



# LTR Newsletter

**DECEMBER 2004**

IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)



## World Library and Information Congress: 70<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council

**"Libraries:  
Tools for Education and Development"**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 22-27 August 2004

### ***Buenos Dias...***

A refrain that began every morning with charm and friendliness, at the 70<sup>th</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council in Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America. The World Library and Information Congress 2004, "Libraries: Tools for Education and Development," convened at the Hilton Hotel August 22-27, with some meetings at the Sheraton Hotel.

Different meeting sites required transit between facilities, although one could walk if time allowed. The buses worked well between the hotels, but when the need was to venture out further, problems often required innovation. For example, the buses for the visit to the National Library of



Entrance to National Library of Argentina

Argentina were not available when I was scheduled for that venue and it was suggested that we split up and take taxis. We did, and certainly a taxi in Buenos Aires was very inexpensive, but for some that could be an insurmountable problem to get to a program offsite. Mostly things went well and the 3835 participants from 121 countries had another good conference. Argentina led in attendance with 618 delegates at *the first IFLA meeting in South America! in Buenos Aires!*



La Boca—Buenos Aires

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## LTR programs

The Division VII: Education and Research program was held Monday August 23, 2004, 1:45-3:45 p.m. LTR's contribution was from Natalia I. Gendina, Russian Federation.  
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm#3>.



Newman, Gendina, & Koren at IFLA Booth

## ***Breaking barriers to literacy: contributions from the Education and Research Division***

- Literacy and literacy development programmes in Botswana after independence CHEDZA MOLEFE (Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis, Gaborone, Botswana)
- Defining information literacy in the 21st century SANDY CAMPBELL (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada)
- Librarians and breaking barriers to information literacy: implications for continuing professional development and workplace learning L. ANNE CLYDE (University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland)
- Library-based literacy programs: the Reading Section's major activities ALEC WILLIAMS (Bradford, UK)
- Literacy concepts in LIS curricula TERRY WEECH (University of Illinois, Urbana, USA) and NIELS OLE PORS (Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen, Denmark) and C.R. KARISIDDAPPA (Karnatak University, Dharwad, India)

- Information Literacy for information culture: Separation of unity (Russian research results) NATALIA I. GENDINA (Kemerovo State University of Culture and Arts, Kemerovo, Russian Federation)

On Wednesday August 25, 2004, 9:00-10:30 a.m. the satellite meeting was held off-site at INIBI University of Buenos Aires on:

## ***Library Research in Argentina: new approaches***

The papers presented were bound and printed in both Spanish and English and made available to participants at the meeting.

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm#5>

- Situation of library research in Argentina. INIBI researches (in course and finished) SUSANA ROMANOS DE TIRATEL (Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (INIBI), Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Library theory: its situation in Argentina ANA MARÍA MARTÍNEZ (Universidad de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina)
- The new history of books and libraries ALEJANDRO E. PARADA (Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (INIBI), Buenos Aires, Argentina)



Preserved Reading Room Intact from Old National Library, National Library of Argentina

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Speakers Curry, Koehler, & Audunson

The main LTR Section program was held Thursday 26 August 2004, 10:45-12:45 p.m.

## Research tools for LIS

Is that really so? Some guidelines when evaluating research. RAGNAR AUDUNSON (Oslo University College, Oslo, Norway)  
Do you have the appropriate toolbox to undertake your research?

WALLACE KOEHLER (Valdosta State University, Valdosta, USA)

Unreliable Research: Are Librarians Liable?

ANN CURRY (School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada)

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm#6>



Questions from the Floor at LTR Main Session

The program for LTR promises to be just as good in Oslo, Norway, August 14-18, 2005 with the theme "Libraries—a Voyage to Discovery." Programs will include a co-sponsored satellite meeting, August 9-11,

Bergen, Norway, "Management, marketing, evaluation and promotion of library services, based on statistics, analyses and evaluation in your own library." Other programs will be based on new projects that the LTR has begun on "Research and the impact of culture on that research."

**Tango - The dance of Buenos Aires. We were ready and so was Buenos Aires!**



Tango at IFLA Exhibits

Report by Wilda Newman, LTR Information Coordinator

## §

**NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!**

A new section was added to the IFLA/LTR website on professional activities in which standing committee members are involved. This is aimed at promoting knowledge exchange among LTR committee members. Effort will continue to include all standing committee members as their submissions are received. When sufficient information is gathered a knowledge map of LTR membership will be created. Six responses from current committee members can be seen on the website now. Visit, and submit your professional activities, or revise what you have already submitted so that we can complete this project before IFLA in OSLO 2005. Send E-material to Wilda Newman. <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s24/proj/ltrsc-professional-work04.pdf>

**NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!**

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The LTR Standing Committee held two business meetings during the 70th IFLA General Conference and Council. The minutes of those minutes follow here and are available at the IFLA LTR website:

## **DRAFT MINUTES:**

IFLA STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY THEORY  
AND RESEARCH  
SUNDAY 22 AUGUST 2004 11.30 – 14.20 HRS.  
Meeting Room Pacara B Hilton Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina

### **PRESENT:**

Marian Koren, Secretary  
Wilda Newman, Information Coordinator  
Standing Committee Members  
Cindy Hill  
Natalia Gendina  
Wallace Koehler  
Ragnar Audunson  
Beverly Lynch

### **Observers**

Ilkka Makinen  
Olga Lavrik  
Ksibi Ahmed  
Peter Johan Lor  
Mamadon Diarra  
Liu Xiwen Mabiner

### **Apologies**

Kerry Smith, Chair/Treasurer  
Bob Usherwood

## **1. Welcome to all & election of Chair of Meetings:**

Kerry Smith, Chair/Treasurer, was unable to attend the IFLA conference in Buenos Aires and requested Secretary Marian Koren chair the meetings. Wilda Newman, Information Coordinator, was requested to assume the Secretary's responsibilities. Standing Committee members that were present agreed.

Marian Koren, Acting Chair, opened the meeting at 11.30 hours and gave remarks from Kerry Smith, Chair/Treasurer. She welcomed LTR Standing Committee Members and Observers and requested personal introductions from attendees.

Apologies: Kerry Smith  
Bob Usherwood

Kerry had conflicting travel arrangements. Bob has completed the research project on Public Policy, etc. and is now working on the final report.

Adoption of the Agenda: The agenda previously circulated through the LTR list serve and standing committee, and published in the July 2004 newsletter was adopted.

## **2. Review and approval of the minutes of the Standing Committee in Berlin 2003**

The minutes were approved.

Matters arising from these minutes: None, other than those discussed relative to conference program planning discussed under separate headings.

## **3. Buenos Aires Congress:**

### ***PC and CB Business arising from Meetings Saturday 21 August 2004***

i) Marian Koren addressed several items relating to the conference. Attendees were reminded of the Newcomers Session, Tuesday 10.45 – 12.45 as a way to learn more about IFLA and the conference. Speakers were reminded to be at their sessions on time and to use the speakers' room to check out their materials before their talk. Everyone was requested to check their programs, especially for those related or supported by LTR.

ii) It was noted that IFLA is becoming more active and doing more focus themes in a proactive manner. Membership development is a priority and in support of this several new sections have been created out of Round Tables. IFLA is doing evaluations of sections and will do a pilot evaluation on one section first as a way to refine the process. LTR belongs to Division VII, Education and Research. Other sections in this division include Education and Training, Continuing Professional Development, Library History, Library and Information Science Journals, Reading, and User Education. Discussion followed as to whether or not LTR should volunteer to be the pilot for evaluation. It was agreed that two or three LTR members as a subtask during the conference would look over the list of questions to be addressed in the evaluation process and decide if LTR would indeed be the pilot. This would allow Marian then to report at the Division Meeting that LTR would volunteer, if that was the decision made by the LTR subtask, and no other section would volunteer.

iii) Marian announced that IFLA was having a raffle this year to raise money for delegates from the developing world to attend future IFLA conferences. Prizes are items donated by IFLA attendees from their native country. She produced stacks of 200 tickets that LTR members were to sell. Cindy Hill volunteered that perhaps it would assist the process if we first purchased tickets within our members before venturing forth to sell to others. She began the process with a purchase of 10 tickets for US\$10. Others followed and a number of tickets were purchased immediately. Some attendees took tickets to sell throughout the congress. Other members objected to the raffle and to selling tickets.

iv) Alex Byrne, the new IFLA President has a new theme, that of "Partnerships." This will include partnerships within and outside IFLA.

### ***The Conference Program***

i) LTR programs include contributions to two divisional programs: Monday 23 August 13.45-15.45 hours, "Breaking barriers to literacy: Contributions from the Education and Research Division VII. Seven papers were scheduled, with Natalia I. Gendina (Kemerovo State University of Culture and Arts, Kemerovo,



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Russian Federation) on Information Literacy for information culture: Separation for unity (Russian research results)

(<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm#3>) On Wednesday 25 August 9.00-10.30 hours is the Off-site visit and seminar at the Library Research Institute, INIBI University of Buenos Aires presenting papers on Library Research in Argentina: new approaches. Bus transportation was announced from the Hilton hotel before 8.15 hours to the off site venue and will return participants to the Hilton hotel at the conclusion of the program.

ii) Thursday 26 August at 10.45-12.45 hours, LTR has a Workshop: Research Tools for LIS, with Ragnar Audunson (Oslo University College, Oslo, Norway) presenting Is that really so? Some guidelines when evaluating research, and Wallace Koehler, (Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia, USA) on Do you have the appropriate toolbox to undertake your research? (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/prog04.htm#6>) Both are members of the LTR Standing Committee. Wally, chair of the workshop, announced that two other speakers, not included in the initial program, were expected, one from Cuba and one from Canada and would be accommodated in the session.

iii) Attendees were reminded that a Reading program is scheduled for Friday 27 August 10.45-12.45 on Exploring the scope, methodology and content of an international research project into sustainable reading development and reading promotion programmes in the Pacara room, Hilton Hotel. LTR sent an announcement of this session out on the LTR list serve due to the relevancy of this program and the LTR section, prior to IFLA in Buenos Aires.

### 4. Updating the Strategic Plan 2004-2005

There is a need to remove Buenos Aires from the 2003-2005 plan and incorporate it into the LTR annual report and develop the detail in the plan for the Oslo Conference. An overall review should be made on the rest of the content generally.

The Oslo 2005 theme is Libraries: a voyage of discovery. Ragnar Audunson's research project Research and Literacy and the next steps was discussed using a handout of the project provided by Ragnar. His goal this week is to establish the group for the research based on international participation. He will speak to the chairs of Division III and Division VIII, as well as seek discussions with people at the conference for coverage of Canada, USA, and Mexico.

### 5. Communication

LTR has space at the IFLA Booth on Wednesday 25 August between 12.00 to 13.00 hours. It was agreed that copies would be available of LTR leaflets, a copy of the new LTR sponsored publication, (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s24/pub/iflapr-82-e.pdf>, by Maxine K. Rochester and Pertti Vakkari, entitled International Library and Information Science Research: A Comparison of National Trends, and a summary of

Ragnar's project for discussion with people visiting the IFLA booth during the LTR coverage.

Two issues of the LTR newsletter were distributed. The December 2003 issue was mailed in paper format. The July 2004 issue was distributed electronically. The LTR list serve, a moderated list, has 89 subscribers and has become more active during the past year.

A new section has been added to the LTR website on professional activities outside IFLA in which standing committee members are involved. Six responses were received from members, including Ragnar Audunson, Natalie Gendina, Wallace Koehler, Marian Koren, Wilda Newman, and Kerry Smith. This activity is aimed at promoting knowledge exchange among LTR members. This effort will continue to include all standing committee members as their submissions are received. (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s24/proj/ltrsc-professional-work04.pdf>) It is hoped that sufficient information will be gathered through this process to create a knowledge map of LTR membership. A copy of the website material was circulated.

### 6. Financial Report

Kerry Smith had provided a statement on the financial status of LTR, which was sent to SC Members. No further comments were made. One question concerned whether or not the mailing of a new members recruitment letter had been completed. Marian agreed to take this up at the meeting relative to membership for IFLA GB's Membership Development Committee. Some discussion followed, especially relating to Kerry Smith's intended mailing rather than waiting for IFLA Headquarters to figure out the "how" of this.

Kerry had sent an email prior to the business meetings in Buenos Aires noting that her intended membership mailing is actually happening. Due to a significant delay in the SET project to gather the listing of information studies departments around the world and IFLA notification of their similar membership mailing delay, Kerry would proceed using the Tom Wilson list of library schools for addresses This began in June 2004 and is continuing.

### 7. Projects

Projects were discussed relative to the conference programs planning process, covered in these minutes. Additionally,

- International Library and Information Science Research: A Comparison of National Trends by Maxine K. Rochester and Pertti Vakkari has been published. (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s24/pub/iflapr-82-e.pdf>)

- Bob Usherwood has completed the research project on Political Perceptions of public libraries and is completing the final report.

- Promoting knowledge exchange among LTR members has begun with a new section on the IFLA LTR website. This effort will continue to include all standing committee members as their submissions are received. (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s24/proj/ltrsc-professional-work04.pdf>)

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## 8. Oslo World Library Congress 2005

### **Satellite Meetings**

A satellite meeting, approved 17 March 2004, on Management, marketing, evaluation and promotion of library services, based on statistics, analyses and evaluation in your own library, will take place in Bergen, Norway with LTR as a sponsor and the Public Libraries Section. There will be a call for papers announced in September; 15 December is the deadline for submissions and papers will be selected by the end of February 2005. Two people from LTR will be members of the evaluation team, Beverly Lynch and Ragnar Audunson. Ragnar will provide details to Wilda for the minutes. There will also be information in the IFLA booth on Wednesday concerning this event. The coordinator of the satellite meeting is Trine Kolderup Flaten, [trine@bergen.folkebibl.no](mailto:trine@bergen.folkebibl.no). A notice of the program plan will also be included in the IFLA Express during the Congress. (An attachment (not reprinted here) to these minutes is provided of the Approved Satellite Meetings <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/satellite-e.htm> to be held in conjunction with WLIC 2005, Oslo, Norway, 14 –18 August 2005, GB 04-078.)

### **Next Year Oslo**

The group reviewed and discussed the LTR Program proposals 2005, a list compiled from discussion among LTR standing committee members via email over the past months. This previous communication among the members greatly facilitated this review.

### **LTR Program proposals 2005**

#### 1. Session/ Satellite meeting

"Management, marketing, evaluation and promotion of library services, based on statistics, analyses and evaluation in your own library."

Cooperation with the Management and Marketing Section

LTR as junior partner co-sponsor?

Subject related to

measurement and evaluation;

performance measures

results from "quality discussion group"

LTR contribution

(Kerry Smith and comments; Ragnar Audunson may give latest details)

#### 2. Scandinavian research

a program that would highlight some of the important research being done in Norway and the other Scandinavian countries that does not get published outside of the journals in the home language.  
(Beverly Lynch)

#### 3. Research publishing and censorship

- the "censorship" imposed by publishers who don't want the topic to be treated in the manner the author wishes.

- the difficulty of getting some authors published for many reasons.

- in conjunction with FAIFE, (the American associations in) MLAS?

(Wally Koehler and comments)

4. Proposal: to have a discussion on the following theme:

"Library research in the knowledge society: contrast or dynamic unity of innovations and traditions?"

The problems for discussion:

1. In what way does the factor of entering the knowledge society influence on the theme changing of library and information research? What are the changes?

2. Methodology, methods, objects and subjects of library and information research before and after the knowledge society entering: what is lost forever? What and in what way has transformed? What actually new has appeared?

3. Hidden wisdom and unnoticed treasures: what are out of traditional (classical) library research methods unjustifiably forgotten or are not used enough for new problems' solution?

4. Have libraries' staff been prepared to conduct research under the changed conditions? The lack of what knowledge is most important?

5. What must (should) be changed in the field of scientific research in the education of library-information staff having tertiary professional education?

(Natalia Gendina)

The question posed was, based on this list, "What are our main concerns for speaking to in Oslo?"

One suggestion was a report on Ragnar's project but during the discussion it was also suggested that that venue might not be correct for that report, since the research might not be far enough along by the Oslo Congress. It was suggested that contact be made with the Information Literacy Section, Jesus Lau, Chair, for a possible joint session with LTR and address early results of the research, as we have done with other projects.

A second discussion included Scandinavian research with the questions that Natalie had earlier presented. Wally suggested maybe doing the "meta" question on research in these countries and break the myopic view from others that papers may be interesting research but others in some areas of the world (USA) might respond, "so what, not useful." Maybe organize a question and answer session and have others from different countries speak to those questions. It was agreed that a subtask (consisting of Ragnar Audunson, Ilka Makkinen and Marian Koren) would look at this while here in Buenos Aires to clarify the approach with the questions from Natalie.

## 9. Future Conferences

### **Seoul 2006**

Perhaps include more of the questions from Natalie. Present a Final Report from Ragnar's research.

It was noted that there were 75 registrants from Korea for the Buenos Aires IFLA Congress. Maybe LTR can try to develop something useful to Korea working with the Korean researchers. Look at "Are there cultural

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differences that cause certain types of questions, issues, and so forth?" Maybe we begin another three-year project on this as Ragnar finishes his current research.

### **Durban 2007**

These approaches could also be pertinent to the meetings in Durban in South African conferences, specifically relating to the indigenous people and their knowledge, suggested Peter Johan Lor (observer at the meeting).

A metaphor was offered: "Engines need feedback to work properly and research could be the role for feedback in library and information science and libraries." Multilingual and cultural differences or can we say science is science and all is done the same way, ----- but -----." It was agreed that another coffee group for looking at programs for Seoul and Durban as noted above for Oslo was in order (Peter Lor, Wally Koehler and Marian Koren would discuss the possible theme session related to Cultural Diversity).

### **10. Close of Meeting by the Chair at 14.20 hrs.**

#### **DRAFT MINUTES:**

IFLA STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY THEORY AND RESEARCH SATURDAY 28 AUGUST 2004  
11.30 – 14.20 HRS. Meeting Room Pacara B Hilton Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina

#### **PRESENT:**

Marian Koren, Secretary  
Wilda Newman, Information Coordinator

#### **Observers**

Alistair Black  
Peter Johan Lor  
Ali K. Shaker  
Susan Searing

#### **Apologies:**

Kerry Smith, Chair/Treasurer  
Bob Usherwood  
Natalia Gendina  
Wallace Koehler  
Ragnar Audunson  
Beverly Lynch

### **1. Opening**

The Interim Chair, Marian Koren welcomed all to the second Standing Committee of Library Theory and Research. Members present were: Marian Koren and Wilda Newman. Observers included Alistair Black (UK), Chair, Library History Section, Ali K. Shaker, Faculty Member Egypt, Peter Lor, (South Africa) LISJ Section, Susan Searing (USA) first time IFLA attendee from University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. Apologies were received from: K. Smith, B. Usherwood, B. Lynch, R. Audunson, W. Koehler, and N. Gendina.

### **2. Section Review, Pilot Discussed**

It was suggested that Arabic might be adopted as an official IFLA language. Marian will take that idea to the

Professional Board. LTR is willing to be the pilot in the process of reviewing the sections for the Education and Research Division, if no other Section is willing. Alistair suggested a two or three page discussion on the value of the Section.

### **3. Oslo World Library and Information Congress 2005, 71<sup>st</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council Theme: Libraries: A Voyage of Discovery, 14 – 18 August**

a. SATELLITE MEETING with IFLA MANAGEMENT & MARKETING SECTION, Bergen City, Norway, 9-11 August 2005

The satellite will be held in Bergen with LTR, Management and Marketing, and Public Libraries Sections co-sponsoring. This is already indicated in the Oslo IFLA Final Announcement brochure. LTR doesn't have much to do with this program, as it is coordinated by Trine Kolderup Flaten, Management and Marketing Section. The meeting is scheduled from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, after lunch, to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of August, after lunch.  
**Theme: Management, marketing, evaluation and promotion of library services, based on statistics, analyses and evaluation in your own library.**  
[Since the conclusion of the second LTR standing committee meeting a CALL FOR PAPERS has been issued and is included in these meeting minutes for thoroughness.]

Language: The main conference language will be English. If the necessary financial support is gained, we hope to be able to offer translation facilities for French, and Spanish presentations.

THEME OBJECTIVES: The conference aims to:

- Bring together practitioners from various types of libraries, researchers and educators in library and information science to discuss research methods and strategies, data collection, evaluation and performance measurement, and best-practice strategies;
- Improve methods for evaluation and analysis of library work in different types of libraries;
- Encourage continuous improvement of the libraries' services, by using analysis, performance measurement, best practice, etc. in managing and promoting library services;
- Share international experience on these topics.

Subjects for papers may include case studies, research, projects, best-practice development, and proposed models related to statistics and evaluation practices, including discussion of research methods and data collection and analysis. Proposals for presentations, in the form of one page summaries should be sent by **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004** to: Trine Kolderup Flaten, [trine@bergen.folkebibl.no](mailto:trine@bergen.folkebibl.no) or <mailto:trine@bergen.folkebibl.no> on behalf of the organizers.

The proposals should include the name, contact information and institutional affiliation of the author and a summary of the content to be presented.

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All proposals will be evaluated by a committee with representatives appointed by the three sections:  
Management & Marketing Section: Daisy McAdam, Angels Massisimo, Christie Koontz  
Coordinator: Trine Kolderup Flaten, Library Theory and Research Section: Ragnar Audunson, Beverly Lynch, Public Library Section: Torny Kjekstad, Gunilla Konradsson. The evaluating committee will inform the applicants of the results by the end of **February 2005**. Final versions of the presentations must be submitted to the above-mentioned address by the end of **March 2005**.

*{After the satellite meeting participants will be offered (not included in the conference fee) a special tour (2 days) to Oslo, including sightseeing, fjords, glaciers, mountains, etc.}*

LTR is responsible for one or two speakers, as are the other sponsoring sections.

Alistair indicated that John Crawford is involved in this kind of research and will ask him of his interest in our "Call for Papers" for this meeting.

### a. Other LTR Conference Sessions

#### 1) Joint SET/LTR Session:

The Nordic tradition in Library and Information Science Research and Education

The preliminary ideas for the program were discussed by Ragnar, Marian and Ilkka, and later by Marian with Education and Training Section colleague Niels Pors, (SET Secretary and person organizing the SET component of this session). The suggested program is that the event will take place at the School of Library and Information Studies in Oslo as a single day event consisting of two sessions. Speakers will be invited and asked to give a lecture on one of the following, or similar, topics from a broad Nordic perspective.

- Overview of the Nordic educational scene and the history of Library and Information Science Education
- The inter-Nordic cooperation on different levels
- The PhD – cooperation
- The NORDPLUS educational exchange program
- The relation to the profession and continuing education
- The certification process and the role of library associations and unions

It will be very easy to identify highly qualified people for all the topics.

The important aspect for LTR is that we would like to include the critical questions, as presented by Natalila Gendina, of how our cultural environment is influencing our research and training. We need to get the questions in to make it more interesting and not just a research paper, but questioning each other. Ragnar with Ilkka, (Finland) will coordinate this for LTR. Ilkka also mentioned the name of Kalle Jarvelin in this respect.

#### 2) LTR Session for Oslo:

The second LTR Session will be on presenting the LTR Project, as developed by Ragnar on what difference

IFLA makes to change and diffuse professional norms, illustrated by the example of norms, standards and policies related to lifelong literacy.

### b. Future conferences under a continuing LTR theme: Cultural Diversity in Research

To begin in Oslo and continue in Seoul and Durban, Cultural Diversity in Library Research will be an ongoing topic (Peter, Wally and Marian discussed this subject). The central question is to consider "Culture as a determinant factor in library science: it determines the research questions. We also have experience from questionnaires sent out by, e.g., the USA, without paying attention to the context in which librarians or users in other cultures and countries are working. We should also take into account the aspects of multi-lingualism in research.

For Seoul, 2006: The first focus would begin with perceptions and multi-lingualism. Perhaps find someone in Korea that could deal with the question of language. Also look at research in Korea or research done in an Asian environment. Look at Different Knowledge Systems in Use.

In Durban, 2007: The theme could be continued with a focus on indigenous knowledge:

- Research on indigenous knowledge;
- Is there something that is specifically African about its...
- Also perceptions of libraries and profession

Perhaps also include a contributor from Francophone Africa. In Durban there will be two Portuguese-speaking countries too. The then former President, Kay Raseroka, would also be an excellent contributor to the theme of indigenous knowledge.

In Montreal, 2008: Another possibility to survey cultural diversity and multi-lingualism related to LIS research.

LTR could perhaps strive to accumulate a publication from what we offer in LTR programs over these years. Another possibility would be to look at the Flow of Research Information-North, South-English and Spanish on the mechanical side—dissemination.

## 4. Strategic Plan 2004-2005

The Strategic Plan will be updated, removing old information and adding new from this meeting for future conferences. Kerry Smith will do this. Marian Koren will adapt the leaflet.

## 5. Information Coordinators Meeting

Ramon Abad gave comments about IFLA Library Journal and requested papers suggested for publication from the conference to be sent to him as soon as possible following the conference. LTR will suggest papers from two conference programs. These include: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/papers/110e-s-papers.pdf> (Spanish) <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/papers/110e-s-papers.pdf> (English)



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Author - Alejandro E. Parado (Universidad de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina)

Title - The New History of Books and Libraries in Argentina: Background, History and Periods (English)

Title - La nueva historia del libro y las bibliotecas en la Argentina: antecedentes, historia y periodización (Spanish)

Division VII: Education and Research created and distributed a bound publication of all of the papers presented in this offsite meeting (Item 110 in the program announcement) held at INIBI University of Buenos Aires, in both Spanish and English. The IFLA Journal might like to take a look at the complete publication for possible inclusion in the IFLA Journal or to publish it as a special publication in an IFLA series. The second recommendation for publication in the IFLA library journal is: Library Theory and Research's session on "Research tools for LIS" which included a paper by Ann Curry (University of British Columbia, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) Canada. "Unreliable Research: Are librarians liable?"

Sophie reminded all of the Information Coordinators that material submitted to IFLA Headquarters for the website must include the IFLA logos. ALL MATERIAL submitted by any Section member, including from officers of a Section, should be forwarded to the Information Coordinator so that material will arrive at IFLA Headquarters with the proper standards applied. This lessens the work headquarters staff are required to do when things are wrongly submitted, increases the use of IFLA standards and thus IFLA branding, and reduces the number of contacts to staff on matters that are best left to the Information Coordinators.

Additional points included:

- Some publications in Sections are getting heavy use, but not the Section site itself.
- Attachments are limited to 50KB, due to limitations imposed by the Host Site. Cut and paste your information and put it in the body of the email for distribution.
- Terry Kuny (previously supported the IFLANet at University of Toronto, Canada) has been hired by IFLA in support of IFLANet. As a result we should see more changes in the site in the next two to six months in modernizing and standardizing the web pages.
- Whether or not IFLANet ever hosts it's own site depends on money available.
- IFLANet will begin exploring the use of "blogs" (weBLOG), a subject that will likely be a main topic at the Information Coordinators meeting next year at IFLA, Oslo.

[Note: A blog is basically a journal that is available on the web. The activity of updating a blog is "blogging" and someone who keeps a blog is a "blogger." Blogs are typically updated daily using software that allows people with little or no technical background to update and maintain the blog. Postings on a blog are almost always arranged in chronological order with the most

recent additions featured most prominently. (Definition from an Internet Google.)

### 6. Other Business

Ragnar brought up the subject of "literacy" with the question, "How useful is IFLA, especially for example, for participants at conferences yearly?" He went on to say he had looked at some initial figures that included the number of participants that attend the IFLA conference, the number of days at conference and associated costs. When these costs are addressed what are the total benefits for that cost and what other things might be accomplished with that same amount of money, for example support for public libraries? This is an idea he has been interested in for some time and would like to see more of this type of thing addressed so that participants would have something more that could be used to quantify their participation in IFLA.

Ali K. Shaker, faculty member from Egypt, Department of Library and Information Science, announced the first time in Egypt this conference on theory and research on LIS, to be held October 2004, "Fifty Years of Library and Information Science Research in Egypt." He will send the information on a link for posting with LTR website to Wilda Newman. He will also translate the information concerning the conference, from Arabic to English, and that will be sent out on the LTR list serve and to standing committee members by Wilda. Ali also agreed to translate our leaflet into Arabic for LTR.

Susan Searing attended the LTR Standing Committee business meeting to observe the meeting and learn about the topics that LTR is covering and determine her own interest for future participation. She will contribute a column for the LTR Newsletter, December 2004 issue on her interests and those in LTR, relative to her research at UIUC, USA.

### 7. Close of Meeting by the Interim Chair at 12.30 hrs.



Cultural Evening-Children at Teatro Opera



See <http://www.ifla.org>  
for more on IFLA

# LTR Newsletter December 2004

IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

## IFLA LIBRARY THEORY & RESEARCH (LTR) SECTION STRATEGIC PLAN for 2004-2005

### MISSION

The IFLA Section on Library Theory & Research exists to:

- Provide a research-based framework to IFLA's professional priorities through a program promoting theoretical and empirical library and information science research and analysis;
- Provide and encourage international networking opportunities for library professionals engaged in library and information science research.

(Professional priorities: Supporting the role of libraries in society; Developing library professionals; Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices)

### GOALS

#### 1. Encourage exchange between practice-based and theoretical research in LIS.

##### Actions

1.1 Encourage empirically based papers at IFLA and IFLA sponsored conferences:

1.1.1 Oslo 2005 (theme: *Libraries: a voyage of discovery*).

- Research project: *Role of IFLA in promoting change and diffusing professional norms in libraries with a weight on norms, standards and policies related to lifelong literacy* (part 1)
  - ▶ How do people of the world define, understand and translate the word "literacy"?
  - ▶ Is there a base standard of "literacy" and is it universal?
  - ▶ What can we learn from historical research and examples of projects undertaken.
- Consider invitations from relevant IFLA sections for joint sessions:
  - ▶ Management and Marketing, offsite satellite session: *Management, marketing, evaluation and promotion of library services, based on statistics, analyses and evaluation in your own library.*
  - ▶ Education & Training (SET): *The Nordic Tradition in Library and Information Science Research and Education and International Perspectives.*
  - ▶ CBVII offsite session: *Recruitment and careers in LIS.* Invited research-based papers.

1.1.2 Seoul 2006 (theme: *Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society*)

- Seminar/workshop to continue development of LTR research project: *Role of IFLA in promoting change and diffusing professional norms in libraries with a weight on norms, standards and policies related to lifelong literacy* (part 2)
- Consider the introduction of a new theme for LTR conference session: *Cultural bias and its influence on LIS research projects and topics* –possible joint session with other IFLA section(s).

1.2 Promoting appropriate research activities and investigations relevant to IFLA'S professional priorities:

1.2.1 Encouraging library schools to include LIS research units/courses/subjects in their programs

- LTR to communicate with IFLA and library schools.

1.2.2 Information coordinator to continue knowledge exchange amongst LTR members;

1.2.3 Evaluating research projects for their relevance to IFLA's professional priorities and LTR's goals;

- Consider a project on the preparation of a research toolbox for LIS researchers in languages other than English.

#### 2. Assisting in the development of expertise and knowledge in useful research methods

##### Actions

2.1 Communicating research expertise and knowledge to the library community.

2.1.1 Oslo conference (theme: *Libraries: a voyage of discovery*)

- Encourage submission of library research paper to satellite session with Section of Management and Marketing: *Management, marketing and promotion of library services, based on statistics, analyses and evaluation in your own library.*
- Join SET in applying for session on research, education and training in Nordic countries.
- Seek LTR session to progress the LTR project: *Role of IFLA in promoting change and diffusing professional norms in libraries with a weight on norms, standards and policies related to lifelong literacy*

2.1.2 Disseminating results of research projects and activities:

- *Political perceptions of the public library*
  - ▶ Project report – IFLA to publish once ready with deadline end of 2004.
  - ▶ Other publication(s) from the project, e.g. conference papers, journal articles.
- Evaluate conference papers for possible inclusion in IFLA and other journals.

#### 3. Facilitating transnational networks of common research interests

##### Actions

3.1 Encouraging participation in LTR Research projects:

- *Political perspectives of the public library*
- *An investigation into the role of IFLA in promoting change and diffusing professional norm in libraries with a weight on norms, standards and policies related to lifelong literacy.*

3.2 Sharing LTR communications:

- 3.2.1 LTR Newsletter;
- 3.2.2 LTR Discussion List;
- 3.2.3 LTR Website on IFLANET;
- 3.2.4 Encourage attendance at LTR Standing Committee meetings;

3.3 Promoting membership to LTR:

3.3.1 Target professional groups (e.g. library schools)

- Encourage broad international representation on LTR Standing Committee in 2005 elections.
- Update the Section leaflet

# LTR Newsletter December 2004

IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research  
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## **WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 71ST IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL "Libraries - A voyage of discovery"**

**August 14-18 2005, Oslo, Norway  
National Programme**

The National Organising Committee is planning a national programme during the conference in Oslo 14–18 August 2005. We want to present some of the history, culture and identity of Norway to our international colleagues in accordance with the conference theme: "A Voyage of Discovery".

People today have the same inclinations and fascination for the new and unknown as the Norwegian pioneers such as Fridtjof Nansen, Thor Heyerdahl, Henrik Ibsen, Sigrid Undset, Edvard Grieg and Edvard Munch had in their days.

So much has already been discovered and conquered in the twenty-first century. Yet there are still new challenges and discoveries waiting to be made—in space, in the depths of the ocean, and within the broad field of new technology.

Similarly, globalisation invites us on new voyages of discovery, within ourselves and in encounters with an exciting world of culture, knowledge, expressions, values and perceptions.

The National Organising Committee will present our national programme in IFLA Express, Nos. 1 & 2 for 2005, & on IFLANet.

## **Norway's Centennial Anniversary 1905–2005**

In 2005, 100 years will have passed since the union between Sweden and Norway was dissolved by peaceful means. It will be 100 years since Norway was recognized as an independent state with its own royal family and Foreign Service. The dissolution of the union laid the basis for allowing Norway to participate in the international community. This occasion will be marked in Norway, Sweden and abroad throughout 2005.

### **What will take place?**

The programme will show the development of modern Norway and its relations with the rest of the world. The programme will be thought provoking and encourage debate on the present and the future. It will be varied and progressive, and have a number of different partners and various events, ranging from innovative cultural experiences to debates and conferences on social development, business and politics.

### **The activities in 2005 will include:**

- Exhibitions, book launches & publications.
- Performances: theatre, music, dance and cultural events.
- Summer festivals with international artists in Norway's principal cities.

For more information: [www.norge2005.no](http://www.norge2005.no)

### **Time and Place**

The World Library and Information Congress 2005, 71st IFLA General Conference and Council will take place in Oslo, Norway from 14–18 August, 2005. The conference takes place in the compact centre of Oslo, with the majority of the hotels, meeting and exhibition facilities within walking distance of tourist attractions and restaurants. [WLIC 2005 Website](http://www.wlic2005.no)

For updated information on the conference please visit the WLIC 2005 website at [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

### **Conference Venue**

The World Library and Information Congress 2005 will be held at the Oslo Spektrum and in the conference hotel, Hotel Radisson Plaza in Oslo, Norway. Both venues are connected and are located in the heart of Oslo.

# LTR Newsletter December 2004

IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research  
(International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

## **IFLA 2005 ELECTIONS: NOMINATIONS FOR THE LTR STANDING COMMITTEE**

The following colleagues will be retiring from our Standing Committee (SC) at the 2005 IFLA Conference in Oslo. They are ineligible for re-nomination because they are at the end of their four-year 2nd term (i.e. they have served the SC for 8 years, with terms ending 2005):

**Wilda Newman – USA**  
**Steffen Ruckl – Germany**  
**Bob Usherwood – UK**

As well, the first four-year term of the following colleagues expires in 2005. They are all eligible to seek re-nomination as they have only served their first term of four years on the LTR Standing Committee. If they wish to remain on the LTR SC then they will need to seek re-nomination from an IFLA Voting member. They are:

**Ragnar Audunson - Norway**  
**Juan Carlos Fernandez Molina - Spain**  
**Wallace Koehler - USA**  
**Marian Koren - Netherlands.**

All Voting Members of IFLA have been sent the necessary documentation and forms to nominate members to IFLA Committees and these nominations should reach IFLA HQ by close of business on Wednesday 2 February 2005. The rules for nomination are enclosed with the Voting package.

Each Section may have up to 20 people serving on its Standing Committee and if the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, then a postal ballot will be held at the close of nominations.

It would be really good to continue the international representation on our LTR SC (this is also part of our Strategic Plan). I would urge you to identify colleagues from countries where IFLA will have its next conferences:

### **Future Conferences**

[World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council](#)

*Oslo, Norway, August 14-18, 2005*

[World Library and Information Congress: 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council](#)

*Seoul, Republic of Korea, 2006*

[World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council](#)

*Durban, South Africa, 2007*

[World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council](#)

*Québec, Canada, 2008*

I would like to sincerely thank our retiring members for the assistance they have given LTR Section.

**Kerry Smith, Chair/Treasurer**  
**IFLA LTR Section**

## **World Library and Information Congress: 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council**

**Seoul, Korea, August 2006**

### **Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society**

In recent years, society has been changing rapidly with the onset of a new digital era and rapid developments in information technology and digital communications. It is time for libraries to work together with library scholars and professionals in order to fulfill the role and functions of 21st century information centres to meet the challenges of this fast moving world. This theme has been chosen because we believe that libraries should act as a dynamic engine for the knowledge and information society. This is to be the mission of library scholars and professionals worldwide in the new era.



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