



## **Annual Report of the Reading Section, 2006-2007**

Prepared by Gwynneth Evans, former Section Chair  
March 2008

This Annual Report looks back to review the actions taken by the Reading Section in its strategic plan, 2006 and 2007.

**Goal 1 states: Help libraries worldwide develop projects and programmes that encourage and support literacy, reading, and lifelong learning.**

The following actions were completed:

- "Library-Based Literacy Programs: Some Practical Suggestions"; has been translated and uploaded to the website to two additional languages, Farsi and Russian;
- The Section has encouraged libraries to become involved and to report on their activities during the UNESCO Decade of Literacy (2003-2012) at meetings and on the website;
- Reports and articles on literacy and reading research are accessible on the website;
- Meetings were held with officers of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) on several occasions and their activities have been promoted in the newsletter and on the website;
- IBBY had a table at the Durban conference to demonstrate quality children's publishing in Africa, illustrated through the exhibit: *Books for Africa; Books from Africa*;
- The Pushkin Library, The Library of Congress' Center for the Book and the British Council published and distributed free of charge *Building Nations of Readers: Experience, Ideas, Examples*;
- The Chair participated in the Reading Summit in Kazakhstan and took part in a number of activities in Astana, related to reading and public library service in April 2007;

**Goal 2 states: Through meetings, discussion, research, publications, and widespread dissemination of information on IFLANET, encourage a better understanding of reading, literacy, and book culture in specific cultural milieus**

- The Reading Section joined the Services for Multicultural Populations and Children and Young Adult sections in planning a successful satellite meeting on Innovative Multicultural Services for All in Pretoria, 2007, by been a member of the Organizing Committee and suggesting keynote speakers;
- The Section also coordinated the planning and chaired the session on 'Libraries in Good Health: Resources and Practices Designed to Support Community Development and Outreach in Health-related Issues', in cooperation with the Public Libraries and School Libraries and Resource Centres sections;
- The Reading Section welcomed a number of guests at its meetings in Seoul and Durban, noting the presence of Patsy Aldana, a publisher and the president of IBBY;
- Eric Weber's paper entitles 'Improving the Integration of Public Reading in cultural Policies of Francophone Developing Countries in the **IFLA Journal**, 33(1), 2007. pp 7-15.

**Goal 3 states: Monitor, promote, and disseminate research and research results about reading, readers, reading promotion, literacy, and library services to readers**

- The Section chair worked with IRA on international research related to the critical factors in sustaining a culture of Literacy. She made a presentation on the results of the research, conducted in cooperation with IRA and the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, at the conference in Toronto in may 2007. The report of the first phase is available on the Section's website. Members of IFLA responded to the questionnaire, developed though a consultative process;
- The papers delivered at the annual IFLA conference on effective reading programmes are available as a series on the website (1194-2007). They include papers in a number of IFLA languages, as well as some translations;
- The Section encouraged the reading research conducted by Dr. Elsa Ramirez in Latin America and promote its dissemination;
- The Standing Committee discussed and accepted a new format for the session in Quebec City, in which a number of organizations will be able to display and present their reading and literacy programmes in an interactive way to encourage sharing and learning from one another, within and beyond the Section, with support from Services to Multicultural Populations;
- At the second meeting of the Standing Committee in Durban, a discussion of the scope and mandate of the Section, along with its name has resulted in a revision to the name: Literacy and Reading Section, approved in December 2007 by the Professional Committee;

**Goal 4 states: Increase membership on the Standing Committee and in the Section on Reading**

- The Section has published electronically and in print a bookmark in English and French to promote the work and benefits of the Section;
- The Section published two newsletters each year and encouraged contributions from a variety of persons and sources;
- A number of new members were nominated in 2007 to the Standing Committee by members of Section from different countries, in order to continue to benefit from varied experience in literacy and reading programmes from different parts of the world;
- New officers were welcomed in August 2007.
- All references to the Section website may be found at:  
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s33/index.htm>