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EDITORIAL
Focus on Québec

Stephen Parker

In this issue of IFLA Journal, the focus is on Québec – specifically, on the World Library and Information Congress, 74th IFLA General Conference and Council, held in the beautiful city of Québec, Canada, from 10–14 August 2008.

We begin, appropriately, with the Opening Address by the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean. The first language for many of the proceedings in Québec was, of course, French; so in acknowledgment of the importance of the French language to Québécois culture, we first present Mme Jean's address in French – the language in which it was delivered. However, because the primary language of publication of IFLA Journal is English, we next present the English translation of her address.

Michaëlle Jean was born in Port au Prince, Haiti, and immigrated to Canada with her family in 1968, fleeing the dictatorial regime of the time. She worked for eight years with Québec shelters for battered women, and later ventured into journalism and took part in documentary films produced by her husband. Michaëlle Jean became Canada's 27th Governor General in September 2005.

We follow the Governor General's address with the Opening Address by the President of IFLA, Claudia Lux. This in turn is followed by a paper from one of the plenary sessions in Québec. In 'Libraries and the First Nations People of Canada' James Bartleman, until recently Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, describes his childhood as a member of the First Nations People of Canada and his discovery of the value of books and libraries. He describes the social conditions of young people living in poor First Nation communities in Canada and his efforts to establish libraries, summer reading camps, reading clubs and creative writing literary awards for children and youth in these communities. During his time in office, Mr Bartleman pursued three priorities: eliminating the stigma of mental illness, supporting anti-racism initiatives and encouraging aboriginal young people. He implemented four aboriginal literacy programs including a reading program and summer reading camps for native children. Mr. Bartleman served for 35 years in Canada's Foreign Service as Ambassador to various countries. He is the author of four best-selling books and currently Chancellor of The Ontario College of Art and Design.

The next paper, by IFLA President-elect Ellen Tise, Reggie Raju and Charles Masango, is a slightly revised version of a paper which provided the background to discussions during the President-elect's Brainstorming Session, held during the Québec Congress on 12 August 2008. Ellen Tise is currently the Senior Director, Library and Information Services at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. She is President-elect of IFLA for the period 2007–2009 and will thus automatically serve as President for the period 2009–2011. Reggie Raju is also employed at the Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service as Director of Information Technology and Communication, while Charles A. Masango is a Research Development Co-ordinator with the Emerging Research Programme, Department of Research and Innovation at the University of Cape Town. In 'Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge: a discussion paper', the authors provide a brief examination of the evolution of libraries and their contribution to literacy and information provision and access to that information. They note that the mode of access has significantly changed, and this has brought a different set of challenges. These challenges include, amongst others, the dismantling of barriers to access in an era of information explosion and the moral obligation to drive access to knowledge and information.

We close this highly selective sample of papers from the Québec Congress with the Closing Address by the President of IFLA, Claudia Lux.

The next paper was not presented at the Québec Congress, though it reflects many of the themes and topics discussed in Québec, particularly, perhaps, those raised in Hervé Fischer's address. In 'The Public Library in Contemporary Nigeria:

challenges and the way forward', Umunna N. Opara, a Principal Lecturer at the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri, in Imo State, Nigeria, examines the state of public libraries in Nigeria and notes that the tempo of public library development in the country in the years immediately after independence, and after the Nigerian civil war could not be sustained due to inadequate financial support by the establishing authorities. The paper identifies inadequate funding, demoralized and inadequate workforce, inadequate accommodation, etc. as the challenges currently confronting these libraries. It proposes a remediation of these conditions as a way forward.

The Reports section of this issue is longer than usual, and again focuses mainly on the proceedings in Québec. However, the first report, 'Building for the Future: National and Academic Libraries from around the Globe', by Karen Latimer and Andrew Cranfield, summarizes the proceedings of a conference organized by the IFLA Library Buildings and Equipment Section and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, held in The Hague from 3–5 October 2007. The aim of the conference was to explore, through a series of visits and case studies, how national and academic library building projects had successfully risen to the challenges posed by raised user expectations and the need for new services.

The next item in the Reports section is the Secretary General's Report to Council, 2008, by outgoing Secretary General Peter Johan Lor, which provides a mainly very positive picture of IFLA's progress over the past year.

The new IFLA Manifesto on Transparency, Good Governance and Freedom from Corruption was officially launched at a press conference during the Québec Congress. The full text of the Manifesto is presented in the News Section of this issue under the heading 'Policies and Plans', but the next item in the Reports section, 'IFLA's new Transparency, Good Governance and Freedom

from Corruption Manifesto: background and rationale', by Paul Sturges, Chair of IFLA FAIFE, explains how the Manifesto came about.

Another feature of the programme in Québec was a session led by President Claudia Lux to review progress in connection with her Presidential theme, 'Libraries on the Agenda'. The proceedings are summarized in the report on the session by Christel Mahnke.

The next item in the Reports section is a report on 'The New IFLA Website' by Simon Lemstra, IFLA Web Manager, which describes some of the background to the planning and development of the new site.

Also included in the Reports section are brief reports on the meetings in Québec organized by the Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters, the Access to Information Network–Africa/Réseau d'Accès à l'Information en Afrique, the Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group, the E-Learning Discussion Group, the Agricultural Libraries Discussion Group, the LIS Education in Developing Countries Discussion Group and the New Professionals Discussion Group.

As mentioned above, a noteworthy item in the News section is the 'IFLA Manifesto on Transparency, Good Governance and Freedom from Corruption'. Also in the News section, for those who can't forget Québec or those who wish they had been there, is an opportunity for 'Looking Back on the Congress'.

IFLA Section Committees have submitted more than 30 recommendations of papers from their Québec Congress sessions to be considered by the IFLA Journal Editorial Committee for possible publication in 2009. The papers selected by the Committee will appear in coming issues of the journal, giving readers further opportunities to experience the flavour of Québec.

The President's Page

Claudia Lux, IFLA President, 2007–2009

When I'm writing this page the Berlin Marathon has just finished. Near to 40,000 runners were on the streets of Berlin on a golden autumn day and even more visitors from all around the world were watching the spectacle along the streets. Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia shattered his own marathon record this Sunday morning, to become the first man in history to run it in under 2 hours 4 minutes. Irina Mikitenko from Germany, after a fantastic race, wins the women's marathon.

I never understood how one can run more than 5 kilometres, not to say 42 kilometres, in a row. It is so fascinating to watch the energy when people pursue this goal, how they prepare themselves over months to take part in this great event. I would like to know how many librarians are running marathons. The results list does not show a profession, but I know at least some people from libraries in Germany who are running the Marathon in Berlin.

We have had some running events in connection with IFLA Congresses. Have we ever had a page in our library journals about librarians and sports? Oh yes, quite a few and there have even been some reports about the football matches with librarians from Austria, Germany and Italy. Last time they played in the biggest stadium of Munich.

As you all know, we librarians do not have the image of marathon runners. But in reality we are. You will hardly meet a more dedicated group of people who are identifying themselves with their institutions and services to the people. You will hardly find a group of people who are so proud on their work. Most librarians love their job. Why is it like that? Is there any objective reason for it?

Librarians are often not well paid, their institutions are constantly in discussion with politicians who do not understand why libraries are growing bigger, need more money for acquisitions and

Claudia Lux, IFLA President 2007–2009

more staff. They are under pressure by politicians who do not want libraries to give access to the knowledge in the world, and who apply censorship in a direct or subtle way. It is a marathon of arguments we need to put libraries on the agenda.

So what is it that librarians love about their jobs?

Is it the atmosphere of the library, this temple of knowledge or the new living room of the city? Is it the world of possibilities which are open to us through the books and media around us? Is it the wonderful feeling when we could give help to somebody who was looking for an answer? Or is it just our joy in never ceasing to learn more about the world and the creative ideas of men just by doing our jobs? I am sure that every one of you can describe why you love our profession. And when you do it, please start to tell it to other people. Tell it to show them the new picture of librarians. Tell it to explain why libraries must be on their agenda. And tell it to convince young people to come into our profession, as we need more people who love to run a marathon for libraries on the agenda.

Congrès mondial des bibliothèques et de l'information Québec, 2008: Discours d'ouverture par le gouverneur général du Canada

Michaëlle Jean

Son Excellence la très honorable Mme Michaëlle Jean est née à Port-au-Prince en Haïti. C'est en 1968 qu'elle est arrivée au Canada en compagnie de sa famille, après avoir fui le régime dictatorial de l'époque. Titulaire d'une maîtrise en littérature comparée à l'Université de Montréal, elle a ensuite enseigné à la faculté d'études italiennes de cette même institution. Trois bourses lui permettent de parfaire ses connaissances à l'université de Pérouse, à l'université de Florence et à l'Université catholique de Milan. Mme Jean parle couramment cinq langues : le français, l'anglais, l'italien, l'espagnol et le créole. Parallèlement à ses études, elle a oeuvré pendant huit ans auprès des maisons d'hébergement et de transition pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale au Québec et participé à la mise sur pied d'un réseau de refuges d'urgence au Québec et ailleurs au Canada. Mme Jean a ensuite connu une brillante carrière de journaliste, de présentatrice et

Bienvenue à Québec!

Nous voici réunis à l'endroit où le majestueux fleuve Saint-Laurent se rétrécit, comme le rappelle la signification amérindienne du mot Québec. Dans cette ville chargée d'histoire et en cette année qui marque le quatre centième anniversaire de sa fondation par l'explorateur français Samuel de Champlain et ses compagnons d'aventure. Cet anniversaire rappelle l'épopée fabuleuse qu'était celle des premières traversées et des « nouveaux commencements » en terre d'Amérique, pour reprendre la formule du Père le Jeune. Cette épopée, Champlain l'a racontée et l'a illustrée avec force détails dans quatre ouvrages successifs qui s'échelonnent de 1603 à 1632, des carnets de voyages couvrant la quasi-totalité de ses voyages dans les Amériques et de ses séjours au Canada.

Le récit de ses explorations et de ses découvertes est parvenu jusqu'à nous presque entièrement, parce que ces ouvrages ont été publiés de son vivant et conservés dans des bibliothèques et des fonds d'archives. C'est d'ailleurs à l'initiative d'un bibliothécaire, l'abbé Laverdière, également professeur d'histoire au séminaire de Québec, que ces textes ont été réédités deux siècles plus tard. Tout un foisonnement d'études et d'ouvrages s'en est suivi. Nul doute que, sans la publication et la conservation des carnets de voyage de Champlain et des ouvrages qui y sont consacrés, cette page décisive de notre histoire, que nous célébrons cette année, nous aurait échappé.

Je vous invite d'ailleurs à visiter durant ce séjour la Citadelle de Québec, reconnu comme le site militaire historique le mieux conservé en Amérique du Nord et qui abrite aussi la résidence officielle du gouverneur général. Vous y trouverez un précieux bâtiment patrimonial, la Redoute, érigée par le sieur de Frontenac en 1693, que nous avons fait restaurer pour y exposer Le grand livre de Champlain, œuvre monumentale offerte par les villes françaises de La Rochelle, Rochefort et l'agglomération de Royan à l'occasion du 400e de Québec.

Je crois comme vous que tout espace consacré à la diffusion du savoir et de la grande aventure de l'humanité vient illuminer et enrichir notre patrimoine collectif. C'est dire à quel point votre rôle, en tant que gardiens de la mémoire du monde, a toujours été crucial pour le développement humain : depuis les tablettes d'argile conservées dans les archives et la bibliothèque du palais des rois d'Assyrie jusqu'à l'ère numérique, en passant par la mythique bibliothèque d'Alexandrie.

Tout au cours de l'histoire, il a fallu la clairvoyance et l'engagement de gens convaincus, comme vous, de l'importance et de la portée

des écrits et de tous les témoignages qui font que les mots traversent les siècles, les frontières, brisent les solitudes et viennent jusqu'à nous. Nous devons à ces passeurs de savoir, ces conservateurs de manuscrits, ces copistes, ces enlumineurs, ces fondateurs de bibliothèques et d'archives, ces esprits éclairés d'avoir accès à la sagesse d'Aristote, de jouer Sophocle et Euripide des millénaires après leur mort, voire d'écouter les partitions de compositeurs de génie comme Mozart.

Les bibliothèques et la science qu'elles soustendent sont nées d'un idéal de pérennité et d'universalité qu'ont caressé toutes les grandes civilisations depuis l'invention de l'écriture : celui qui consiste à réunir tout le savoir du monde, à la manière de Jorge Luis Borges, qui a un jour rêvé d'une bibliothèque qui contiendrait tous les ouvrages depuis la nuit des temps.

Or, l'histoire nous a montré combien les fossoyeurs d'idées et de liberté s'en prennent souvent aux bibliothèques et aux livres, avec quelle fureur ils les mettent à l'index et les jettent au bûcher de leur barbarie. Combien de trésors fragiles et précieux ont été réduits en cendres. Deux millions de livres, dont 3000 manuscrits rares sont ainsi partis en fumée dans la nuit du 25 au 26 août 1992 lorsque la bibliothèque de Sarajevo a été volontairement bombardée et incendiée. C'est comme si deux millions d'étoiles s'étaient éteintes à jamais dans le ciel de l'humanité.

C'est dire à quel point l'idéal qui vise à préserver et à mettre le savoir à la portée de toutes et de tous, à favoriser ainsi le partage et la rencontre des idées, l'esprit critique, l'humanisme et la vigueur des forces de création, cet idéal n'est jamais totalement à l'abri des esprits réducteurs et des forces de destruction.

Cet idéal est une œuvre de vigilance qu'il nous faut protéger, poursuivre sans cesse, démocratiser, comme un bien commun, une denrée et une ressource essentielles à la vie.

Et jamais, je dirais, cet idéal ne nous a semblé aussi atteignable, réalisable qu'aujourd'hui, alors que les nouvelles technologies offrent aux bibliothèques, aux archives et aux institutions à vocation patrimoniale des possibilités quasi infinies. La nature même des documents a changé, ainsi que leur mode de création, de diffusion

et de conservation. Ces documents vont bien au-delà de l'écrit, allant de l'enregistrement sonore aux vidéos et aux films. Nous voici à l'ère des médiathèques.

De nouveaux supports permettent ce qui paraissait inimaginable il y a à peine un quart de siècle. Il est possible aujourd'hui d'assurer une pérennité à des œuvres, des traits de civilisations et des témoignages issus de la tradition orale. Grâce à ces supports nos pouvons désormais faire en sorte que tout un art de vivre ne sombre dans l'oubli.

Chez nous au Canada, nous réalisons à quel point il est urgent de voir à la survie des cultures ancestrales, notamment celles des premiers peuples qui sont nos racines les plus profondes en ce continent, les Premières nations, les Inuits et les Métis.

Il est urgent de tout faire pour sauvegarder la richesse de leurs légendes, de leurs histoires, de leurs coutumes, de leurs savoirs, de leurs rapports au territoire.

Il est primordial de les aider à rassembler les traces de tout ce dont ils ont été dépossédés par la colonisation et de voir à préserver ce patrimoine unique. Déjà trop de langues sont disparues du fait même d'une désastreuse indifférence.

La meilleure façon de lutter contre les ravages de l'indifférence c'est la connaissance. N'était-ce pas le projet ambitieux de Diderot et de son Encyclopédie, au siècle des Lumières?

Or, vous, bibliothécaires et archivistes, savez désormais faire en sorte que les connaissances voyagent bien au-delà des murs de vos établissements. Grâce à la numérisation et le web vos parvenez à abolir les contraintes d'espace et d'accès. Vous avez en main de puissants instruments de développement et de démocratisation.

L'arrivée des bibliothèques sur le web a assurément permis de créer de nouveaux réseaux et d'établir des liens inespérés et lumineux entre divers champs de connaissances et diverses disciplines. C'est un véritable décloisonnement des institutions de l'information, des bibliothèques et de leurs champs de compétences qui est en marche à l'échelle de la planète, un décloisonnement qui entraîne à son tour un accès sans précédent au savoir. Dans ce contexte, vous

n'êtes plus seulement des gardiens de la mémoire et des transmetteurs de connaissances, mais des pourvoyeurs de contenus et de sens.

J'irais jusqu'à dire que, sans vous, les nouvelles technologies ne seraient que des coquilles vides. Je crois profondément que les bibliothèques, traditionnelles et virtuelles – car les deux, à mon sens, ont leur place – doivent plus que jamais nous accompagner dans ce mouvement d'ouverture et cet accès toujours plus grand à la diversité des cultures et des connaissances. Les bibliothèques, grandes et petites, doivent aussi nous guider dans notre quête de sens et notre compréhension de la place que nous tenons dans l'histoire et dans le monde.

Dans le pays où je suis né, Haïti, à côté de la crise alimentaire, de la vie chère, de l'insécurité et de la faillite des institutions, l'accès à l'éducation est en tête de liste des préoccupations. La soif d'apprendre et le désir de s'instruire font que des jeunes, privés d'électricité à la maison, s'agglutinent au pied des réverbères le soir, là où il y en a, ou s'arrachent les yeux autour d'une lampe à l'huile, pour déchiffrer leurs leçons, lire tout ce qui leur tombe sous la main. Parlez-leur de bibliothèques ouvertes à toutes et à tous, lieux fabuleux de découvertes, et les voilà qui se mettent à rêver grand.

Alberto Manguel, romancier canadien d'origine argentine, essayiste, traducteur, éminent polyglotte, grand collectionneur de livres, lecteur vorace et généreux qui a fait la lecture pendant deux ans à Borges, aveugle, décrit ainsi ses heures de rêverie dans des bibliothèques : « J'éprouve un plaisir d'aventurier à me perdre entre les rayonnages encombrés, avec la conviction superstitieuse qu'une hiérarchie établie de lettres ou de chiffres me mènera un jour à une destination promise. » J'aime croire que cette destination promise dont parle Manguel c'est l'espace vital de tous les possibles, de tous nos espoirs et de tous nos rêves.

Jamais je n'oublierai la première fois où ma mère a déposé un livre entre mes mains. Ce premier livre m'a ouvert les yeux, l'esprit et le cœur sur le monde tel qu'il est et tel qu'on peut l'imaginer. C'est non seulement un apprentissage de la connaissance qui en a résulté, mais un apprentissage de la liberté qui ne m'a plus jamais quittée et qui m'inspire dans tous les combats que je mène, aujourd'hui comme hier, en ayant à cœur de contribuer de différentes façons à une plus grande humanisation de l'humanité.

Hier, c'était, entre autres, soutenir la bibliothèque du quartier défavorisé où j'ai vécu plus de 15 ans, dans le sud ouest de Montréal, et contribuer à regarnir celle aussi de la petite école primaire fréquentée par de nombreux enfants chez qui vous ne trouviez pas un seul livre, ni le moindre magazine.

Aujourd'hui, la gouverneure générale qui se tient devant vous a toujours à cœur d'accompagner la mise sur pied de camps de lecture pour enfants et de bibliothèques dans des communautés isolées parmi les plus désavantagées de notre pays. Lors de mes nombreux déplacements à travers le Canada et de visites d'État dans des pays en développement, j'ai toujours dans mes bagages des caisses de livres à distribuer, parmi lesquels des dizaines d'exemplaires des Prix littéraires du gouverneur général dont toute une sélection en littérature jeunesse.

Je suis ravie de voir que vous avez au nombre des conférenciers invités l'ancien lieutenant-gouverneur de l'Ontario, mon ami James Bartleman qui a contribué à grand renfort de conviction et d'imagination à la mise sur pied d'un vaste réseau de lecture, de bibliothèques scolaires et d'alphabétisation dans les communautés autochtones du Nord de l'Ontario. Notre rêve est d'en faire une initiative nationale. Chaque mot, chaque geste, chaque livre, chaque bibliothèque, chaque médiathèque compte.

Je salue votre engagement et votre dévouement à une cause qui m'est chère et vous souhaite de très fructueuses discussions en cette ville qui, cette année, plus belle que jamais, a le cœur à la fête.

Merci et bon congrès!

Discours d'ouverture presenté auCongrès mondial des bibliothèques et de l'information: 74e congrès et assemblée générale de l'IFLA, 10–14 août 2008, Québec City, Canada, pendant la Cérémonie d'ouverture (Session 67). English version: see pages 330–332.

About the Author continued

d'animatrice d'émissions d'information à Radio-Canada et au réseau anglais CBC Newsworld. Elle a aussi participé à plusieurs films documentaires signés par son mari, le cinéaste Jean-Daniel Lafond : *La manière nègre ou Aimé Césaire, chemin faisant, Tropique Nord, Haïti dans tous nos rêves, L'heure de Cuba,* tous primés, au Canada et sur la scène internationale. Le couple a une fille de huit ans, Marie-Éden.

Les réalisations de Mme Jean lui ont valu de nombreuses distinctions, dont le Prix Mireille-Lanctôt pour un reportage sur la violence conjugale; le Prix Anik du meilleur reportage d'information au Canada pour son enquête sur le pouvoir de l'argent dans la société haïtienne; le premier Prix de journalisme d'Amnesty International -Canada. Elle a également été reçue membre de l'Ordre des Chevaliers de La Pléiade par l'Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue française, et désignée Citoyenne d'honneur par la Ville de Montréal et le ministère québécois de l'Immigration et des Relations avec les citoyens du Québec pour ses réalisations dans le domaine des communications.

En septembre 2005, Michaëlle Jean est devenue le 27e gouverneur général du Canada.

World Library and Information Congress, Québec, 2008: opening address by the Governor General of Canada

Michaëlle Jean

Her Excellency the Right Honour-able Mme Michaëlle Jean was born in Port au Prince, Haiti. She immigrated to Canada with her family in 1968, fleeing the dictatorial regime of the time. After obtaining a Master of Arts in comparative literature at the University of Montreal she taught at the Faculty of Italian Studies at the same university. Three scholarships allowed her to pursue her studies at the University of Perouse, the University of Florence and the Catholic University of Milan. She is fluent in five languages: French, English, Italian, Spanish and Creole. During her studies, Ms. Jean worked for eight years with Quebec shelters for battered women, while actively contributing to the establishment of a network of emergency shelters throughout Québec and elsewhere in Canada. She later ventured into journalism and became a highly regarded

Welcome to Québec!

We have come together where the majestic St. Lawrence River narrows, which is the original Indian meaning of the word Québec. In this magnificent city steeped in history, in this year marking the 400th anniversary of its founding by French explorer Samuel de Champlain and his fellow adventurers. This anniversary reminds us of the great epic of those first crossings, those "new beginnings" in America, to quote Père le Jeune. Champlain recounted and illu-strated this epic in great detail in four successive works published between 1603 and 1632, travel logs covering almost all his travels in the Americas and his time in Canada.

Almost all accounts of his explorations and discoveries have survived to this day because they were published in his lifetime and preserved in libraries and archives. It was also on the initiative of a librarian – Abbé Laverdière, who was also a history teacher at the Séminaire de Québec – that these texts were reedited two centuries later. This was followed by an abundance of studies and works. There is no doubt that, were it not for the publication and preservation of Champlain's travel logs and all the works dedicated to them, the decisive page of our history that we are celebrating this year would have been lost.

During your stay here, I encourage you to visit the Citadelle of Québec, recognized as the oldest preserved military site in North America and home to the Governor General's official residence. It also contains an important heritage building, the Redoubt, built by the Sieur de Frontenac in 1693, and restored to exhibit Le Grand Livre de Champlain, a major work of art donated by the French cites of La Rochelle, Rochefort and the Agglomération de Royan for the City of Québec's 400th anniversary.

Like you, I believe that any space dedicated to sharing humanity's great adventure and knowledge enlightens and enriches our collect-ive heritage. That is why you, as guardians of the world's memories, have always played an essential role in human development: from the clay tablets preserved in the library and archives of the palaces of Assyrian kings, to the mythical Library at Alexandria, all the way to the digital age.

Throughout history, we have needed the insight and commitment of people, like you, who recognize the importance and scope of written works and accounts, which have allowed words to survive the centuries, cross borders, break down solitudes and speak to us. These passers-on of knowledge, these guardians of manuscripts, these transcribers, these illuminators, these founders of libraries and archives, these wise spirits; they are the reason we have access to

the wisdom of Aristotle and the plays of Sophocles and Euripides thousands of years after they died, the reason we can listen to the scores of musical geniuses like Mozart.

Libraries and the sciences behind them were born of a longing for perpetuity and universality that every great civilization has entertained since the invention of writing: the desire to bring all the world's knowledge together in the manner of Jorge Luis Borges, who one day dreamed of a library that would contain every work written since the beginning of time.

History has taught us that those who want to stifle ideas and freedom often focus on libraries and books, banning them and burning them at the stake of their barbarism. So many fragile and precious treasures have been reduced to ashes. Two million books, including 3000 priceless manuscripts, went up in smoke the night of August 25–26, 1992, when Sarajevo's library was deliberately bombed and burned to the ground. It was as though two million stars in the sky of humanity were forever extinguished.

Which only goes to show that preserving knowledge and making it accessible to all–thereby encouraging the sharing and meeting of ideas, critical thought, humanism and all the strength of the forces of creation – this ideal can never be completely protected from the narrow-minded or the forces of destruction.

We must therefore be vigilant and protect this ideal, work on it constantly and democratize it like a common good, commodity, or resource that is essential to life.

And, I must say, this ideal has never seemed as attainable or feasible as it does today, at a time when new technologies provide libraries, archives and heritage institutions almost infinite possibilities. The very nature of documents has changed, as have the ways they are created, distributed and preserved. Documents now go above-and-beyond the written word, and include sound recordings, videos and films. We have now entered the era of the multimedia library.

New mediums allow what seemed unimaginable only twenty-five years ago. We can now ensure that written works, the traits of civilizations and accounts given through oral traditions all live on in perpetuity. With these new mediums, we can

save entire lifestyles from disappearing into the shadows.

Here in Canada, we know how important it is to protect ancestral cultures, especially those of the first people, who are our deepest roots on this continent, the First Nations, Inuit and Métis. There is an urgent need to do all we can to protect the wealth of their legends, their stories, their customs, their knowledge and their ties to the land. It is essential that we help them gather the traces of everything that colonization took from them and ensure this unique heritage is preserved. Too many languages have already disappeared simply through indifference.

Knowledge is our best defence against the ravages of indifference. Was that not what Diderot was aiming for with his ambitious Encyclopédie project during the Enlightenment?

As librarians and archivists, you already know how to make certain that knowledge travels well beyond the walls of your institutions. Digitization and the Web have finally removed the constraints of space and access. You now have powerful instruments of development and democratization at your disposal. With libraries now being posted on the Web, new networks can be created, and unexpected and brilliant ties can be established between various fields of knowledge and a wide range of disciplines. Information institutions, libraries and related establishments are being brought together on a global scale, resulting in an unprecedented access to knowledge. In this way, you are not only guarding memories and transmitting knowledge; you are also supplying content and meaning.

One might even say that, without you, new technologies would be but empty shells. I strongly believe that libraries – both traditional and virtual, because I think they both have their place – must now more than ever be part of the movement towards openness and an even-greater access to the diversity of cultures and knowledge. Libraries, big and small, must also guide us in our quest for meaning and our understanding of our place in history and the world.

In Haiti, where I was born, what is of greatest concern to people is the food shortage, the cost of living, the lack of security, the bankruptcy of institutions, and access to education. The thirst for knowledge and the desire to learn pushes young

people who have no electricity at home to stand together at night under streetlamps, where there are any, or to strain their eyes under oil lamps to work on their lessons and read anything they can get their hands on. Tell them about libraries that are open to everyone, incredible places of discovery, and watch them start to dream big.

Alberto Manguel, an Argentinean-born Canadian novelist, essayist, translator, eminent polyglot, collector of books, and voracious and generous reader – he read to a blind Borges for two years – described his hours of reverie in libraries in this way: "I feel an adventurous pleasure in losing myself among the crowded stacks, superstitiously confident that any established hierarchy of letters or numbers will lead me one day to a promised destination." I think the promised destination Manguel spoke of is that vital space where anything is possible, where all of our hopes and dreams reside.

I will never forget the first time my mother put a book in my hands. That first book opened my eyes, my soul and my heart to the world as we know it, and the world as we can imagine it. As a result, I gained not only knowledge, but a freedom that can never be taken from me, one that inspires me in all the battles I face, today as yesterday, through my desire to do all that I can to help humanize humanity.

Yesterday, among other things, I did so by supporting the library in the disadvantaged neighbourhood I lived in for more than 15 years in southwest Montreal, and by helping to restock the one in the little elementary school, many students of which live in homes without a single book or magazine.

Today, the Governor General who stands before you supports the implementation of reading camps for children and libraries in isolated communities, some of which are the most disadvantaged in our country. During my many travels across Canada and on my State visits to developing countries, I always take boxes of books with me to distribute, including many that have won the Governor General's Literary Award, especially those from the Children's Literature category.

I was excited to see that one of the invited speakers at this congress is the former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, my friend James Bartleman, who, with great conviction and imagination, helped establish a vast network dedicated to reading, educational libraries and literacy training in aboriginal communities in northern Ontario. Our dream is to make it a national initiative. Every word, every action, every book, every library, every multimedia library counts.

I salute your commitment and dedication to a cause that is dear to my heart, and I hope you have very productive discussions in this city, which is more beautiful than ever this year and in the mood to celebrate.

Thank you!

Opening address presented at the World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council, 10–14 August 2008, Québec City, Canada, in the Opening Ceremony (Session 67). Version française: voir pages 326–329.

About the Author continued

journalist and anchor of information programs at Radio-Canada and CBC Newsworld. She also took part in documentary films produced by her husband, filmmaker Jean-Daniel Lafond, including *A State of Blackness: Aimé Césaire's Way* (*La manière nègre ou Aimé Césaire, chemin faisant*), *Tropic North* (*Tropique Nord*), *Haiti in All Our Dreams* (*Haïti dans tous nos rêves*), and *Last Call for Cuba* (*L'heure de Cuba*), all of which earned awards both in Canada and internationally. The couple has an eight-year old daughter, Marie-Éden.

Ms. Jean has won numerous honours, including the Prix Mireille-Lanctôt for a report on spousal violence; the Prix Anik for best information reporting in Canada for her investigation of the power of money in Haitian society; and the inaugural Amnesty International Canada Journalism Award. She has also been named to the Ordre des Chevaliers de La Pléiade, by the Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue française, and has been made an honorary citizen by the City of Montreal and the Ministère de l'Immigration et des relations avec les citoyens of Québec in recognition of her accomplishments in communications.

Michaëlle Jean became Canada's 27th Governor General in September 2005.

World Library and Information Congress, Québec, 2008: opening address by the President of IFLA

Claudia Lux

Members of the National Committee of the World Library and Information Congress 2008

Presidents and directors of library associations

Distinguished guests

Delegates and Colleagues

What a great pleasure to be here with you at the official Opening of the World Library and Information Congress 2008 in Québec City, the 74th IFLA General Conference and Council. Thank you all for coming to this great event in the wonderful city of Québec in Canada.

Canada, a country and a government that puts libraries on its agenda with its strong support of this Congress. Canada, a country with a high professional level of library work. Canada, a country with new library buildings as outstanding models. Canada, a country with remote libraries in isolated rural communities connected by satellite technology to the world's knowledge. Canada, a country whose librarians have played an important role in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions for decades and have given us professional help of great value – and still do. One outstanding example of the librarians' activities here in Canada is the founding of Bibliomondialis to support ten colleagues from developing countries to participate in the World Library and Information Congress 2008. Let's say thank you to our host country for its support of our IFLA and the Congress here in Québec City.

Québec City! A city which welcomes us with a beautiful and charming image of 400 years of history. A city, which is named 'small path', 'kebek' in the language of the Algonkin, the indigenous inhabitants of this region.

Languages are like trains taking us deep into different cultures. We librarians know the importance of languages very well. Librarians give access to materials in many languages, even if they do not know how to speak those languages. IFLA's new language policy supports this with seven official languages and three new language centres. We have opened up our website for translations of our professional papers and guidelines into all of our members' languages. Languages – standing here in the province of Québec, we should not forget that it is still a privilege for many librarians to be able to read and communicate in world languages such as French and English.

And what about the people we serve? Many of them lack knowledge of the current lingua franca even in their own countries. We have to find ways how to make the world's knowledge from all countries available in languages they can understand and work with.

There is a multitude of published information hidden in many languages in libraries and on the Web. Will it be needed in the future? Will this knowledge be distributed and shared through libraries worldwide? What is the role of libraries in this? What will it be in the future? We develop new activities in enhancing catalogue data which can make it easier to distribute and share this knowledge. We give better access to published information on the shelves or on the Web when we share tables of contents and abstracts. More and more libraries scan their copyright-free, multilingual collections and place them as open access content on the Web to be used by countless others! What was hidden in the old Arabic Collection in a library in Europe will be made accessible through the Web, just as the Spanish newspapers from centuries ago in Asia are being digitized and made available. Preservation and dissemination of the world's documentary heritage is, and will be, one of the key tasks of libraries and librarians. This is a significant contribution to open up the world's knowledge to everybody.

Making knowledge accessible to everyone and eliminating barriers to information is our goal. But we know that this professional level has not yet reached all the libraries and all their users. Librarians struggle to bridge the gap between the information rich and the information poor through an elaborate system of information literacy training and lifelong learning. Hundreds of success stories tell how people have found innovative ways to learn and work, to be empowered for a better life through libraries. These are the results of your work, colleagues, the work that you do with great enthusiasm that makes a real difference in people's lives.

'Libraries without borders – Navigating towards global understanding' is the theme of this year's World Library and Information Congress. Libraries are gateways to global understanding and cultural diversity is a value in the global library world. IFLA's Multicultural Library Manifesto stimulates library activities for this goal. From storytelling for children, to a broad display of scientific books and activities without any segregation of race, nationality or beliefs, libraries have more possibilities to help peoples to live in peace with one another. In many cases libraries are on the agenda and play an important role in understanding and communication between different cultures and even between former enemies.

There is no global understanding without respect. In a peaceful world, respect for different cultures, for different attitudes and for different styles of living is a key to understanding. Even if sometimes we do not understand, we still can respect different cultures.

Respect also means to respect the personal integrity of our users, protect their personal data and deny access to their personal data for surveillance. We have to be wary and take action against the new, upcoming activities which under the pretext of fighting terrorism use us or our libraries in an attempt to monitor and control the reading habits of our readers. We librarians stand for the principles for free access to information and freedom of expression. The protection of the personal data of our users is a very significant part of this free and uncensored access.

After this congress some delegates will travel to see some of the natural beauties of Canada and the North. To protect this beauty and the natural environment is an important task. Today we can no longer look at the white ice cap of the North Pole without thinking of how it is constantly melting down. Global warming is a topic all over the world and environmental problems become more and more a part in the librarian's life. From hurricane Katrina to the tsunami in Asia and the terrible earthquake in China – libraries or librarians were among the victims. Libraries have to be on the environmental agenda. We might not be able to change the impact of the environmental changes, but we can and do support the work of the scientists. And it is up to librarians to stimulate and develop university repositories for saving texts and research data and making them accessible to the scientific communities to develop better solutions for the future of this globe. Libraries are key to the sustainability of the Information Society as they have a network of experience in organising the world's knowledge, storing it, and providing access to it. Librarians are successful in working on finding ways to transfer this knowledge into digital preservation and they work together with many partners to achieve this goal. The time will come when we will have solved

Dramatic dances during the Opening Ceremony.

the problem of sustainability in the digital world. But we're not there yet! Sustainability also means that libraries are connected to the people through communities, which gives them a social component of sustainability through the outreach work of librarians, which will be more and more important in the future. 'Libraries without borders' is not only a statement of what we have achieved thus far. It's a call for activity! It's a call for opening up our walls and doors, and going out into the society much more than we have done before. It's a call to use more of the social networking tools that Web 2.0 spaces offers us, to be creative in connecting with our users and our friends, and keeping our non-users informed about the possibilities libraries offer.

Libraries act as gateways to knowledge and culture, by providing access to information, ideas and creative works in various forms. In a time of high speed connectivity libraries have to be quick in adapting and providing their information services. But they also have an element of recreation, an element of reflection. This is why new library buildings need new types of space, space for learning and thinking in an atmosphere supporting creativity, space reflecting the ideas of human beings, or 'chilling out' zones to allow people to deaccelerate, to withdraw and recover from the hecticness of life and move into communication with the inner human spirit. Libraries must be created and recreated as new public places, to facilitate social inclusion and lifelong learning.

As librarians we cannot change the world, but we can be more visible by distinctly demonstrating many of the good values represented by libraries and librarians for all to see and by putting them into action. To work for more public awareness and put libraries on the agenda of those deciding the future of mankind, is the topic of my presidential theme. Librarians all over the world have used this motto and have strengthened their advocacy activities. This upcoming week will be a great opportunity for more professional exchange and mutual inspiration for future plans. Our network within IFLA and the network of library associations in the individual countries are the guarantee for the further development of information services through libraries to improve the lives of people throughout the world.

In this spirit I wish you a very successful World Library and Information Congress here in Québec City!

Opening address presented at the World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council, 10–14 August 2008, Québec City, Canada, in the Opening Ceremony (Session 67).

Libraries and the First Nations People of Canada

James Bartleman

The Honourable James K. Bartleman concluded his term as the 27th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on September 5, 2007. During his time in office, he pursued three priorities: eliminating the stigma of mental illness, supporting anti-racism initiatives and encouraging aboriginal young people. As Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Bartleman implemented four aboriginal literacy programs including The Club Amick Reading Program for 5,000 native children and 36 summer reading camps for 2,500 children in Ontario's north. The programs are continuing for 5 years. Preceding his appointment as Ontario's Vice-Regal Representative, Mr. Bartleman served 35 years in Canada's Foreign Service as Ambassador to Cuba, Israel, NATO and the European Union and High Commissioner to South Africa and Australia, and was Foreign and Defence Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister.

He holds ten honorary degrees and is the recipient of a number of honours and awards, including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award 1999, the Phi Delta Kappa Educator of the Year Award 2004 and the Arthur Kroeger College Award in Ethics in Public Affairs 2007.

Abstract

Plenary address presented at the World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference And Council, 10–14 August 2008, Québec City, Canada. Describes the author's childhood as a member of the First Nations People of Canada and his discovery of the value of books and libraries. Describes the social conditions of young people living in poor First Nation communities in Canada and his efforts to establish libraries, summer reading camps, reading clubs and creative writing literary awards for children and youth in these communities.

Keywords: social deprivation; racism; First Nations People; libraries; reading; children; Canada

Distinguished guests, participants, ladies and gentlemen:

It's a great pleasure to speak to you today on the topic of 'Libraries and the First Nations People of Canada'.

I intend to make the point that libraries and books can transform lives, but too many segments of society, especially aboriginal people, do not have access to them. And when governments will not or cannot act, then civil society can step up to fill the gaps.

I understand that the issue of access to libraries by indigenous people has been very important in past meetings of your organization, and I'm happy to have the opportunity to talk about the situation here in Canada. I also would like to talk the dangers posed by state control of libraries and information.

I have been a lifetime supporter of libraries, and I assume that every one of you here today is a supporter as well. I assume each of us has our own story to tell about how we were bitten by the 'library bug' when we were children and how we became addicted to books and libraries.

I have the status of a registered Indian, otherwise known as a First Nations person, and am a member of a reserve or First Nation community. My mother is from a reserve about 200 miles north of Toronto. She married my father when she was 14 and he was 18 back in the days of the Great Depression. Those were the days when discrimination against native people was even more widespread than it is today. In fact, it was an era in Canada when there was extensive discrimination against anybody who was not white.

My parents accordingly were on the margins of society. They lived an aboriginal lifestyle at the beginning by fishing and selling the catch to tourists, picking blueberries and cutting and selling firewood to make ends meet. Later, my father moved on to a variety of jobs as a day labourer. He was often without work but was proud of the fact that he always paid his own way and never accepted welfare.

In the spring of 1946, my father, looking for work, dropped by to visit my Indian grandfather at a small reserve in the village of Port Carling in Central Ontario. A trucker came by looking for a labourer willing to work for 50 cents an hour. My Dad took the job and found a place to sleep in a cleft of a rock covered with a roof of scrap tin near the village dump. He lived there until he saved enough money to send for his wife and his four children.

I will never forget that summer of 1946. To a 6-year old kid, it was heaven on earth. Living beside the dump was like living by a garage sale in which all the goods were free. My brother and I would wait every day for the dump truck to pass by our tent and chase it up the road to the dump. At that dump, we had a private aviary with sca-venging crows and seagulls, and a private zoo with porcupines, racoons and the occasional black bear. And for someone with a good imagination, it was like being at a Boy Scout camp with an ever-present fire. And if you haven't smelled the distinct odour of burning cardboard and orange crates, then you just haven't lived!

And best of all, the dump was my first library. We had no books at our home in the tent. But at the dump I found dozens and dozens of comic books tossed out by rich American and Canadian tourist kids. And that's how I learned to read.

That fall we moved to a summer cottage for the winter. The snow blew in through half-inch cracks in the wall, the temperature inside would drop down to minus 30 or minus 40 degrees Celsius. And the four Bartleman children and our dog would creep in the night to join our parents in bed. In the morning there would be six humans and one dog, all under the covers, which were covered in frost. But we were happy, we had a great caring and loving family.

What was terrible for us, however, was the racism we experienced. Other children called my mother a "dirty squaw"! My brother and I were called "dirty half-breeds".

But I knew how to read and soon discovered the village library. I never looked back because it opened my life to another universe. I discovered that reading really is an act of self-discovery. It expands your consciousness and wakes you up. There is a wonderful author named Mark Edmundson, and in his book *Why Read?* he writes, "Reading takes you from a world of harsh limits into expanded possibilities." And that was what happened to me.

Reading was the great leveller in my life. And it's the same thing for people around the world. No matter how poor you are, if you can read and have access to a library, you're as rich as the wealthiest because you have access to entirely different worlds. Worlds that allow you to escape the world of poverty and racism. Reading is truly magic.

Reading provided me with the foundation for doing well in school, and doing well in school provided the basis for me to take advantage of opportunities as they came along. In my case, I obtained a summer job when I was in high school working on the estate of the Chairman of the Board of Pittsburgh Paint and Plate Glass. My Indian grandfather had been his father's guide back in the early years of the century taking him around Ontario. And there I was, little Jimmy Bartleman, polishing his antique boats and tipping my hat in the morning, being respectful as you're supposed to be, chopping his wood, and dusting off his jacket.

And one day, he called me up on the porch, and he was there with his cigar, (rich Americans in those days always smoked big cigars and drank bourbon). "I hear you're doing well in school," he said. After I mumbled something that he took as my agreement, he said. "How would you like me to send you off to finish high school and go to university?" Of course I said, "Yes!" and I went off to finish high school and to the University of Western Ontario to graduate in Honours History.

I was then able to compete with other Canadian university graduates on an equal footing, joined the Canadian Foreign Service, worked my way up to be an ambassador six times, advisor to the Prime Minister and eventually Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Given my background, I adopted as one of my social justice causes, the plight of First Nations children in the north of Ontario. Let me tell you about my first trip, which was to a reserve on the James Bay called Kashechewan. As my plane taxied down the runway, I saw another one waiting to take off. I asked the local Chief what was going on. He said that a 12-year old girl had

just killed herself and that they were taking her body out for an autopsy. I asked why. He said that she had no hope.

And then, not too long afterwards, I got a call from the Grand Chief saying that three kids, in a two-month period, in a place called Wunnimin Lake in Northwestern Ontario, had killed themselves. They had hanged themselves in various places, including one 12-year old girl from a tree in front of the school. He asked me to go up with him to see what we could do and we talked to their classmates. They had hoods over their heads, and their eyes were sad and they looked like they were in the state of terminal depression. We then called on the parents of the children who died and I asked them 'why'?

Because they had no hope. In the old days, before the coming of the white man, in the native culture, when you became 13, you reached the age of puberty. The children would spend time in a shelter. They would wait, fasting, until they received a vision from 'Gitche Manitou', the Great Spirit, which would give them a spirit name and a vision for their future. Then they would return to their family. It would be a very happy time in the community because after the vision quest the young person would be ready to select a mate, found a family and get on with life.

But these kids, when they turn 13, see a future without hope. They feel inadequate because they are about 6 years behind non-native kids in education. They live in overcrowded houses. They have access to satellite TV but what are they seeing? Jerry Springer, Judge Judy, and the meaningless dregs of modern globalized culture. And when they look at native programs they see scenes of kids living in native ghettos of Winnipeg and Regina and where the stars were young hookers and drug dealers. And when their friends are sent out to school in Sudbury or in Timmins, the big Canadian towns in northern Ontario, they find they are not able to rent apartments or rooms because of discrimination that continues to exist today in these northern communities against First Nations people.

I want to talk about the dangers of the misuse of libraries and information and how it can destroy cultures. Beginning in the late 19th century, we began in Canada a massive social engineering exercise that would have made Stalin happy. The government devised a policy of forcing all First Nations children in Canada to attend residential schools from the age of six or seven until they were sixteen or seventeen.

And so, from the late 19th century to the later part of the 20th century, 150,000 children were forced to go to these schools. At the schools they were treated harshly with beatings, sexual abuse and poor food. Tens of thousands died. The children were forbidden to speak their native language, they were forbidden to wear native clothing, they were forbidden to associate with each other and family members in the schools and there was a lot of bullying amongst the kids themselves because they were fighting for the food. And they accompanied this with a policy forbidding cultural practices in their home communities.

Raising children in this way turned them into poor parents. When they became parents, that's the way that they treated their kids and then their kids were taken away for 10 years. Then they came back and they treated their kids the same way. Dysfunction cascaded down over the generations. The government used education to try and convert aboriginal people, an entire nation of aboriginal people, into white people. They did not succeed in this goal but they did destroy the family structure.

Let this be a lesson on how important it is not to let governments use education as a tool of state social engineering. It is critically important that libraries and education be a marketplace for all ideas.

And thus I discovered a suicide epidemic among the youth in Northern Ontario who lacked hope. I also discovered the schools had no libraries, there were no libraries in the communities and no books in the homes. And so I decided to mobilize civil society to fill the gap because governments weren't doing it. I went to the media and I brought representatives of the principal Canadian newspapers up north to see the conditions and to tell them what I was planning to do. And I took up teams of reporters from national television. And I worked with a variety of organizations to establish libraries. With no funding or budget, I launched an appeal for good, used books to establish libraries.

It became a province-wide initiative led by the librarians across the province. They knew the importance of libraries and books and they took

the lead. The police jumped in and they opened up their detachments across the province. They had to park their cars on the streets because the books arrived in such large numbers. The military provided a huge armoury for storage and retired librarians, teachers, and scouts went to work sorting them. In two drives, I collected over 2 million books and established libraries in all First Nations communities in the province.

And then I moved to establish Summer Reading Camps. I went to the universities, the colleges, the trade unions, corporations, and teachers' federations and collected some 7 million dollars. I have funding to last 5 years. This summer (2008), we are operating 39 summer literacy and mental wellness camps in every remote community in Ontario.

And then I began a program which I'm most excited about. It is called Club Amick for Young Aboriginal Readers and I have raised about 1.25 million dollars. The Southern Ontario Library Service runs it for me. Five thousand children belong to it from kindergarten to grade eight in every isolated community in Ontario. Every four months, each child receives a brand new quality book to take home. I have also established creative writing literary prizes for aboriginal children in Ontario (twelve annual prizes of 2,500 dollars each) which are generating much enthusiasm among the children.

I hope that those of you from countries which have aboriginal populations will think of this initiative when you return home. Working together we can really let native kids dream just as you are able to dream.

Thank you very much.

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About the Author continued

Mr. Bartleman is the author of four best-selling books and donates all book royalties to the causes he promoted as Lieutenant Governor. He is currently Chancellor of The Ontario College of Art and Design, a member of the Blue Ribbon Panel on the future of Medical Education in Canada, a visiting fellow to Laurentian University's Aboriginal Studies Program and honorary patron to a number of organizations and causes. He was born in Orillia, Ontario and grew up in Port Carling.

Mr. Bartleman is a member of the Mnjikaning First Nation. He is married to Marie-Jeanne Rosillon and they enjoy their three children, Anne-Pascale, Laurent and Alain.

Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge: a discussion paper

Ellen R. Tise

Reggie Raju

Charles Masango

Abstract

Libraries are critical contributors to knowledge generation. The paper provides a brief examination of the evolution of libraries and their contribution to literacy and information provision and access to that information. However, the mode of access has significantly changed, which has brought with it a different set of challenges. These include, among others, the dismantling of barriers to access in an era of information explosion and the moral obligation to drive access to knowledge and information. This paper was prepared as a discussion document for the President-elect's Brainstorming Session held at the recent IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Québec City, Canada on 12 August 2008.

Keywords: libraries; access to knowledge; access to information

Introduction

The concepts of knowledge and society are commonplace in the LIS environment today. When teased out, these concepts unearth the principle that knowledge, which is generated through the absorption, processing and internationalization of information, is critical for the growth of society. Therefore, a significant criterion for a growing society is access to that information. The library, as a conduit for information, serving a wide spectrum of information seekers, has a critical role to play in the facilitation of knowledge generation. It is the view of Chan and Costa (2005: 141) that access to knowledge is essential in a development process. It (that is, knowledge) serves as liberator from poverty and deprivation and as a springboard for breaking-through in the quest for innovation and change. Sen (2005: 375) points out that the concept of access to information and knowledge is at the heart of a knowledge society.

As indicated by Chan and Costa (2005: 141), access is imperative in a society seeking new knowledge, be it knowledge that will liberate them from poverty and deprivation or that which will bring about innovation and change. It is common cause that the library will serve as the vehicle for the acquisition of knowledge. Drake (1984: 632), in defining access to libraries states that "the library is available, with some limitations, to anyone who wants to use it". Ellis-King (2007) adds to this definition the principle that there is a need to ensure that the end-user gets the information they require in as convenient and in as timely manner as possible. To achieve this end, the library has developed methodologies and processes.

However, the methodologies and processes developed for the affluent information seekers seeking innovation and change are a far cry from those seeking information for survival purposes. By the same token, the reasons for the existence of libraries today have evolved significantly since the ancient Greek era.

Rationale for Libraries

The raison d'être for libraries goes as far back to the era of ancient Greece where the library was viewed as the place to achieve 'literacy and intellectual life'. Krasner-Khait (2001) points out that, in order to accomplish the rationale for libraries Demetrius in 300 BC 'suggested setting up a universal library to hold copies of all the books in the world'. To therefore foster literacy, according to Krasner-Khait (2001), Benedict in 529 AD established a rule for the monks to 'apply themselves to reading'. One can argue that this practice subsequently evolved within scholars as they made use of library collections to acquire knowledge and become literate. Corroborating this argument is the view of Schiller and Schiller ([n.d.]: 147) who indicate that this may be so as 'libraries are associated with information collection, organization, retrieval, and dissemination' which serves as a foundation for knowledge growth that will result in literacy. Extrapolating this argument is the view of Behrens, Olin and Machete (1999: 4–5) who point out that libraries store information, which is 'facts out there', and when scholars make use of the facts, they acquire knowledge because the facts are transferred in to their memory, resulting in the scholar becoming literate.

However, libraries are continuously changing and engage in evolving technology to make information more readily available in the medium associated with the era.

Evolution of Libraries

Krasner-Khait (2001), in tracing the evolution of libraries points out that during the monasticism transformative stage of libraries there were three major libraries – viz. the university library, the library for the royal family and civil service and a theological collection which emerged in Constantinople. These libraries displayed handwritten manuscripts on their open selves as there was no reprographic technology that could reproduce the handwritten manuscripts en masse. In 1450 when Gutenberg invented the printing press it revolutionized bookmaking; as a consequence, 'printed books replaced handwritten manuscripts' that were displayed on libraries' open shelves. During the 1600s and 1700s

libraries grew because universities developed and national states supported collections that later became national libraries.

The demand for more information by university scholars gave impetus to the Gutenberg invention. The printing press had to increase levels of production of scholarly material to meet the growing demands of the university scholars.

New Inventions with New Players?

The emergence of the printing press in England in 1476 opened up the possibility of the large-scale reproduction of books for the first time. Leaffer (1989: 2) adds that this was the birth of commercial publishers. In order to control the printing of potentially subversive materials, the Crown placed the printing of books in the hands of the Stationers' Company, who would not publish books that the Crown considered politically or religiously objectionable (Merges, Menell and Lemley, 2000: 345–346 and Phillips, Durie and Karet, 1997: 3). In exchange, the Stationers' Company was given what was effectively a monopoly on book protection.

Notwithstanding that the Statute of Anne in 1710 was introduced in the print environment to protect authors (Leaffer, 1989: 3), commercial publishers claimed this protection because individual authors themselves could not publish their works as they could not afford to purchase a printing press. If authors wanted to publish their works, 'they took such works to commercial publishers who paid authors whatever they wished and subsequently published the work' (Masango, 2006: 251).

In the new environment of digitization, publishers equally reap the benefits from works they publish as such works are protected by copyright and licensing agreements. Copyright protects digital works as these works are in literary form. In the digital environment, 'in an effort to commercialize digital information effectively, publishers have introduced licensing agreement' (Masango, 2006: 252). The rationale for licensing agreements is that digital technology permits users to make perfect copies of texts quite easily (Peters, 2003: 217), and digital environment offers scholars the opportunity to manipulate, alter, reformat, or erase information at will (Neacsu, 2002: 111).

The golden thread that was introduced by the Crown to restrict politically and religiously objectionable material had developed into a monopoly: that golden thread became richer when the production of scholarly information started to bulge at the seams with the advent of digitization. However, the thread was fast growing into a noose for libraries.

New Players: a threat to the raison d'être of libraries?

One can argue that with the emergence of new technologies that facilitates access to information for knowledge, there has arisen an economic struggle in libraries. The new players in the form of publishers have captured 'the information stockpiles built in recent years' and are seeking profit from the sale of the 'information to those who have the means to pay for it' (Schiller and Schiller, [n.d.]: 146). The reasons for charging prices on the information, as articulated by Masango(2006: 252), stem from the fact that they have copyright on the information because they 'have taken the initiative in obtaining, verifying or presenting the contents of these works' in a new form.

Although publishers enjoyed copyright on print information, in order to accomplish the objective of the Statute of Anne 1710 which, according to Leaffer (1989: 3) was to encourage 'learned men to compose and write useful work', it was germane to maintain the rationale of libraries. In this light, libraries, according to the first sale doctrine, were free to loan out books and other materials they have purchased, and can repeat the lending process as often and as long as they like (Ou, 2003: 90). By libraries loaning out books to anyone who so wants to make use of the books, they help in maintaining the rationale of libraries.

A cursory view of the evolutionary process would give the impression that it would be difficult for libraries to effectively carry out their rationale in the digital environment. This could not be further from the truth. The fundamental principle governing libraries is the provision of information to the user community. However, what is rapidly changing is the mode of access. Libraries would have to remodel themselves to enhance their rationale and, in the age of information explosion, make every attempt to make access to information, to the world's citizenry, as uninhibited as possible.

In the current information provision environment, there is the preoccupation with addressing the issue of access to the technologically affluent. As articulated by Hamilton (2003), information is a right and as indicated by Chan and Costa (2005) a tool for development. Therefore, it is absolutely imperative that the issue of access be interrogated to assure the world's citizenry that libraries are a significant role player in driving knowledge production.

Defining Access

Drake (1984: 632) says that access to information is a complex concept. "As the term is used in our profession, we usually mean making information available. In most instances, however, we do not make information available; we make books available and leave the user to find needed information in our stock of printed material" (Drake 1984: 632). This definition has evolved as libraries are making more information available in electronic format and progressively reducing its stockpile of printed material. This evolution must encapsulate the fundamental principle of access. In an era of information explosion, it is criminal not to identify and dismantle barriers to access to information as restrictive access is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

> The concept of freedom of access to information is perhaps most clearly outlined in Article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. According to this, all human beings have the fundamental right to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts in public. (Hamilton, 2003)

The IFLA Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (IFLA/FAIFE: 2002) website posts the view that the right of access to information and ideas is vital for any society. It underscores that view that if citizens of the world are to participate and make informed choices they must have unrestricted access to information and knowledge. An informed and knowledgeable citizenry will add value to the access to freedom, prosperity and the development of society. This argument is corroborated by Hamilton (2003) who says that "the idea is that access to information allows citizens to participate in the democratic process and make informed choices

that will lead to the development of society. If an individual's freedom of access to information or freedom of expression is impeded, information flow suffers and democratic processes are set back."

However, it must be accepted that although there may be the will, access could be impeded by a range of factors. It is has been argued by Hamilton (2003) that libraries, in the main, make every attempt to provide access to as wide a range of resources as possible. As indicated, the will could be inhibited by factors such as budget constraints, selector bias, and legislation imposed by government.

Waning Access: Seeking New Roads

It is unfortunate but a reality that societies have developed unevenly. However, as unfortunate as it is, the lack of focused attention is converting a schism into a gulf. Chan and Costa (2005), point out that "developing nations today face major problems, including widespread poverty, inadequate drinking water, high illiteracy rates, intense foreign debt, overpopulation and a heavy disease burden". A common link underlying these problems is the inhibited access to knowledge. Low levels of access to knowledge and information has a compound effect resulting in further 'under-development'.

Libraries must accept that they have the moral obligation to drive access to knowledge and information to alleviate poverty and deprivation due to the paradoxical situation of a scarcity of information in an era of information explosion.

In technologically affluent societies the limitations to access to knowledge are manifested in different forms. Van Dijk and Hacker (2003: 315) have identified four types of barriers to access, which are:

- Lack of elementary digital experience caused by lack of interest, computer anxiety, and unattractiveness of new technology ("mental access").
- No possession of computers and network connections ("material access").
- Lack of digital skills caused by insufficient user-friendliness and inadequate education or social support ("skills access").

- Lack of significant usage opportunities ("usage access")

The cursory mention of these barriers to access to knowledge in technologically affluent societies must not be interpreted as insignificant; it should be flagged for further interrogation.

The Role of the Internet as a Solution to Access

Hamilton (2003) indicates that the Internet, as a tool for information retrieval in libraries in technologically affluent societies, may be a solution to some of the problems relating to access. Hamilton (2003) goes on to point out that the use of IT as way to overcome barriers has figured centrally in schemes to solve the problem. The idea of the Internet as a tool to reduce social exclusion has gained credence thanks to its ability to open access to government information and communication channels, and libraries have contributed to this concept by making collections and catalogues available online for those physically unable to access library resources, Indeed, the lure of virtual libraries as information gateways for the socially excluded is a theme much explored in recent years. With more and more governments attempting to deliver public services online over the next few years, information – and the ability to access it – is becoming more important in empowering communities to take control of their future.

The emergence of the Internet as a key tool within a library's arsenal of information access mechanisms helps this theory along. With the vast amount of information resources the Internet offers, the library continues to provide a variety of ideas and opinions, and indeed expands further the information available due to the removal of many constraints imposed on selection discussed above. On top of this, the Internet is open to more and more people due to the nature of the technology, the excluded are brought into the fold and democratic ideals are spread farther afield. When considering information access on a global scale it is quickly apparent that the Internet is unable to overcome many problems on its own. Without equal and equitable access to Internet-accessible information resources, democracy is not fully inclusive and cannot function to full effect (Hamilton, 2003).

How Do and Can Libraries Drive Access to Knowledge?

There is a dearth in the literature on how libraries can open the doors of access to the knowledge that is available. As indicated above, there is the preoccupation that the answer lies with a technological solution, that is, ICTs. In some instances, as discussed earlier, the root cause of inhibited access is technology itself and in other instances, especially in developing countries, the infrastructure of the channels of information provision is extremely weak. The solutions to both barriers to access to knowledge pose very different challenges.

With regard to barriers to information in developing countries, it must be accepted that the more immediate solution to the situation, although it may seem paradoxical, is ICTs. Mathur and Ambani (2005: 345) are very convincing when they state that "the application of ICT solutions for … developing countries opens (sic) up a vast range of possibilities. Giving an opportunity to the vast majority of the population living in rural areas, to cross the digital divide to obtain access to information resources and services provided by ICT is the next revolution waiting to happen."

Africa is noted for its poor landline telephone infrastructure. However, it has circumvented its poor landline telephone infrastructure by substituting it with cellular phone technology. By the same token, India has circumvented its poor rural IT infrastructure as it "has developed a technology specifically for the rural user at a low cost" (Mathur and Ambani 2005: 347).

Given the fact that knowledge and information can, through improvised technology, be delivered to 'deprived communities', the library can serve as a link between the information that is available and the user communities. However, as indicated by Godlee et al. (2004: 295), it is important for the library to provide the right information at the right time thereby facilitating access to knowledge. This argument is corroborated by Feather (2006:4) who says that the problem is to select and evaluate information rather than to gain access and that the professionals bring their unique body of knowledge to the evaluation process.

It is clear from Feather (2006), Mathur and Ambani (2005) and Godlee (2004) that libraries can drive access to knowledge. In its current state in hybrid communities, the library should make every effort to dismantle all barriers between the user and access to its collection (in the broadest sense possible). It could and must start opening its collections and services to all communities, especially the communities that have been and continue to be deprived of the world's knowledge. It is their right in terms of the UN declaration and the library has an obligation to uphold that right.

Lor and Britz (2007: 388) point out that "modern ICTs have created many opportunities for civil society, opening up space for dialogue, participation and creativity." Libraries have all of the above capacities and more as they have a long history of developing networks. Libraries, with all that they have 'accumulated over the centuries', combined with the ICTs offer a total knowledge package for the Information Society. One of the library's accumulations over the years is its relationship with the user and that it is spread all over the world.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that access to knowledge is critical for the development and growth of society and for participation in democratic processes. Implicit in the theme 'Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge' is that of social inclusion and librarians becoming active change agents in society. However, access alone is of course not enough, it is also about extending services, methods and practices and developing innovative approaches to guarantee free and universal access to relevant knowledge. Libraries should ensure that the world's citizenry have access to the world's knowledge.

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World Library and Information Congress, Québec, 2008: closing address by the President of IFLA

Claudia Lux

What a great conference this was! A great global market of successful work achieved in the profession during the last year and reported at this great event. We all collected new ideas to take home and new friendships were created. Everything went so well and I saw smiling faces everywhere. This was due to the wonderful organization by the National Committee and by Concorde our professional conference organizer on one side and the IFLA core programs, sections and special interest groups on the other side. Most of all I want to thank all of you for the work you have done in preparing this conference and in presenting the results of your daily work to a global audience. I am very impressed by your work, your ideas and your dedication to IFLA. This IFLA Congress has highlighted many successes and shown how libraries support development in education and science and improve people's lives.

Thank you all for the work you have put into the conference and for attending this wonderful event. I hope that you all enjoyed the World Library and Information Congress 2008 and the incredible hospitality of our Canadian guests here in Québec as much as I did.

I promised to you that I would pick up the Libraries on the Agenda Theme again in this closing speech. I went to so many countries last year and received a warm response to IFLA's current presidential theme. I feel, that whether I am in a big metropolitan area, in a university library or in a rural community, librarians are very creative and develop their own ideas in how to interpret the theme.

I want to thank all of you, who have so spontaneously joined my campaign for placing libraries on the agenda. I hope you will continue to join me in this goal of improving the influence of librarians on decision-makers. On top of the many things we are currently doing and still have to do in our advocacy work there is one key element, as I see it. Advocacy work is an ongoing aspect of our work, every success from today can be lost tomorrow, as governmental changes takes place. People have asked me, whether IFLA could convince this or that person to support a library, hoping that everything will work well afterwards.

But there is no stability, you have to advocate again and again. So how can we make our advocacy work for libraries more sustainable?

The same question goes straight to the funding of libraries. There are many projects which are not sustainable because it is difficult to find ongoing support. Sustainability of our work is crucial for development.

Regular funding or project funding, support of a government or support of a foundation – good professional work is only a part of the game.

To put libraries on the agenda for sustainable library development we need to develop more advocacy competences at all levels of our work. We have to train the librarians and information workers in placing libraries on the agenda of government, state and national decisions makers.

I have a dream. I have a dream of a worldwide library advocacy movement. A dream of well-trained librarian and information workers in every part of the world. They are trained to present libraries and to communicate their values, their impact, and their contribution to development and society. For me, this is the key to further developing our services. For me this is the key to sustainable library and information work.

I have a dream. I have a 10 million dollar dream. 10 million dollars to train leaders of library associations and active librarians of each country in the world. 10 million dollars to empower them to do excellent and successful advocacy work for the development and the sustainability of library and information workers. 10 million dollars to develop a multilingual advocacy toolkit that is sensitive to the local cultural aspects of our members around the world. If each of them promises to train 10–20 other librarians of their association according to their local advocating needs, the advocacy knowledge will spread very well.

How can we realize this dream, I do not know. But I do know what we have to do to come closer to this goal. We can collect your knowledge of advocacy, the knowledge inside our association and in all the library associations and institutions of the world. We have to share our knowledge and our stories. I'm realistic. Dreams often do not come true, but there is no reason why we should not spread a dream like this. Let's start with a few small steps.

We can integrate advocacy in the curriculum at our library and information schools.

We can organize an advocacy training day at the World Library and Information Congress next year.

And we can do more and that is part of your role.

Start thinking now and bring your ideas to Milan next year!

Closing address presented at the World Library and Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council, 10–14 August 2008, Québec City, Canada, in the Opening Ceremony (Session 167)

The Public Library in Contemporary Nigeria: challenges and the way forward
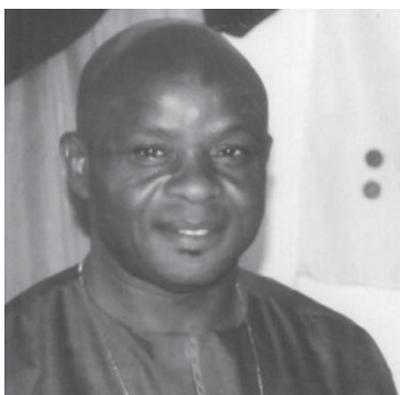
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Abstract

This paper examines the state of public libraries in Nigeria. It states that the tempo of public library development in the country in the years immediately after independence, and after the Nigerian civil war could not be sustained due to inadequate financial support by the establishing authorities. The paper identifies inadequate funding, demoralized and inadequate workforce, inadequate accommodation, etc. as the challenges currently confronting these libraries. It proposes a remediation of these conditions as a way forward.

Keywords: public libraries; Nigeria

Introduction

The impetus for the birth of the public library in Nigeria came from the UNESCO Seminar on Public Library Development in Africa, which was held at the then University College (now University of Ibadan) Ibadan between 27th July and 21st August 1953. The seminar advocated, among other things, the establishment of public libraries in Africa (UNESCO, 1954).

According to Aguolu and Aguolu (2002):

> The establishment of any library is predicated upon two fundamental assumptions namely, that the authorities setting it up are prepared to see to its continued existence by adequate financial support and that the people whom the library serve appreciate its informational and educational values.

The public library from 1955 to 1980 appears to have enjoyed better recognition and support, not only from the political leadership, but also from the educated class. This is supported by Mchombu (1991) and Mambo (1998), who noted that during this period in Africa, the public library received as much priority in government business as other essential services like hospitals and schools. Zeleza (2000) has also noted that during this period, library systems in Anglophone Africa experienced rapid development. This was partly due to the popular urge for social, economic and intellectual improvement in the citizenry, which was necessary for building the emergent nation states. Azikiwe (1937) for instance, believed that not only did Africans need political emancipation, they also needed to be liberated from the shackles of ignorance and illiteracy. Thus, the public library was rightly perceived as a vital instrument for bringing about a literate and educated population.

Two years after the UNESCO Seminar on Public Library Development in Africa, the defunct Eastern Nigerian Regional Government promulgated the first public library law in Nigeria. The Western and Northern Regional Governments followed with the enactment of

legal deposit laws in 1957 and 1964 respectively. The headquarters of the Eastern Nigerian Library Board was completed in 1959, and before the outbreak of the Nigerian civil war in 1967, the Board had built and opened Divisional Libraries in Umuahia, Onitsha, Ikot-Ekpene and Calabar. Harris (1970) has described the enactment of the public library law in Eastern Nigeria as "the most significant thing that has happened in Nigerian library development."

With the balkanization of the three, and later four, regions into the present 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, there is now a public library presence in each state of Nigeria except Abuja. More than half a century after the first public library was legally established in the country, it is pertinent to examine the challenges public libraries are facing, particularly against the background of the ongoing reforms in the education sector and the 'Read Campaign' by the Federal Ministry of Education. The Read Campaign is a readership campaign designed by the Federal Government of Nigeria to inculcate a reading culture in her citizens. Unfortunately, the government has not yet involved the Nigerian Library Association in the campaign, and nothing has been heard of it since it was launched in May 2008.

The Public Library in Perspective

The public library is not only publicly owned but also in general use by any citizen in the area taxed for its support (Opara, 2006). Therefore, it exists primarily to serve the entire population of its locality. According to the *IFLA/ UNESCO Public Library Guidelines* (Gill et al, 2001), the public library is an organization established, supported and funded by the community either through local, regional or national government or through some other form of community organization. It provides access to knowledge, information and works of imagination through a wide range of resources and services, making it available equally to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic and employment status and educational attainment. The *UNESCO Public Library Manifesto* (UNESCO, 2000) stated that the public library is a product of modern democracy and a practical demonstration of democracy's faith in universal education as a lifelong process. In

operational terms, the public library is established and maintained to:

- provide informal educational opportunities for the citizens in the community;
- enrich the knowledge of individuals in various subject/disciplines where they undertake formal education;
- provide avenues to meet the information needs of people;
- support the educational, civic and cultural activities of groups and organizations; and
- provide recreational opportunities and encourage constructive use of leisure time (Wheeler and Goldhor, 1962).

In addition to printed books and periodicals, most public libraries today have a wide range of other media including music CDs, computer software, movies on videotapes and DVD, as well as facilities to access the Internet. It was perhaps against this wide range of resources and services that Onadiran and Onadiran (1981) described the public library as a resource for scholars, center for information and aid for students, a means for self-education and a center of amusement. It is only the public library that provides an open and non-judgmental environment in which individuals and their interests are brought together with the universe of ideas and information (Wilkins, 1977). The uniqueness of the public library is in the area of its clientele. It has the distinction of having the most heterogeneous clientele. While all users of other libraries have unhindered access to the public library, not all the clientele of the public library enjoy such access to other libraries. This means that the public library is everybody's library. It also means that there are certain services which public libraries provide that are not available in other types of libraries. Thus, the public library is the only library that allows all citizens in the area taxed for its support to partake of the immense heritage of human social thought. Just as the clientele is heterogeneous, so the ideas and information available through the public library span the entire spectrum of knowledge and opinions. This requires that the staff must have the capacity, not only to deal with a diverse clientele, but also be able to access and assemble information materials from different subject areas in order to satisfy the information needs of users. This, no doubt, is the greatest challenge facing public libraries. The public library is thus 'special' and therefore deserves special consideration. It is the only library that has the widest reach.

In any nation, the public library system is a social invention designed to preserve and disseminate certain cultural products of the nation and the community. In Nigeria, it is assisted in this respect by the provision of legal deposit laws even though these laws are rarely observed. At this stage of Nigerian's development, and within the context of a globalized world, the public library ought to be seen to be ready to provide ready and free access to books and other information sources for all members of the community (Opara, 2006).

The Public Library in Contemporary Nigeria

Provision of public library services in Nigeria is the responsibility of states and local government councils. All the states of the Federation provide public library services to their inhabitants. However, a few local government councils complement the efforts of the states in the provision of these services. This may be due to lack of legislation by the respective States Houses of Assembly requiring the local councils to establish and maintain public library services.

Each state's public library operates a three-tier library system: headquarters, divisional and branch libraries. While the headquarters are located in the capitals of the states, the divisional and branch libraries are located in urban centers and semi-urban and rural areas. However, due to paucity of resources, these networks of branches are generally not maintained. In the 1960s and 1970s, public libraries in the country maintained efficient extension services to prisons, hospitals, orphanage homes and schools. This was facilitated by mobile library services. Presently, this service is no longer available due to the grounding of the mobile library vans. However, in each of the states, public libraries provide services for children and some, like the Imo State Library Board, provide library services to the visually impaired.

Since the 1980s, there has been a steady decline in fortunes of the public library in Nigeria. Much of this period was characterized by global economic recession starting from the early 1980s. This resulted in the formulation by the Federal Government of certain economic policies such as the crippling Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) imposed by the World Bank. As a result of the oil glut of that time and the debt burden (that was terminated by the Obasanjo administration), there

were fewer resources available for development generally and far less for the public library. The political leadership deployed more resources to other sectors and less to the library. This proved the point that in times of economic crisis the library becomes an easy victim. According to Aguolu (1989), for the library (including public libraries) to flourish in any society, the economy must be sufficiently bright to motivate the government to commit funds to library development. In the same vein, Kuhne (2000) argues that a country that has problems of hunger, education, economic and political freedom cannot give priority to the right to information. Also, Kuhne contended that the right to information has no meaning for a person who is hungry, who does not have enough money, who is not educated and who does not have freedom. However, it is often not realized by both the leaders and the led that information is a power that can play a decisive role in solving these problems. Indeed, the problem is the lack of ideological inclination on the part of our leaders towards supporting the public library. This is partly because the public library is hardly perceived as a powerful instrument for the social, economic and political transformation of the community in which it is located. Commenting on the state of public libraries in Africa, Rosenberg (1993) stated that:

> Public libraries set up in the first flush of independence are no longer seen as crucial to development and are certainly given no place in present structural adjustment programmes.

In the same vein, Rasmussen (n.d.) stated that the state of libraries (including public libraries) in Africa is bleak and that library resources no longer meet even the basic needs of users. Emojorho (2005), in his study of public libraries in Edo and Delta States of Nigeria found that the libraries were performing poorly in most aspects due to appalling resources.

The state of the public library system in any nation is a reflection of the level of acceptance of libraries and librarians by that nation. It also reflects the prevailing value system in the country concerned. In the words of Wilmot (1982): "libraries … reflect the characteristics of the nation, its strength as well as its weaknesses." Thus the neglect of some of our public libraries is a reflection of ideological weakness on the part of the leaders concerned. In these circumstances, public libraries are seen as developmental luxuries.

The poor recognition of the role of the public library manifests itself not only in government action or inaction, but also in the perceptions and attitudes of individual members of the community for whom it is established. Too many library users (and non-users) in our communities still have a narrow view of the role of the public library. This is unlike the situation in many parts of the developed world, where the growth of the public library is, to a large extent, due to the support and vocal expression and desire of the generality of the people to have such a facility. In some parts of the United States of America, citizens are known to have voted in referenda for increased taxation in order to continue to enjoy public library services. In developed countries like the US and Britain, philanthropic organizations established by wealthy citizens contribute immensely to the development of their public libraries. Nigeria has wealthy citizens who can contribute to library development in the same manner that Gerald Ford and Andrew Carnegie have done. In fact, inadequate support to the public library in Nigeria has persisted because of lack of a vocal citizenry who appreciate the importance of the library in the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of the nation.

It is true that a majority of Nigerians are still illiterate. However, the inadequate support for our public libraries cannot be attributed mainly to the high level of illiteracy among the citizenry. As Aboyade (1982) has noted:

> … among highly educated Nigerians, there is still that lack of appreciation for the difference which the provision of library and information services can make in their lives or that of the society at large. The result is that if such people are ever in a position of influence or policy making, they find it difficult to support the library cause.

If the educated minority can support the cause of the public library at every given opportunity, its fortune is likely to improve.

The Challenges

The preceding sections of this paper have signposted the challenges facing the public libraries in Nigeria. The paper will now address the specific challenges.

Inadequate Funding

The bane of public libraries in Nigeria is poor funding. Every other problem confronting them emanates from that. This problem is steadily compounded by the reality of both inflation and the information explosion, including the growing concern for the provision of information in all its formats. As Sager (1989) has noted, a public library can go only as far as its budget allows. This is particularly so in a country where financial support for the library from outside government is hard to come by. The problem is worsened by the irregular release of the inadequate subventions in some states, thus making planning impossible. Furthermore, staffs in the affected states are owed arrears of salaries and other entitlements. This has resulted in low morale and high staff turnover.

The most concrete measure of the adequacy of government support to the public library is the per capita expenditure on the library. This can be determined by dividing the government subvention to the public library by the population to be served. To determine per capita government expenditure on the Imo State Library Board, for instance, let us divide the 2001 subvention to the Board (NGN 13 million) by the population of the state at that time (3,485,499). This gives us approximately NGN 5.00 (about 4 cents US) per citizen! This pathetic situation arises partly from the public accounting system that treats library books as capital items in the budget. There is a lethargic and lopsided implementation of capital budgets at all levels of government in Nigeria. Available financial records at the Imo State Library Board show that the Board has not received capital votes since 1994. This means that the Board has not been receiving book funds from its own government for the past 14 years. The impact of this on the library's stock-building efforts can be imagined. This situation may not be different from what obtains in some other states. According to Oyegade, Nassarawa and Mokogwu (2002) "while few public libraries in Nigeria had been neglected in capital funding, most others recorded substantial capital grants in the current year [i.e. possibly in 2002 – Opara] averaging NGN 20 million with an average release of 10% of the total budgetary allocation." This report did not indicate in quantitative terms the "few" neglected public libraries in capital funding as well as the "most" of them that received "substantial grants". This makes this report unsuitable as a

framework for a realistic appraisal of the funding levels of our public libraries. It behoves each library board to make a strong case, through lobbying of the executive and legislative arms of the government, for the inclusion of books and other materials as consumable items in the budget. It is a well-known fact that library stock building is a continuous addition of new titles of books, new editions of available titles and subsequent issues of periodicals.

In proffering a solution to the poor funding of public libraries in Nigeria, Adimorah (1988) proposed a funding pattern for public libraries whereby the Federal Government would contribute 20 percent, State Government 50 percent and Local Government 30 percent. Good as this proposal is, it must be realized that the Federal Government exclusively funds the National Library which maintains branches in some states and is therefore unlikely to agree to such an additional commitment. Moreover, the National Library has plans to provide public library services through its state branches. A more realistic proposal, in the opinion of this paper, would be joint funding between the state government and local authorities in each state. Presently, public libraries are mainly the responsibilities of state governments. There is need for a law requiring each local government to establish public library services in its area.

It may be pertinent at this juncture to note that public libraries in some other parts of the world are facing financial crises too. In America, for instance, public libraries are finding themselves in the midst of what the American Library Association (ALA) is calling the "deepest budget cuts in history" (Coffman, 2004). The situation there is so bad that some of the public libraries are shutting down, some reducing opening hours and laying off staff. While some of these libraries are exploring other sources of funds, others are gaining tax increases through the support of members of their communities.

In order to secure a higher level of funding, Library Boards will need to make extensive use of lobbying. This requires constant pressure and persuasion. The requirements for successful lobbying include an understanding of the workings of both the legislative and executive arms of government and the ability of the management and Board to state clearly and persuasively how the library will benefit the people to be served. According to

Mason (1990), the elements that are most useful in acquiring political support for the library budget are an understanding of political pressure points and the willingness and ability to lean on them. Library budgets, according to Lux (2007), have a lot to do with how politicians see libraries. In her opinion, some librarians are too shy and do not want to interfere in policy and therefore they can get forgotten when there is development going on or money available. It is against this background that Jenkins (1990) has urged public libraries to become ever more astute politically. She opines that lack of knowledge of the legislative process on the part of librarians is the major reason for the low priority which libraries hold with legislative bodies. This observation is no less true of the Nigerian situation.

Inadequate and Unmotivated Workforce

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the quality of public library services ultimately depends upon the quantity and quality (the 2 Qs) of the staff. As Sahai (1990) has noted, the quantity and quality of staff is second only to finance as an essential prerequisite for a good library. The quality of library staff is one of the key points highlighted in the UNESCO Statistics on Libraries (UNESCO, 1966/67) definition of the library. In any case, the ability of the library to procure needed funds will, to a large extent, depend on the capacity of the staff to articulate the needs of the library in a persuasive and compelling manner. The importance of human capital in the attainment of corporate goals is indicated by Drucker (1973) when he stated that "a manager achieves results through people." A library that lacks adequate numbers of staff of the right calibre cannot be expected to achieve much. With the prevailing state of affairs, public libraries in Nigeria are unlikely to attract and retain quality staff. The existing staff generally lack creativity and innovativeness in service delivery. This is a negation of the *UNESCO Public Library Manifesto* (UNESCO, 2000) that describes the role of the librarian as that of "an active intermediary between users and resources."

The staff of most public libraries in Nigeria today are low in morale as a result of inadequate attention given to them and their institutions. While their counterparts in the academic, research, and national libraries are enjoying enhanced pay packages, they are not. This disparity in conditions of service has led some public library staff who have

the opportunity to migrate to these other libraries. The public library staff can do quite a lot to help themselves. It may not be easy, but the prevailing circumstances of their libraries should task their creative ingenuity. Much depends on the vision and drive of the head librarians. In the words of Sager (1989):

> A library administrator's major resource is the institution's personnel. Whether this resource is wasted or effectively employed depends on the administrator's organizational skills, leadership ability, sensitivity to employees' needs, knowledge of their skills, and capacity to motivate them.

It is the considered view of this paper that the head librarian of a public library with the right leadership qualities can harness the potentials of the available manpower to achieve much needed relevance for his library. The saying that "the Lord helps those who help themselves" is very correct. The public library staff must rise up to change the state of their libraries and by extension change their status.

Inadequate and Dilapidated Accommodation

The library building is one of the three legs of the tripod upon which the library stands (Opara, 2005). According to the *IFLA Standards for Public Libraries* (IFLA. Public Libraries Section, 2000), public library buildings:

> Play an important part in public library provision. They should be designed to reflect the functions of the library service and be sufficiently flexible to accommodate new and changing services.

The public library is a service institution and public library buildings must be adequate both in design and space in order to facilitate the rendering of that service. The design must be adequate for both able and disabled users. Only a few public library buildings in Nigeria, such as those of Kano and Ogun States, can be said to be reasonably adequate and in good condition. In the South East, the headquarters of the Abia and Imo States' Library Boards were designed as divisional libraries of the defunct Eastern Nigerian Regional and East Central State Library Boards respectively. The Library Boards of some states like Anambra and Ebonyi do not have their own buildings as headquarters. In some others, the buildings are

dilapidated and forlorn. Branch libraries are in either rented or donated accommodation. It cannot be too strongly stressed that the deplorable state of some public library buildings in Nigeria has impacted negatively, not only on the productivity of staff, but also on their image and the image of the library as an institution. While the populations of users and potential users are on the increase, space remains static. The building of the Enugu State Library Board, completed in 1959 and the oldest public library building in Nigeria, has remained virtually the same in terms of space despite an astronomical increase in the population of users.

The Collections

The stocks of most public libraries are not keeping pace with the exponential growth in information materials because of inadequate budgetary support. The *IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Public Library Service* (Gill et al, 2001) in respect of public library stock provide that:

> the public library must have adequate resources not just when it is established but also on a continuing basis to enable it to sustain and develop services that meet the needs of the local community. This means it should provide materials in all formats, up-dated regularly to meet the changing needs of groups and individuals, including newly published and replacement materials.

The reality in most of Nigeria's public libraries is a far cry from the preceding admonition by IFLA. The stock of most public libraries in the country would have remained static but for the kind gestures of Book Aid International, the interventions of the defunct Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) and the efforts of the Education Trust Fund (ETF) and donations from individuals and organizations both within and outside the country. However, it appears that the plan by the ETF to provide three mobile library vans to each State Library Board (Oyegade, Nassarawa and Mokogwu, 2002) has not materialized. Book Aid International will be withdrawing its services to Nigeria by the end of 2008. Book Aid International had been supporting libraries – academic and public – in Nigeria since the 1980s. The organization was donating books based on the expressed needs of the benefiting libraries. However, the libraries were responsible for freight charges and clearing of the consignments of books at the Lagos seaport.

Part of the frustration of Book Aid International in Nigeria was the bottlenecks associated with clearing of the books which led to the accumulation of consignments at the seaport. Also, the ETF has recently withdrawn its intervention programme to public libraries in order to revert to its original mandate of supporting tertiary institutions of learning. The impact of this on the stock building and facilities of Nigeria's public libraries can be imagined. There is an urgent need for public libraries in Nigeria that have not started to explore other sources of financial support to start doing so. This is necessary because a library that cannot meet the information needs of its users is a moribund and anemic information system as it has lost its vitality, honour and attractions (Ajidabun, 2004).

Donor support is now a survival strategy and according to Rasmussen (n.d.), it is now seen as an acceptable, normal and inevitable way of funding all library functions. Managers of Nigeria's public libraries should begin to identify and approach donor agencies, locally and internationally, for support, not only in the realm of acquisitions but also in the areas of ICT and capacity building. They should also begin to look inwards with a view to identifying potential areas such as enhanced (value added) services like information consultancy, for internal revenue generation.

Poor Perception of Public Library and Librarians

This is perhaps the greatest challenge facing public libraries in Nigeria today. It is poor perception that is responsible for the low priority rating of our public libraries in government business. The public library is not perceived as an engine of growth. This has contributed to the poor image of the public library and librarian. According to Slater (1981), the social image of any group or occupation or profession has three facets: the public, the self and the ideal. The public image refers to the way the society sees an institution or profession. Just as the public library is not perceived as an essential institution, so also the public librarian is generally seen only as one who lends books.

Self-image, on the other hand, is internal to a person, and it refers to the way each member of an institution or profession sees himself. This is the same as the self-concept which Akintude

and Selbar (1995) refer to as the sum total of the individual's thoughts and feelings about himself as an object. Some librarians do not realize that the way they see themselves affects their public image. In the words of Akintude and Selbar ".... the image that librarians perceive that others form about them is directly affected by the self-concept of librarians themselves."

Poor recognition and support of the public library stem from poor or wrong perception of the role of the library. This translates to negative or poor attitudes to it. All these are products of the mind (Opara, 2006). A management strategy to tackle the problems of the public library should therefore aim at changing the present mindset of government and the public about the library. No management strategy can do this better than a well planned and sustained public relations strategy.

The public relations practice being advocated here does not only involve the creation of a public relations unit in the library with someone who is trained in public relations techniques and whose sole responsibility is public relations; the practice of public relations in the public library should not be exclusive to the library management. If the desired goals must be attained, the functions must be diffused among the library staff. In the words of Kies (1987):

> Recognition of this broader involvement is especially important in such public service, non-profit institutions as libraries. An organization's formal programme of planned public relations is indeed primarily a management function, but all of the organization's employees, not only the management level, need to be concerned and involved in the overall public relations of the organization.

This is because the image and success of an organization do not depend on its management alone. As a matter of fact, the actions or inactions of any member of staff of an organization impact on the opinion the public holds about the organization. This is why the practice of public relations is anchored on the principle that public opinion matters.

Public Library Laws in Nigeria

Public library law is as old as the public library in Nigeria. The defunct Eastern Nigerian Regional

government is reputed to have enacted the first public library law in Nigeria in 1955. According to Aguolu and Aguolu (1997), this legislation helped to speed up library services in the Region. There is hardly any public library in Nigeria today which is not backed up by law. This is because, without legislation, public library services would be provided at the whims and caprices of whoever is in charge of the establishment (Agidee, 1970).

According to the UNESCO Seminar on Public Library Development in Africa (UNESCO, 1954):

> Only legislation can empower the appropriate authorities to provide the services and ensure adequate financial support and efficient administration according to national standard. Only legislation can define the functions of the providing authority, create the conditions in which it may fulfil those functions, and ensure development.

Unfortunately, some of the public library laws have been found to be defective in content and structure. This has generated agitation by the Nigerian Library Association for their review. The most vexed areas are the appointment of the heads of these libraries and the composition of the Boards. As a result of the ambiguous provisions for the appointment of the heads of some of these libraries, some non-librarians have been appointed, to the chagrin of the Library Association. For instance, non-librarians are heading the public libraries in Edo, Ondo and Rivers States. In some states, all members of the Boards are non-librarians because the laws do not expressly require that members shall be librarians or that the local library association shall be represented on the Board. Perhaps only the Benue State Library Board Edict of 1982 stipulates that all persons to be appointed members of the Board shall be knowledgeable in library science or related fields. The Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria – the body that regulates the practice of librarianship in Nigeria – is yet to be reconstituted. In the meantime, the Nigerian Library Association is engaged in dialogue with the State Governments whose public libraries are headed by non-librarians.

Most of the public library laws in Nigeria are overdue for review. The state governments concerned have not taken the necessary steps to do this because they do not see the library as a priority.

The Way Forward

The public library is the local gateway to knowledge, and provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups (UNESCO, 2000). For it to actualize all these, it needs to be adequately supported by the establishing authority as well as by members of the community for whom it is established. In specific terms, public libraries in Nigeria need to be assisted as follows:

- *Provision of Adequate Funding:* Adequate budgetary allocation is needed to cover regular staff salaries and allowances, stock building, capacity building and other overhead costs. One of the public libraries was so cash-strapped that it was cut off from the public power supply for its inability to pay accumulated energy bills. The current practice of treating the book fund as a capital item in the budget should be jettisoned as it has crippled the stock-building programmes of these libraries.
- *Adequate Buildings:* Public library buildings should be adequate both in design and space and centrally located to be accessible to all those who may desire to use them. In one of the states in the country, the head of the public library only got to know that the architectural design for his building was ready at a public function. In other words, he made no input in the design of his future library building. Such a design is likely to be defective in one respect or the other. Most public library buildings in Nigeria do not provide for physically challenged users.
- *Staffing:* Most of the libraries presently do not have adequate staff. Existing vacancies have not been filled because the establishing authorities have not given approval. Public libraries in Nigeria have the highest levels of staff turnover compared to other libraries. This is because of poor conditions of service. In some public libraries, departments that are ought to be headed by professionals are instead headed by paraprofessionals or non-professionals. Also, most branches of these libraries are headed by paraprofessionals or non-professionals. There is a need for enhanced conditions of service for the staff, comparable to what obtains in the National Library of Nigeria. This will be achieved if they are accorded academic status and the Consolidated Salary Structure (CONTISS) is

granted to them. The establishing authorities should give approval for the filling of existing vacancies.

- **Review of Legislation:** Those laws that contain objectionable provisions should be amended in order to expunge the vexatious provisions. Vacancies in the headship of public libraries should be advertised and made competitive in order to attract the best brains available. The current practice whereby appointment of the head librarian is based on seniority has proved unhelpful.

- **Lobbying, Advocacy and Fundraising:** Lobbying in relation to the library is an attempt to influence those who are in positions to make decisions in favour of the library. However, Meraz (2002) has noted that inadequate use of this strategy by librarians is due to the fact that lobbying is often viewed as a purely political activity. Even at that, what is wrong with it? It is evident that no state government in Nigeria can fund its public library adequately alone. Therefore, the libraries themselves should create value-added services in order to generate additional revenue. In addition, there is a need to attract private sector support. Lobbying and advocacy are potent instruments required to achieve this.

- **Capacity Building:** There is an urgent need for training and retraining of library staff, particularly in the areas of ICT and management of resources. Training and retraining should enable the public librarian to be innovative and creative in providing services and managing resources.

Conclusion

The contemporary public library is the most economically efficient community resource for providing people of all ages and educational levels with ready access to information and knowledge (Heron, 2004).

The public library in Nigeria cannot fit this description as it is seriously hindered in the performance of its roles by inadequate support from its establishing authority as well as from those for whom it is established. It needs to be assisted in order for it to play the roles expected of it within the context of the *Read Campaign* promoted by the Federal Government.

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Note

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Building for the Future: National and Academic Libraries from Around the Globe: report on a conference held in The Hague 3–5 October 2007

Karen Latimer and Andrew Cranfield

Introduction

Libraries are changing in the digital age as information increasingly comes in electronic form and the emphasis in libraries is placed on access to information and user support rather than on collection building. Such change undoubtedly impacts on the design of library buildings. Predictions about the demise of the physical library, however, seem unfounded and many exciting and innovative buildings have been designed in recent years. Indeed the need to create library buildings as meeting places for both academic and social purposes that people want to visit rather than have to visit has given library building design a positive fillip.

The IFLA Library Buildings and Equipment Section, which has recently launched the publication, *Library Building Guidelines*, and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, which was celebrating the 25th anniversary of its current building, joined forces to host a conference, Building for the Future, in The Hague in October 2007. The aim of the conference was to explore, through a series of visits and case studies, how national and academic library building projects had successfully risen to the challenges posed by raised user expectations and the need for new services. Delegates visited the University Library at Delft designed by Mecanoo and Michael Wilford's Peace Palace in The Hague. Both buildings are architecturally striking and successful working libraries and both visits gave rise to much discussion and diverse opinion.

National Libraries

The first session of the conference focused on national libraries and brought interesting presentations from all over the globe. Even though it is 10 years since it opened, the 'Black Diamond' extension to the Royal Library, Copenhagen remains one of the most profound examples of modern library architecture. Deputy Director Steen Bille Larsen gave us a tour back in time and reflected on some experiences of the last 10 years of the new building.

Like so many library extension projects it was a lack of space that drove the process of finding the financial and political backing for this. In 1993 approval for the extension was granted and an international competition announced. The Royal Library used the world famous architect Harry Faulkner-Brown as a consultant. Steen Bille Larsen said that the library had used Faulkner-Brown's 'ten commandments', which are worth mentioning here:

1. Flexible with a layout, structure and services, which are easy to adapt.
2. Compact for ease of movement of readers, staff and books.
3. Accessible from the exterior into the building and from the entrance to all parts of the building, with an easy comprehensive plan needing minimum supplementary directions.
4. Extendible to permit future growth with minimum disruption.
5. Varied in its provision of reader spaces, to give wide freedom of choice.
6. Organized to impose maximum confrontation between books and readers.

7. Comfortable to promote efficiency of use.
8. Constant in environment for the preservation of library materials.
9. Secure to control user behaviour and loss of books.
10. Economic to be built and maintained with minimum resources both in finance and staff.

Building in the mid- and late 1990s was no easy task with the digital information landscape still unclear and uncharted and therefore the '1st commandment' concerning flexibility was of particular importance.

Most people in Copenhagen probably know the Black Diamond, so the project has certainly been successful in creating a well-known brand, but finding the entrance to the library is somewhat more difficult! When the visitor has entered the library it is not 100 percent clear what kind of building one is in – museum, concert hall or library. Steen Bille Larsen reflected that this is an aspect that needs to be improved – the Black Diamond is iconic, the library perhaps less so.

A good example of how requirements change is the question of the original number of PCs in the library. Originally the library opened with 90 user PCs in the information hall – today this figure is 10, underlining that user and usage patterns change dramatically over the course of a decade.

Another good example of old technology that will change over the coming years is the use of old newspapers. Today the library offers most of these on microfilm in specially equipped reading areas. In time these will, in all probability, be available online and the relationship between the service provided and the space needed will have changed.

A modern building like this should of course be comfortable and Steen Bille Larsen reflected on two important issues for users – indoor climate and the provision of food and drink. The building is too hot in the summer and as public buildings in Denmark are not allowed to have air conditioning this is a difficult problem to solve. Users of the library are allowed to use the staff canteen at certain times of the day and it's fair to say that this may well be the best library canteen in Denmark.

Steen Bille Larsen ended his presentation by stating that, 10 years after the opening of the library, they were still extremely satisfied with their 'new' library and the Black Diamond has become part of many Danes' consciousness and that the library plays an important part in the preservation and dissemination of Danish cultural heritage.

There is no doubt – the National Library of Belarus is striking. From the many pictures of the library that Director Roman Motulsky presented, its futuristic diamond-like structure is one part building, one part spaceship. To build a library such as this has been a huge financial undertaking and the generosity of various companies, organizations and private persons have contributed to the task.

Of special interest in Director Motulsky's presentation was the speed at which the building had been completed – the construction of the library was completed in only 36 months and it took only 100 days to move the materials from different locations in Minsk to the new library building. The design of the library prioritizes maximum storage facilities and it takes an impressive 20 minutes to deliver materials from the stacks to the user. The stack has corridors along the perimeter of its outer walls, which create an air layer that helps to minimize temperature influences and helps to maintain the optimal temperature in the building.

The library has an impressive 2.060 reading places distributed among 19 reading rooms and special emphasis has been placed on the use of natural light for the reading rooms, galleries and offices.

The library covers more than just the written word and there are permanent art exhibitions focusing on Belarusian culture, ethnography and folklore. Other cultural activities include a conference hall, art galleries, a book museum and a fitness centre!

The national library of Belarus is built to impress – the modest main entrance to the huge building will make most users feel slightly daunted on entering the grandiose halls and rooms of the library.

From Belarus we moved far away to the island state of Trinidad and Tobago. Annette Wallace,

the Executive Director of the National Library and Information System Authority, introduced us to the new national library designed by the architect Colin Laird. Seven floors, 24,000 sq. ft. of floor space and a reinforced concrete structure to combat the risk of earthquakes all make this an impressive library. Also unusual for a National Library is the fact that this library doubles as a public library offering a wide variety of services for children and adults, including a storytelling room for children with a design reflecting the local folk culture. The library is also host to the heritage library, which collects, among other items, materials about the history of Trinidad and Tobago.

Perhaps most striking is the library's amphitheatre, which provides a forum for outdoor activities – a library space of which I think many librarians would be envious. The combination of national and public library gives this building a rather different feel from many other national libraries – a vibrancy which seems to be reflected in the architecture as well.

The last presentation on the theme of national libraries was on the construction and new reading environment of the National Digital Library in Seoul, South Korea (NDL). As one might expect there is a marked emphasis on the use of ICT, digital media and the provision of more advanced forms of library services, though the library is a hybrid collection containing both analogue and digital materials.

The NDL is built to complement the existing National Library of Korea and this cohabitation is 'joined' together by a large green area in front of the library and on the whole one gets the impression of a library built and designed in harmony with nature. With its eight floors, five of them underground, there is still a strong emphasis on collection storage and the underground book stacks alone can hold 12 million volumes. Much emphasis has been placed on space strategy and planning a new reading environment, with the construction of what the library refers to as a 'digital cluster space' where a number of services are provided for (PCs, scanners, web cams and printers) in one place. The library also provides a media centre, where users can create multimedia materials themselves, an exhibition area and an international video conference room. The NDL

is truly at the forefront of developing a digital environment within a physical framework.

Cautious Dynamism: The Koninklijke Bibliotheek Building 1982–2007

The afternoon programme was given over to a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the KB building in The Hague. Martin Bossenbroek, Director of Collections and Services at the library, spoke about rearranging the public space of the KB building and this part of the programme finished off with a presentation of a book about the KB library – a lavish publication in both Dutch and English detailing the building and construction process, floor plans of the library and with a wealth of illustrative material.[1] The placement of the KB library so close to the central station of the Hague often means that it is quite difficult to get a clear view of this building – this book shows how impressive the KB building really is. At the end of this session there was also a brief presentation promoting the recently published IFLA Library Building Guidelines to delegates.[2]

Academic and Research Libraries

On the final day of the conference, attention turned to academic and research libraries. There has always been a strong user-support tradition in this type of library but there is a shift in focus here too and a different balance between traditional collections and electronic services is emerging and indeed between reader places and shelving areas also. The four papers presented spanned four countries and three continents. Many common themes and problems were identified including funding issues, the importance of a strong vision, environmental concerns and the need to design attractive and flexible spaces which will encourage scholarship and enable collaborative learning to take place.

The first talk, by Tanja Notten, described the University Library of Utrecht, designed by Wiel Arets at a cost of EUR 45 million and opened in 2004. The need for more space and centralized facilities as well as improved health and safety and environmental conditions prompted the drive for a new building. The vision for the new

library was to integrate service points, allow access to as much of the collections as possible and provide a mixture of individual and group study spaces. Lounge, café and auditorium spaces were provided in addition to traditional shelving and reading areas. Flexibility in both the structure and house rules was key to the project in order to create a welcoming atmosphere while still maintaining a balance between the scholarly and the social. Work spaces were designed to allow two-way communication between staff and users. The décor, including black walls and intricate glazing patterns, was intended to create intimacy and encourage concentration.

Celia Lacerda then presented a paper on the Library at UnicenP at Curitiba in Brazil. This building sits in a beautifully landscaped site overlooking a lake at a central point of the campus. It is a dramatic trapezoidal shaped building of eight floors with an atrium. It was designed by Manoel Coelho and it was evident that there had been excellent rapport between the architectural and library teams. Alternating mezzanines, broad stairways and a panoramic lift add to the drama of the building, which is also a very practical, environmentally-conscious one. Wide glass panels allow natural lighting and ventilation and the building relates well to its natural setting. Internet access and a mixture of seating areas take precedence over collection space in acknowledgement of the current trend of access to information being more important than possession.

In a slight change of emphasis, the third paper took as its topic a building that is still at the planning stage. The new library for Aberdeen University in the north of Scotland has aroused a lot of interest through its international competition and continuing fund-raising challenges. Wendy Pirie addressed the issue of commissioning a building and seeing it through the planning process. As well as requiring a functional and environmentally-friendly but iconic building, the University wants to integrate collections and offer an enhanced service to the local community. The importance of having a clear vision for the future rather than just duplicating the existing set-up was stressed, as was the need for good architectural advice from the very beginning and a clear collection management policy. An architectural competition was launched in 2005 and six practices, from the 100 expressions of interest, were short-listed. The winners, announced in 2005, were Danish

architects – Schmidt Hammer Lassen. It is hoped to start the EUR 84.5 million project in 2008/2009 with a proposed completion date of 2011/2012.

The final presentation of the conference was given by Ruth Pagell on the Li Ka Shing Library at Singapore Management University. She stressed the importance of the library as holding a central and critical place in the learning environment. As well as being open, friendly and flexible, it had to embody the highest aesthetic and environmental values to encourage scholarship and learning. The physical library is where space, appropriate pedagogy and technology overlap; an innovative institution needs an exciting and well-designed library which should be a link between the classroom and the workplace. The speaker looked at the impact of research and teaching services on the design of the building; growing e-resources means there is less need for shelving areas and also has an impact on work and reading areas and the interface between library staff and users. A recurrent theme was the need for more evidence-based research to find out how libraries are used and what our users want. This can then feed into the design and choice of furniture.

Conclusion

The conference more than fulfilled its promise to look at how national and academic libraries had risen to the challenge of the electronic age. The recent projects from around the world that were discussed and illustrated were innovative and exciting and gave delegates much food for thought.

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Secretary General's Report to Council, 2008

Peter Johan Lor, Secretary General

It is again an honour to present to you a brief report on IFLA's operations. This report covers the period since the 2007 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Durban.

Last year I spoke about IFLA's strategic plan and mentioned the twelve strategic directions and 45 strategic actions that it comprises. I mentioned that in December 2006 the Governing Board drew up a priority list, in which six of the strategic actions were selected for priority action. They are:

Priority 1: Strategic action 6(a) (Society Pillar):

Create an advocacy capability at IFLA HQ and develop an advocacy campaign focusing on the following themes: Freedom, Equity and Inclusion.

Priority 2: Strategic action 3(a) (Profession Pillar):

Revitalize IFLA's website for professional development and exchange.

Priority 3: Strategic action 11(d) (Members Pillar):

Develop diverse, broad-based and stable sources of funding, other than membership.

Priority 4: Strategic action 9(a) (Members Pillar):

Organize an annual World Library and Information Congress that is efficiently managed, financially beneficial to IFLA, sustainable, and reasonably priced for members.

Priority 5: Strategic action 12(a) (Members Pillar):

Review IFLA professional groups, taking a life-cycle approach, streamlining IFLA, to ensure that they remain relevant and effective.

Priority 6: Strategic action 10(f) (Members Pillar):

Develop a toolkit for IFLA divisions, sections, and discussion groups that helps to identify potential

membership markets, retain current members, and recruit new members.

I intend again to use the six prioritized strategic actions as the framework for my report. However, IFLA does not stand still, and as priority actions are accomplished new priorities take their place. The Governing Board is currently revising the priorities, and will decide on a new set at its next meeting, on Saturday 16 August. In this report, for the sake of continuity, I shall stick to the framework I used last year, but I am taking the liberty of modifying it somewhat.

How Did We Do?

Using the list of priorities as a framework, I now report briefly on our progress in respect of each of them. Unlike last year I shall not suggest a score out of ten. Instead, I'll use 'smileys':

Priority 1: Create an advocacy capability at IFLA HQ and develop an advocacy campaign …

As of this year IFLA headquarters has the nucleus of an advocacy unit. In January we appointed Dr Stuart Hamilton in the newly created position of Senior Policy Adviser (SPA). The creation of this position was made possible by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, announced at our Congress last year. This was an important step forward for IFLA. It adds significantly to IFLA's advocacy capacity. It helps to ensure continuity in our representation at international bodies. Continuity is an important factor in successful advocacy. In addition we are now able to divide the work of representation among senior staff. For example, I was able to spend more time working with UNESCO, allowing me to participate in the evaluation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and in the development of IFAP's strategic plan. We were also able to participate more effectively in the annual action line facilitation meetings that are held to follow up the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and related meetings.

Stuart has been able to give a big boost to the work of FAIFE. There is a pipeline full of exciting projects, largely funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. At any given moment some are being conceptualized and developed for next year, others are in progress, yet others are being followed up with further work. In the latter category I can mention a highly successful IFLA/FAIFE 'Train the trainers' workshop on the *IFLA/UNESCO Internet Manifesto Guidelines*, held at the National Library of the Philippines just a few weeks ago. Plans are already being made to follow this up with a further programme to ensure successful outcomes in the South-East Asia region.

Stuart has much to do. He is working on projects with the Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) and he has already participated in a major WIPO meeting, where CLM has been doing great work. Stuart is also assisting our President in developing a 'Libraries on the Agenda' strategy. I shall not say more about this, as the President will deal with this in her address. On this priority we have seen excellent progress.

Priority 2: Revitalize IFLA's website for professional development and exchange

This is another 'feel-good' priority. After the Durban Congress we put together an expert panel of knowledgeable persons who had been 'volunteered' by IFLA member institutions to advise us on the redevelopment of IFLA's website. They conferred electronically and then met in The Hague in January to review where we were with the project. As the main outcome they provided us with a very useful 'road map' for the way forward. We had a map, but we also needed a driver. IFLA's immediate Past President, Alex Byrne, who is the Director of the Library of the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), kindly agreed to lend us one of his staff to help us with the web project, and Fiona Bradley came to IFLA Headquarters in The Hague on a 6-month secondment to drive the project.

Working with a project team at Headquarters and a user group made up of representatives of the eight divisions and core activities, we made rapid progress. An open source content management system (CMS) called Drupal was selected. The project was divided into two stages: information architecture and design, and installation and configuration of the content management software. The two stages were outsourced to two different web development companies, which are currently working in parallel. Many of you will have seen the 'demos' of the website that Fiona has presented during various sessions this week. The new site will have a fresh, modern look. It provides clear and efficient navigation, an attractive web presence for each of our professional units (Sections, Special Interest Groups, Core activities, etc.), and a range of web 2.0 functionality, including blogs, wikis and forums, to enable IFLA members to communicate, interact and work together in innovative and flexible ways. Its design takes into account our seven official languages as well as the requirements of visually handicapped and bandwidth-challenged users.

We have shown you some mock-ups. Beta testing and evaluation will commence in September 2008. Content will be updated in keeping with the new design. Training will be provided online to all content creators. The new IFLA website will be launched in January 2009, and the old IFLANET will be archived, but in doing so we will also acknowledge a debt of gratitude to our long-time web-mistress, Sophie Felföldi, to Library and Archives Canada, where IFLANET was initially developed and hosted, and to the Institut de l'information scientifique et technique (INIST), which has hosted it since 2001.

This priority deserves a big smile.

Priority 3: Develop diverse, broad-based and stable sources of funding, other than membership

I have already referred to significant grants made by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Sida. The grant of USD 1 million from the Gates Foundation is a general operating support grant to enable IFLA to continue its work "to highlight the importance of providing public access to technology and the Internet through libraries to improve lives". It is for the period 2007 to 2009. It provides support for inter alia our advocacy work and for the upgrading of our website and IT infrastructure. The grant from Sida, a total of SEK 23 million (c. EUR 2.4 million) for the period 2005–2009, is the most important source of funding for projects by ALP and FAIFE. The year 2009 is not far away. This means that we will need to work hard to ensure that funding is found to continue this work from 2010.

The Stichting IFLA Foundation, set up last year, now holds about EUR 250,000, being money donated to the IFLA Fund and surpluses from the 2006 and 2007 Congress foundations. The Foundation's Trustees decided to plan for growth by investing most of this money, but every year EUR 50,000 will be made available for larger projects of a strategic nature that are aimed at building IFLA's capacity in the long term. The Trustees and the Governing Board are discussing the manner in which this amount will be made available.

Corporate partners make an important contribution to IFLA, not only through their membership fees, but also because most of them are exhibitors and sponsors of our congresses. We currently have three tiers of corporate partners:

Gold [displayed on screen]
Silver [displayed on screen]
Bronze [displayed on screen]

Can we give them all a round of applause?

The fees and benefits of the three categories of corporate partners need to be reviewed. The revised Statutes, which will no longer lay down detailed provisions for corporate partners, will give the Governing Board greater flexibility in tailoring packages to fit the needs of corporate partners.

This priority area is one of great challenge for us.

Priority 4: Organize an annual World Library and Information Congress that is efficiently managed, financially beneficial to IFLA, sustainable, and reasonably priced for members

In recent years IFLA has had a series of successful congresses. This has been a very enjoyable congress too. Unfortunately I have to express deep disappointment about the problems many participants, particularly colleagues from developing countries, have experienced in obtaining visas to enter Canada. In spite of all the efforts of IFLA Headquarters, Concorde Services Ltd, and the Canadian National Committee, which worked really hard to assist the affected persons, this has unfortunately prevented some 40 pre-registered participants from joining us here. The visas were refused in violation of assurances that had been given when Québec City was selected as our congress venue in 2003. They have affected several speakers, which resulted in gaps in the Congress programme, and some regular participants, including standing committee members, thereby impeding IFLA's professional governance. This would have been the first IFLA Congress with full simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, but refusal of visas to three Arabic-speaking participants who would have served as volunteer interpreters and translators, would have made this impossible if the National Committee and Library and Archives Canada had not generously stepped in to help by providing interpreters for the opening session. It is ironic that the visa issue has cast a cloud over a congress held under the slogan of 'Libraries without Borders'.

This situation may well be part of a worldwide trend which will increasingly affect participants from developing countries. To alleviate the problem IFLA will take up this matter at the highest level with the authorities in countries hosting future congresses, and we will step up the guidance we already give to intending participants – especially to apply for visas early so that there is more time to challenge refusals.

Good progress is being made in organizing the congresses in Milan (2009) and Brisbane (2010). The venue for 2011 will be made known during the closing session. We strive to offer a congress of high quality at a price our members can afford. This is an ongoing challenge. We do not see the congress as a cash cow. We aim to break even or achieve a modest profit. Because a congress is affected by many uncertain factors, we have to budget conservatively. Mostly the result exceeds our expectations, but we have no guarantee. To keep our registration fees affordable, the fees for IFLA members will remain unchanged next year, while those non-members will go up. This is a risky decision, and means that we rely on you to come to Milan in large numbers to ensure that we break even.

The economic challenges of organizing a successful congress have stimulated some rethinking. We have clarified and strengthened the legal framework that binds IFLA, the limited liability company that is responsible for each congress, the professional conference organizer or PCO (Concorde Services Ltd), and the National Committee. This framework consists of a set

of contracts between these parties, covering the period until 2010. Work is in progress on a strategic review of future congresses.

To plan good congresses we need good information about your congress experiences. Last year we asked participants to complete a web-based post-congress evaluation questionnaire. We had a record response – for which, thank you very much! The results were very useful. You told us that you are generally positive about many aspects of the congress, but you also pointed out some areas of weakness, on which we are working. A summary of the results has been published in the June 2008 *IFLA journal* (vol. 34, no. 2). This year we again ask you to complete the post-congress evaluation questionnaire. For the first time it will be available in all seven IFLA languages.

Also for the first time, we will ask participants in satellite meetings to complete a separate web-based questionnaire asking them about the event they attended and also how this relates to the congress itself. Finally, our PCO will distribute an evaluation questionnaire to all exhibitors. A loyal constituency of happy exhibitors is critical to the success of our congresses. We want to know how we can improve their IFLA Congress experience too. I appeal to you all to respond to the questionnaires that you will be asked to complete. In so doing you help us to offer you a better congress.

This priority is a mixed bag of good and bad news. We need an in-between smiley here.

Priority 5: Review IFLA professional groups, taking a life-cycle approach, streamlining IFLA, to ensure that they remain relevant and effective

During the past year our discussion on professional structures, which started in Seoul, has resulted in the proposal for more general and thorough revision of IFLA's Statutes, which will be voted on shortly. The Statutes are complemented by Rules of Procedure. Therefore a new set of Rules of Procedure has also been drafted. If the new Statutes are approved this afternoon the Governing Board will consider and approve the new Rules of Procedure. Much of the detail concerning our professional structures will in future be in the Rules of Procedure. This will make it easier for IFLA to respond rapidly to new challenges and opportunities.

This has been a big job. In anticipation of the Council's approval I think a broad smile is appropriate.

Priority 6: Develop a toolkit for IFLA divisions, sections, and discussion groups that helps to identify potential membership markets, retain current members, and recruit new members

Since the initial development work on the toolkit has been completed, the Governing Board decided that this priority can be deleted. For my report I shall refocus Priority 6 on *membership development*, grouping together the following strategic actions:

Priority 6: Membership development, comprising strategic actions:

10(c): Assertive management of member services
11(b): Recruit and retain members
11(c): Recruit and retain corporate partners

In April, due to increasing costs and lack of progress, we stopped all work on the new membership system that we were developing to link to the new website and to our financial system. This work was diverting energy from the new website, which is a higher priority. It was a difficult decision. For membership administration we have reverted to our old system. It is inefficient but it works. As an interim measure the database structure has been optimized, while a new approach is being considered.

IFLA's membership levelled off in 2001 when we had 1781 members in 155 countries. It has been slowly declining ever since. As of July this year we have 1571 members in 145 countries. Because we changed the cut-off date for membership renewals in 2006 the figures are not strictly comparable. In the past we 'carried' many members who had not paid their membership fees. Now we have fewer members but they are almost all paid-up members and we no longer have a large amount of bad debt to write off.

However, this is cold comfort. We need to turn the tide and start growing our membership again. In April Cynthia Mouanda, then Membership Manager, proposed a '3Rs' membership development plan under the slogan 'Recruit, Retain, Rejuvenate'. The Treasurer set a higher target for membership income, and the Governing Board joined in the effort, each member undertaking to recruit a handful of new members. We also put more emphasis on member retention. A drive to contact non-paying members resulted in the reinstatement of a number of members who had been deleted on account of non-payment in 2007. In terms of the Global Library Association Development (GLAD) Programme six library associations in small developing countries will be helped to pay their membership fees.

Positive as these efforts may be, they do not adequately address the challenge we face. A more strategic approach is needed. A broadly smiling Smiley is not appropriate here.

Since this is my last report to you as Secretary General, I take the liberty of adding two priorities which I consider to be important, and which I shall discuss very briefly.

Priority 7: Communication

Under this heading I group four strategic actions from IFLA's strategic plan:

8(a): Electronic newsletter
8(b): Communication with officers
8(c): Multilingual service
10(e): Communication strategy for 'indirect members'

I consider communication to have been our greatest weakness during my term as Secretary General, but now at last we are making some real progress. I mention four positive developments:

- The President's monthly newsletter has been well received, which shows that it meets a need.
- The new website, to which I have already referred, will not be a passive repository of information, but a powerful, versatile communication tool.
- To our three existing regional offices we have added three language centres, for Arabic, in

Alexandria, Egypt, for French (specifically for francophone Africa), in Dakar, Senegal, and for Russian, in Moscow. The establishment of a Chinese language centre is receiving attention. These offices will greatly enhance our ability to communicate in all our official languages.

- From May this year we have a Professional Communication Officer, Ingeborg Verheul, who has been seconded to us by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the national library of the Netherlands. This means that we now have a staff member working primarily on communication. That does not mean that she can generate all the content we need. I therefore appeal to all our professional units, especially sections and core activities, to let us have interesting and attractively written reports on your achievements, with photographs whenever possible. We need to celebrate our successes on our new website, in proposals and reports to donors, in our annual report and elsewhere.

This is encouraging progress, which deserves a broad smile.

Priority 8: Building organizational capacity

Under this heading I include the following strategic actions:

10(a): Increase capacity of all IFLA offices to support strategic directions and actions
10(b): Recruit and retain staff with professional competencies

At the beginning of this year IFLA embarked on a process of organizational restructuring at IFLA Headquarters, led by President Claudia Lux. This process is still under way and a new organizational structure is taking shape.

Coincidentally, this has been a year of many staff changes. We were sad to lose a long-serving staff member, Karin Passchier, who lost a brave battle against cancer. In addition our longest-serving staff member, Sophie Felföldi, well known to many of you as always helpful, patient and knowledgeable, left us to move to Cyprus. Two months ago we said good-bye to Cynthia Mouanda, who has in the mean time given birth to baby Thalia. While on the subject of new arrivals, we have welcomed several new colleagues, in chronological order:

- Sofia Kapnisi (part-time Graduate Administrator, position shared with the UDC Consortium)
- Stuart Hamilton (Senior Policy Adviser)
- Simon Lemstra (Web Manager and IT Coordinator)
- Fiona Bradley (seconded to us for the website redevelopment project and soon returning to Sydney)
- Ingeborg Verheul (Professional Communication Officer)
- Esther Doria (part-time Administrative Assistant)

I should also mention that we welcomed Josche Ouwerkerk, now the proud mother of Sacha, back from maternity leave.

Last but not least, the new Secretary General, Jennefer Nicholson, joined us in June. Her early appointment has allowed her to work in parallel with myself for 3 months. During this time she has had a great opportunity to review a number of key strategic areas before being immersed in routine organizational matters. She is an impressive professional association executive and I am confident that when I leave on 5 September IFLA will be in good hands.

Conclusion

Time has flown and it is time for me to hand over. This has been an absorbing and challenging job. It has been a wonderful privilege to serve you as IFLA's Secretary General. It remains for me to thank my colleagues at Headquarters, in the Core Activities and Regional Offices, the President and Governing Board, officers and members of Coordinating Boards, Standing Committees, Advisory Boards and other structures, and last but not least, to thank you, the members who have offered me so much wisdom, support and friendship, and who make IFLA the great organization that it is.

IFLA's New Transparency, Good Governance and Freedom from Corruption Manifesto: background and rationale

Paul Sturges, Chair of IFLA FAIFE

The precise origins of the idea that FAIFE should work towards a new IFLA Manifesto on transparency are a little hard to identify. They began to take shape during the mid-2000s when I was both Chair of FAIFE and Academic Consultant to an action research project that included local Chapters of the anti-corruption NGO Transparency International from Pakistan, Nigeria and Croatia as partners. (Sharma and Sturges, 2007) The idea that libraries could be seen as transparency institutions, allowing light in to darkened areas, thus contributing towards good governance and limiting the scope for corruption, began to seem a natural one in this context. Definitions of transparency are various and the topic has not been coherently written up as an approach to information access, but a reasonable definition might be something like 'The condition in which knowledge of activities that are of public interest is revealed so as to provide the potential for accountability.' Libraries, by providing access to print and electronic resources, obviously already contribute to social, political, economic and other forms of transparency, but attention has seldom been drawn to this as an aspect of the general rationale for libraries. As FAIFE is IFLA's Intellectual Freedom core activity, it seemed a worthwhile project to explore this approach to the socio-political role of libraries somewhat further, and possibly develop policy ideas for IFLA relating to it.

To do this, FAIFE enlisted the aid of the two national library associations that have a permanent FAIFE committee in their structure. First of all, the Croatian Library Association agreed to attach a FAIFE one day workshop entitled 'Libraries, Civil Society Organisations and the Struggle Against Corruption' to its 6th annual celebration of the International Day of Human Rights at the National Library of Croatia in Zagreb, 8th and 9th December 2006. The Department of Information Science at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Philosophy also agreed to be a partner, and FAIFE was able to draw on financial support from Sida, the Swedish development agency. Speakers from Croatia itself, Bosnia, Germany (a representative of Transparency International), Russia, South Africa, the USA, and Britain were brought together for the occasion. Discussion ranged widely across the nature and extent of corruption, the activities of anti-corruption campaigners and activists, and the incidence of corruption in the library profession itself. At the end of the workshop the Croatian Library Association drew up a strong statement on the role of libraries in the struggle against corruption and the FAIFE representatives compiled a list of sub-topics that might eventually form part of a policy statement.

The second phase of the process involved the FAIFE Committee of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), when LIASA was also the host of IFLA's World Library and Information Congress in 2007. The Goethe Institute in Johannesburg was recruited as a further partner, not least because the Institute has excellent meeting facilities in its premises. A WLIC pre-conference was arranged for August 16th and 17th with invited speakers, including librarians, researchers and civil society activists, and other participants from South Africa, Germany (naturally), Serbia and a number of other countries. Once again FAIFE was indebted to Sida for financial support to make the event possible. The intention was for this pre-conference to bring the discussion much closer to the specific issues that could form parts of an IFLA policy. For this purpose LIASA/FAIFE identified a locally-based rapporteur, Thabiseng Taole, to put together a first draft of a policy document from the themes discussed at the Goethe Institute. After another successful and very stimulating set of presentations and discussions, this is exactly what she did.

The original draft was subsequently redrawn a number of times over as its content was exposed to the FAIFE Committee and the IFLA Governing Board, before it was formally accepted as the IFLA Manifesto. Amongst other aspects of the draft, the title was frequently altered to obtain some sort of balance between the fully explicit and the easy-to-remember. Simply calling the Manifesto 'Transparency', 'Good Governance' or 'Anti-Corruption'

or permuting any two of these were all tried. In the end only the long and, admittedly clumsy, title that the Manifesto now bears would do. Quite early in the process a colleague from Transparency International had expressed surprise that FAIFE should adopt such a lengthy process, lasting well over a year, to draw up a policy document that an NGO would feel able generate in a fraction of the time. With all due respect to our civil society associates, this does reflect the difference between the way an NGO might work and an appropriate policy-making process for a global association of professional bodies and institutions like IFLA.

Throughout the process FAIFE was very concerned that in taking IFLA and its members further into a socially-engaged policy area than they generally ventured, it was necessary to have a document that could be 'owned' by the library profession. The slow process of discussion and drafting deliberately involved colleagues from an emerging central European democracy and a very newly democratic African state, and opened up the process very widely, so that the policy would not be a product too closely associated with the industrialized 'old' democracies of Europe and North America. The ten clauses of the Manifesto call on the library profession to make its own house as clean as possible, before recommending means by which the library can be made a practical contributor to transparency activity and become an effective partner in society's struggle against corruption. It will not necessarily be an easy policy to adopt for colleagues in countries where corrupt and authoritarian governments suppress criticism in brisk and heavy-handed fashion. In such environments it will represent an ideal to be pursued over the long term, but wherever there is scope for change and improvement, the profession now has a clear statement to guide it, in the form of this manifesto.

The full text of the *IFLA Manifesto on Transparency, Good Governance and Freedom from Corruption* is reproduced in the News Section of this issue under 'Policy and Plans', pp. 383–384.

World Library and Information Congress, Québec, 2008: 'Libraries on the Agenda' – Report on the President's Session

Christel Mahnke

The session started with a talk by Claudia Lux about elements of successful lobbying: how to start, what to do, what to avoid. She spoke from her vast experience, and instead of giving a presentation to the audience, she shared her ideas and personal approach. This encouraged other people from the audience to share their stories as well, and before we knew it, we had learned a lot about lobbying under different circumstances, for different aims.

In the end, Barbara Ford proposed to have more 'hands on workshops' about lobbying, where people can exchange their experiences and learn from each other, how to do successful lobbying. The audience applauded the idea, and we hope to see more of it in Milan. The whole session proved how deeply the current president's motto 'Libraries on the Agenda' has taken root in the IFLA community.

The second part of the session was devoted to a panel discussion about IFLA's lobbying for libraries as a vital part of the global information society. Many decisions are made on the national and international political level concerning libraries and their role in the education and information systems. Therefore, IFLA has taken lobbying on all levels as a main focus. Since the WSIS (World Summit in the Information Society 2003–2005), a working group inside IFLA is taking care of this activity. Thanks to the generous support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Stuart Hamilton started in January 2008 to work as Senior Policy Advisor at IFLA Headquarters. This long title was immediately cut short to 'spa', showing Stuart Hamilton not only as a creative head and tireless worker, but also as a person to feel good with. He has given fresh energy to the working group, and helped to reach some strategic decisions.

Together with other members of the working group, he ensured IFLA's presence in important sessions of UNESCO bodies, in international conferences on education and development, and of course during the WSIS follow-up week in Geneva.

The implementation of the WSIS action lines is evaluated during this yearly conference session, and we make sure that libraries play their part in this agenda.

Panel discussion members. L. to R. Claudia Lux, Elisabeth de Carvalho, Filiberto Felipe Martinez.

But lobbying is not only necessary in conferences, but on a day-to-day basis. Libraries are indeed at the heart of the information society, as many examples from the 'Success Stories Database' show. Danielle Mincio (Switzerland) started the database and is improving it constantly. You can find it in the centre of IFLANET webpage.

Filiberto Felipe Martinez und Elisabeth de Carvalho from the IFLA Latin America and Caribbean Section shared their lobbying experience on national and regional levels in Latin America. Dr. Hesham Azmi (Qatar University) spoke about his work to establish information competence as a regular part of the university curriculum in Qatar and other countries of the Arab world. This will not only give students a better ability to learn, work and become and educated citizens, but will hopefully seed the idea of libraries as information powerhouses in the heads of the coming elite.

The audience, including IFLA's President Elect Ellen Tise, took part in the panel discussion with questions and examples of political lobbying in their working environment. It showed once more, that 'Libraries on the Agenda' is here to stay.

Christel Mahnke is Coordinator, President's Information Society Working Group.

Reports on Special Group Meetings in Québec

Several meetings of Discussion Groups and other specialized groups took place during the Québec Congress. Some of them have submitted brief reports on their proceedings, as follows:

Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters

The final meeting of the IFLA Presidential Commission on Indigenous Matters took place on 12th August 2008. Dr. Loriene Roy, ALA Past President and an enrolled member of the White Earth Reservation of Anishinabe (Ojibwe/Chippewa), chaired the meeting. It was facilitated by Ms. Penny Carnaby, National Librarian, Aotearoa/New Zealand, and Mr. Winston Roberts, Principal Advisor – International & CDNL Secretariat, Strategy, Policy & Communications, took notes. The meeting considered the current IFLA Statement on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (http://www.ifla.org/III/eb/sitk03.html) and a proposal to establish a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Indigenous Matters in IFLA. According to IFLA governance procedure, the prospective SIG must be placed under an existing section. The Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section has welcomed the SIG and approves of the proposal. Section Chair Minjin Kim provided a summary of the process and noted that, if approved, the SIG will be guided by a Convener who must be an IFLA member. Others participating in the SIG need not be members of IFLA but will be invited to join. Penny Carnaby and Loriene Roy gathered over 60 signatures of individuals supporting the establishment of the SIG. The signatures were submitted to Sjoerd Koopman, Coordinator of Professional Activities at IFLA Headquarters. He will convey this proposal to IFLA's Professional Committee. The Committee will make a determination on the formation of the SIG, likely at its next meeting in December 2008. Minjin Kim and Loriene Roy will prepare a report on the possible establishment of the SIG for the next issue of the Newsletter of the Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section.

Further information: Loriene Roy, indigenous-issues@lists.lib.uts.edu.au

Access to Information Network–Africa/ Réseau d'Accès à l'Information en Afrique

Access to Information Network–Africa/Réseau d'Accès à l'Information en Afrique is an IFLA discussion group with a difference, since it is not only a discussion group but a regional professional network under the Society pillar of IFLA. ATINA/RAIA seeks to marry the concerns of the Africa Section of IFLA with those of the Government Information and Official Publications Section (GIOPS) and the Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression core programme (FAIFE). Its aim is to provide a forum for discussion and for action through libraries within IFLA, in order to promote public access to government information, governmental transparency, the exposure of corruption and other ills, freedom of expression, democracy and economic and social progress throughout the African continent.

ATINA/RAIA was founded as a result of the 1996 GIOPS/FAIFE conference at UNECA, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa, on the African implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society. The network sponsored IFLA discussion programmes chiefly in English and focusing on southern Africa at the Durban World Library and Information Congress in 2007, and chiefly in French and focusing on Central, West and North Africa at the Québec World Library and Information Congress in 2008.

The ATINA/RAIA papers and discussion among 50 session participants in Québec City explored the following topics:

- Moving towards the information society: stakes and strategies in West Africa.
- What information and documentation centres can do about the problems of accessing information for development in Central Africa.
- Public access to information, freedom of expression and the building of democracy in Cameroon and in Benin.
- The current state of government publishing and access to government information in Nigeria.

• Freedom of expression in Tunisia and the rest of the Maghreb after the World Summit on the Information Society.

In addition, a very useful working meeting was held in Québec of the IFLA Senior Policy Advisor with representatives from the libraries of three francophone African international organizations in Dakar and Yaoundé, the African Copyright and Access to Knowledge Project (ACA2K) project in Johannesburg and the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, to explore future ATINA/RAIA programmes and cooperation towards achieving IFLA's WSIS goals through African libraries. For more information or to join the new ATINA/RAIA listserver, see the ATINA pages on the IFLA website or contact the convenor of the group, Francis Kirkwood of the Library of Parliament in Ottawa, Canada.

Report by Francis Kirkwood. E-mail (kirkwf@parl. gc.ca Tel. +1-613-947-2266.

Putting Women on the Agenda: Report on the Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group Programme

The Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group (WIL DG) met on 11th August 2008. The mission of the Group is the promotion, development and support of library and information services for the benefit of women, and society as a whole. The Discussion Group, under the sponsorship and professional guidance of the Management of Library Associations Section, focuses on women as users of library and information services, as workers in the library field, and as providers of information.

WIL's first programme in Durban discussed women professional contribution to the UNESCO Millennium Development Goals. The four presentations were truly inspirational and attracted lots of interest from the 200+ strong audience. A meeting with around 20 delegates was held right after the programme; the outcomes helped the Discussion Group conveners to establish the focus of WIL's session for Québec – with this being identified as professional development of LIS women workers, and the programme style moving away from speakers presenting papers, to a 'round tables' setting to facilitate discussion.

At the meeting in Québec, Loriene Roy, Professor, University of Texas at Austin and Immediate Past-President of the American Library Association set the mood for 'Putting Women on the Agenda: Empowering Women Professionals to Lead in the Information Society' (the title of the session) by inviting delegates to seek and find partnerships and collaborations.

This was followed by 45-minute interactive workshops in English and French (Spanish was also planned). This format gave the 170+ delegates the opportunity to participate in the two sessions which interested them the most, under two different strands:

1. International leadership opportunities: the sessions, focusing on specific examples of current models of partnerships and experiences, were led by Barbara Ford, Director and Distinguished Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and member of IFLA's Governing Board; and Michele M. Reid, Dean of Libraries, North Dakota State University, who was also the programme coordinator.
2. Mentoring the mentors / launching the Big Sister-Little Sister Mentorship Scheme: following on an idea born at the Durban Conference to start an international mentorship scheme led by women willing to help other women to learn their way around the IFLA structure and to develop their professional skills to their full potential in a multicultural, cross-sectoral mentorship scheme where women professionals from all over the world would contribute their time and knowledge.

Delegates' feedback has been really positive, mentioning that the round tables setting encouraged participation in an international context, giving women professionals the opportunity to share experiences, be inspired by others, learn something new, and in some cases has helped facilitating some individual partnerships between delegates from different countries.

Report by Maria Cotera, WIL DG Lead Convener, University College London, UK. E-mail: m.cotera@ucl.ac.uk

E-Learning Discussion Group

E-Learning made first made its appearance as a discrete theme in the IFLA conference program at the 2004 Buenos Aires conference. The interest shown in the programme at the Québec conference – with over 150 in attendance despite

the program scheduling on the last session of the last day of the conference – was testament to the growing level of interest in the developing area of e-learning in libraries and the LIS profession.

The theme for the Québec program session, 'Putting the Learner into E-Learning', spanned the interests and perspectives of the Discussion Group's three sponsoring Sections: Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning, Education and Training, and Information Literacy.

Debbi Boden and Ruth Stubbings, of the universities of Worcester and Loughborough in the United Kingdom respectively posed the question 'Do Librarians Like to Learn Online?' in their presentation which was focussed around two e-learning modules aimed at enquiry desk staff and at those who are teaching information literacy in a more formal environment.

Bruce Kingma and Kathleen Schisa of Syracuse University (USA) addressed the issue of 'The Economics of Learner Centered Online Education' – focussing on the interrelationships between the quality of online instruction and the costs associated with the provision of effective e-learning.

The host country for the conference was represented by Corinne Laverty of Queen's University, Ontario. Dr Laverty's presentation – 'Information Literacy by Design: An e-learning wiki for librarians' – examined a case study of the development and use of a wiki as a learning tool for librarians involved in teaching information literacy.

The program presentations concluded with Chutima Sacchanand, of the Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University and the Thai Library Association. Dr. Sacchanand's presentation, 'Putting the Learners into E-learning: an experience of Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University' returned to the main theme of the program session and brought to the program a different perspective – culturally and geographically – from the other four presentations.

The full text of all four of the presentations is available at: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm

The success of the E-Learning Discussion Group sessions at the Québec and Durban IFLA

conferences – and at prior conferences – is evidence of the growing interest in this topic within IFLA. The Group hopes to continue operation in the newly established Special Interest Group format. More information about the E-Learning Discussion Group is available at: http://www.ifla.org/VII/dg/eldg/ and the Convenors of the E-Learning Discussion Group would welcome your interest.

Contact: Anna Maria Tammaro annamaria.tammaro@unipr.it .

Report by Ian Smith, (Former) Co-convenor – E-Learning Discussion Group. E-mail: I.Smith@latrobe.edu.au

Agricultural Libraries Discussion Group

The Agricultural Libraries Discussion Group session was held on Wednesday 13 August 2008 on the theme 'Trends in Agricultural Information Transfer Systems Worldwide'. Over 50 delegates from different countries participated in the deliberations. Jacinta Were, Systems Librarian, University of Nairobi, moderated the session. Peter Ballantyne, President, International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD), and Dr. Deva Eswara Reddy, Associate Professor of Library Science, Texas A&M University, explored the implications of agricultural information transfer mechanisms in developed and developing countries.

Dr. Eswara Reddy, in his paper 'Holistic View of Agricultural Information Transfer Systems', took the view that an agricultural information transfer system consists of four independent, interrelated components: development, documentation, dissemination, and diffusion of information, broadly corresponding to generation, organization, communication, and utilization of information. He opined that educational and research systems are the prime movers in advancing agricultural knowledge. They include local, national and international educational and research institutes worldwide. The function of organization and retrieval of agricultural information rests solely with library and information professionals. Of late, these functions have also expanded to a plethora of national and international agricultural information systems. The dissemination function is set to be the primary concern of extension service providers. The fourth component

of the information transfer system, utilization of agricultural information, is the common concern of all the users such as farmers, ranchers, decision makers, educators and researchers in developed as well as in developing countries.

Peter Ballantyne, in his presentation, said that information transfer logistics is no more a linear process as the advent of information technology has blurred the distance between the generators and consumers of information. He said that when public funding is used to generate such information and knowledge, access to that information should be free of costs. He said that in an innovation systems perspective approach, all the actors have knowledge, and should therefore be involved in knowledge sharing. Such an approach helps to build 'open communities' where all perspectives and expertise can be contributed to solve an issue or problem. He emphasized web 2.0 as an approach for open and accessible knowledge and information sharing, where we need to have standards in terms of attitudes as well as the tool set. By using tools like blogs, wikis, and RSS feeds, organizations are already moving in the direction of more open knowledge sharing.

The discussion that followed centered round the vital role of librarians and information professionals in harnessing information technology in the transfer and exchange of agricultural information. The participants were emphatic in pleading for close cooperation between the IFLA group on agricultural libraries and IAALD in promoting farmer oriented information services worldwide.

Report by Deva Eswara Reddy. E-mail: dereddy@ lib-gw.tamu.edu

LIS Education in Developing Countries

The LIS Education in Developing Countries Discussion Group held its meeting on August 12th, 2008. The topic of this meeting was 'LIS Education in Developing Countries and the Challenges of Human Resource Development.' A concept paper entitled 'Strategies for Continuing Professional Development of LIS Faculty in Sub-Saharan Africa' was presented by Drs. Edwin M. Cortez, Johannes Britz, and Isaac Kigongo-Bukenya. The paper addressed the need for structured access to continuing education opportunities by LIS faculty in Sub-Saharan Africa. Issues discussed

in the paper included the barriers and challenges faced by LIS faculty in pursuing their professional development in the areas of teaching, research and service. A good discussion was followed by a report of the convener Dr. Ismail Abdullahi, who told the participants that, during its 3 years of activity, the discussion group has evolved to become a major forum of discussion for LIS Education in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Then there was a discussion about organizing a Satellite Pre-conference in 2009 in Milan, Italy. During this time, the group will critically explore and develop the concept of collaboration among LIS education in developing countries. The theme of this Satellite meeting will be 'Building Bridges: connecting the soul and spirit of LIS education in developing countries.' Topics selected for this meeting are: curriculum development; faculty; student; collaboration; accreditation; continuing professional development (CPD); professional association; distance education; information and communication technology (ICT); and professional ethics.

Report by Ismail Abdullahi.
E-mail: iabdullahi@ nccu.edu

New Professionals Discussion Group

The New Professionals Discussion Group presented a successful program that challenged librarians and library associations from around the globe to take a closer look at how they involve new librarians in their association's work. Speakers included Robyn Ellard, Assistant Director of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Keith Michaels Fiels, Executive Director of the American Library Association (ALA), Barbara Schleihagen, Executive Director of Deutscher Bibliotheksverband e.V. (DBV), Susanne Riedel, Executive Director of German Professional Association (BIB), and Jesus Lau, the Vice-President/President Elect of the Association Mexicana de Bibliotecarios/Mexican Library Association (AMBAC).

The panelists shared their wisdom to motivate new librarians to participate in association's work. Keith Michael Fiels started off giving three tips to get ahead: show up, take on work, and do it! Most times committees need members and those who attend their meetings have the opportunity to join that particular group. If a task needs to be

completed, it is always a good idea to volunteer, and if you volunteer, make sure you finish what you start.

Jesus Lau encouraged new librarians to not be afraid of the crowds of the Congress or the big names of chairs of committees and divisions because they like all of us are only human too. The important aspect is to dare to participate and speak up. Robyn Ellard explained how ALIA's New Generation Advisory Committee advises their Executive Board on matters related to recently qualified new professionals. This revolutionary approach has greatly helped ALIA to better serve its newest members.

Barbara Schleihagen stressed the importance of communication and interaction among colleagues to ensure understanding of what the needs are. She suggested that opening spaces for students to develop projects for library associations could motivate more involvement of this group in committee work. Susanne Riedel shared information about the Treff-session of the BIB which offers a reduced rate for first time members. This has proven to be a wonderful recruitment tool among new librarians increasing membership of this sector.

The session included a healthy discussion about the points raised by the speakers. All the panelists agreed that library associations need to encourage employers to develop secession plans to proactively strategize for the big exodus of the baby boomers. Bob McKee, Executive Director of the Chartered Institute of Information Professionals (CILIP), the association in the UK, summarized the discussion with five points:

1. It is important to run an effective association: people want to be involved in an association that is different.

2. Practice Euthanasia: people hang around for too long; give others a chance to work.
3. Bring them in: if you are a veteran, go where new professionals are; go online.
4. Give support: newbies need to know that veterans have their backs.
5. Put them in charge: provide space where new librarians take decisions. Example: CILIP's Career Development Group and ALIA's New Generation Advisory Committee.

During the IFLA Congress in Québec convenors encouraged new librarians to get involved in the DG and a number of the attendees put their names forward. These were contacted and it is expected that a number of them join the NPDG as active convenors.

During the congress, convenors finalized plans to present a joint pre-conference with the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning, *Moving In, Moving Up, and Moving On: Strategies for Regenerating the Library and Information Profession* at the University of Bologna on August 18-20, 2008. More information and paper's proposal submission form at http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/satellite-cpdwl-call-en.htm

Currently, NPDG convenors are Liz Lewis (UK), Joanna Ball (UK), and Robyn Ellard (AUS). Loida Garcia-Febo (PR/US) and Andrew Cranfield (DK/UK) are now advisors to the DG.

Report by Loida Garcia-Febo.
E-mail: loidagarcia febo@gmail.com

The New IFLA Website

Simon Lemstra, IFLA Web Manager.
E-mail: webmaster@ifla.org

Since you all are loyal readers of our Journal and other IFLA communication means, I am sure you already know about the new website we are developing. In this article I want to give you a general update about what has been done and where we will be in the near future.

The People Involved

At the beginning of 2008 a project team was formed at IFLA Headquarters (HQ). We started off with Peter Lor, Cynthia Mouanda and myself, with Fiona Bradley as the project leader. In the course of the year some of them left IFLA and thus the team: Cynthia to give birth to her lovely Thalia, Peter to be succeeded as Secretary General, and Fiona to go back to her job in Australia. Others stepped in to provide us with advice and new views on the Web: IFLA's new communication officer Ingeborg Verheul and intern Mikkel Lund Jensen. I was 'upgraded' to project leader.

This core project team was assisted on various occasions by a user group of twelve representatives from our Sections and Core Activities. Their experience with other web projects, and especially with using our old website and other web applications, was of great value. In October we expanded our user group to include all IFLA Information Coordinators. They will be the main web editors of the new website, so they were, and are, closely involved in testing the content management system (CMS) and giving us feedback on proper procedures.

Goals and Considerations

As Fiona Bradley put it, "With the new website, we aim to provide new communication tools, improve navigation, and promote IFLA's activities and events". Better site structure and navigation will improve the findability of the information and documents on the site. New communication tools will provide IFLA members and other information specialists with the means to discuss, share and interact in online communities (forums, blogs, wikis, etcetera).

In all of this we gave a lot of attention to internationalization, usability and accessibility. Our seven official languages should get a more integral place on our website by providing a better structure and workflow for the translation process. By adhering to Web standards developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) we would have a solid base to make the site easy to use and its content accessible to all.

With those considerations in mind we set out to find a good management system and one or two professional companies to take care of the actual development. After proper research and a few rounds of requests for information (RFI) we made our choices. First we chose Drupal as the system to manage the website's structure and content, then we chose two companies to design and develop the site. Design agency Eend from Utrecht, The Netherlands, would take care of the functional and graphic design. The Belgian Drupal specialist dotProjects from Ghent would be responsible for making the CMS do what we need it to do.

Design Phase

Eend put a couple of their people on our design project. In a series of brainstorming sessions with HQ staff their project manager laid the groundwork for the new site structure. Then, page by page, we discussed the proper elements to be added, the relations between those elements and between pages, the behaviour of buttons and links, and the functionality of it all. Finally one of Eend's graphic designers took all of that in and created the look and feel of our new site.

Believe me, one could write an entire paper about this design phase we went through, but unless you're a web designer, much of it is just boring details. Suffice to say that we think the result was excellent. The new website looks professional with just the right amount of nicely balanced colours. The functionality is a big improvement on that of the current site, and the technical basis promises good usability and accessibility.

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The *International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions* (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. Continued...

IFLA *for:*

Librarians & Institutions everywhere

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Members

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Press & corporate partners

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LATEST NEWS

The Yap State Public Library needs help

After the damage caused by a Typhoon in 2004, the Yap State Public Library managed to rebuild and reconstruct its facilities. This has been made possible thanks to a generous gift of the National Library of Australia and IFLA. Today there is still a need for books, computers, shelving and equipment.

Continued... | May 12 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presidential Theme: *Libraries on the Agenda*

Libraries on the agenda! – the motto of IFLA's designated president, Prof. Dr.

FROM SECTIONS

Mission statement for the Section on Law Libraries

The section has added several blocks of information, including a mission statement and an annual report.

Continued... | June 16 2008

The new IFLA homepage. [The illustarions can be viewed in colour in the online version at http://ifl.sagepub.com/current.dtl]

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Libraries for children and young adults

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 international cooperation in the fields of library services to children and young adults, and to encourage the exchange of experience, education and 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 in different cultures and traditions in cooperation with appropriate organizations and to adults interacting with children and young adults.

NEWS

New newsletter: spring edition!

Pre-conference: call for papers

THIS SECTION'S COMMUNITY

Wiki

Private forum

Weblog

A typical Section homepage.

The first results of this phase were presented by Fiona Bradley at the IFLA Conference in Québec, Canada. We were pleased to see that most of the feedback was positive and very much in line with our own views.

Drupal

We chose Drupal because it is a very flexible and versatile general management system for site structure and content. It is an open source application (one of our requirements), and the core program and most of the extra components and modules are free to use. Compared to its competitors Drupal gives us the best combination of functionality and ease of use, with all sorts of possibilities to extend it. The program code it generates complies to the Web standards I mentioned earlier.

An extra advantage of this CMS is that it uses the technologies PHP and MySQL, which are widely used across the globe. So should the need arise to extend the system, or to change its inner workings, there will be many companies able to do that for us. On top of that – and perhaps this is a more personal advantage – I have been a PHP/MySQL developer myself with lots of previous experience with CMS's, including Drupal.

Development Phase

We chose dotProjects because they are Drupal specialists, with a good name and a lot of experience in building websites for governmental and nonprofit organizations. They, or rather their project manager, came into the picture somewhere near the end of the design phase. We started the development project with him in more or less the same way as we did with Eend. In a couple of meetings we discussed the structure and functionality resulting from the Eend sessions, as well as our other needs: a multilingual, multi-user system with a proper workflow, possibilities to set rights and roles, and community tools.

In October dotProjects delivered the beta version of our fully functional web application. That was the moment when we started introducing the new system to our future web editors: HQ staff of course, but more importantly the Information Coordinators of our Sections and Core Activities.

In the months after that we tested the new system. We learned to make the best of it and we started an ongoing process of laying down rules, procedures and guidelines for an optimal use of the website. Both Eend and dotProjects were available for help and minor changes in our setup.

Training and Testing

The Information Coordinators (IC's) will become even more important than they already are within their groups. A major part of the success of our new website with its communities will depend on the commitment of the Sections. The more active their officers and members are in writing news and other content and in populating the communities, the more successful the site will be. These people are the beating heart of IFLA.

One of the things we did to help them was to set up an extranet: a secluded part of the new website only accessible to the web editors and webmasters. Actually, that extranet was the first of our new communities. At the moment it has a forum to discuss content management and to help each other with questions and problems, and it has a growing amount of pages with information (procedures, guidelines) and training videos.

Another important part of our work in these past few months was to test if our new pages were indeed as usable and accessible as we designed them to be. Most of the usability testing came from our web editors by simply working with the site. In the accessibility testing we had a lot of help from our Libraries for the Blind Section. Some of its members, visually impaired in some way, volunteered to walk through our new web pages using assistive technologies such as screen readers and magnification.

Web Hosting

While dotProjects was busy setting up our Drupal system, we looked into the field of web hosting. Our current website is hosted by the French L'Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (INIST). Since IFLA has always been very content with its arrangement with INIST, we first talked to them about our new plans. It turned out that they would not be able to provide us with everything we need for the site, so we had to look for a new hosting provider.

First of all there were technical requirements to take into account, such as disk space, available monthly bandwidth and supported web technologies. Then the costs were important (recurring and for setup) and the level of support that could be provided. Also, just as it is important to be able to extend the web application, we need to be able to easily upgrade our hosting package: more disk space, more bandwidth, more types of software, new program settings to make.

The result was that we chose a managed VPS account. VPS stands for Virtual Private Server: a solution that takes the middle ground between a low-end, affordable 'shared hosting' account and a high-end dedicated server of one's own. The package we chose provides enough resources for us to expand in the near future. Should we digitally grow too large, then we can upgrade to a larger VPS package or even switch to a dedicated server, all with the same provider.

And Now?

Well, a good website is never finished. Even after the launch of our new site in the new year we will keep working on it. The functionality of it will have to be monitored and if necessary adjusted, new wishes and demands will arise for which we will develop additions to the site, and of course all of us will have to write interesting articles and papers, send in photos and videos, keep the discussions in the forums going, …

Should you have any further question about the website or have something interesting to contribute, now or in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us at IFLA Headquarters. And who knows, perhaps we will 'meet' in one of our new communities.

Further information:

Updates about the website project – www.ifla.org/I/whatsnew/new-website.htm

World Wide Web Consortium – www.w3c.org

Eend – www.eend.nl (in Dutch)

dotProjects – www.dotprojects.be (in Dutch)

Wikipedia article about VPS –en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_private_server

Policy and Plans

IFLA Manifesto on Transparency, Good Governance and Freedom from Corruption

IFLA has on numerous occasions and in many forums made clear its belief in the positive role of libraries in society and its commitment to enhancing this role. It has consistently linked this to the principle of Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, as set out in Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

In particular:

The IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994) (http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/unesco/eng.htm) states the importance of "the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic rights and to play an active role in society";

The Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom (2002) (http://www.ifla.org/faife/policy/iflastat/gldeclar-e.html) states that libraries and information services "help to safeguard democratic values and universal civil rights";

The Alexandria Manifesto on Libraries, the Information Society in Action (2005) (http://www.ifla.org/III/wsis/Alexandria Manifesto.html) reasserts the principle that "libraries and information services [are] vital to a democratic and open Information Society";

and adds that "Libraries are essential for a well informed citizenry and transparent governance".

Transparency, Good Governance and Freedom from Corruption

Transparency is the basis of good governance and the first step in fighting corruption. It provides a universal rationale for the provision of good records management systems, archives, and financial regulatory and monitoring systems. It is directly linked to the practice of socially responsible authorship and journalism, the work of editors, the publishing and the distribution of information through all media.

Corruption undermines basic social values, threatens the rule of law, and undermines trust in political institutions. It creates a business environment in which only the corrupt thrive. It hinders scientific work and research, weakens the functions of the professions and obstructs the emergence of the knowledge society. It is a major contribution to the creation and prolongation of human misery and the inhibiting of development. Corruption succeeds most under conditions of secrecy and general ignorance.

IFLA asserts that libraries are in their very essence transparency institutions, dedicated to making available the most accurate and unbiased educational, scientific and technical, and socially relevant information to each and every one. The information materials and access provided by libraries and information services contribute to good governance by enlarging the knowledge of citizens and enriching their discussions and debates.

Libraries and information services should extend their mission so as to become more active components in good governance and the struggle against corruption. In particular they can perform a significant role in informing citizens of their rights and entitlements.

IFLA therefore calls on all library and information professionals, and all those responsible for the governance of library and information services at national and local level, to support the following programme

1. Librarians should counter corruption directly affecting librarianship, as in the sourcing and supply of library materials, appointments to library posts and administration of library contracts and finances. Library Associations should support this through the creation or strengthening of Codes of Professional Ethics.
2. Librarians should strive to improve professional status of all information professionals and promote better pay for professionals to reduce their susceptibility to corruption.
3. Librarians should reassert their role in educating citizens by developing strong collections and facilitating access to information on philosophical and socio/economic/political topics.
4. Where a country has information access or freedom of

information laws, librarians should seek to make the library a centre where citizens can be assisted in drawing up and submitting information requests.

5. Where a country does not have information access or freedom of information laws, or such laws are not effective, librarians should support initiatives to draft, amend, promote and protect such laws from neglect.

6. Training should be organized for librarians and users in the use of the type of information that will improve citizens' understanding of the laws and assist them in the pursuit of their rights and entitlements.

7. Libraries should collect information materials issued by official bodies, particularly those that deal with citizens' rights and entitlements. They should seek to make information that is issued by official bodies more comprehensible and accessible (through indexes, abstracts, search support, etc). They should also organize digitization and other preservation programmes for official information relating to laws, rights and entitlements, and facilitate access to existing databases of these types of information.

8. Libraries should be made available as venues for the promotion of information rights (through posters and other publicity methods) and librarians should seek to raise awareness of the right to information.

9. Libraries should create or cooperate in the creation of anticorruption portals which link content from official sources, anti-corruption NGOs and other relevant sources.

10. Libraries should support existing and planned citizens' advice centres provided by anticorruption NGOs with information provision, technical assistance with databases and all other relevant aspects of their professional expertise.

From the Secretariat

Farewell Message from Secretary General Peter Lor

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Time has flown and after three-and-a-half years my stint as Secretary General of IFLA will come to an end on 5 September. This has been an exciting, challenging and absorbing job. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve IFLA in this position, in which I have made many friends and have shared many wonderful experiences.

In January we will move to Milwaukee, USA, where I have been appointed as a visiting professor in the School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

I have a postal address in South Africa which is checked fairly regularly: PO Box 71315, The Willows, 0041, South Africa, but it will be better to contact me by e-mail at PeterJLor@gmail.com.

With warm greetings

Peter Lor

From the Regional Offices

Welcome to Petrina Ang

The Regional Office for Asia and Oceania welcomes aboard Petrina Ang, who will be taking over Janice Ow's portfolio. Her contact details are as follows:

Petrina Ang Hui Min (Ms), Associate II, Professional and International Relations, National Library Board, 100 Victoria Street #14-01, Singapore 188064. DID: +65 6332 3610. Fax: +65 6332 3616. E-mail: Petrina_ANG@nlb.gov.sg

Membership Matters

New Members

We bid a warm welcome to the following 20 members who have joined the Federation between 18 July and 26 September 2008:

Institutions

Chongqing Library, China
Direction Générale du Trésor et de la Compabilité Publique (DGTCP), Côte d'Ivoire
Faculty of Life Sciences Library, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Ghana
University of Guyana Library, Guyana
Publika Magyar Könyvtári Kür/Publika Hungarian Library Group, Hungary
Centre Sarobidy, Madagascar

Delta State University, Nigeria

Russian Book Chamber, Russian Federation

Bibliothèque de Genève, Switzerland

Robert W. Woodruff Library/AUC, United States

International Association

International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI), France

National Associations

Federación Centroamericana de Asociaciones y Colegios de Bibliotecarios (FECEAB), El Salvador

Palestinian Library and Information Association (PLIA), Palestinian Territories

Parent Library Community of Serbia, Republic of Serbia

Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias Españolas, Spain

Personal Affiliates

Ms Sandra Boyce, Barbados

Mohammed Al Gharib, Saudi Arabia

Frederick Zarndt, United States

Student Affiliate

Randi Robin, Canada

Grants and Awards

Guust Van Wesemael Literacy Prize

Call for Applications 2009

The objective of the Prize is to recognize an achievement in the field of literacy promotion in a developing country. The Prize should preferably be used for follow-up activities such as purchasing targeted collections of appropriate books, but may also be used for other activities such as literacy promotion, training, policy development. The Prize is issued biennially. The focus of the Prize is public library or school library work. Both individuals and library institutions are eligible to apply.

The Prize was established by the IFLA Executive Board in November 1991, to commemorate the late Guust van Wesemael, who was Coordinator of IFLA's Professional Activities from 1979 to 1990 and Deputy Secretary General of IFLA from 1979 to 1991, and his contribution to IFLA's efforts to promote literacy in the developing countries. In 1996 the Prize was re-established under revised conditions.

Applications must be accompanied by:

- the reasons for application;
- a detailed description of the completed project or activity (including a short description of the library, or of the organization and its activities);
- an explanation of how the Prize money would be used;
- and a realistic budget.

Candidates are also advised to attach a letter of support from their library association.

The Prize of EUR 2,725 will be paid out in two instalments: two thirds immediately and one third on submission of a report of how the Prize has been used.

Within 6 months after receipt of the Prize, the winner must submit to IFLA HQ an interim report of the use made of the funds, and the second instalment will be paid out. When the project period is finished a final report and a financial statement should be submitted. (The report should be in a form suitable for publication in *IFLA Journal*).

Deadline for applications: 1 March 2009.

More information and application form on the IFLA website: http://www.ifla.org/III/grants/grant02.htm

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Access to Learning Award (ATLA) 2008

At a ceremony during the World Library and Information Congress in Québec, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation presented its

2008 Access to Learning Award of USD 1 million to the Vasconcelos Program in Mexico's Veracruz state for its innovative efforts to connect people to information and knowledge through free access to computers, the Internet, and training. The organization is being honoured for bringing these tools and services to rural, indigenous communities using all-terrain vehicles equipped with technology classrooms. Microsoft, a foundation partner in efforts to help public libraries connect people with online information, will also contribute to the Vasconcelos Program providing software and technology training curriculum through its applicable programs. Created and managed by the Veracruz secretary of public education, Vasconcelos targets communities where state and federal authorities have provided computers in public spaces such as schools and community centers but the equipment remains severely underused because residents lack basic computer skills. A bus and training team spends up to two weeks in each village providing computer literacy and other training to people of all ages. Prior to each visit, Vasconcelos works with local leaders to make sure the training meets each community's needs and identifies support so the centers can continue these services. Since 2005, Vasconcelos' fleet of all-terrain vehicles–each equipped with computers, satellite Internet connections, and a team of experienced trainers–has supported

more than 120,000 people in more than 200 communities. These are among Mexico's poorest areas, where many people face difficult health and economic conditions and have education levels far below the national average. To address some of these challenges, Vasconcelos devises a curriculum and outreach activities tailored to the needs of each community. A typical curriculum combines technology literacy training and community-specific activities, such as health education, cultural preservation, and indigenous art and dance projects. Vasconcelos has enabled new economic and educational opportunities for many people, including Flavia Esmira Vásquez Rivera, an artist, entrepreneur, and mother of three living in Coxquihui. After enrolling her sons in Vasoncelos' training program, Vásquez was inspired to learn how online resources could help her build her small jewelry-making business. She learned how to use Internet and computers to improve her marketing efforts. As a result, her contribution to her family's income has increased by 25 percent. Vasconcelos will use the Access to Learning Award funds to reach more people with additional vehicles, more trainings, and ongoing technical support.

Further information: ATLA@gates foundation.org

Jay Jordan IFLA/ OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship Program

At a news conference during the World Library and Information Congress in Québec, Jay Jordan, OCLC President and CEO, named the librarians chosen by OCLC, IFLA and the American Theological Library Association to participate in the Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship Program for 2009.

The 2009 Jordan IFLA/OCLC Fellows are:

- Mr. John Kiyaga, Library Assistant, Uganda Christian University, Mukono, Uganda
- Miss Ani Minasyan, Circulation/Reference Librarian, American University of Armenia, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia
- Mr. Caleb Ouma, Librarian, Nation Media Group, Nairobi, Kenya
- Miss Saima Qutab, Librarian, Directorate General Mines & Minerals, Lahore, Pakistan
- Mr. Raymond Sikanyika, Senior Library Assistant, Copperbelt University, Kitwe, Zambia
- Ms. Vesna Vuksan, Head, Library Development, Belgrade City Library, Belgrade, Serbia

Read more about this on: http://www.oclc.org/news/releases/200830.htm

6th IFLA International Marketing Award

As already announced in IFLA Journal Vol. 34, no. 3, the 6th IFLA International Marketing Award for 2008, awarded by the IFLA Section on Management and Marketing, in collaboration with Emerald Group Publishing Ltd, was awarded to Ros Dorsman of Central West Libraries, Australia. Second place was awarded to Shelley Civkin, Richmond Public Library, Canada, and third place to Grant Kaiser, Calgary Public Library, Canada. The awards were made during the World Library and Information Congress in Québec.

For more information: Christie Koontz (USA) – ckoontz@admin.fsu.edu

Freedom to Publish Prize

During the closing ceremony of the 28th International Publishers Association (IPA) Publishers Congress in Seoul, Korea (12–15 May 2008), IPA President Ana María Cabanellas announced that publisher Ragıp Zarakolu had been voted recipient of the 2008 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize for his exemplary courage in upholding freedom to publish.

IPA established the IPA Freedom to Publish Prize to honour a person who has made an important contribution to the defence and promotion of freedom to publish anywhere in the world. Ragýp Zarakolu is a Turkish publisher born in 1948. Since starting his publishing house Belge with his wife Ayse Nur in 1977, he has been subjected to harassment from the Turkish authorities. Ragýp Zarakolu refused to abandon his campaign for freedom of thought, striving "for an attitude of respect for different thoughts and cultures to become widespread in Turkey". Over the years, the charges brought by the Turkish authorities against Ragýp Zarakolu and his wife resulted in imprisonment, confiscation and destruction of books, and the imposition of heavy fines, endangering the survival of the Belge publishing house. Ragýp Zarakolu is the chairperson of the Freedom to Publish Committee of the Turkish Publishers Association.

The 2008 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize is sponsored by the Dutch Publishers Association (NUV).

For further information: Alexis Krikorian, Director, Freedom to Publish. Tel +41 22 830 10 80. E-mail: krikorian@internationalpublishers.org

International Information Literacy Logo Contest

During the UNESCO session of the World Library and Information Congress held in Québec, Canada, in August 2008, Mr Abdul Waheed Khan, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, awarded the winner of the international Information Literacy Logo Contest. The winner is a young Cuban designer, Mr Edgar Luy Perez from Havana.

The international Information Literacy Logo Contest supported by UNESCO and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) aimed to create a logo to identify organizations and projects dealing with information literacy and to raise the visibility of those who carry out information literacy work.

The logo was selected by an international jury of information literacy experts from among 198 submissions from 36 countries around the world.

The winner was awarded the Prize of USD 3,000, and the selected logo has been recognized as an international symbol of information literacy work.

The logo communicates, in a simple way, the human ability to both search and access information, not only through traditional means, but also through the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), as it uses graphic resources known all over the world, such as the book and the circle. The first one symbolizes study, and the second, knowledge and information, which today are made more available through informatics, showing with this that its social aim is to communicate.

The book, open and next to the circle, comprises with it a visual metaphor representing those people who have the cognitive tools to reach information in a nimble way, as well as the desire to share this ability.

The international Information Literacy Logo

The aim of creating this logo is to make communication easier between those who carry out information literacy projects, their communities, and society in general. The logo will be available free of charge and promoted as an international symbol of information literacy. The logo may be downloaded in various languages and graphics formats from http://www.infolitglobal.info/logo/?s=home

The logo may also be viewed in colour in the online edition of this issue of IFLA Journal at http://ifl.sagepub.com/

IFLA Awards and Honours

The following IFLA honours were presented during the Closing Session of the Québec Congress:

The **IFLA Scroll** was presented to Melvin Thatcher in grateful recognition for his service to IFLA and, especially, in his function as Chair of the Standing Committee of IFLA's Genealogy and Local History Section.

IFLA Medals were presented to:

Adolfo Rodriguez Gallardo in recognition of distinguished service to IFLA and the international library community, especially in promoting librarianship in developing countries

Rima Kupryte in recognition of her groundbreaking work with the Open Society Institute and eIFL in sharing information at a global level.

IFLA LIS Student Paper Award

IFLA will offer an IFLA LIS Student Paper Award in 2009. It will be coordinated by Section 23, Education and Training (ET). All IFLA sections are asked to open their Call for Papers to LIS students for the Milan 2009 WLIC and to recommend the best student paper submissions. Papers selected worthy of the award shall be submitted to the ET Section to be reviewed for award nomination. The award includes an amount up to EUR 1800 to support costs for travelling, lodging and the conference fee.

Further information: Petra Hauke, Secretary, Education and Training Section, Lecturer, Librarian, Institute for Library and Information Science, Humboldt University, Hochkalterweg 3a, D-12107 BERLIN, Germany. Tel. +(49)(30)7415903. Fax +(49)(30)74070216. E-mail: petra.hauke@buchprojekte.com

Looking Back on the Congress

Many people have tried to capture the Congress in photos, videos and words (blogs). Links to a selection of them are on IFLANET at http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/post-congress.htm. Of particular interest are three videos posted by Library and Archives Canada, showing the Opening Ceremony (including the Opening Address by the Governor General of Canada, Mme Michaëlle Jean) and the plenary addresses by Hervé Fischer and James Bartleman.

IFLA President Claudia Lux was serenaded by one of the performers

Claudia serenade.

Fun night.

during the Cultural Evening on Sunday, 10th of August …

… and many delegates really had fun on the Fun Night, Tuesday 12th August. The World Library and Information Congress is not all hard work!

Delegates Refused Visas

Thirty-nine registered delegates to the IFLA World Library and Information Congress held in Québec, Canada, in August 2008 were initially refused visas by the Canadian authorities. They included IFLA Standing Committee members and a member of IFLA's Governing Board and all female delegates from Colombia. Countries affected (all developing countries) were China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Kenya, Mauritius, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Only two of the affected delegates were known to have eventually received their visas before the end of the Congress. Delegates to other international conferences in other subject areas held recently in Canada have been experiencing similar problems.

Future IFLA Conferences and Meetings

IFLA Presidential Meeting 3

Access to Knowledge Infrastructures: Networking through Libraries. Third International Meeting on 'Libraries on the Agenda'. Federal Foreign Office, Berlin, Germany, 19–20 February 2009

On the occasion of the IFLA presidency of Claudia Lux, the German IFLA National Committee in co-operation with different partners is organizing the third and last of the series of IFLA Presidential Meetings.

According to Claudia Lux' Presidential theme on 'Libraries on the Agenda', international library experts, politicians and decision makers will discuss the role of libraries within the international networking of the knowledge society. International contributors from various Islamic countries have also been invited.

Topics to be discussed will be among others the development of the information society as a national obligation, the relationship of digital knowledge and cultural heritage and the role of libraries within the network of research, education, society and state.

Simultaneous interpretation into English, German and Arabic will be provided.

Registration fee for the two-day programme (including lunch, coffee brakes and reception): EUR 100 (early bird registration until 20 January 2009, afterwards EUR 160)

You will find further information, the programme and the online-registration under:

http://www.ifla-deutschland.de/de/ifla_praesidentschaft/2009_3pm_en.html

We are looking forward welcoming you in Berlin!

German IFLA National Committee – Office

Contact: Hella Klauser, Expertise Network for Libraries (KNB), Strasse des 17. Juni 114, 10623 Berlin, Germany. Tel.: +49 (0)30 644 98 99 16. E-mail: klauser@ bibliotheksverband.de Website: http://www.ifla-deutschland.de

Libraries for the Blind

IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section Conference, Belgium, 17–20 August 2009

This conference will highlight the importance of delivering library services for print disabled people and show you how to improve your services through co-operation and partnership. On the second full day of the conference, we will focus on public libraries and plan to feature many short examples of best practice in supporting print disabled people.

Contact: Helen Brazier. E-mail: helen.brazier@rnib.org.uk

CPDWL and New Professionals

Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section and the New Professionals Discussion Group. IFLA Satellite Conference. University of Bologna, Italy. August 18, 19, and 20, 2009. *Theme:* Moving in, moving up, and moving on: Strategies for regenerating the library and information profession.

Conference Themes and Focus

The broad focus of this satellite meeting is the creation of a positive work environment for a multi-generational workforce.

General Themes

Managing between and across generations

Mentoring and coaching

Communication skills, e.g. goal setting, providing feedback

Organizational structures

Dealing with organizational blocks

Moving In

Attracting people to the profession

Developing retention strategies

Creating a positive work environment

Teambuilding and cohort development

Involving newcomers in professional associations

Moving Up

Developing as a leader

Working and leading within the organization

Managing up

Challenging existing organizational structures

Relationship and network building

Moving On

Re-skilling and transferability of skills

Succession planning and passing on knowledge

New careers for information workers

Further information from the program convenors:

Loida Garcia-Febo, Assistant Coordinator, Special Services, Queens Library, 89-11 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432, USA. E-mail: loidagarciafebo@gmail.com

Roisin Gwyer, Associate University Librarian, The University Library, University of Portsmouth, Cambridge Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2ST, England UK. E-mail: roisin.gwyer@port.ac.uk

IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2009 in Italy

IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Council, 23–27 August 2009. Milan, Italy. *Theme:* Libraries create futures: building on digital heritage.

Further information: IFLA 2009 Secretariat, 4B, 50 Speirs Wharf, Port Dundas, Glasgow G4 9TH, Scotland, UK. Tel: +44(0)141 331 0123. Fax: +44(0)207 117 4561. E-mail: ifla2009@congrex.com Conference website: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/1st-ann2009-en.pdf

or

Milan City National Committee, IFLA 2009 Milan, Italy, Associazione Italiana Biblioteche. E-mail: ifla2009-pres@aib.it Website: www.aib.it

Call for Poster Presentations

An alternative approach for the presentation of projects/new work will be available for conference participants. An area on the conference premises has been designated for the presentation of information regarding projects or activities of interest to librarians. The theme may be presented by a printed poster or by photographs, graphics and texts attached on the given panel. All IFLA official languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish – are welcome. Presenters of a poster session will be expected to be present on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 August 2009 in order to explain their poster and to hand out available leaflets and other information material. Further advice on poster sessions may be obtained from IFLA Headquarters. The Professional Committee of IFLA will review all submissions.

Colleagues interested in presenting a poster session are invited to complete the relevant form and send it together with a brief description of not more than 200 words of the session (we would appreciate receiving a summary in English, with your proposal).

The application form can be found at: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/call-postersession-en.htm

Please send the completed form and description to: Sofia Kapnisi, IFLA Graduate Administrator, PO Box 95312, 2509 CH Den Haag, The Netherlands. Tel. +31 70 3140884. Fax. +31 70 3834827. E-mail: sofia.kapnisi@ifla.org

Conference Sessions Announced

Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS) with Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section (CPDWL). Librarians on the Cat Walk: Communicating for advocacy to influence policy and practice.

The Global Library Association Development Program (GLAD) was developed by MLAS and received the approval of the IFLA Governing Board in 2006 as a strategic initiative. The objective of the GLAD Programme is to help to develop a set of skills relating to Library Association Management in order to strengthen the pool of qualified personnel who will potentially manage Library Associations at the local level. This in turn will help to strengthen the pool of potential candidates from which IFLA can draw for leadership positions within the association.

MLAS and CPDWL share the mission of the GLAD Programme: to strengthen the management of library associations in order to make associations stronger players in the development of libraries and thus in the development of societies

in all parts of the world. This is to be achieved through continuous training and development of information professionals, as one of the objectives of the CPDWL Section.

This will be a one-day session. Part 1 will focus on:

- successful advocacy programmes
- communication and promotion
- influencing the political agenda
- identifying the right arena for advocacy
- working with media

Part 2 will provide interactive practice in making presentations. Volunteers will be invited to submit their presentations, two of which will be selected for review and evaluation.

Contact: Sylvia Piggott, CPDWL Section. E-mail: spiggott@sympatico.ca

Newspapers Section. Newspapers in the Mediterranean and the Evolution of the Modern State.

Two hour programme covering the following topics (although other topics will also be considered):

- how collections of newspapers have been formed;
- the current state of newspaper collections
- actual or planned newspaper digitization projects

- newspapers as agents of political change
- the role of newspapers in Italian unification

Contact: Ed King, Secretary, IFLA Newspapers Section. Tel. +44 7412 7362. E-mail: ed.king@bl.uk

Interlending and Document Supply

11th Interlending and Document Supply Conference, Hanover, Germany, 20–22 October 2009. *Theme:* Strategic alliances and partnerships in interlending and document supply.

Topics will include:

- cooperation in document supply and interlending
- national and international experiences in resource sharing
- open access activities
- rights & distribution/licensing/ economic aspects
- future directions

Contact: Kim Baker, Programme Executive: Document Supply and Information Services and Cape Town Campus Coordinator, National Library of South Africa, PO Box 496, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Tel: +27 21 487 5604. Fax: +27 21 423 3359. E-Mail: kbaker.nlsa@gmail.com

IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2010 in Australia

The Australian Library and Information Association and the city of Brisbane have been selected to host the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress in 2010. The theme of the Congress will be: 'Engaging, Embracing, Empowering'.

Further information from: IFLA Headquarters, PO Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 70 314 0884. Fax: +31 70 383 4827. E-mail: ifla@ifla.org. Website: www.ifla.org

IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2011 in Puerto Rico

During the closing session of the World Library and Information Congress in Québec, it was announced that Puerto Rico had been selected as the host country for the 2011 Congress. Further details will be available at a later date.

IFLA/FAIFE Learning Materials

FAIFE is pleased to present two sets of learning materials for use by librarians working in the areas of Internet access and public access to health information. These learning materials, which take the form of a workshop manual and a set of accompanying workshop slides, are intended for use by library professionals who are engaged in training colleagues to consider

the challenges that libraries face when providing Internet access to their users, or when supplying information about HIV/AIDS.

The Internet Manifesto Learning Materials

The IFLA Internet Manifesto was adopted at the 68th IFLA General Conference and Council, August 23rd 2002, Glasgow, Scotland. Since that time the document has been translated into 20 different languages, and has been adopted

by over 30 library associations around the world. To help libraries implement the values of the Internet Manifesto, in 2006 IFLA prepared the *IFLA Internet Manifesto Guidelines*, a significant guidance document that is now available in English, Spanish, German and Russian.

Since 2005, IFLA has been delivering workshops on the Internet Manifesto around the world. To date, nearly 20 workshops have been held in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, and

more workshops are planned for the future. In the workshops presenters have used various versions of the materials now available here, and have amended and edited the materials each time to reflect the diverse experiences of workshop participants.

The current set of materials is the product of a thorough learning process, and it will help presenters anywhere to reproduce a one-day Internet Manifesto workshop for colleagues, even if Internet access in the library is extremely limited. It is hoped that these materials will help presenters and participants understand more about the values of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression with regards to the Internet, and explain why it is our responsibility as librarians to ensure that access to the Internet remains as free, equal and unhampered as possible.

Downloads:

Internet Manifesto Workshop Manual [PDF – 144 kb] http://www. ifla.org/faife/news/ifla-internet-manifesto-workshop-manual.pdf

Internet Manifesto Workshop PowerPoint Slides [PPT – 124 kb] http://www.ifla.org/faife/news/ifla-internet-manifesto-workshop-slides.ppt

Access to HIV/AIDS through Libraries Learning Materials

In recent years IFLA/FAIFE has been emphasizing the role libraries can play in increasing public access to health information, especially access to information about the HIV/AIDS virus. Information about libraries' activities in this area have been collected in both the 2005 and 2007 *World Reports*, and explored in more depth in the *IFLA/FAIFE Theme Report 2006,* which investigated the social responsibilities of libraries in relation to some of the big issues and major challenges facing the world today: the HIV/AIDS pandemic, poverty and corruption.

In 2006 preparations began on a set of resources relating to libraries' role in tackling these issues and, following a drafting and consultation exercise in 2007, the *Access to HIV/AIDS through Libraries Learning Materials* have been created. The materials provide clear details on how to hold a one-day workshop on this topic, and they have already been successfully used by librarians in places such as Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria and Zambia,.

IFLA/FAIFE is pleased to make the learning materials available for free through IFLANET and encourages librarians with an interest in public access to health information to use them to inform and educate colleagues about the positive role libraries can play in increasing access to information about HIV/AIDS in the community.

Downloads:

Access to HIV/AIDS through Libraries Workshop Manual [PDF – 164 kb] http://www. ifla.org/faife/news/ifla-hiv-aids-workshop-manual.pdf

Access to HIV/AIDS through Libraries Workshop PowerPoint Slides (1) [PDF – 128 kb] http:// www.ifla.org/faife/news/ifla-hiv-aids-workshop-slides-1.ppt

Access to HIV/AIDS through Libraries Workshop PowerPoint Slides (2) [PDF – 664 kb] http:// www.ifla.org/faife/news/ifla-hiv-aids-workshop-slides-2.ppt

For more information: http:// www.ifla.org/faife/news/learning_materials_workshops.htm

or

Stuart Hamilton, Senior Policy Advisor , IFLA HQ, PO Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands . Tel. +(31)(70)3140884. Fax +(31)(70) 3834827.E-mail: faife@ifla.org

From Other Organizations

Ljubljana is World Book Capital 2010

Ljubljana (Slovenia) was named as the World Book Capital 2010 at the conclusion of the selection committee meeting held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 18 June 2008. Ljubljana is the tenth city to be designated World Book Capital, after Madrid (2001), Alexandria (2002), New Delhi (2003), Antwerp (2004), Montreal (2005), Turin (2006), Bogotá (2007), Amsterdam (2008) and Beirut (2009).

The city of Ljubljana was selected for the quality of its application as well as for its diverse and complete programme, widely and enthusiastically supported by all players involved in the book industry (publishers, bookstores and libraries). The quality of the applications this year made the Jury's choice particularly difficult.

The Selection Committee was made up of José M. Gomez, representing the International Publishers Association (IPA), Françoise Dubruille, representing the International Booksellers Federation (IBF) and Peter Lor, representing the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Melbourne appointed 2nd City of Literature by UNESCO

The Director-General of UNESCO has appointed Melbourne as the City of Literature to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. This Australian city will be joining Edinburgh as the 2nd city of literature in the network.

Melbourne, Australia's second largest city and the capital of the State of Victoria, is widely acknowledged as Australia's cultural capital. From the times the State Library of Victoria was founded in 1854 as the first major cultural institution in the city till today, Melbourne continues its long cherished literary tradition. It is foremost recognized for its rich literary culture, history and creative talent. The city boasts the largest literary publishing sector in Australia, showcased by more bookshops and readers than anywhere else in the country. It hosts a wide range of literary festivals, including the Melbourne Writers'

Festival, the Overload Poetry Festival, the Alfred Deakin Innovation Lectures and the Emerging Writers' Festival.

With its new title and status, the city aims to increase its international profile by increasing its commitment to literary life. It expects to draw new audiences and participation, local and international, in the variety of literary activities and create new partnership initiatives across public, private and civil society sectors as well as in cooperation with the other member cities of the network. As a part of its bid to be a UNESCO City, the Victorian Government

has also increased its financial support for projects such as the establishment of a Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas and the expansion of the Melbourne Writers' Festival.

There are currently 12 cities appointed to the Network – Aswan, Santa Fe in Crafts and Folk Art; Berlin, Buenos Aires, Montreal in Design; Popayan in Gastronomy; Edinburgh and Melbourne in Literature; Bologna, Seville and Glasgow in Music; Lyon in media arts.

More information: www.unesco. org/culture/en/creativecities

Springer Survey on eBooks

A survey conducted by Science + Business Media (www.springer. com), in conjunction with five leading academic institutions, highlights prominent research and academic usage of eBooks. The survey was conducted to better understand the adoption of eBooks, the use of eBooks, and user perception of eBook advantages and disadvantages.

The new survey revealed that, despite the recent emergence of eBooks, most users were already aware of their existence and had used them at least once, whether through libraries or other sources. The study also found that most users access eBooks for research and study purposes and that the types of eBooks frequently used were reference works and textbooks.

The survey also focused on some of the perceived advantages of eBooks, citing the ability to gain 24/7 access for multiple users, convenient full-text searchability, and

easy access to information. However, difficulty of reading books from a screen and preference for traditional print books were cited as the primary disadvantages.

Participating university libraries included: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Turku, Finland; Centre for Mathematics and Computer Science (CWI) Amsterdam, the Netherlands; University of Muenster, Germany; and the JRD Tata Memorial Library, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.

In 2007 Springer Science+Business Media commissioned a survey which revealed that the Springer eBook program was widely accepted among librarians.

The full-text PDF of the white paper, "eBooks – The End User Perspective" can be found at: www. springer.com/ebooks.

Contact: renate.bayaz@springer. com, Springer Corporate Communications, +49 6221-487-8531

New Journal on Digital Libraries

The first issue of *World Digital Libraries: an international journal* has just been published. The contents can be found at http://book store.teriin.org/journal_inside. php?material_id=477&qty=1.

The aim of the journal is to advance the theory and practice of acquisition, organization, management and dissemination of digital information on a sustainable basis. The journal will seek quality research papers that present original theoretical approaches as well as experimental case studies related to digital library development and maintenance. In doing so, the journal will keep readers abreast with the current developments in the field. The journal will include articles, reviews, current developments, and case studies .

Further information: Debal C Kar, Editor. E-mail dckar@teri.res.in

Peter Lor Receives Honorary Doctorate

Professor Dr Peter Johan Lor, outgoing Secretary General of IFLA and extraordinary professor in the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria, has received an honorary doctorate, DPhil (honoris causa), from the University of Pretoria. The degree was conferred on 4 September 2008 at one of the spring graduation ceremonies of the University. He received the degree for the exceptional leadership role he played in the LIS profession in South Africa and internationally and for his outstanding research contributions to this field. Professor Lor is an alumnus of the University of Pretoria – he received both his MBibl degree (1978, with distinction) and his DPhil (1990) from this University. From 1998 to date he is also extraordinary professor in the Department of Information Science.

Theo Bothma. E-mail tbothma@up.ac.za

Kelly Moore

Kelly Moore, IFLA Membership Manager, has been appointed as Executive Director of the Canadian Library Association. She may be contacted at: kelly.moore@lac-bac.gc.ca

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

2009

January 20–22, 2009. Sydney Australia.
Information Online 2009.
Further information: Conference website: www.information-online.com.au

February 19–20, 2009. Berlin, Germany.
Access to Knowledge Infrastructures: Networking through Libraries. Third International Meeting on 'Libraries on the Agenda'.
Further information: http://www.ifla-deutschland.de/de/ifla_praesidentschaft/2009_3pm_en.html

February 3–5, 2009. Bielefeld, Germany.
9th International Bielefeld Conference 2009.
Further information: http://conference.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/

March 11–13, 2009. Valencia, Spain.
9th Conference of the ISKO [International Society for Knowledge Organisation] Spanish Chapter.
Contact Information: Secretaría del Congreso, Grupo de Investigación CALSI, Instituto de Diseño y Fabricación, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Camino de Vera s/n C.P. 46022, Valencia, Spain. Tel. 963877000 Ext. 88924

April 20–23, 2009. Hanoi, Vietnam.
CONSAL XIV General Conference 2009. *Theme:* Towards dynamic libraries and information services in Southeast Asian countries.
Contact: http://consal14.vn/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=34&Itemid=34
Conference website: http://www.consal14.vn/

May 25–30, 2009, Dubrovnik and Zadar, Croatia.
Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) 2009. *Themes:* REFLECTIONS: Changes brought by and in digital libraries in the last decade; HERITAGE and digital libraries – digitization, preservation, access.
Full information at: http://www.ffos.hr/lida/ E-mail: lida@ffos.hr

June 22–25, 2009. Aberdeen, Scotland.
2nd Information: Interactions and Impact (i³) International Conference.
Further information: Dorothy Williams, i³ Conference Director. E-mail: i3information@rgu.ac.uk.

June 29–July 3 2009. Stockholm, Sweden.
5th International Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP5) Conference.
Theme: Bridging the gap.
Contacts: Andrew Booth & David Herron (Co-Chairs – International Programme Committee –EBLIP5). E-mail: EBLIP5@kib.ki.se
Conference web site: http://blogs.kib.ki.se/eblip5/welcome.html
See the Conference Video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-5nf2eEZPw

July 5–10, 2009. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML). Annual Conference.
Further information: http://www.iaml.info/en/activities/conferences or e-mail Roger Flury, AML Secretary General at: roger.flury@natlib.govt.nz

July 27–31, 2009. Bento Gonçalves, RS – Brazil. **[NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE]**

WCCE 2009: 9th IFIP World Conference on Computers in Education.
Further information: Prof. Rosa Vicari, Instituto de Informática, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Campus do Vale – Instituto de Informática – Bloco IV, Av. Bento Gonçalves, 9500 – Bairro Agronomia, Caixa Postal 15064, 91501-970 Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. Telephone: +55 (0xx)51 3316 6801. Fax: +55 (0xx)51 3316 7308. E-mail: rosa@inf.ufrgs.br
Conference website: http://www.wcce2009.org/

August 17–20, 2009. Belgium.
IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section Conference. *Theme:* Partnerships for print disabled people: publishers and public libraries.
Further information: Helen Brazier helen.brazier@rnib.org.uk

August 18–20, 2009. Bologna, Italy.
IFLA Satellite Conference: Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section and the New Professionals Discussion Group.
Theme: Moving in, moving up, and moving on: Strategies for regenerating the library and information profession.
Further information: Loida Garcia-Febo, Assistant Coordinator, Special Services, Queens Library, 89–11 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432, USA. E-mail: loida garciafebo@gmail.com

or

Roisin Gwyer, Associate University Librarian, The University Library, University of Portsmouth, Cambridge Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2ST, England UK. E-mail: roisin.gwyer@port.ac.uk

August 23–27, 2009. Milan, Italy.
IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Council. *Theme:* Libraries create futures: building on digital heritage.
Further information: IFLA 2009 Secretariat, 4B, 50 Speirs Wharf, Port Dundas, Glasgow G4 9th, Scotland, UK. Tel: +44(0)141 331 0123. Fax: +44(0)207 117 4561. E-mail: ifla2009@congrex.com Conference website: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/1st-ann2009-en.pdf

or

Milan City National Committee, IFLA 2009 Milan, Italy, Associazione Italiana Biblioteche. E-mail: ifla2009-pres@aib.it Website: www.aib.it

20–22 October 2009. Hanover, Germany.
11th Interlending and Document Supply Conference. Theme: Strategic alliances and partnerships in interlending and document supply.
Further information: Kim Baker, Programme Executive: Document Supply and Information Services and Cape Town Campus Coordinator, National Library of South Africa, PO Box 496, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Tel: +27 21 487 5604. Fax: +27 21 423 3359. E-mail: kbaker.nlsa@gmail.com

2010

June 27–July 2, 2010. Moscow, Russia.
International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML). Annual Conference.
Further information: http://www.iaml.info/en/activities/conferences or e-mail Roger Flury, AML Secretary General at: roger.flury@natlib.govt.nz

August, 2010. Brisbane, Australia.
IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 76th IFLA General Conference and Council. *Theme:* Engaging, Embracing, Empowering.
Information regarding the 76th IFLA General Conference and Council will be available on the IFLANET website at a later date: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla76/index.htm
Further information: IFLA Headquarters, PO Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 70 314 0884. Fax: +31 70 383 4827. E-mail: ifla@ifla.org.

2011

Puerto Rico.
IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Council.

Information regarding the 77th IFLA General Conference and Council will be available at a later date from IFLA Headquarters, PO Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 70 314 0884. Fax: +31 70 383 4827. E-mail: ifla@ifla.org.

24–29 July.2011. Dublin, Ireland.
International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML). Annual Conference.
Further information: http://www.iaml.info/en/activities/conferences or e-mail Roger Flury, AML Secretary General at: roger.flury@natlib.govt.nz

2012–2015

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML). Further forthcoming conferences:

2012 Canada
2013 Denmark, Århus
2014 Austria, Vienna
2015 USA, New York

Further information: http://www.iaml.info/en/activities/conferences or e-mail Roger Flury, AML Secretary General at: roger.flury@natlib.govt.nz

SOMMAIRES

James Bartleman. **Libraries and the First Nations People of Canada. [Les bibliothèques et les membres des premières nations du Canada.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4. pp. 337–340

Discours prononcé lors de la séance plénière au Congrès mondial des bibliothèques et de l'information : 74ᵉ Congrès et Assemblée générale de l'IFLA, 14 août 2008, Ville de Québec, Canada. L'article relate l'enfance de l'auteur, lui-même membre des premières nations du Canada, et sa découverte de la valeur des livres et des bibliothèques. Il décrit la condition sociale des jeunes gens vivant dans des communautés pauvres des premières nations du Canada et ses propres efforts pour créer des bibliothèques, des camps de vacances consacrés à la lecture, des clubs de lecture et des prix récompensant la création littéraire et destinés aux enfants et aux jeunes de ces communautés.

Ellen R. Tise, Reggie Raju, and Charles Masango. **Libraries Driving**

Access to Knowledge: a discussion paper. [Les bibliothèques comme moyen d'accès aux connaissances: un document de travail.]
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4. pp. 341–346

Les bibliothèques contribuent considérablement à générer les connaissances. Cet article examine brièvement l'évolution des bibliothèques et leur contribution à l'alphabétisation, à la mise à disposition d'informations et à l'accès à ces informations. Cependant, le mode d'accès a considérablement changé, ce qui a entraîné l'apparition de nouveaux défis, avec notamment la suppression des obstacles et l'accès à une ère de surabondance en matière d'informations, ainsi que l'obligation morale de permettre l'accès aux connaissances et aux informations. Cet article était à l'origine un document de travail pour la session de brainstorming lors de l'élection du Président au récent Congrès mondial des bibliothèques et de l'information qui s'est tenu dans la ville de Québec au Canada le 12 août 2008.

Umunna N. Opara. **The Public Library in Contemporary Nigeria: challenges and the way forward. [La bibliothèque publique dans le Nigeria contemporain: les défis et les progrès à faire.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4. pp. 349–358

Cet article examine la situation des bibliothèques publiques au Nigéria. Il constate que le rythme de développement des bibliothèques publiques du pays au cours des années immédiatement après l'Indépendance et la guerre civile nigériane n'a pas pu être maintenu par manque de soutien financier de la part des autorités fondatrices. L'article signale un financement inadéquat, un personnel démoralisé et en nombre insuffisant, des équipements médiocres, etc., comme étant les défis auxquels les bibliothèques sont actuellement confrontées. Il propose de remédier à ces circonstances pour faire progresser la situation.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNGEN

James Bartleman. **Libraries and the First Nations People of Canada. [Bibliotheken und die Ureinwohner Kanadas.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4., pp. 337–340

Plenarvortrag zum Weltkongress Bibliothek und Information: 74. IFLA Generalkonferenz und Ratsversammlung am 14. August 2008 in Québec City, Kanada. Der Autor beschreibt seine eigene Kindheit als Ureinwohner Kanadas und seine Entdeckung der Welt der Bücher und Bibliotheken. Dabei geht er auch auf die sozialen Hintergründe junger Leute aus finanziell schwachen Ureinwohnersiedlungen in Kanada ein, und er beschreibt seine eigenen Bemühungen zur Einrichtung von

Bibliotheken, Sommercamps zum Thema Lesen, Literaturclubs und zur Vergabe von Literaturpreisen im kreativen Schreiben für Kinder und Jugendliche, die in solchen Gemeinschaften aufwachsen.

Ellen R. Tise, Reggie Raju, und Charles Masango. **Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge: a discussion paper. [Bibliotheken stimulieren den Zugriff auf das Wissen – ein Diskussionsbeitrag.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4., pp. 341–346

Die Bibliotheken liefern einen kritischen Beitrag zur Schaffung von Wissen. Dieser Artikel bietet einen kurzen Einblick in die Entstehung und Entwicklung der

Bibliotheken sowie deren Beitrag zur Lese- und Schreibkompetenz und zur Bereitstellung von Informationen in Kombination mit dem entsprechenden Zugriff auf diese Informationen. Die Zugriffsmethoden haben sich jedoch ganz erheblich geändert, somit ergeben sich heute ganz andere Herausforderungen – beispielsweise das Verschwinden der Zugriffsbarrieren in einem Zeitalter der Informationsexplosion; daraus ergibt sich eine moralische Verpflichtung zur Erweiterung der Zugangsmöglichkeiten zu den vorhandenen Kenntnissen und Informationen. Dieser Beitrag war als Diskussionsdokument für das Brainstorming zur Präsidentschaftswahlcampagne anlässlich des letzten IFLA-Weltkongresses

Bibliothek und Information in Québec City in Kanada am 12. August 2008 verfasst worden.

Umunna N. Opara. **The Public Library in Contemporary Nigeria: challenges und the way forward. [Die öffentlichen Bibliotheken im Nigeria von heute: Herausforderungen und der Weg nach vorn.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4., pp. 349–358

Dieser Beitrag analysiert den Status der öffentlichen Bibliotheken in Nigeria. Er stellt fest, dass das Entwicklungstempo der öffentlichen nigerianischen Bibliotheken im Lauf der ersten Jahre nach der Unabhängigkeit des Landes und nach dem Bürgerkrieg in Nigeria aufgrund fehlender finanzieller Unterstützung seitens der Gründungsautoritäten nicht aufrechterhalten werden konnte. Nach Auffassung des Autors werden diese Bibliotheken zurzeit

mit Problemen konfrontiert, zu denen u.a. die unzureichenden finanziellen Mittel, zermürbtes und knappes Personal sowie inadäquate Räumlichkeiten beitragen. Vorzuschlagen wäre gemäß diesem Beitrag eine Verbesserung der bestehenden Situation, um einen entschiedenen Weg nach vorn einschlagen zu können.

RESÚMENES

James Bartleman. **Libraries and the First Nations People of Canada. [Las bibliotecas y el First Nations People de Canadá.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4, pp. 337–340

Conferencia plenaria ofrecida en el Congreso Mundial de Bibliotecas e Información: 74ª Conferencia y Consejo General de IFLA, 10-14 de agosto de 2008, Québec, Canadá. El trabajo describe la infancia del autor como miembro el First Nations People of Canada y cómo descubrió el valor de los libros y las bibliotecas. Asimismo, explica las condiciones sociales de los jóvenes que viven en las comunidades First Nation en Canadá, y sus esfuerzos por crear bibliotecas, campamentos de lectura en verano, clubes de lectura y premios de escritura literaria creativa para los niños y jóvenes de dichas comunidades.

Ellen R. Tise, Reggie Raju y Charles Masango. **Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge: a discussion paper. [Las bibliotecas impulsan el acceso

al conocimiento: documento de debate.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4, pp. 341–346

Las bibliotecas son elementos cruciales para generar conocimiento. El documento ofrece un breve examen de la evolución de las bibliotecas y la contribución de las mismas a la alfabetización y el suministro de información, así como de los medios para facilitar el acceso a dicha información. No obstante, el modo de acceso ha cambiado sustancialmente, trayendo consigo una serie de retos diferentes, entre los que se incluyen el desmantelamiento de las barreras de acceso en una era de explosión informativa, y la obligación moral de impulsar el acceso al conocimiento y la información. Este texto fue elaborado como documento de debate para la Sesión de lluvia de ideas con el presidente electo, que se celebró en el reciente Congreso Mundial de Bibliotecas e Información de IFLA que tuvo lugar en Québec, Canadá, el 12 de agosto de 2008.

Umunna N. Opara. **The Public Library in Contemporary Nigeria: challenges und the way forward. [La biblioteca pública en la Nigeria contemporánea: retos y camino a seguir.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4, pp. 349–358

Este documento examina el estado de las bibliotecas públicas en Nigeria. En él se señala que el ritmo de desarrollo de las bibliotecas públicas del país en los años inmediatamente posteriores a la independencia, y después de la guerra civil en Nigeria, no pudo mantenerse debido a un apoyo financiero inadecuado por parte de las nuevas autoridades. El documento identifica la financiación inadecuada, la desmoralizada y poco formada fuerza de trabajo, condiciones alojamiento inadecuadas de, etc. como los retos a los que se enfrentan dichas bibliotecas actualmente. Como camino a seguir, propone que se ponga remedio a dichas condiciones.

Рефераты статей

Джеймс Бартельман. **Libraries and the First Nations People of Canada. [Библиотеки и люди «первой нации» (аборигены) Канады.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4. pp. 337–340

Выступление на пленарном заседании в рамках Всемирного библиотечного и информационного конгресса: 74-ая Генеральная конференция и Совет ИФЛА (10-14 августа 2008 г., г.Квебек, Канада). Описывается

детство автора как члена общины канадских аборигенов и его открытие для себя ценности книг и библиотек. Описываются социальные условия жизни молодых людей из бедных коммун «первой нации» (аборигенов)

Канады и его усилия по созданию библиотек, летних читательских лагерей, клубов читателей и литературных наград для детей и юношества из этих коммун за креативное сочинительство.

Эллен Р. Тайз, Регги Раджу и Чарльз Мазанго. **Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge: a discussion paper. [Библиотеки как стимулирующий фактор доступа к знаниям: дискуссионная статья.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4. pp. 341–346

Библиотеки являются критически важным фактором для обретения знаний. В статье в краткой форме исследуется эволюция библиотек и их вклад в распространение грамотности, предоставление информации и обеспечение доступа к этой информации. Указывается, однако, на существенное изменение в режимах доступа, что повлекло за собой возникновения другого набора насущных задач, которые включают, помимо прочего, разрушение барьеров на пути к доступу в эпоху «информационного взрыва» и моральное обязательство стимулировать доступ к знаниям и информации. Эта статья была подготовлена для избранного Президента в качестве выносимого им для «мозгового штурма» дискуссионного документа на заседание 12 августа 2008 г. в рамках прошедшего недавно в г.Квебеке, Канада Всемирного библиотечного и информационного конгресса ИФЛА.

Умунна Н. Опара. **The Public Library in Contemporary Nigeria: challenges and the way forward. [Публичная библиотека в современной Нигерии: вызовы и перспективы.]**
IFLA Journal 34 (2008) No. 4. pp. 349–358

В статье рассматривается положение с публичными библиотеками в Нигерии. Отмечается, что непосредственно после обретения Нигерией независимости и завершения гражданской войны темп развития публичных библиотек в стране не мог поддерживаться должным образом из-за недостатка финансовых средств, выделяемых новым правительством. В статье называются такие стоящие перед нынешними библиотеками проблемы, как неадекватное финансирование, деморализованная и малочисленная рабочая сила, отсутствие адекватных строений и т.д. Для того чтобы идти вперед, как отмечается в статье, необходимо исправление существующего положения.