



IFLA Section of Public Libraries

Newsletter

Issue no 24, July 2001

Standing Committee 1999 - 2001

Assumpta Bailac Puigdemívol, Spain
Frode Bakken, Norway
Clara Budnik Sinay, Chile
Jarmila Burgetova, Czech Republic
Georgeta Clinca, Romania
Barbara Clubb, Canada
Nic Diament, France
Vladimir R. Firsov, Russia
Philip G. Gill, United Kingdom
Ilona Glashoff, Germany
Tuula Haavisto, Finland
Britt Marie Häggström, Sweden
Kerstin Hassner, Sweden
Nerses Hayrapetyan, Armenia
Bernard Margolis, USA
Robert Pestell, Australia
Florence Poncé, France
Mary Sherman, USA
Borge Sondergard, Denmark
Reinhard Stridde, Germany

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**Your dynamic connection to the
international world of library
and information services**



MIDTERM MEETING IN PRAGUE.

Twelve members of the Standing Committee for the Section of Public Libraries met in Prague in February 22-24, 2001. The meeting took place in the National Library, situated in the very heart of Prague in the beautiful Klementinum facing the river and the famous Charlesbridge.

The Section was heartily welcomed by our host and co-member, Dr. Jarmila Burgetova, who in the most splendid way took care of us through the meeting. She arranged a tour in the National Library, a visit to the nearby Central Public Library, a beautiful dinner in old Czech surroundings. Prague looked its best, covered in snow and sunshine.

The Committee had serious discussions on a variety of matters, among others the last reviewing of the Midterm Programme and the latest news on the guidelines-, computer literacy-, lifelong learning- and the UNETprojects. A long and serious discussions were held on the subject: "what are the tasks of the public libraries related to the duties to teach on the use of computer programmes?" This matter arised from the discussion on the Computer Literacy project. The views of the members differed from Denmark, wanting to teach citizens every aspect of computer programmes to France, who wanted the duties of teaching limited only to library related computer programmes.

The Committee, with some pride and relief, stated that our biggest project for the last four years, the new Public Library Guidelines, had now finally come to an end. It is going to be published in the English Version on July 15'th 2001, and we will present it in Boston.

Of course, the final adjustment of the Section's Boston programme were decided upon, and we began planning the Glasgow Conference programme.

Wonderful and hard working days with inspiring colleagues in Prague.



See more pictures of Klementinum on: http://www.nkp.cz/PublicRel/English/Virtual_Tour.htm

Borge Sondergard, editor

IFLA Section of Public Libraries
IFLA Headquarters
P O Box 95312
NL-2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands

URL: www.ifla.org/VII/s8/spl.htm

Chair/Treasurer: Barbara H. Clubb,
tel: (+01) 613 598-4001,
e-mail: barbara.clubb@library.ottawa.on.ca
Secretary: Britt Marie Haggström,
tel: (+46) 8-466 24 02,
e-mail: britt.marie.haggstrom@dik.se



PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN BOSTON

Interesting Public Library Programme in IFLA 67th General Conference and Council, 16–25 August, 2001 in Boston USA.

Preliminary Programme:

Saturday, August 18

08.30-11.20 Standing Committee Meeting 1 held in Boston Public Library (you are invited to join the meeting)

Sunday, August 19

08.30-10.20 Performance Measurement in Public Libraries Discussion Group
10.30-12.20 Public Libraries: *Library of the Future. A Profile of the Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch (Richmond, Canada)*. Greg Buss & Cate McNeely

Tuesday, August 21

08.30-11.00 Open Forum of Division of Libraries Serving the General Public: *Achievements: Libraries Change Lives*
09.00-09.30 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2001 Access to Learning Award Announcement (held off-site at Boston Public Library, Historic McKim Building, Abbey Room)
12.30-15.00 Public Libraries Open Session: *Public Libraries: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age*.

Programme:

1. Overview of Section activities with emphasis on the new guidelines, Barbara Clubb and Philip Gill
2. A hassle-free library experience, Lek Choh Ngian
3. Unet evaluation, Kerstin Hassner
4. Internet service in Africa, the Bulawayo, Zimbabwe experience, Robin W. Doust
5. The public library in lifelong learning, Britt Marie Haggström
6. Copyright and licensing – hot issues for public libraries, Tuula Haavisto

Wednesday, August 22

09.00-10.00 Press Conference: Public Library Guidelines (*the complete revised edition of the IFLA/ UNESCO Public Library Guidelines will be presented during the session*)

11.30-14.30 Public Libraries with UNESCO: *Public Libraries and Telecentres – Companions or Competitors? Papers by: Steve Cisler, Clara Budnik Sinay, Meddie Myanja, Karin Delgadillo, Anriette Esterheusen*

Friday, August 24

08.00-10.00 Standing Committee Meeting 2

And a special invitation:

As the vice president of the Massachusetts Black Librarians Network, I would like to invite interested IFLA attendees to our co-sponsored program/ reception on Wednesday, August 22, 2001, 6pm to 7:30pm.

”Power in the Word: Books, Technology, and the Information Access in the African Diaspora”.

Informal discussions with librarians from the Caribbean, Africa, and the Americas. It will be held at the Dudley Branch of the Boston Public Library, 65 Warren Street Roxbury, MA, USA, Tel.: (+1) 617.442.6186. Library tour, networking, and refreshments.

Em Claire Knowles, Simmons College, Boston
emclaire.knowles@simmons.edu

Boston Public Library



Central
Library in
Copley
Square



NEW STANDING COMMITTEE 2001-2003

For the first time in many years an election had to be held in order to point out the new members of the Section of Public Libraries. There were 20 candidates for 13 vacancies. 5 members of the present committee were re-elected for their second term, and 8 were elected for their first term. There are 6 continuing members.

New Standing Committee 2001-2003

Assumpta Bailac Puigdemivol, Spain
Klaus-Peter Boettger, Germany
Elena Boretti, Italy
Clara Budnik Sinay, Chile
Jarmila Burgetova, Czech Republic
Georgeta Clinca, Romania
Barbara H. Clubb, Canada
Vladimir R. Firsov, Russian Federation
Kerstin Hassner, Sweden
Torny Kjekstad, Norway
Gunilla Konradsson, Sweden
John Bruce Lake, United Kingdom
Lek Choh Ngian, Singapore
Bernard Margolis, USA
Tuula Martikainen, Finland
Florence Poncé, France
Jan-Ewout van der Putten, Netherlands
Mary Sherman, USA
Børge Søndergård, Denmark

This means, that the Section has to say goodbye to some outstanding colleagues, that have become friends as well. We want to thank you all for the work you have contributed over four or even eight years of service. We will miss you very much and wish you well in your endeavours.

Outgoing Members:

Nerses Hayrapetyan (Armenia), Frode Bakken (Norway), Nic Diament (France), Philip Gill (United Kingdom), Ilona Glashoff (Germany), Tuula Haavisto (Finland), Britt Marie Häggström (Sweden), Robert Pestell (Australia), Reinhard Stridde (Germany).

Up until the IFLA General Conference in Boston, Barbara H. Clubb presides as Chair, Britt Marie Häggström as Secretary and Børge Søndergård as Newsletter Editor/Information Coordinator. New elections of IFLA officers has to take place at the Boston Conference in August for the term 2001-2003.

MODEL STANDARD FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF RUSSIA

BY

VLADIMIR R. FIRSOV

Public libraries are the main type of libraries in Russia as well as throughout the world. Despite some decrease of their number in the 90-s there are still about 50 thousand public libraries in the country. As a result of the reforms these libraries are now supervised and financed by the local authorities.

The "Model Standard for Public Library Activities" was adopted at the Plenary Meeting of the Russian Library Association on May 24, 2001 in the framework of the VI Annual RLA Session in Saratov, which has been proclaimed the library capital of Russia for 2001.

The document has been prepared by initiative of the Section of Library Policy and Legislation and Public Libraries Section.

This is a non-mandatory standard, containing guidelines and rules which are recommended by the Russian Library Association to govern the activities of public libraries as well state and local authorities. The latter have the right to develop and adopt their own rules, based on the needs for library and information services, and on material and other circumstances of the local communities.

The document has accumulated both valuable experience of national public libraries and new approaches to their development. It has also taken into account the main principles and provisions of the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994) and "IFLA Public Libraries Guidelines" (2000).

At present public libraries are facing a certain inequality of possibilities for their development, caused by local budgeting as well as notions of the local administrators concerning the impact of public libraries to the social benefit. Sometimes this diversity leads to infringement of the citizens' constitutional right of access to culture and information irrespective of their dwelling-place.

The Model Standard is organized in accordance with

the principles for the public library activities stated in the Federal Library Act (1994), these principles being developed and specified in the document.

The Model Standard has seven sections:

General

Users and Services

Accessible Location of the Public Library

Public Library Resources

Public Library Premises. Organization of the Library Space

Public Library Personnel

Public Library and the Local Community

These are compulsory free services rendered by a public library as stipulated by the Model Standard:

providing information concerning the presence of certain documents in the library resources;
giving advice and rendering services to the users in their search and choice of information resources;
renting and leasing any documents from the library own resources;
giving information on availability of the document required in other libraries.

At present the Russian Library Association evolve activities for implementing the Model Standard into practice. Our colleagues of the Republic of Belarus' have already expressed interest, so presentation and discussion of the document in Minsk are planned for October 2001.

PUBLICATION

NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY GUIDELINES 2001

The Public Library Section's major project in the last 4 years has been new guidelines and standards for public libraries. It is now complete! We are proud to announce the publication of the English version on July 15'th 2001.

The title is "The Public Library Service: the IFLA/ UNESCO Guidelines for Development", ISBN 3-598-21827-3, 132p., retail price: DM98, price to IFLA members DM 73.50.

There is a commitment to produce the text in the UNESCO and IFLA official languages. The Section is keen to encourage translation into as many other languages as possible. Those wishing to help translate the text in other languages should contact IFLA Headquarters.

PROMOTING COMPUTER LITERACY – A PILOT SURVEY.

One of IFLA's core-activities is to collect information on library services and produce statistics, guidelines and best practises to help librarians to improve their daily library work.

Information technology and computers are now vital instruments for people all around the world, but in many countries we find a great deal of computer illiteracy among people. One of the new tasks for public libraries is to combat this computer illiteracy by helping the users to understand and take advantage of this new way of getting on-line public access to information by Internet.

IFLA's Section for Public Libraries has decided to take on a project to gain information about how different kinds of public libraries deal with this matter. We seek information from both developing and developed countries. The aim is to produce some statistics and a small leaflet with best practises. This information will be set up on our web-site: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/spl.htm>, and we will try to arrange a workshop on IFLA's Annual Conference in Glasgow 2002.

In order to get the information needed, the workgroup had produced a questionnaire, but before we send out a questionnaire world-wide, we conducted a pilot survey, in order to get qualified feedback. The national members of the Standing Committee for IFLA's Section for Public Libraries have chosen two libraries in their country to take part in this pilot survey. The hope is, that the libraries in question will help us by filling out the questionnaire and send us comments and ideas, so we can improve the questionnaire before it goes world-wide.

In the project-group we have had a great deal of discussions about what are the core obligations for public libraries in the field of promoting computer literacy. In some countries it is considered quite normal to educate the users in all kind of computer programmes. In other countries education only in strictly library related programmes is considered to be the task for the public library. Again in some countries, the obligations of promoting computer literacy are dealt with by several different organisations; schools, adult education institutions, libraries etc.

At this moment the workgroup is reviewing the questionnaires, we have got back from the libraries, and a preliminary report will be given at the Section's meeting in Boston

Florence Poncé, France:
florence.ponce@culture.gouv.fr
Borge Sondergard, Denmark: bibbso@horsens.dk
(Project leaders)



IFLA PROFESSIONAL PRIORITIES

IFLA Professional Board has approved a new set of 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) Promoting Unrestricted Access to Information
- e) Safeguarding the Intellectual Property Rights of Libraries and Authors
- f) Promoting Resource Sharing
- g) Preserving Our Intellectual Heritage
- h) Developing Library Professionals
- i) Promoting Standards, Guidelines and Best Practises
- j) Supporting the Infrastructure of Library Associations
- k) Representing Libraries in the Technological Marketplace



BEST PRACTISE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Grab the opportunity to learn from some of your most outstanding colleagues around the world – and free of charge!

The development of innovative solutions by practitioners for practitioners – that is the mission of the International Network of Public Libraries established in 1996 as an initiative of the Bertelsmann Foundation. The Network, an affiliation of at present 17 library practitioners from ten countries, pools international know-how. The members develop model concepts for the management of public libraries and subsequently test them in practice. Members of the Network produce reports and papers, which are available as free downloads on the homepage of the Bertelsmann Foundation: <http://www.stiftung.bertelsmann.de/INPL>. Project Manager is: Anja Friese (anja.friese@bertelsmann.de)

Project Targets:

The objective of the International Network of Public Libraries is to pool international know-how, to strengthen the exchange of experience among public library experts, to develop concepts for modern library management and above all, to promote the transfer of such model solutions into practice. In all this, the Network is characterised by its great practical relevance: Future-oriented model solutions are developed by practitioners for practitioners.

The International Network of Public Libraries project consists of two modules, one building on the other:
a) *International research and preparation of model solutions on issues of modern library management*
b) *Implementation of these solutions at the practical level to test their suitability for everyday use.*

The results are jointly discussed and evaluated by the Network members and later published by the Bertelsmann Foundation.

You will find a detailed discussion of the project on the Bertelsmann Foundation homepage. In addition, you can download free of charge all the reports so far published by Network members. For this you will need the "Adobe Acrobat Reader", which enables you to read and print files in pdf-format. A Spanish

version of the reports has been published by the Fundación Bertelsmann under www.fundacionbertelsmann.es.

Major topics so far have been:

a) New Technologies

Libraries in the media society
Electronic Media
Implementation of new technologies
Future-oriented Internet services
Libraries as knowledge center for the community

b) Customer Orientation

Customer retention
Marketing mix
Strategic management

c) Organization

Output-oriented control
Organization development
Management self-assessment
Managing tomorrow's libraries
Competencies needed by public library staff

d) Business Tools

Organization, cost and performance accounting system
Alternative financing
Quality management
Learning from others

f) Libraries and society

Library administrators in the political arena
Libraries as physical and virtual place
Partnerships and co-operations

Latest Reports:

In May this year the Network announced 5 new reports:

Josephine Bryant, Kay Poustie: *Competencies needed by the public library staff*

Susan Kent, Allison Dobbie, Henk Das, Conny Ång: *The public library – idea, cyberspace, physical presence*

June Garcia, Trevor Knight, Sue Sutherland: *Learning from others*

Rolf Hapel, Volker Pirsich, Thierry Giappiconi: *Future-oriented Internet-based services in public libraries*

Maija Berndtson: *Dreaming the future. Managing tomorrow's libraries – some funky ideas*

Borge Sondergard, editor

CONFERENCE

COMFENALCO Library in Colombia organizes the First Latin-American and Caribbean Congress about Local Information Services.

Aware of the importance of the availability and of the use of the information generated by communities for the development of citizen participation projects as well as for securing the democratic process, IFLA - ALP has proceeded to approve a project presented by COMFENALCO Library in Colombia in order to organize a meeting about Community Information Services which will be held this year in Medellín, Colombia, from September 18-21. The theme of it will be "The Creation of Local Community Information Centers in Public Libraries in Latin America and the Caribbean".

The Ministry of Culture of Colombia and the Inter American School of Librarianship of the University of Antioquia will also grant its support to this project.

Directors of public libraries, coordinators of library networks, people in charge of the local community information services within government and private institutions as well as within social organizations who can credit experience in community participation projects and information systems, shall participate in this event.

Granting the coordination and organization of this First Conference to COMFENALCO obeys to the experience, recognition and acknowledgement that this library has had in the design and lending of local information services in Medellín.

National and International experts will participate in this event and they will develop these principal aspects:

- Identity process within a globalization context.
- Relations between reading and information.
- The right to information, citizen's participation, and public Information policies.
- Technological Systems for providing information to the local community

This event will permit participants to socialize about their experiences and to conduct reflexive thinking in relation to them, as well as to promote this type of service in public libraries so as to benefit entire communities.

Adriana Maria Betancur, General Coordinator of this Conference emphasized that it has been fundamental for COMFENALCO Antioquia to stimulate the creation and development of local information services within the country and in Latin America, and that this shall become a fundamental support in the process of strengthening cultural identities, and in this way citizen participation. can be motivated.

More information: <http://www.comfenalcoantioquia.com/sil/institucion.asp?75>

IFLA APPROVES LICENSING PRINCIPLES

The world-wide marketplace for all types of electronic information resources is developing rapidly as publishers and vendors creating electronic information seek to attract libraries of all types (academic, public, national and special) as their customers. Today, libraries around the world continue in their role as mediators between users and producers of information and cultural expression. This role persists even more energetically, it appears, for electronic information than for print.

The use of electronic information everywhere in the world is usually defined and described by contractual agreements, otherwise known as licenses. These are marketplace arrangements in which a willing information provider and a willing purchaser of information access come together to make arrangements, deal by deal, resource by resource.

IFLA views the licensing arena positively, although key issues remain to be resolved. In particular, licensing is increasingly responsive to complex business arrangements between information providers and library consortia of different types and sizes. IFLA encourages and supports the evolution of all types of libraries negotiating as consortia.

Recently IFLA's Executive and Professional Boards approved a set of Licensing Principles which should prevail in contractual relationship and written contracts between libraries and information providers. Aspects that have been touched upon by these principles include: the law, access, usage and users, and pricing.

Marianne Scott, Chair of the IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) which prepared the text of Principles, commented: "Licensing is increasing in importance as a mean of gaining access to commercially available digital information. I am pleased that the library community world-wide now has a set of principles to provide support and guidance in negotiating these licenses".

The text of the IFLA Licensing Principles is available on IFLANET at: www.ifla.org/V/ebpb/copy.htm.

Press Release, IFLA HQ, 2 May, 2001.



IFLA/PL Newsletter

"editorial office"

Horsens City Library
Tobaksgarden 12
DK-8700 Horsens
Denmark
Tel: (+45) 76 29 24 00
Fax: (+45) 75 61 19 85
URL: www.bibliotek.horsens.dk

Editor: Borge Sondergard
tel: (+45) 76 29 24 01
e-mail: bibbso@horsens.dk
private: 2b@mail1.stofanet.dk

Layout: Borge Sondergard
Printing: Horsens City Library