



SCL News

SCL News

No. 54 Februari 2000

IFLA Section of Library Services for Children and Young Adults

Editorial

by: Elisabeth Lundgren

Welcome to the first newsletter of this millennium. As the new editor I would like to make a letter that brings you the latest news as well as aspects for the future; ideas, projects, discussions and inventions.

The main goal is naturally to bring you the latest reports from the IFLA children's section; annual report, minutes, and other important facts that involves our actions and output.

I spent the "rolling over" to the new millennium in Zimbabwe among nice rural people, elephants and lions.

Zimbabwe and other developing countries have lots of knowledge and experiences to share with the rest of the world. This issue contains materials from some of these countries. Glimpses from the Nordic countries are also included to enlighten similarities and differences. I am also very interested in all the important clues that you as readers and members could contribute with in the coming issues of the SCL News.



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Facilitator Somboon Singkhamanan receives a gift from the chairman John Dunne and Rita Schmitt, secretary, during the IFLA Bangkok meeting



Photo: Lars Aagaard

Annual Report 1999

IFLA Section of Library Services for Children and Young Adults

IFLA div. 3, Section 10

Scope

The Section's major purpose is to support the provision of the library service and reading promotion to children and young adults throughout the world.

Its main objectives are to promote co-operation in the fields of library services to children and young adults, and to encourage the exchange of experiences, as well as education, training and research in all aspects of this subject. The Section's concerns include the provision of library services to all children and young adults indifferent cultures and traditions, in co-operation with appropriate organisations, as well as to adults interaction with children and young adults.

Membership

Membership status July 1999: 114

Officers

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Meetings

Standing Committee – Bangkok August 1999
Number of Attendants: 14 members plus 10 observers

Projects

Books for all

Ongoing project in co-operation with UNESCO. Project leader: *Lioba Betten*. The project supports setting up libraries and library stock in developing countries by collecting money. The Advisory Committee, chaired by Susanne Kreuer, held one meeting during the Bangkok Conference and an evaluation of 5 years of the project was presented to the PB.

Children's Literature Abstracts

Ongoing project. Leader: *Gillian Adams*
Magazine containing abstracts of periodical articles on children's literature. The hand over of editorship is in progress.

International Research Abstracts: Youth Library Services (IRAYLS)

Ongoing project, Leader: *Adele Fasick*
A database containing abstracts of international publications on children's libraries. The database is available on floppy discs and on the Internet.

Publications

SCL Newsletter – one issue
“*Guidelines for library Services to Young adults*” – translations now available in Japanese, Russian and Portuguese (incorporated in other publications)
IRAYLS update on Internet and floppy disc.
“*Children's Literature Abstracts*”
– three issues per annum.

Conference Programme

The Open Session theme was Literacy development in Children's Library Services.
 Somboon Singkamanan – "Children's Library Services and Literacy in Thailand"
 Dr. Clara Chu – "Bridging te Literature Gap in Immigrant Communities"
 Professor Susanne Kreuger & Rita Schmitt – "Literacy and new technologies"

Attendance: 50
 No Interpretors requested.

Other events

Post-conference seminar on Informal Programmes to support Reading and Libraries in Developing Communities"
 Number of invited attendees: 25
 Publication – interim accounts in Bookbird (IBBY) spring 2000 and "The New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship", spring 2000. A more detailed report will be published later next year.

Action Plan 1998-1999
 Will be updated in the medium term programme 2000.

Current Swedish Expose

by: Elisabeth Lundgren

In Sweden, like in Norway, 5 million crowns every year will be set aside for reading promotion projects all over the country. Another countrywide project is Money for school libraries, to buy children's books - a promising future for the accessibility of books. But with books go methods. Good old traditional methods are used, of course, but there are also some very new ways to create interest in reading. The most interesting are about writing - the inverted reading. *Writers workshops* for children and young adults and *reading and writing clubs* in the libraries have created a rapidly increasing interest for reading and borrowing books. In my own community, Kungälv, we have developed *evening poetry workshops* for mentally disabled youngsters in the library; great successes. The "Open Media - Open learning", is another method in some swedish libraries where electronic media is optimally used to help those who are blind, handicapped or illiterate to develop their reading and writing abilities. Books for new born children, "*The Book Bear*" and other ways of bringing books to children and parents are also good ways to create sustainable interest in reading. CD-ROMs, Internet, and the whole field of electronic possibilities, are naturally in focus, and some libraries have created interactive websites for children's reading interests; book reviews, letters to authors, writing together with others and so on.

In the Swedish Government's Budget Proposal 2000, school libraries are specifically mentioned as *the most important tools for leaning by research and promoting literacy*. That means that a 25 year long lobby struggle by school- and children's librarians to give Swedish school libraries their right status have been successful.



The Standing Committee during break in the Bangkok sun 1999
 Standing from the left: *Ivanka Stricevic, Elga Kavadias, Kathy East, Viviane Ezratty, Kuniko Kameda Geneviève Patte, Elisabeth Lundgren, Rita Schmitt, John Dunne, Olga N. Mäeots, Susanne Krueger and Barbara Frohling Immroth. Leikny Haga Hildegaard was unfortunately not present at the moment.*

Photo: Lars Aagaard

**IFLA-Section of Libraries for Children and
Young Adults
Minutes****65th IFLA Conference, Bangkok, Thailand****Dates:**

Standing Committee I - Saturday, 21 august,
9.00 - 11.50

Standing Committee II - Friday, 27 august,
10.30 - 12.20

Present:

Lars Aagaard (2), John Dunne (2), Kathy East
(2), Viviane Ezratty (2), Rita Schmitt (2), Bar-
bara Froling Immroth (2), Leikny Haga
Indergaard (2), Elga Kavadias (2), Susanne
Krueger (2), Kuniko Kameda (2), Elisabeth
Lundgren (2), Olga N. Mäeots (2), Ivanka
Stricevic (1), Geneviève Patte (2)

Observers: 10

1. Welcomes

John welcomed all new and ongoing members
of the SC and the guests

2. Apologies

Ivanca can participate only at the 2nd SC-
meeting

Lars Aagaard will replace Bente Buchhave in
the SC, who has resigned her membership

**3. Conference schedule and programme of
meetings**

The Open Session of the SC takes place at
wednesday aug. 25th, 15:30 - 17:50 h

All SC members must be present

IFLA-Booth: time slot for SC also on
wednesday aug. 25th, 11:00 - 12:00 h

Advisory Board "Books for All" also on
wednesday aug. 25th, 9:00 - 11:00 h

**6. Chair's report**

See John's report in the Section Newsletter
from aug. 10th, 1999

7. Financial report

Budget 1998: See John's Financial Report (ap-
pendix)

Budget 1999: Contains project money for the
post-conference seminar "Informal Reading
Services in Developing Countries" and the
printing of the conference papers

8. Information Officer's report

There has been published only one Newsletter
during the year

The Section has 114 members

Future plans for the Section-Newsletter:
should be published twice a year (may and no-
vember); content-orientated, no administrative
information; publication of national reports; to
be published on IFLA-Net;
a discussion group should be installed

**9. Elections: Chair, Secretary, Information
Officer**

Chair: John Dunne, UK

Secretary: Rita Schmitt, Germany

Information Officer: Elisabeth Lundgren,
Sweden

10. Medium Term Programme 1999 - 2001***Education and training guidelines***

Susanne presents a first approach to
competencies for children's librarians. It dates
from a German workshop on Education and
Training issues, which took place in Stuttgart
in June 1999. The papers characterize
necessary competencies / skills / qualifications
of children's librarians and can be taken as a
starting point for the development of IFLA-
Guidelines.

Next step: comments to the papers and reports
from national levels are required now. Please
send them to Susanne by the end of December
1999 latest.

The target group of the guidelines has to be
defined. John and Rita have to clarify, if the
guidelines can be UNESCO-Guidelines as well.

Minutes continuing:

10:

Working group: Susanne, Barbara, (Elga), Rita
The target is to present a draft document in the year 2000

Please note the American (ALSC) guidelines:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/competencies.html>

Additional topics:

Revision of the IFLA-Guidelines for Children's Services

Rita and John present a list of headings / chapters for revised guidelines. We suggest, that SC members must choose a chapter and prepare a draft for the midwinter meeting.

A halfday workshop on the draft will be held during the Jerusalem conference

The Guidelines must refer to existing IFLA-Guidelines (YA, Deaf, Public Libraries, and others). Geneviève underlines the necessity to involve the needs of the developing countries into the new guidelines —> at least early invitation to members of IFLA Div. VIII to the workshop!

Timetable for the new guidelines:

1. Decision for a chapter until christmas 1999
2. Draft for the chapters before the midwinter meeting
3. Discussion of the drafts at the midwinter meeting in march 2000
4. Final draft of the whole guidelines by the end of june 2000
5. Halfday workshop at the Jerusalem conference
6. Final version by december 2000
7. Presentation to the Coordinating Board and Professional Board in march 2001 for approval
8. Publishing for the Conference in 2001

*Ideas, ideas,
where can I get them?
- of course, from practice,
my own and others!*



Toy Libraries:

Marie Faulkner presents her paper which has been distributed to all SC members before. She sums up five points, which from her point of view are essential for further discussion. Lars proposes to consider the topic within the broader context of early language development and to include it into the Action Plan of our Medium Term Programme

11. Budget 2000 - proposals for Project Money

The Section asks for 10.000 NLG (PB money) for the satellite meeting in Holon / Israel.

12. Reports

- *Books for All (Susanne Krueger)*

Susanne reports from the recent developments and the Advisory Board meeting.

The SC agrees to be the further host for the project.

- *Post-conference seminar: Informal programmes to support reading and libraries in developing communities (Geneviève Patte / Somboon Singkamanan)*

Geneviève gives a short report about the seminar which will take place directly after the main conference (aug 30th to sept 2nd). Judith Elkin (UK) will sum up the results of the conference for publication.

A report on the seminar from Adèle Fasick is now available. It will be published in "Book bird"

- *CLA/IRALYS (Adèle Fasick)*

Adèle reports; a written report from Gillian Adams will be published in the Newsletter; the transition of the editorship to Sue Easun is on its way

- *OPAC-Guidelines (Rita Schmitt)*

Rita reports that she does not follow the discussion in the Guidelines group any more because it is very specialised. Aspects of children's access to OPACs will not be part of the guidelines.

- *Copyright / legal matters (in response to the letter from Graham Cornish)*

John reports that there is a new IFLA Committee on copyright and legal matters

More minutes:

13. Publicity materials for the section

• *Section leaflet*

Elisabeth distributes a draft for a new section leaflet; comments are welcome, but should come immediately

• *Homepage*

Must be updated

• *YA-Guidelines - translations*

Translation of the Japanese version is ready, Portuguese and Dutch translations are in progress; it is not clear if a Spanish translation is coming

There is money left for reprints of already translated versions

14. Conference planning

• *SC Midwinter meeting spring 2000*

Rita's proposal for a midwinter meeting in Berlin has been accepted; as some of the SC members are interested in a visit at the Leipzig Book Fair which takes place March 23 - 26, 2000 the midwinter meeting could be organized at March 23 - 24 (Thursday and Friday) to offer the opportunity to visit the Book Fair at Leipzig on Saturday, March 25th

• *Main conference Jerusalem 2000*

A working group has outlined the following proposal for the Section's Open Session in Jerusalem:

*Children's Libraries and Literature in Israel

*Publishing for Children - the Israeli experience

*Jewish heritage in different countries

• *Satellite Meeting together with the Multicultural Section on "Multicultural services for Children and Young Adults"*

John presents the proposal from the Multicultural Section; the SC opts for Holon / Israel as conference venue, and against Amman / Jordan or Cairo / Egypt;

The satellite meeting will take place in Holon
aug. 9/10 2000

The programme will emphasize the following four aspects:

*Cultural and linguistic diversity of the community

*Literacy and language in the mother tongue and the majority language

*Publishing for the multicultural society

*Libraries supporting multiculturalism

Olga proposes to include an example of the work of a library with an international collection of children's books

15. Reports from SC members

National reports are distributed; they should be published in the Newsletter

16. 1999 conference evaluation

John reminded SC members to complete the evaluation form for the conference

17. Any other business

There was no other business

(00-02-20)

Rita Schmitt, Secretary



Satellite Meeting

Holon 9-10 August 2000

Joint Sections: Children's and young adults and Multicultural

Multicultural Services for Children and Young Adults

Programme

August 9 9.00-12.00

Cultural and linguistic diversity of the community

Dr Alamos Almog (Israel)

Ayub Khan (Birmingham Library Service – UK)

Prof. Michèle Petit (France)

12.00-14 00

Lunch and visit to Ben Yehuda Library plus tour of Holon

14.00-17.00

Literacy and language in mother tongue and majority language

Gunilla Ladberg (Sweden)

Dr. Bulent Yilmaz (Turkey)

Israeli Speaker – to find

Mr. Salman Jobran (Chivat Haviva College)

August 10 9.00-12.00

Publishing for the multicultural Society

Mishti Chatterji (Mantra Publishing – UK)

Elkar Frankel (Israel)

Shay Hauseman (to be confirmed)

12.00-14.00

Lunch and visit to Kiriath Shareit Library (including Russian Collection)

14.00-17.00

Libraries supporting multiculturalism

Benedicte Kragh-Schwarz (Denmark)

Barbara Immroth (USA)

Suzanne Kreuger (Germany)

Irene Sever (Haifa Library School)

Gabriella Dotan (Beit Berel College)

19.00

Visit Old Jaffa and Gala Dinner

For further information on booking for this conference, please contact

John Dunne (fax: + 44 1962 85 66 15 e-mail: libsjd@hants.gov.uk)

Report to Children's and Young Adult's Library Section

Children's Literature Abstracts

by: Gillian Adams, Editor

The financial situation of Children's Literature Abstracts has deteriorated somewhat from last year. The number of cancellations (10) has not matched new subscriptions. These cancellations are due in part to cuts among Australian libraries and perhaps because, given outside demands on my time beyond my control, I have fallen a year behind. Because of the uncertainties involved in the translation to new editors, I have not only ceased to promote the journal but also advised interested parties to wait until this future disposition is firm. I have, however, the names on file for the future editors to contact once the new format, pricing etc. is firm.

Although the subscription base has dropped, production and mailing costs continue to rise. At this juncture, I do not feel it appropriate to charge more for the journal. I have cut printing and mailing costs by publishing a single yearly issue for the Book Supplement for December 1998; thus 1998 rates remain at the 1997 level.

Since we are in transition, I have not looked for new abstracters nor attempted to add any new journal. As I informed you last year, our present abstractors wish to retire with me as of December 1999. Even without the foreign journals that have dropped, I have more material about children's literature than can be covered within the page limitations of each issue (about 70, due to the cost escalation when there is a change from stapled to perfect binding). If the print were any smaller, it would be unreadable. Meanwhile, books and articles about children's literature continue to proliferate.

Because I have fallen a year behind, my absolutely last issue, December/winter 1999, will probably not be mailed until toward the end of 2000, and I have notified vendors to that effect and also that the abstracts will be under new management beginning with January/spring 2000 issue, whether in print or electronic format. The transition to new editors is not gone as smoothly as I might wish (Adel Fasick can fill you in on the details), and should our arrangements fall through, I simply cannot continue and the journal will cease to exist. It is even possible that I may have to ask for some assistance with the expenses of closing it down, although I am being as careful as possible with new expenditures outside of printing and mailing costs.

I hope that my final, farewell report to you next year will be more cheerful.



IFLA is a matter of continuous discussions, essential for a living organisation. Critics and suggestions are needed to make a better IFLA, and this reflexion from Lars Aagaard, our danish member, is not only inventious, it gives us all a lot to consider and think of.

Silly section

Not everything about IFLA is of optimum quality. Some of it is actually rather silly! But with a solid contribution and a little help it may be useful and quite exciting. Possibilities are at hand, the scene is prepared, and it is up to the players to secure the outcome. For example, the Section for Libraries for Children and Young Adults was supposed to give a full-day workshop on developing the professionalism of children's librarians. This would have been of major importance to me, to be able to bring back to the Danish parish pump an international input to our standing debate on children's librarians' salaries, as we are about to change from pay by seniority to pay by competencies and tasks. But nothing came of it. What a shame and what a loss of prestige for one of IFLA's most affiliated sections!

Bad manners

The culture of collaboration in the Standing committee leaves much to be desired. In my opinion the whole IFLA session ought to be a continuous meeting of the committee – except for when other, more important events take place. We only meet once or at best twice a year.

For a newcomer it is extraordinarily annoying to deal with the lapidary agenda with no elaborated anexes and to attend sessions where the emphasis is on administrative procedures and with too little time for the vital debates on professional attitudes. The members of the section must play the roles of politicians, not those of administrators. I gladly leave that to our brilliant chairman and his staff.

I put my trust in newcomers from France, Croatia, Norway, Sweden and old-timers from e.g. Germany, France and The United Kingdom. They go for results rather than honour and position.

Doing better

Doing better may be illustrated by the Section for School Libraries, making a standard on School Library Activities, further carried upward to become a UNESCO standard. Our section should do likewise.

Why join IFLA at all?

No doubt IFLA is the one and only world-stage for collaborating librarians. We all increasingly come to depend on each other. Making common standards is for me a brilliant example of this necessary co-operation. In Denmark the national digital library is not far away. On 2 May 2000 you may check out www.bibliotek.dk, which is the new access to any material in any library, both local, regional and national, and with a direct and easy possibility for ordering in the library of your own choice. This may be followed by a digital world-library, which is unthinkable without standards. We must share our attitudes and idea, because they are the basis of any standard.

As a Dane you may as well forget about the idea of only joining IFLA in order to contribute. You profit high and low. Expressing attitudes, receiving support, being challenged on your most sacred opinions, being critical, being heard. Far be it for me to suggest transferring Danish methods to any other country, that will be of no use to anybody. But the Nordic way of using the dialogue as a basis for developing attitudes is actually rather suitable when it comes to international co-operation. Other cultures than the Nordic have realised that, but it is no use when you have no means, no ideas and no support. This exactly why IFLA can make a difference, and a big one, spreading ideas and information as points of reference in local matters. Which is the specified reason why the Danish organisation for aid to developing countries, DANIDA, supports a number of third world participants in joining the annual conference.

The value of a network

At Chao Phraya, the river that runs through most of Thailand, the Thai Government has introduced a number of floating libraries, quite irresistible. The theories behind the introduction of the libraries lack nothing, clearly they are carried by

strong involvement. The libraries are connected to the Internet, although they would hardly impress a Danish mobile librarian. But for the users of these charming floating libraries, they definitely make a difference. Here they meet the written culture and the information age in reality. And this in a culture where oral networks are dominating (“they love to chat!”). No doubt the ideas, which lie behind such initiatives are connected to ideas in other countries, concerning Libraries for All.

Useful forerunner

Geneviève Patten from France, head of a one week post-conference seminar on small initiatives at grassroot level, was easily outshined by/easily outshone more glittering information technology jumbo jets. A problem most children’s librarians may recognise – we all have a grassroot level to cultivate. In some places they only have that level.

What is reading worth?

From colleagues from many different countries I have heard misgivings about computers and the downfall of the book. I am not concerned because reading will always be essential – you simply cannot assert yourself without being an extraordinary good reader. IFLA’s Standing Committee for Reading, a committee with basic reading competencies as an objective, is a resourceful committee to which we all can contribute and from which we all can learn.

A long way for a draft

In the Committee for Library Service for Handicapped and Disabled Persons they have worked their way through ten drafts of guidelines on serving the deaf community and are now working towards sanction in the Professional Board. A long way to go, especially when the development of hearing aids is so fast. What does not go fast at all is the development of conditions characterising our relations to each other – prejudices, cultural barriers, ignorance. Here IFLA has a significant role to play. And a difference to make, I believe.

A Zimbabwean review

By: Uno Nilsson

A Swedish librarian working with Zimbabwe Book Development Council and and Zimbabwe Library Association

The situation for libraries in Zimbabwe is dark. But in the blackest dark there is always something that shines bright - also in Zimbabwe - and the lights come from far more than one torch.

Although the economical situation brings a stop for governmental funding, there are other donors, and other organisations that carry development forward in many aspects in the field of children’s libraries.

One is mentioned in this Newsletter - Zimbabwe Book Development Council - which strives optimistically towards the goal to create a reading nation. Mrs. *Miriam Bamhare* and her staff have recently arranged a series of library training workshops for librarians in all parts of the country, and for the National Book Week in March not less than four experimental *Children’s Reading Tents* are going to be given to and set up in four cities countrywide. One of them is to be run by a committee that deals with orphans. The theme for this year’s National Book Week is Give a Child a Book, and one subtheme is Adopt a School. The messages are supported by well known Zimbabweans in a campaign that involves all Zimbabwe.

RLRDP, the famous Rural Library project, is developing libraries to become more integrated in the rural communities, thus becoming sources of power for the community population of all ages.

Zimbabwe Library Association is moving towards similar goals by arranging a regional ALP-seminar in September concerning the situation for school libraries in Southern and Eastern Africa, and in co-operation with Swedish Library Association, another seminar during Zimbabwe International Book Fair. Libraries and education is on top of the agenda for ZLA this and the coming years.

So, in spite of the inflation, fuel crisis, political and other problems, The Zimbabwe Children’s library forces are fit, optimistic and decided. They know that the road is long, and the struggle for better possibilities for children to achieve reading materials they need is tough.

But poverty is the mother of invention, and inventions are created all the time. Donkeys carry books between readers and libraries, solar power brings light and electricity, and Children’s Reading Tents as well as increasing regional and international contacts, build bridges for knowledge, reading and information.

Programs to Support Reading in Developing Countries

by: Adele M. Fasick

Informal programs to support reading and libraries for children in developing countries were the focus of a four-day seminar held in Bangkok, Thailand from August 30 to September 2, 1999.

The seminar was sponsored by the Section on Library Services to Children and Young Adults of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and was held at Srinakharinwirot University immediately following the close of IFLA's annual conference. The conference was organized by *Genevieve Patte*, *John Dunne*, and *Somboon Singkhamanan*, all members of the Children's Section of IFLA as well as active members of IBBY.

Namibia

The conference brought together librarians and educators from Albania, Botswana, Cambodia, France, Greece, Haiti, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Senegal, Thailand, U.K., U.S. and Zimbabwe.

Professor *Kingo Mchombu* of the University of Namibia, in his plenary address which opened the seminar, discussed the importance of strengthening reading behavior of children in Africa. Reading is important as a tool for learning and knowledge seeking, he said, but it is more than that. Recreational reading superficially appears to be purely for leisure and enjoyment, but in reality it satisfies the human needs of a child; it enables a child's mind to expand and grow. Lack of interest in reading in Africa is often blamed on the lack of a reading culture. With careful planning the written culture can build on an oral culture and encourage reading.

One of the problems Africans face in encouraging reading is the lack of materials in local languages. Professor Mchombu described a successful project that translated Ladybird picture books into local African languages. Very few children's trade books are published in Africa because they are not economically viable. Publishers prefer to produce the more profitable textbooks. To solve

the problem of children's access to appropriate reading materials three conditions must be met: the underlying issues of poverty must be addressed; libraries and community information centers must be strengthened; and all of the participants in the publishing process—writers, librarians, publishers, government—must work together.

Zimbabwe

Other speakers echoed many of Professor Mchombu's concerns. *Miriam Bamhare*, Executive Director of the Zimbabwe Book Development Council, spoke about how reluctant publishers are to produce the work of local writers. Even though writers have many stories to tell, publishers are afraid of investing money in books they believe may not be profitable. Some participants suggested that IBBY might serve as a support network to encourage book production.

Nicaragua

Eduardo Baez, Director of Libros para Ninos in Nicaragua, described that organization's work in encouraging reading in Nicaragua, especially among the street children of Managua. Like African countries, Nicaragua suffers from a lack of indigenous publishing. Only about 30 to 50 books are published each year and of these only four or five are children's books. Most libraries do not stock books for children; public libraries have become school libraries and are used mainly for homework. Imported programs from developed countries are often unsuitable to the community.

What is needed is local action to provide reading and library programs that are relevant and sustainable.

Cambodia

Other programs described at the seminar covered the globe from Albania to Zimbabwe. *Hok Sothik*, Coordinator of the Libraries for Children program in Cambodia, described the way in which his organization has coped with a critical lack of books. War wiped out the publishing industry in Cambodia and left the country with virtually no books in Khmer. There is no public library network, no libraries in schools, and no municipi-

pal or provincial libraries. As recently as three years ago there were no textbooks available, and no supplementary reading books.

Children saw no reason to learn to read. Libraries for Children (a French NGO known as SIPAR,) provides basic training for teachers who administer small libraries situated in rural primary schools. Each collection has about 500 books, most of them imported from France. These books are translated into Khmer and the translations pasted into the books over the French text. SIPAR hopes this project will encourage reading and that after 2002, when the project ends, the libraries will be sustainable from local sources.

Local participation

Throughout the presentations many of the same issues were raised by participants. Among these issues was the need to involve the community in planning and implementing programs. Local participation leads to more sustainable programs than those administered by international agencies. Local and national identities need to be strong to enable people to access global information.

All of the participants stressed the need to strengthen reading among people in poverty. Reading is an important part of the information revolution and an important means of empowering people. Becoming a reader is not a technical task but part of the social process of learning to behave like a reader. Reading animation is essential for promoting reading for fun and enjoyment, but it is important to keep the emphasis on reading rather than on crafts or other activities.

Regional co-operation

The importance of local publishing was mentioned often. Publications in appropriate languages are necessary to build and sustain reading skills. In most countries local books cost more than imported ones. The need for publishing to be economically viable may conflict with the need to publish in different languages. Co-operation on a regional basis may avoid duplication of time, effort and money in minority-language publishing. Help from international agencies is needed in developing countries, but programs should be suitable for local situations, not im-

posed on communities from outside.

Thailand

Somboon Singkhamanan of the Department of Library Science at Srinakharinwirot University, one of the organizers of the seminar, described the publishing scene in Thailand and introduced Thai picture books. She gave a demonstration of the portable libraries that have been used to provide books for rural children. At the close of the seminar, portable libraries were presented to several representatives of developing countries.

Use of portable librares

On the day after the close of the formal seminar sessions, participants were taken on a tour to Pattaya, a seaside city near Bangkok. There the group met with local teachers and observed demonstrations of reading animation and the use of the portable libraries. Visits were made to a local orphanage, schools, and a community center for street children. At all of these places participants could see examples of the way in which books were introduced to children.

After the formal papers were presented, Professor *Judith Elkin*, Dean of the Faculty of Computing, Information and English at the University of Central England in Birmingham, led a session to develop guidelines for successful informal programs. The topics covered were education and training; relationships with libraries, schools and other institutions; books and services offered; role of librarians; and useful strategies.

Publication of the results of the seminar is expected in 2000.

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Our Norwegian member, *Leikny Haga Hildegaard*, emphasises this very interesting cooperational project where many new aspects and new thoughts are put together for good reading promotion.

About The signal project for reading "Troll i Ord" (Words come true)

"We are a small speech community that has to struggle to preserve our language culture, language is under constant pressure."

"Norwegians are using increasingly less time reading. We are at the bottom of the list among the Nordic countries in regards to library visits and borrowing books. This development must be reversed."

This was said by the Minister of Culture, *Turid Birkeland*, at the time that Stavanger was awarded the signal project for increasing the urge to read in the fall of 1997.

What is the signal project?

The purpose of a signal project is to test measures that can contribute to renewing cultural politics. The signal project tests various measures that are evaluated during and at completion of the project. The measures that work can be useful to others.

Why the signal project to enhance the urge to read?

Reading is an activity exposed to competition. Norwegians are constantly using less and less time reading, and Nordic reading surveys show that we borrow the least amount of books. The signal project for increasing the urge to read will help to reverse this trend.

Why Stavanger?

Literature and dissemination already have a strong position in Stavanger. The Nordic Conference for Children's Literature is arranged every other year, the Literature Week at Sting has taken place for over 10 years and has been a very popular meeting place for authors and readers, and the annual Chapter Festivals "kapittel-festivalene" have obtained international format. The city has an active environment for authors, and one of the country's most active and best visited libraries.

Why the name "Troll i Ord" (Words come true) ?

We have chosen a name that we feel is self fulfilling for the whole project. It is also a name that shows the way to fantasy, which plays on magic, mystique and fairy tales. "Troll i Ord" refers to oral stories and reading, is associated with other things than books, and it does not contain the command "read!".

"Troll i Ord", along with the fable figure in the logo, has proven to be a very good and recognisable identity for the project.

Who are we trying to influence?

We have chosen to concentrate our measures towards children and youngsters, and towards parents and adults that work with children. We are trying to influence the

adults directly, while we at the same time have many offers aimed at the main group. Change over time starts with the youngest, and our goal is that children obtain a positive experience from reading. Later as adults they will continue to read on their own and hopefully read to their children.

How long?

The signal project "Troll i Ord" will last three years, from fall 1998 to summer 2001.

Who is working with "Troll i Ord"?

"Troll i Ord" is located at the Stavanger Library and the Cultural Center. The project has a full-time project leader and close co-operation with the Children's Library.

Who are our co-operation partners?

Choosing untraditional co-operation partners is a part of what makes the "Troll i Ord" project special. Literature and other forms of expression are presented in new arenas, thus reaching a greater audience. Co-operation partners so far are: Author Associations, Colleges, Publishers, Bookshops, Child Health Centers, Role-playing designers and actors, The Oil Museum, the Senior Citizens Committee, Fashion shops and designers, the Center for Reading Research, Master degree students, Child Care students, restaurants and pubs, dance schools and Rogaland County Administration. Our most important supporters are everyone who can be found "between the book and the child"; that is kindergartens, schools, teachers, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and so on.

Sub-projects

"Troll i Ord" consists of several different sub-projects and a few larger campaigns. We have also been working actively towards the mass media to increase the amount of attention for our project and arrangements.

Contact us

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SCL News

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