrative organizations"⁶. The growth of the Internet has increased demands for various extensions to DNS, and even its use as a general purpose resource naming system, but its importance in basic network routing has led to great caution in implementing such extensions and a general conclusion that DNS is not the place to look for general purpose resource naming. An additional factor which argues against using DNS as a general purpose naming system is the DNS administrative model. DNS names are typically managed by the network administrator(s) at the DNS zone level, with no provision for a per name administrative structure, and no facilities for anyone other than network administrators to create or manage names. This is appropriate for domain name administration but less so for general purpose resource name administration. The Handle System

has been designed from the start to serve as a naming system for very large numbers of entities and to allow administration at the name level.

URLs (Uniform Resource Locators)⁷ allow certain Internet resources to be named as a combination of a DNS name and local name. The local name may be a local file path, or a reference to some local service, e.g. a cgi-bin script. This combination of DNS name and local name provides a flexible administrative model for naming and managing individual Internet resources. There are, however, several key limitations. Most URL schemes (e.g., http) are defined for resolution service only. Any URL administration has to be done either at the local host, or via some other network service such as NFS. Using a URL as a name typically ties the Internet resource to its current network location, and to its local file path when the file path is part of the URL. When the resource moves from one location to another, for whatever reason, the URL breaks.

The Handle System is designed to overcome these limitations and to add significant increased functionality. Specifically, the Handle System is designed with the following objectives:

Uniqueness. Every handle is globally unique, within the Handle System.

Persistence. A handle is not derived in any way from the entity which it names, but is assigned to it independently. While an existing name, or even a mnemonic, may be included in a handle for convenience, the only operational connection between a handle and the entity it names is maintained within the Handle System. This of course does not guarantee persistence, which is a function of administrative care, but it does allow the same name to persist over changes of location, ownership, and other state conditions. For example, when a named resource moves from one location to another, the handle may be kept valid by updating its value to reflect the new location.

Multiple Instances. A single handle can refer to multiple instances of a resource, at different and possibly changing locations in a network. Applications can take advantage of this to increase performance and reliability. For example, a network service may define multiple entry points for its service with a single handle name and so distribute the service load.

Extensible Namespace. Existing local namespaces may join the handle namespace by acquiring a unique handle naming authority. This allows local namespaces to be introduced into a global context while avoiding conflict with existing namespaces. Use of naming authorities also allows delegation of service, both resolution and administration, to a local handle service.

International Support. The handle namespace is based on Unicode 2.0⁸, which includes most of the characters currently used around the world, facilitating the use of the system in any native environment. The handle protocol mandates UTF-8⁹ as the encoding used for handles.

Distributed Service Model. The Handle System defines a hierarchical service model such that any local handle namespace may be serviced either by a corresponding local handle service or by the global service or by both. The global service, known as the Global Handle RegistryTM, can be used to dispatch any handle service request to the responsible local handle service. The distributed service model allows replication of any given service into multiple service sites and each service site may further distribute its service into a cluster of individual servers. (Note that local here refers only to namespace and administrative concerns. A local handle service could in fact have many service sites distributed across the Internet.)

Secured Name Service. The handle protocol allows handle servers to authenticate their clients and to provide data integrity service upon client request. Public key and/or secret key cryptography may be used. This may be used to prevent eavesdroppers from forging client requests or tampering with server responses.

Distributed Administration Service. Each handle may define its own administrator(s) or administrative group(s). This, combined with the Handle System authentication protocol,

allows handles to be managed securely over the public network by authorized administrators at any network location.

Efficient Resolution Service. The handle protocol is designed to allow highly efficient name resolution performance. To avoid resolution being affected by computationally costly administration service, separate service interfaces (i.e., server processes and their associated communication ports) for handle name resolution and administration may be defined by any handle service.

Handle Name Space

Every handle consists of two parts: its naming authority, otherwise known as its prefix, and a unique local name under the naming authority, otherwise known as its suffix. The naming authority and local name are separated by the ASCII character "/" (octet 0x2F). A handle may thus be defined as < Handle> ::= < Handle Naming Authority> "/" < Handle Local Name> For example, " 10. 10.1045/march2000-owen " is a handle for an article published in the D-LIB magazine [10]. It is defined under the Handle Naming Authority "10.1045", and its Handle Local Name is " march2000-owen ".

Handle System Architecture

The Handle System has a two-level hierarchical service model. The top level consists of a single global service, known as the Global Handle Registry. The lower level consists of all other handle services, which are generically known as local handle services. The global service is a handle service like any other and can be used to manage any handle namespace. It is unique among handle services only in that it provides the service used to manage the namespace of handle naming authorities, all of which are managed as handles. The state information of these naming authority handles is the service information that clients can use to access and utilize associated local services. The local handle service layer consists of all local handle services managing all handles under the relevant naming authorities, providing both resolution and administration services for these local names. Local services are intended to be hosted by organizations with administrative responsibility for the handles within the service or acting on behalf of the responsible organizations. The most convenient way to define local namespaces, and the most likely way to optimize overall Handle System performance, is by naming authority and it is anticipated that in most cases all handles under a given naming authority will be maintained by one service. This is not required, however, and it is possible for handles under a single naming authority to be split among multiple handle services. Handle services may be responsible for more than one naming authority. Another way of stating all of this is that the relation of handle naming authorities and handle services is allowed to be many-to-many in both directions, but that the relationship of naming authority to handle service is most likely to be one-to-one and that the relationship of handle service to naming authority is likely to be one-to-many.

A second important component of Handle System architecture is distribution. The Handle System as a whole consists of a number of individual handle services, each of which consists of one or more handle service sites, where each site replicates the complete individual handle service, at least for the purposes of handle resolution. Each handle service site in turn consists of one or more handle servers. There are no design limits on the total number of handle services which constitute the Handle System, there are no design limits on the number of sites which make up each service, and there are no limits on the number of servers which make up each site. Replication by site, within a service, does not require that each site contain the same number of servers, that is, while each site will have the same replicated set of handles, each site may allocate that set of handles across a different number of handle servers. This distributed approach is intended to aid scalability and to mitigate problems of single point failure.

Current Issues

A number of interesting and important issues have come to the fore over the last few years as a result of early use of the Handle System in library and publishing environments. Two particularly compelling issues are multiple resolution and the appropriate copy problem.

Multiple resolution. The Handle System has been designed to resolve handles into one or more pieces of current state data, each of which is fundamentally a type-value pair, e.g., a URL for content or an email address for contact information. The ability to resolve a single identifier into multiple typed values has several clear potential benefits. One is to identify multiple network locations for a single named entity, which has great potential for increasing network performance and robustness. A second potential benefit is go beyond the obvious single level of indirection for content and to use the identifier to link to other types of relevant current data, such as descriptive metadata, rights information, and so forth. The basic facility exists in the Handle System now, but there is not yet much use of this facility in client applications. As of the writing of this article (March 2000), however, a number of experiments and prototypes employing multiple resolution are under way or being discussed.

Appropriate copy. A second pressing issue has become known as the 'appropriate copy' problem. While there are many benefits to having a reliable global resolution system for globally unique identifiers, one problem is that all resolution questions yield the same answer and the same answer may not be appropriate in all cases. Consider the situation of an institution or enterprise holding a local copy of an electronic publication or other kind of digital object which is identified by a DOI or other kind of handle or global identifier. Unless the global resolution system contains all information on all local copies, arguably a poor idea and in any event one that seems unlikely, resolving the identifier in the global system will not yield a pointer to the local copy. This is clearly an issue of concern to both libraries and publishers and one that has generated a great deal of discussion over recent years. Whether this problem is most effectively solved with some local library system, some special purpose boundary layer mechanism, such as a proxy/cache, or in some other fashion remains to be seen. CNRI has been in discussion with the Digital Library Federation (DLF), individual publishers, the IDF, and CrossRef on this issue and it seems clear that one or more prototypes will be attempted in the coming months and years.

Conclusion

Deployment of the Handle System to date has served to confirm the basic design concepts, as described in this article, and significant progress has been made in understanding the complexities and issues involved in designing effective digital object naming and resolution systems. It is a large problem space, however, and a great deal of work remains in this area as well as many others as we attempt to navigate from the current world to one in which the primary sources of information are digital objects on networks.

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3. "CDNL/CENL ACTIVITIES WITH IDENTIFIERS"

by Titia VAN DER WERF, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, The Netherlands

CDNL (the Conference of Directors of National Libraries) formed a Task Force to investigate these issues and, a year later, endorsed the Principles and Recommendations issued by the Task Force. On recommendation by the Task Force, CDNL has assumed responsibility for the administration of the National Bibliography Number (NBN) namespace for national libraries. First steps are taken to establish a global identifier infrastructure for deposit collections in a networked environment. Within this global framework, national bibliography numbers are unique and can be resolved to access the associated bibliographic descriptions and the corresponding deposit items. NBNs than, can be used globally to access deposit collections around the world. CDNL still needs to address major organisational and technical implementation issues. The Task Force will continue working on these issues on a step by step basis.

CDNL Task Force on Persistent Identifiers

National Libraries are responsible for the long-term preservation and availability of publications and other documentary heritage. As they extend their deposit tasks to include the safekeeping of born-digital publications, National Libraries have a special interest in persistent identifiers for digital material. Persistent identifiers and their resolution to deposit locators in a networked environment are key to the long-term accessibility of deposit collections.

The issue was raised at CDNL (the Conference of Directors of National Libraries), which formed a Task Force consisting of representatives from the national libraries of Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Netherlands and the United States, with Winston Tabb from the Library of Congress as chair.

The Task Force met twice: once in Washington DC on April 28-30, 1999 and once in The Hague on March 23-24, 2000. In this session I will present the main results achieved by the Task Force to date and future directions.

National Libraries and their use of identifiers

National Libraries use identifiers in a variety of ways :

- to facilitate bibliographic control by acting as agents responsible for assigning ISBNs, ISSNs, ISMNs, etc.,
- to facilitate the distribution and control of the bibliographic and authority records they create by assigning identifiers to the records themselves such as the national bibliographic number (NBN),
- to facilitate the acquisition process of publications by using the publisher's or other identifiers for order handling,
- to support the local management of the deposit collections by using locally assigned shelf numbers or URLs.

In the networked digital environment the use of identifiers is changing because of the resolution functionality whereby the identifier serves as a locator. In this environment National Libraries are experimenting with new types of identifier usage :

- to facilitate direct end-user access to digitised collections by using an identifier assigned by the library as the producer of the digital image,
- to facilitate permanent access to networked resources made available by other content producers, for example by establishing PURL services or URN generators,
- to facilitate linking from the catalogue record describing a networked resource directly to the resource itself, for example by using URLs as hyperlinks in the catalogue,
- to facilitate citation to a networked resource that is also available in a deposit collection, by publishing last-resort URLs

New challenges posed by identifiers in a networked environment

Issues arising from these new application areas are related to more general problem areas encountered in other sectors as well, such as :

- granularity: the level of specificity required of the identifier to identify a digital object as a whole and/or its component parts and the relationship with the granularity of the corresponding description ;
- metadata: a fundamental relationship exists between identifiers and metadata. Which metadata is required to complement the function of identification? Distinctions between identifiers and metadata tend to become blurred as identifiers contain meaningful metadata (e.g. version information) and hyperlinks to catalogue entries are used to identify and locate digital objects.
- persistence of identifiers and persistence of resolution : this is mainly a responsibility issue. If national libraries are assuming responsibility for assigning and controlling persistent identifiers to digital objects made available by others, in how far should they also assume the responsibility for managing the associated resolution service? where does this responsibility end and where does the responsibility of the content provider for local URL management start?
- plurality of identifier systems: it is recognised that libraries will have to deal with digital objects that have been assigned different identifiers by different authorities. The various identifiers for a digital object will likely be dependent on different resolution services. In

order to ensure effective linking from the bibliographic description to the digital object, libraries will be dependent on the chain of interdependent technologies supporting the links, including the different resolution services and the integrity of the links between the identifiers and the current physical addresses of the object.

CDNL Guiding Principles on Identifier Systems

The CDNL Task Force on persistent identifiers has issued Guiding principles for the development of identifier systems. The principles were endorsed by the CDNL meeting during the previous IFLA conference in Bangkok. The CDNL "Principles" underline the need for an identifier infrastructure, such as emerging in the web publishing community, not only to support electronic commerce but also to facilitate access and retrieval of networked resources. The "Principles" stress that the international library community has a partnership role with content providers in establishing how the relationship between identifiers and metadata will evolve. They recognise the need for interoperable identifier systems within an architectural framework that "should be based on open, international standards and accessible to the broadest range of information providers without prejudice and within reasonable costs". In addition, "the identifier scheme should be in the public domain", and "the charges for assignment and administration of identifiers, if any, should be on a not-for-profit basis". Finally, the global resolution services should be universally accessible, as distinct from access to the resources identified which, it is recognised, may fall under a given access control regime. Last, but not least, the "Principles" recognise the responsibility of memory organisations, such as national libraries, "to provide last-resort resolution services for identifiers of cultural heritage resources".

CDNL will promote adherence to these principles at large. It has given its technical working group the mandate to:

- promote the development of standards for persistent identifiers and the supporting infrastructure for resolution services
- liaise with other parties engaged in these developments, particularly content producers and publishers, web-technology developers, such as the World Wide web Consortium (W3C) and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), and implementers such as the web-browser community.

CDNL establishes a shared URN namespace

On recommendation by the Task Force, CDNL has assumed responsibility for the administration of the National Bibliography Number (NBN) namespace for national libraries and designated the Library of Congress as its agent to act on its behalf as the registry for that shared namespace. Helsinki University Library, the National Library of Finland, is in the process to register the NBN as a URN namespace identifier with the IETF.

These first steps are taken to establish a global identifier infrastructure for deposit collections in a networked environment. Within this global framework, national bibliography numbers are unique and can be resolved to the associated bibliographic descriptions and the corresponding deposit items. NBNs than, can be used globally to access deposit collections around the world.

The concept of "National Bibliography Number" is generic and refers to a group of identifier systems used by national libraries for identification of deposit collection item descriptions and in some case also for identification of the corresponding deposit items. To date, each national library has used its own NBN string independently of other libraries, there has been no global authority to control the assignment of NBNs. For this reason NBNs are unique only on the national level.

To make the use of NBNs unique on a global scale it is proposed to add a prefix, which may be a country code or another code, registered with the NBN Prefix Registry at the Library of Congress.

Examples of NBNs used as URNs :

URN:NBN:fi-fe19981001 (a "real" URN assigned by the National Library of Finland.)

URN:NBN:LCCN2001000168 (a LCCN-based hypothetical URN assigned by the Library of Congress).

In addition to this, a global resolution system will have to be put in place to actually enable the use of NBNs as URNs. A NBN Resolution Service needs to be established, probably based on the existing Domain Name System (DNS) architecture, to re-direct a NBN to the resolution service identified by the NBN-prefix. From there on the NBN will be resolved at the national or local level of the organisation(s) involved. The final step in the resolution will take place at the level of the national bibliography database. This database contains the resource description and the URL to the actual resource in the deposit system.

This resolution system will rely heavily on the quality of service of each participating deposit library system. Best practice guidelines and promotional activities will be necessary to ensure large-scale deployment of this proposed NBN-as-URN mechanism.

CDNL still needs to address major organisational and technical implementation issues. The Task Force will continue working on these issues on a step by step basis.

Next steps

CDNL will promote the Guiding Principles and raise awareness within the library community of the need for an identifier infrastructure to facilitate access and retrieval of networked resources. It will promote liaison with other parties that can help progress the establishment of this identifier infrastructure. It has tasked its Task Force on Persistent Identifiers to proceed with the establishment of the NBN Namespace. The National Library of Finland will register the namespace and the Library of Congress will issue guidelines for the NBN SubPrefix Registry. The Task Force will look into issues concerning the maintenance of the integrity of the NBN and the management of URLs in library deposit systems.

All these steps, and more to come in the future, will help advance the establishment of a global identifier infrastructure for better access to deposit collections.

OPEN SESSION OF THE IFLA SECTION ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES

Jerusalem, 15 August 2000

“THE ROLE OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN IFLA CORE PROGRAMMES”

Chair : Winston TABB, chair of the Section on national libraries and member of the Executive board.

1. Introduction by the chair

W. TABB opened the session which is designed to get clarity on the role of national libraries in support of IFLA's core programmes and to move to a discussion of IFLA's draft professional priorities and how those might affect the content and structure of IFLA's core activities/programmes in the longer-term.

The presentation and discussion basis of the meeting was the report on “the future structures of IFLA's core activities” given hereafter in annex, drafted by Ross SHIMMON, IFLA Secretary general, and Sjoerd KOOPMAN, IFLA coordinator of professional activities, in June 2000.

2. History, background and near-term issues

2.1. Context,

by Derek LAW, IFLA treasurer and chair of the Working group on core programmes.

Some facts :

The present situation results from a shortage of revenues. Core programmes slightly detached from stream course of IFLA. Their budgets started exceeding IFLA total revenues since 1995 so that the fund reserves constituted for their purpose are exhausted in 2000. Meanwhile their work has expanded and continues to expand.

IFLA does not have the means to continue these programmes in their present form. However the core programmes are partly funded by cash contributions from certain national and university libraries ; moreover the same libraries for those hosting a programme and some other national libraries contribute substantially in kind but the cash contributions from the national libraries have decreased in recent years and the gap between the needs of the core programmes and the resources available has increased.

As regards the process :

Each year, the core programmes submit funding bids to the Secretary general who, jointly with the Treasurer, makes recommendations to the Executive board on what can be offered as part of the overall budget process.

But stronger constituency between Executive board, Professional board, Core programmes and Divisions, appears necessary for determining priorities and methods of operation and funding.

The questions :

- Should national libraries alone bear the cost?
- Should national libraries have a greater role in setting priorities?
- How do new programmes (CLM, FAIFE) begin?
- How do existing programmes end?
- What process should match income and expenditure?

2.2. Future structure of IFLA's core activities: proposals,

by Ross SHIMMON, IFLA Secretary General

When he took up his post as Secretary General, Ross SHIMMON was struck by the isolation of the core programmes among the overall professional activities of IFLA.

Issues of concern :

As soon as December 1998, the Working group on the Revision of statutes produced an interim report containing a number of issues of concern :

- regular reviews of the Core programmes
- more active support for the national libraries
- more flexible options
- ad hoc arrangements may be better
- further evaluations needed in relation of the needs of IFLA
- redefinition of IFLA's key professional priorities leading to a new concept of core activities

Current proposition :

There are seven core activities :

- ALP : advancement of librarianship (Uppsala University Library)
- CLM : copyright and other legal matters (British Library)
- FAIFE : freedom of access to information and freedom of expression (Department of Culture of the City of Copenhagen)
- PAC : preservation and conservation (Bibliothèque nationale de France)
- UAP : universal availability of publications (British Library)
- UBCIM : universal bibliographic control and international MARC (Deutsche Bibliothek)
- UDT : universal dataflow and telecommunications (National Library of Canada which hosts too IFLANET).

Among these seven, five are long established and have been designated Core programmes for many years, two are more recent (CLM and FAIFE) and referred to as core activities.

Finance :

- The financial aspects give rise to concern
- Contributions from the national libraries have decreased
- Higher transfers from IFLA to the core programmes
- Decrease in income greater than decrease in costs
 - ⇒ Action has to be taken

Proposals :

- Professional priorities: to be matched with the work of the core activities
- Advisory board: to be set up for each core activity
- Liaison officer: normally the core activity director, to liaise with IFLA HQ
- Three-year plan to be prepared by the core activity and approved by the Advisory board and the Governing board
- Finance :
 - ⇒ outlining the sources of support for the three-year plan
 - ⇒ targeting of sponsorship
 - ⇒ marketing the realizations
 - ⇒ feed back of reporting
- Formal agreements: to be signed for each core activity between the host institution and IFLA HQ for a three-year period
- Appeal for funds: to be launched towards a wide constituency (libraries, associations, funding agencies...) with possibility given of hypothecating financial contributions
- New core activities: allowed to be started by IFLA as much as new priorities are identified in a changing environment
- Feedback: to be offered to contributing libraries and hosts on the results of their contributions
- Host institutions' priorities: to be acknowledged in the use of their resources within the framework of IFLA core activities.

2.3. Responses,

by Wim VAN DRIMMELEN, vice-chair of the CDNL and chair of the CDNL "Group of Seven" set up in Bangkok in 1999.

On behalf of the Group of Seven, W. VAN DRIMMELEN considered the set of proposals presented by R. SHIMMON as a good set :

- core activities in accordance with the core priorities of IFLA,
- core activities continually balanced between continuity and flexibility,
- three-year plan with evaluation at the end,
- acknowledgement of the rights of the host institutions and formal agreements on allocation of their resources,
- widening the financial support of the core activities,
- more adequate information given on regular basis.

2.4. Discussion

The chair opened the discussion and gave the floor to those present.
From the discussion following, some main points emerged :

- determination of the priorities for each core activity,
- adequation of priorities and IFLA funding,
- widened financial support but earmarked funds corresponding to IFLA core priorities,
- more integration of the core activities into the overall professional activity of IFLA,
- help to developing countries put in a common line across all the priorities,
- strong support to legislations on unrestricted access to information and freedom of expression.

3. Long-term prospects

3.1. IFLA's professional priorities,

by Ralph MANNING, chair of IFLA Professional board.

R. MANNING explained how the “IFLA's professional priorities” have been prepared by the Professional board and how they will enable IFLA to reach more consistency in its work and to give more visibility to its objectives. These new priorities will be used as the main basis for the Federation's professional work over the next few years and all IFLA's professional groups (core activities, divisions, sections, round tables) will be requested to take them into account in developing their new medium-term programmes.

The final draft submitted to the participants contained eleven priorities (see page .. of this Newsletter), presented in the document without any order of priority, fulfilling the missions and pursuing the core values set out in the revised statutes of IFLA.

However, in the present changing environment, these priorities might be accomplished in the future in innovative ways.

3.2. Possible directions for the core programmes,

by Sally McCALLUM, former chair of IFLA Professional board.

S. McCALLUM gave a panel of proposals which are explored below :

Opportunities :

- technology offers new ways to deliver information and to collaborate,
- diversity brings along complementarity : practical support would come from volunteer staff from the sections and round tables while core activities would provide dedicated and capable staff,
- financing : sharing expenses between institutions and with external contributions.

New directions : core programmes will have to evolve towards core activity clusters that will focus on technology, access, development, preservation, freedom of information. Each of these activities has to be named with words and no longer with mere acronyms. Each core activity would continue to meet its traditional goal with respect to IFLA's professional priorities and simultaneously develop new area focus, some of them jointly with other core activities. The aim is to take into account electronic resources and the non-book media challenges, including copyright issues.

Sharing responsibility

The responsibility of a single core activity could be dispatched among several sites, focusing on the excellence of the different sites. Institutions in developed countries could trigger initiatives in developing regions. Other possibility : regional offices hosted by national or University libraries could serve multiple core activities.

The advantages to be expected are : a broader involvement, the support from more national libraries to smaller centers with contribution in kind and, more generally, a community mutual support. Sharing the load would bring more total potential.

Discussion arose from the floor. Among the comments, attention has been given to :

- the necessary links between core activities and professional priorities,
- a greater presence of IFLA in some geographical regions,
- the diversification of institutions contracting with IFLA for the accomplishment of its activities,
- the focus to put on the digital library developments.

In conclusion with the adoption of such proposals, IFLA core activities will be ready to answer the to-day needs and requests of the profession.



The Future Structure of IFLA's Core Activities

Introduction

The review of the IFLA core activities is part of the overall restructuring of the Federation. The objectives of the restructuring are:

- To realise the aim of IFLA to become a truly global federation in which its Members can take part, regardless of geographical location
- To establish IFLA as the advocate for the widespread provision of high quality library and information services of all types
- To ensure that effective use is made of the inevitably limited resources available
- To take advantage of modern methods of communication.

The revision of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure is the means by which these objectives are to be realised, along with the review of core activities.

The process so far

In December 1998, the Working Group on the Revision of the Statutes, chaired by Warren Horton, produced an interim report. The report contained a number of *Issues of Concern* relating to the established Core Programmes:

- Regular reviews of the Core Programmes were necessary, together with prioritising and assessment on a regular basis
- More active support from the National Libraries was desirable
- More flexible options and arrangements were needed
- The research activities could be built upon
- Ad hoc and task force arrangements may be better for some key priorities of IFLA
- Further evaluations of the Core programmes were needed in relation to the needs of IFLA
- A redefinition of IFLA's key professional priorities could lead to a new concept of core activities, which would match closely the Medium Term Programme.

In December 1998, the Executive Board decided to form a working group to review the core activities. The group was asked to evaluate the core activities, assess their efforts, match the results against the needs of IFLA and to make recommendations to the Executive Board. The working group consisted of: Derek Law (chair), Lis Byberg, Kay Raseroka, Winston Tabb, and Sjoerd Koopman.

The group considered a number of options. They were recorded in an earlier report 'Evaluation of IFLA's Core Programmes' of July 1999.

In March 1999, a meeting was held in The Hague between the Directors of the Core Programmes and the members of the Professional Board, including the working group. The meeting was held in the context of the overall restructuring of IFLA. The Directors were asked to give their opinions on the positive and negative aspects of the current position of the Core programmes within IFLA.

The following points emerged:

- Relations with IFLA HQ were good, communication was effective and contacts frequent
- Relations with Sections were sometimes problematic, caused by misunderstandings between elected members and the permanent Core Programme staff
- Well-understood mechanisms for reporting and determining priorities were needed
- The Core Programmes could be viewed as the research arms of IFLA, calling for a stronger link between the Core Programmes and IFLA HQ
- Relations with the host libraries were crucial, providing substantial financial and "in-kind" support
- Specific circumstances applied to each Core programme.

Meetings with the Directors of the Core Programmes, Directors of the host libraries and with the Committee of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) were held during the IFLA General Conference in Bangkok in August 1999.

Subsequently the CDNL set up a "Group of Seven" to liaise with IFLA HQ on the review. Wim van Drimmelen, Director of the Royal Library in The Hague, chairs the Group of seven.

Sjoerd Koopman and Ross Shimmon have held three meetings with Mr. van Drimmelen and Gerard van Trier, also of the Royal Library, to discuss ideas and progress on the review.

Ross Shimmon has visited the British Library (UAP and CLM), the Bibliothèque nationale de France (PAC), the Deutsche Bibliothek (UBCIM), Uppsala University (ALP) and the Department of Culture, City of Copenhagen (FAIFE). In each case he met the core activity Director and staff and in most cases he also met the Director of the host institution. He plans to visit the National Library of Canada (UDT) in 2000.

An earlier version of this report, dated April 2000, was sent to Mr. van Drimmelen for distribution to the CDNL Group of Seven. The responses received have been considered and many of the suggestions have been incorporated into this report.

This report is intended to serve as a discussion document for the Executive and Professional Boards of IFLA, the core activities Directors, the host institutions and the CDNL Group of Seven.

The Current Position

There are seven core activities:

*ALP Advancement of Librarianship

CLM	Copyright and other Legal Matters
FAIFE	Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression
*PAC	Preservation and Conservation
*UAP	Universal Availability of Publications
*UBCIM	Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC
*UDT	Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications

A description of each of them appears in **Annex I**

Five of the seven are long established and have been designated Core Programmes for many years. They are indicated by an asterisk in the above list.

The other two are more recent. The seven are, for the purposes of this report, referred to as the IFLA core activities.

National Libraries host five of the core activities: the Bibliothèque nationale de France (PAC), the British Library (CLM and UAP), the Deutsche Bibliothek (UBCIM) and the National Library of Canada (UDT). ALP is hosted by the Uppsala University Library, Sweden. The Department of Culture of the City of Copenhagen hosts FAIFE. In addition, the Royal Library in The Hague, the Netherlands hosts IFLA headquarters.

PAC also has six regional centres hosted by the National Diet Library, Tokyo, the Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, the Bibliotheca Nacional de Venezuela, Caracas, the National Library of Australia, Canberra, and the Library of Congress, Washington. A full list is given in **Annex I**.

UDT, in addition to its professional programme, administers IFLANET. IFLANET has become an essential tool in the overall management of IFLA. IFLA is grateful to the National Library of Canada for providing this essential facility for us. In addition to a financial contribution to UDT from the Core Programme Fund, a sum is provided annually from the IFLA core budget, specifically for IFLANET. IFLA has grown highly dependent for its work on IFLANET, to the extent that it is now an essential tool. If circumstances arose in which the National Library of Canada was no longer able to host it, an alternative would have to be found.

The support supplied by the host institutions varies, but is substantial in all cases, usually consisting of office accommodation, infrastructure and in some cases a proportion of the staffing and other services. Without this support, there is no doubt that IFLA could not continue its work on anything like the present scale.

Finance

The financial aspects of the core activities give rise to concern and, even if there were no other reason for a review, action would have to be taken.

A core programmes fund was established some years ago, to supplement the resources provided by the host institutions. About 20 National libraries have contributed to this fund. A few, such as the national libraries of Australia, Canada and Japan make substantial contributions. It is noteworthy in this context that the leadership of several significant national library hosts and contributors has changed recently (e.g. Australia, Canada, France, Germany, UK). The core programmes have also received income from the sale of products and from external funding agencies such as UNESCO. In former years, when the total received annually from the national

libraries exceeded the needs of the core programmes, significant reserves were built up. These reserves were held in interest bearing accounts.

However, the contributions from the national libraries have steadily decreased in recent years. Over the same period the gap between the amount required by each core programme and the resources available from their own resources and that of the host institutions has steadily increased. The result has been that the reserves have been eroded.

In a study by IFLA's auditors, carried out in May 1999, an analysis was made of the significant decrease in the core programmes reserve which took place in 1998. The main reasons identified were:

- Lower contributions from national libraries
- Higher transfers from IFLA to the core programmes
- Lower income from external sources to ALP
- Decrease in income greater than decrease in costs
- Unfavourable exchange rate fluctuations

Annex II provides an overview of the budgets of the five core programmes from 1993-2000.

The contributions to the core programmes authorised by the Executive Board in December 1999 for the fiscal year 2000 exhausted the remaining reserves. In future therefore, the only money available from IFLA central funds will be whatever national and other libraries contribute to the Core programme fund, currently running at about NLG 190,000 (USD 83,000) annually and from the IFLA central budget. That budget shows no surplus at all on the predicted income and expenditure for 2000. Unless there is significant change in the financial picture, the total amount available from central funds for all the core activities will fall from NLG 330,000 (USD 145,000) in 2000 to approximately NLG 190,000 (USD 83,000) in 2001.

Annex III shows the contributions made by national libraries to the core Programmes from 1991-1999

It must also be borne in mind that all seven core activities will have a claim on funds from central sources for the first time in 2001. The initial money made available from the Danish government and other Danish sources to establish FAIFE runs out in July 2000. A bid has been made to three Scandinavian aid agencies for the five years 2000/1 to 2004/5. In order to lever the sums required, a financial commitment is likely to be required from IFLA. This has been estimated provisionally at NLG 60,000 annually from 2001/2. It would represent NLG 30,000 in IFLA's fiscal year 2001. There is no guarantee that the funding requested from the aid agencies will materialise.

Annex IV shows the graphical overview of the budgets of the five core programmes from 1993-2000.

Proposals

In the light of the situation outlined above, the following proposals are put forward for the consideration of the Executive and Professional Boards, the Directors of the core activities, the CDNL Group of Seven, the directors of the host institutions and directors of national libraries.

1 Professional priorities :

As part of the overall restructuring of the Federation, the Professional Board is identifying the professional priorities for IFLA. These priorities will be fed into the next Medium Term Programme (MTP) starting in 2002. These should be discussed with the directors of the core activities and the directors of the host institutions to ensure a good match between the work of the core activities and the aims of the MTP, including the priorities of IFLA Section A system to ensure a thorough review of the work of each core activity should be put in place.

2 Advisory Board :

Each core activity should have a small Advisory Board of no more than 5 people, jointly selected by the proposed Governing Board of IFLA and the host institution. The Board would include people with significant expertise in the fields covered by the Core Activity.

The relationship with relevant IFLA sections should also be a consideration in determining the composition of the Board. External experts would be eligible to serve on these boards. A member of the IFLA Governing Board would chair these Advisory Boards. The current proposals for the revision of the IFLA Statutes provide for a number of co-opted places to facilitate this arrangement.

The Advisory Board would, as its name suggests, act in an advisory capacity to determine priorities and could act as an advocate for its core activity to solicit financial and other support as necessary.

In the case of CLM and FAIFE, a small subgroup of the existing committees would form the core of the Advisory Group.

It is envisaged that the business of the Advisory Groups would largely take place by e-mail rather than in face-to-face meetings.

3 Liaison Officer :

Each core activity would designate a liaison officer, selected jointly by IFLA and the host institution, to liaise with IFLA HQ. It is expected that the liaison officer would normally be the core activity director. The liaison officer would report to the Coordinator of Professional Activities on programmatic matters and to the Secretary General and the Director of the host library on managerial and financial issues.

4 Three Year Plan :

Each core activity would be requested to prepare an initial three-year plan, starting with the calendar year 2001, to be agreed between the core activity, the host institution and the Professional Board. This plan would outline the work priorities for the period, the sources of support and a method of evaluation. Flexibility would need to be built in to allow for the uncertainty of external funding, for example, from foundations. The plan may have to be modified to take account of definitive budget, which would continue to be decided on an annual basis.

5 Finance :

Such plans would have to assume a level of funding from central IFLA sources no greater than two-thirds of the amount received for the fiscal year 2000.

6 Formal Agreement :

Each core activity would be subject to a formal agreement between the host institution and IFLA HQ, preferably for a three-year period. Although the agreements would be capable of renewal by agreement between the parties concerned, there would be no guarantee of continuation beyond the initial three years.

7 Appeal for Funds :

An appeal should be launched to seek an increased level of support for the core activities. It should take the form of a prospectus outlining the achievements of the core activities and the planned activities for the next three year period, stressing the benefits accruing from the work of the core activities. It should be possible to “hypothecate” financial contributions; that is, a contributing library should be able to indicate a preference for the use of their money. For example, a national library in central or Eastern Europe able to contribute may wish to indicate that the money should be used to help maintain Unimarc. It could extend to the identification of particular projects or initiatives and the funding of, for example, the Regional centres of PAC. This, together with the advocacy role of the Advisory Groups, would introduce an element of market forces into the determination of future priorities. Those which can attract the resources, will prosper. It is clearly impossible to guarantee indefinitely the future of those which are unable to attract sufficient resources in total to sustain them. On the other hand there may be a need for continuity, even if market forces fail to provide for the necessary funding. The Governing Board would also be influential to the extent that it could deploy resources, which had not been hypothecated in this way, for instance to guarantee continuity when funding is temporarily lacking. The commitment of the host institutions would continue to be crucial.

This appeal should be made to a wide constituency, including national libraries, large public and university libraries, library associations and funding agencies as appropriate. It would extend to in kind contributions as well as funding.

8 New Core Activities :

The possibility of new core activities starting up should be allowed for. IFLA may decide to enter into contracts with existing core programmes or with other organizations to deliver new priorities identified over time.

9 Feedback :

It is important that contributing libraries are satisfied that their contributions are being used to good effect. Improved feedback on the result of their contributions and increased recognition on the result of their contributions will be offered to contributing libraries and, of course, to the hosts. As part of this process, each core activity should provide each contributing library with a copy of each publication produced during the funding period.

Regular performance reporting will be provided.

10 Host Institutions' Priorities :

IFLA should continue to acknowledge the right of the national libraries and other host institutions to determine the priorities in the use of their resources including their staff, within the terms of the agreements under which the core activities operate. Any conflicts which arise should be resolved at a meeting between representatives of IFLA, the Host Library and the core activity.

Sjoerd Koopman
Ross Shimmon
June 2000

Annexes follow

Annex I : Brief description of the core activities

ALP - Advancement of Librarianship

The ALP Programme was launched in 1990 at the IFLA Conference in Stockholm. Its mission is to further the library profession in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Within these areas the Medium Term Programme goals are to assist in continuing education and training; to support the development of library associations; to promote the establishment of library and information services to the general public, including the promotion of literacy and to introduce new technology to library services. Unlike the other, more subject-oriented, Core Programmes, ALP concentrates on issues which are of vital importance for the developing countries and which do not always fall within the other's responsibilities.

A distinctive feature of ALP's work in recent years has been the administration of the DANIDA grants which enable Third World librarians attend IFLA general conferences.

ALP is housed in the University Library of Uppsala (Sweden). There is no contract between that institution and IFLA. The University Librarian of Uppsala has confirmed the university's willingness to host ALP for another 7 years. IFLA has accepted this generous offer. There are at present 3 staff members (1 full time Programme Director, 2 part time officers).

Total income in 1999 was SEK 4,179,808 (USD 466,842). The contribution of NLG 50,000 from the IFLA Core Programme fund was less than 5 %.

CLM - Copyright and other Legal Matters

Copyright has become a vital issue for libraries worldwide. IFLA's Copyright and other Legal Matters Committee (CLM) aims to ensure that the voice of the profession and, more importantly, of the users of libraries, are heard in the international arenas determining copyright legislation.

This is a new core activity, established in 1997. It is chaired by the former Director of the National Library of Canada. Its secretariat is based at the British Library, Boston Spa, under the direction of the Programme Director, UAP.

In 1999 it received NLG 9,000 (USD 3,950) from IFLA central funds.

FAIFE – Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression

The Office of Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) furthers the cause by monitoring the state of intellectual freedom in different countries, working with other agencies and responding on IFLA's behalf to violations of principles.

The FAIFE programme was established in 1997. The FAIFE office was set up in 1998, based in the Department of Culture, the City of Copenhagen. It has a Director and a Deputy Director.

It received initial two-year funding from the Danish government, the City of Copenhagen and the Danish library community. This funding expires in July 2000. An application has been made for funding for a further five years to the Scandinavian aid agencies Danida, NORAD and Sida. The total requested amounts to DEK 1,825,000 annually. The balance of the total estimated annual budget of DEK 2,225,000 (USD 288,000) would be met by Danish LA's (DEK 50,000), Nordic

LA's (DEK 50,000), other LA's (DEK50,000) and IFLA (DEK 200,000) (USD 26,000). IFLA's contribution would begin in the Danish fiscal year 2001/2. DEK100,000 (USD 13,000) would therefore be required in IFLA's fiscal year 2001. FAIFE has not received any funds from IFLA sources so far.

PAC - Preservation and Conservation

PAC was launched in Vienna during the 1986 conference on the Preservation of Library Materials sponsored by the Conference of Directors of national Libraries (CDNL), IFLA and UNESCO.

PAC deals with all aspects (including research, education, training, publicity) of preservation and conservation of library materials.

PAC and its Regional Centres

In order to realise its objectives it was decided to share the responsibility within a network of cooperating institutions (PAC Regional Centres), whose activities are coordinated by the International Centre in Paris. Each library hosting a Regional Centre, agrees to take part in the activities of the PAC Core Programme, and to attempt to work in close cooperation with other institutions and organisations with similar aims in its own country and in the region. Each Regional Centre is responsible for funding its own regional activities. It may solicit and receive funds for special projects or activities from a variety of source including IFLA. Grants from any institution, foundation or individual may support a specific activity wholly or partially.

The activities of the Regional Centres are defined by the directors in consultation with the director of the programme.

The Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris has hosted the International Centre since 1992.

There are six Regional Centres : Asia, hosted by the National Diet Library, Tokyo; Eastern Europe and the CIS, at the Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow ; Western Europe, Africa and the Middle East, at Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris ; Latin America and the Caribbean, at the Biblioteca Nacional de Venezuela ; South East Asia and the Pacific, at the National Library of Australia, Canberra ; and USA and Canada, at the Library of Congress, Washington.

At present there are 3 staff members in Paris (1 full time Programme Director, 1 officer and a secretary). Since 1997 there has been a contract between the BnF and IFLA regarding the hosting of PAC, for a period of 3 years. A one-year extension has just been agreed pending this review. Under this contract a joint budget has to be agreed on annually. Expenses for the management of the programme are shared between IFLA and the BnF. Each library hosting a Regional Centre supports its own management expenses and activities. Complementary funding is sought for special projects and activities.

The total estimated income for 1999 was FF 776,000 (USD 114,000). The contribution from the IFLA Core Programme Fund was NLG 77,326 (USD 34,000).

UAP – Universal Availability of Publications.

UAP is both an objective and a programme. The objective is the widest possible availability to users of published material issued for public use, wherever and whenever they need it and in the format required. Published materials include not only printed matter, including grey literature, but audiovisual materials and publications recorded in electronic (digital or analogue) form. UAP

aims to improve availability at all levels, from the local to the international, and at all stages, from the publication of new material to the retention of last copies, both by positive action and the removal of barriers. UAP aims to ensure that improved access to information on publications is matched by improved access to the publications themselves.

The British Library (BL) hosts the UAP office at Boston Spa. That is also the base of the IFLA Office for International Lending, which aims to further and improve international lending by:

- Giving practical support to those engaged in international lending
- Collecting and publicising information of interest to those concerned with international lending
- Conducting and encouraging research and study of relevance to international lending

There is no contract between BL and IFLA, although the outgoing Chief Executive of the British Library is keen to complete a formal agreement before he departs in May 2000. The staff of UAP and the Office for International Lending consists of a full-time Director and five part-time staff. (See also CLM).

The total estimated income for 1999 was GBP 51,900 (USD 83,000). The contribution from the IFLA Core Programme Fund was NLG 50,000 (USD 22,000).

UBCIM - Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC

The purpose of the UBCIM is to coordinate activities aimed at the development of systems and standards for bibliographic control at the national level and the international exchange of bibliographic data, maintenance of bibliographic and format standards, and acting as clearing house for information on all IFLA endeavours in these fields. It promotes the UNIMARC format and coordinates its development and maintenance by a group of experts, the Permanent UNIMARC Committee. Seminars are organised for training and dissemination purposes. The programme publishes project reports related to international bibliographic and format standards and proceedings of relevant meetings and seminars.

After having been based at the British Library for many years, this Programme is now hosted by the Deutsche Bibliothek (DDB) at Frankfurt. There is no contract between DDB and IFLA. There is a Programme Director and a Programme Assistant.

The total estimated income for 1999 was DEM 378,000 (USD 186,000). The contribution from the IFLA Core Programme Fund was NLG 55,000 (USD 24,100).

UDT - Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications

UDT seeks to facilitate the international and national exchange of electronic data by providing the library community with pragmatic approaches to resource sharing. The programme monitors and promotes the use of relevant standards, promotes the use of relevant technologies and monitors relevant policy issues in order to overcome barriers to the electronic transfer of data.

Nowadays the work of the UDT Programme, which is hosted at the National Library of Canada (NLC), concentrates highly on the further development and maintenance of the electronic services of IFLANET. This includes many organisational and technical aspects of extending, promoting and integrating the use of IFLANET into the activities of IFLA/HQ and all IFLA Professional Groups. IFLA has grown highly dependent for its work on IFLANET, to the extent that it is now an essential tool. If circumstances arose in which the National Library of Canada was no longer able to host it, an alternative would have to be found.

There is no agreement between NLC and IFLA regarding UDT. There is a Programme Director, a Programme Officer and several part time staff members.

The total estimated budget for 1999 was CND 161,500 (USD 111,000). The contribution from the IFLA Core Programme Fund was NLG 50,000 (USD 21,900). In addition, NLG 40,000 (USD 17,500) was provided from IFLA central funds to support IFLANET.

NOTE: The above figures can only give a rough indication of the sums involved. No attempt has been made to place a value on the significant and generous support provided by the host libraries and institutions. In addition, several of the core activities receive significant income from the sales of publications and research grants from external agencies.

**CORE PROGRAMME
BUDGETS 1993-2000
In Dutch Guilders**

ANNEX II

(Status: 08/03/2000)

	ALP	PAC	UAP	UBCIM	UDT	Total	Funding received			
Requested 1993	12,000	72,000	56,200	56,000	26,300	222,500				
Allocated 1993	12,000	49,913	50,600	50,400	26,300	189,213	205,371			
Requested 1994	46,340	65,380	62,000	56,100	33,600	263,420				
Allocated 1994	32,000	66,000	50,600	50,400	26,300	225,300	181,673			
Requested 1995	28,212	65,270	58,788	61,600	35,456	249,326				
Allocated 1995	20,000	65,270	50,600	50,400	35,456	221,726	156,859			
Requested 1996	25,000	65,270	44,640	69,400	72,590	276,900				
Allocated 1996	25,000 25,000 (extra)	65,270	44,640	50,400	35,456 20,640 (extra budg.) 30,000 (HQ)	245,766	296,536 (Incl. HQ. Contr. from '96) 50K			
Requested 1997	53,592	83,350	60,018	84,116	46,344	327,420				
Allocated 1997	50,000	76,774	44,640	50,400	46,344 20,640 (extra budg.) 35,000 (HQ)	268,158	239,882 (Incl. HQ. Contr. from '97) 35K			
Requested 1998	54,200	83,350	76,705	103,675	92,672	410,602				
Allocated 1998	50,000	77,326	50,000 9,000 (HQ CLM)	55,000	37,000 21,000 (extra budg.) 35,000 (HQ)	269,326	226,615 (Incl. HQ. Contr. from '98) 35K			
Requested 1999	52,773	80,736	69,324	103,740	93,223	399,796				
Allocated 1999	50,000	77,326	50,000 9,000 (HQ CLM)	55,000	50,000 40,000 (HQ)	282,326	240,273 (Incl. HQ. Contr. from '99) 40K			
Requested 2000	52,773	80,736	69,324	103,740	116,245	422,818				
Proposed Allocation 2000	55,000	77,000	55,000	50,000	100,000	337,000				
CONTRIBUTORS	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	ANNEX III

to the IFLA Core Programmes

	NLG	NLG	NLG	NLG	NLG	NLG	NLG	NLG	NLG
Australia, National Library	29,994	27,602	32,840	32,248	27,428	33,572	36,544	27,970	32,619
Belgium, Min. of Nat. Ed.	3,825	3,907	3,907	3,443	3,443	0	3,442	3,000	3,000
Canada, National Library*	18,568	16,529	16,271	14,072	12,505	13,737	16,144	15,046	16,068
Denmark, Royal Library	2,894	2,906	2,906	2,840	3,368	3,523	3,740	3,865	4,448
Finland, Helsinki U. L.	7,462	6,592	5,289	5,345	5,811	5,830	6,002	5,902	5,920
France, National Library*	19,819	19,891	19,293	0	0	79,420	26,641	26,865	26,849
Germany, <i>Die Deutsche Bibliothek</i> *	22,542	22,506	22,499	22,415	22,397	22,390	22,495	22,518	22,535
Iceland, National Library	918	862	937	862	754	808	1,040	0	1,015
Japan, National Diet Library	45,268	45,268	45,268	45,268	45,268	45,267	45,267	45,267	45,268
Luxembourg, National Library	377	552	551	560	0	0	607	0	764
Netherlands, Royal Library**	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
New Zealand, National Library	2,163	1,715	0	2,009	0	2,238	2,184	2,185	2,185
Norway, National Library	0	3,420	3,871	3,820	3,752	3,936	4,002	3,979	4,047
Sri Lanka, National library	0	0	0	1,708	1,626	1,637	2,018	1,950	0
Sweden, Royal Library	6,085	6,213	4,903	4,492	0	5,095	5,112	5,055	5,099
Switzerland, National Library	3,956	3,646	3,830	3,932	4,020	4,050	4,016	4,013	4,086
Turkey, National Library	0	0	0	0	1,626	0	0	0	0
UK, Wales National Library	3,196	2,719	3,101	2,833	2,861	3,033	3,628	2,000	4,370
USA, Library of Congress	35,710	16,645	17,905	17,758	0	0	0	0	0
<i>IFLA Central budget</i> ***						50,000	35,000	35,000	40,000
Total Amounts Contributed	224,777	202,973	205,371	181,673	156,859	296,536	239,882	226,615	240,273

* Core Programme Hosts

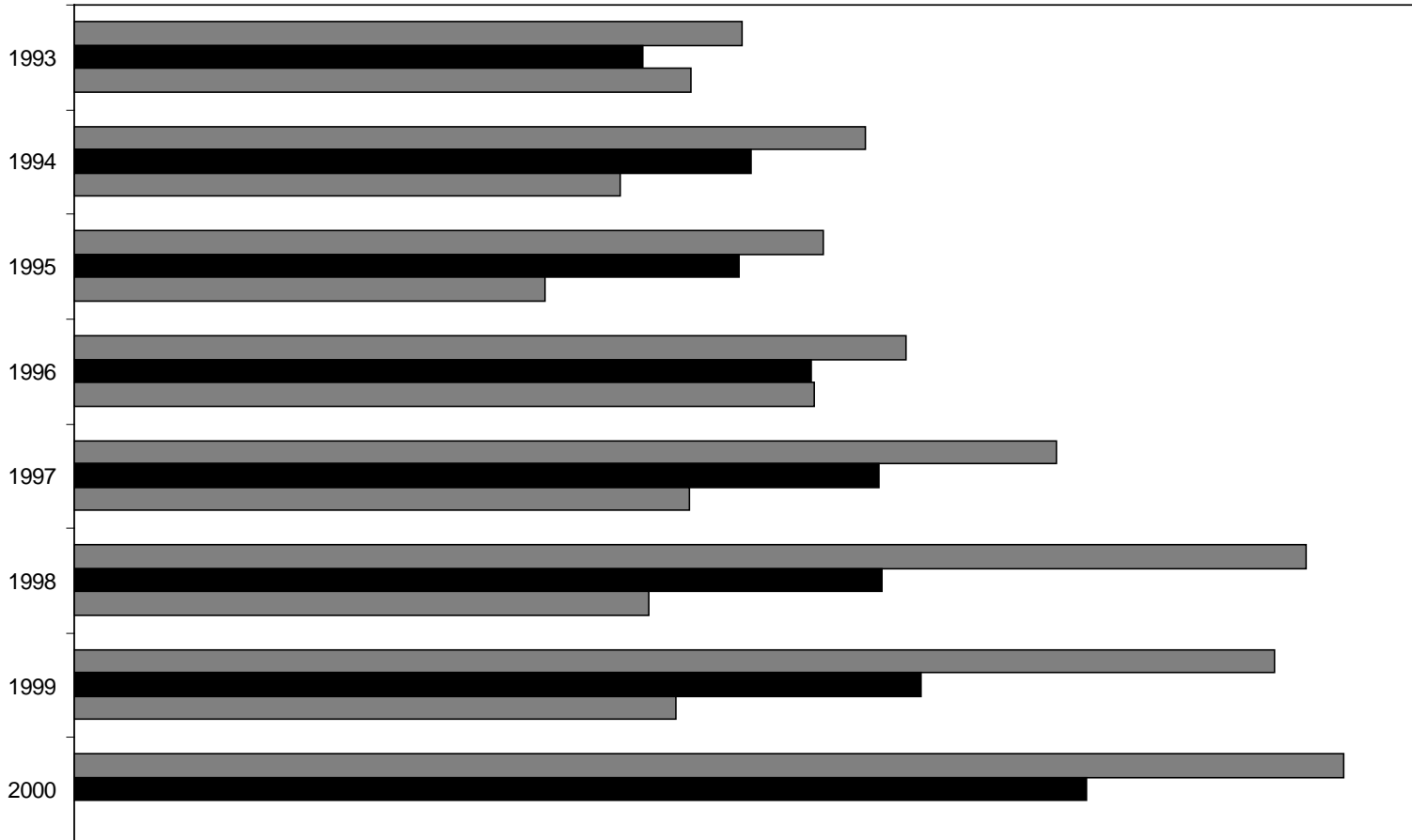
** IFLA HQ host

***In years when IFLA central budget is in surplus, funds have been transferred to the following year's Core Programmes fund.

ANNEX IV - Core Programme Budget 1993-2000

NLG

0 50,000 100,000 150,000 200,000 250,000 300,000 350,000 400,000 450,000



Requested Allocated Funding received

IFLA 67th CONFERENCE

BOSTON, 16-25 AUGUST 2001

1. Section for national libraries – Previsional agenda

As far as we know at the present time:

- A pre-conference organised by IFLA Division I (National libraries) and Division VI (Marketing and management), in collaboration with NELINET (New England library network) and the International coalition of library consortia (ICOLC), on “How library consortia internationally can make a difference for libraries”, will be held in Boston, at the Boston Public Library, on 16-17 August.
- The Standing Committee will meet on Saturday 18 August, 14.30-17.20 and Friday 24 August, 10.15-12.15 (cf. agenda in annex).

At the beginning of the SC I meeting, we will elect officers (chair and secretary) for the 2001-2003 term. Our present chair, Winston TABB will be finishing his term at the end of the last meeting in Boston and leaving the section.

- **Besides several working parties organised by our Section are planned :**
 - a half-day workshop, joint with Section on Management and marketing, on “Marketing national libraries”, Thursday 23 August, 8.30-12.30
 - a half-day workshop, joint with Section on Bibliography, on “What makes a good national bibliography even better? Current situation and future prospects”, Thursday 23 August, 13.30-17.30
- Other programme :

Guest lecture by Dr. James H. BILLINGTON, Librarian of Congress, Tuesday 21 August, 11.15-12.15

2. IFLA Council meetings

Two Council meetings will be held during the IFLA conference in Boston :

- on Sunday 19 August, 16.00-17.30,
- on Friday 24 August, 15.00-17.00.

ANNEX

National Libraries Standing Committee

A G E N D A

67th Council and General Conference, 2001

Boston, USA

Chair/Treasurer: Winston Tabb, USA

Secretary: Alix Chevallier, France

Standing Committee I: Saturday, August 18, 2001 14:30 - 17:30

1. Opening of the Meeting:
 - Introduction and Welcome to New Members
 - Registration of Members Present
 - Welcome and Introduction of Guests
 - Apologies
2. Adoption of Agendas for SC I And SC II
3. Approval of Minutes from Jerusalem Meetings
(as published in the section's July 2001 newsletter)
4. Election of Chair, 2001-2003
Election of Secretary, 2001-2003
«Only Standing Committee members present at [this] meeting who will be members of the Standing Committee during the 2001-2003 period have to right to vote and to be elected.»
5. Officers' Reports:
 - PB and Coordinating Board I
 - Financial Report
6. Review of Programs at Boston Conference
 - Thursday, August 23 , 8:30 - 12:30: «**Marketing National Libraries**»
Livia Borghetti and Ian McGowan
 - Thursday, August 23, 13:30 - 17:30: «**What makes a good national bibliography even better? Current situation and future prospects**»
Fernanda Campos and Marianne Scott
7. Strategy for Professional Activities (formerly Medium-Term Program)
8. Standing Committee Representation at IFLA Booth, Tuesday, August 21, 15:00 - 16:00
9. «Round Robin» discussion of current activities or issues and concerns in national libraries
10. Adjournment

Standing Committee II: Friday, August 24, 10:15 - 12:15

1. Opening of the Meeting
 - Registration of members present
 - Introduction of observers
 - Apologies
2. Review of Agenda
3. Program of the 68th Conference, Glasgow, August 18-24, 2002
 - «Libraries for Life, Democracy, Diversity, Delivery»

Program ideas: Digital Collections: selecting, acquiring, managing, providing access, preserving, rights management, legal deposit, cooperation (including cooperation among national libraries, museums and archives). At our Jerusalem meeting, the SC discussed the possibility of having an **open program** on this broad topic, and then a **workshop** (or workshops within a workshop focusing on the various stages in the life cycle management of digital objects).

Other topics suggested at previous meetings: statistics and performance measures; impact of technology on national libraries in developing countries; user needs and their impact on national libraries; collections security; capturing the web; selectivity of collecting for national libraries; legislation for national libraries

4. Evaluation of Boston Conference
5. Other Business
6. Introduction of New Chair
7. Adjournment

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LIBRARIES

Elections to the Standing Committee on National Libraries gave the following results. 11 nominations were received, 9 candidates were elected. Their terms will begin at the end of the Boston conference and continue through the 2005 conference.

- Current members elected to their second and final four-year term :
 - Fernanda CAMPOS (Portugal)
 - Steen Bille LARSEN (Denmark)
 - Tomas LIDMAN (Sweden)
 - Peter LOR(South Africa)

- New members :
 - John AARONS (Jamaica)
 - Carmen CARO (Spain)
 - R. RAMACHANDRAN (Singapore)
 - Vladimir ZAITSEV (Russia)
 - Baba ZAWIYAH (Malaysia)

The whole Section addresses its congratulations to the newly elected members and will be happy to welcome them in Boston.

SOME NEWS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIES IN THE WORLD

- Austria With effect from 1st June 2001, Ms Johanna RACHINGER has been appointed as the new director general of the National Library of Austria, owing to the retirement of Mr Hans MARTE.
- Benin Due to the departure of Mr Aubin Seth K. ODAH, former director, to the Central Bank of the West African States, Mr François DEGILA has been named director of the National Library of Benin.
- Canada
(Quebec) Due to the departure of Mr Philippe SAUVAGEAU, former president-director general, commissioned as director of the National Assembly of Quebec Library, in October 2000, Mr Jean-Guy THEORET is now acting as president-director general of the National Library of Quebec.
- Chad Mr Yaya Mahamat LIGUITA has been appointed director of the National Library of Tchad, owing to Mr Ponlibé Degaulle WAZOUMI's decease in September 2000.
- Liechtenstein Following the appointment as Government councillor of Mr Alois OSPELT, former director, Mr Meinrad BÜCHEL and Ms Barbara VOGT are acting jointly as directors of the National Library of Liechtenstein since 5 April 2001.
- Mauritania In April 2001, Mr Habib ould Mohameden OULD HAMDEITT has been commissioned as director of the National Library of Mauritania, succeeding Mr Mohamed Mahmoud OULD MOULOUD.
- Slovakia Following the law on libraries promulgated by the National Council of the Slovak Republic on 12 May 2000 and the constitution of the National Library of Slovakia by transfer from Matica slovenská, Mr Dušan KATUŠČÁK has been commissioned as director general of the National Library with effect from 8 November 2000.
- Spain Mr Luis RACIONERO GRAU, previously director of the Colegio de España in Paris, has been appointed as director general of the National Library of Spain in April 2001, succeeding Mr Jon JUARISTI who has been named director of the Cervantes Institute in Madrid.
- Switzerland After 7 years of reorganization and of important engineering and construction work, the Swiss National Library has inaugurated the reopening of its building, renovated and extended, on 8 June 2001, in the presence of the Swiss minister of Culture.
- Venezuela With effect from 21 January 2001, Ms Saadia SÁNCHEZ VEGAS has been appointed as director of the National Library of Venezuela, succeeding Mr Alfonso QUINTERO.

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June 2001

