



Strategic Plan 2004-2005

Libraries for the Blind Section
July 2004

Mission

The mission of the Libraries for the Blind Section is to encourage the establishment of library service to print handicapped persons in countries where it does not exist or is inadequate, thus bridging the information gap.

Goals

1. To market and advocate library services to the print handicapped and to librarians worldwide; to other organizations such as the World Blind Union; and to government and library authorities in the developed and developing world in order to promote the importance of libraries for the blind in changing lives, to develop literacy and learning, and to promote policies directed toward equity of access regardless of disability.

(Professional priorities: (a) supporting the role of libraries in society; (b) defending the principle of freedom of information; (c) promoting literacy, reading and lifelong learning; (d) providing unrestricted access to information; (e) balancing the intellectual property rights of authors with the needs of users; (h) developing library professionals; and (j) supporting the infrastructure of library associations)

Actions

1.1 Research the next appropriate major regional conference in the developing world and develop a two-day conference in association with that regional conference to inform librarians and governments of IFLA guidelines for libraries for the blind and raise awareness of issues, train librarians and service providers in service concepts.

1.2 Plan an IFLA/LBS day-long workshop at the next World Blind Union General Assembly in South Africa in December 2004.

1.3 Work with the WBU to support continued free postal distribution of special format material for library services to the visually impaired.

1.4 Investigate with WIPO and IPA how to structure agreements for production and distribution rights for the libraries for the blind with publishers and rights holders, including special licenses and concessions from electronic publishers.

1.5 Publish two issues of the Section's newsletter annually in English, Russian and Spanish, and in print, Braille and diskette formats.

1.6 Prepare a new brochure for the Section appropriate to the digital age.

1.7 Develop a marketing strategy and plan to reach out to librarians both within and outside

IFLA to promote the library service needs of the blind and visually impaired.

1.8 Plan a joint workshop with the Libraries for the Disadvantage Section in Argentina with publisher and WIPO representatives to address copyright issues that present timely acquisition of content and international sharing of resources.

2. To establish guidelines for library services and a consistent methodology for reporting data on activities, including comparative data on production costs and procedures.

(Professional priorities: (I) promoting standards, guidelines and best practices)

Actions

2.1 Publish “Libraries for the Blind in the Information Age: Guidelines for Development” and develop a plan to make it a basis for advocacy initiatives around the world.

2.2 Finalize arrangements for the Ulverscroft LBS Award, develop promotion and implementation plans, and establish a selection jury.

2.3 Develop methodology for comparison of performance measures for libraries for the blind as an international resource for comparison and analysis.

2.4 Plan a day-long workshop with major publishers to explore issues in copyright and standardization of publishers’ files for distribution to libraries producing content in accessible formats.

2.5 Develop guidelines for an integrated digital library system to assist library staff, library administrators and the technology marketplace understand and plan for future integrated digital library systems benefitting the blind.

2.6 Develop workshop to be presented annually for the next two years to address the integration of the next generation access technologies with library catalogues and distribution systems to promote independence of access to digital content, address digital rights management issues, next-generation access technologies, and user interfaces.

2.7 Collaborate with other IFLA sections and libraries in development and application of tools such as metadata and digital object identifiers for classifying and organizing content and for retrieval of bibliographic or other information.

3. To encourage the training and continuing education of professional serving print-handicapped readers.

(Professional priority: (h) developing library professionals)

3.1 Create opportunities for staff across the world to participate in ongoing training and development, share experiences, and develop cooperative projects to advance library service to blind and print-handicapped people