IFLA

IFLA

GLASGOW 2002

75

Years of IFLA

75th **Anniversary**

*T*he year 2002 is a time of
celebration and remembrance
within the global library and
information community and beyond,
because it commemorates 75 years
of regular communication
and cooperation among
a variety of libraries and their
associations around the world.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

History. In the spring of 1926, at the International Congress of Librarians and Bookmakers in Prague, Gabriel Henriot voiced an appeal to set up an international committee to represent all the national library associations on a permanent basis. Henriot, who has been called the spiritual father of IFLA, was at that time President of the Association des bibliothècaires français and also professor at the American Library School in Paris). At the 50th anniversary Conference of the American Library Association in Atlantic City and Philadelphia in 1926 the idea of an international library organization gained further impetus. The idea materialized in Edinburgh on September 30, 1927, during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, when representatives of library associations from 15 countries signed a resolution that can be regarded as the founding of IFLA. Isak Collijn, the Swedish National Librarian, was elected first President. The most skillful negotiator was Carl H. Milam, Secretary of ALA, who agreed to draft the statutes. The first IFLA Constitution was approved in Rome in 1929 during the first World Congress of Librarianship and Bibliography, which took place under IFLA auspices. T. J. Sevensma, Librarian of the League of Nations Library, Geneva, served as IFLA Secretary for nearly thirty years following his appointment in 1929.

The new organization was predominantly an association of library associations, aiming at the promotion of regular world conferences. Originally, IFLA was a meeting point for leading librarians from Europe and America and continued as such for a long time. In the early years notable personalities—true representatives of their profession—defined IFLA's profile. It became a kind of "conference family," where personal friendships led to close cooperation in such areas as international loan and exchange, bibliographical standardization, and library education.

At the first IFLA session outside Europe (Chicago, 1933), the second IFLA President, William Warner Bishop of the University of Michigan, acted as host. During five years as President, he guided IFLA through the first years of economic crisis as membership reached 41 associations from 31 countries, including several library associations from outside Europe and the U.S. (China, India, Japan, Mexico, Philippines). IFLA could not yet boast of true universal international membership, however. That was not to be achieved for 40 years.

Marcel Godet, Director of the Swiss National Library at Berne, was IFLA's third President, from 1936 to 1947. Through Godet and Secretary A. C. Breycha-Vauthier, IFLA took part in the Advisory Committee on Literature for Prisoners-of-War and Internees, which distributed significant numbers of books to various camps. (Breycha-Vauthier also worked at the League of Nations Library at Geneva during the war.)

IFLA's first session following World War II was at Oslo in 1947. Funded by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, it was attended by 52 delegates from 18 countries. One important result of this conference was a formal agreement between IFLA and UNESCO concerning future cooperation. (IFLA has "Formal Associate Relationship" with UNESCO). In 1948 they organized an International Summer School on Public Library Practice in Manchester, attended by 50 librarians, from 21 countries, who from that time worked to better public librarianship (the first standards for public libraries were a result of this cooperation). Another Oslo resolution of lasting significance was the recommendation to accept an international format for catalogue cards.

In the postwar period IFLA developed slowly, perhaps too slowly, because its structure and lack of funds hampered effectiveness. Its profile was still defined by individuals who gave their time and expertise to IFLA during meetings, but who turned their attention between meetings to their national duties. The Cold War also brought tensions between some members from Eastern-bloc countries and those from Western nations, especially when conferences were held in Eastern Europe. Beginning in 1951 a series of proposals for reorganization was launched, based on a fundamental criticism about the lack of constructive programs, but they were too vague to lead to concrete results. By 1958 IFLA had grown to 64 member associations from 42 countries. The organization was basically similar to its prewar antecedent until the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles (Paris, 1961), for which the Council on Library Resources allotted a grant of $20,000, generated major activity for IFLA in the cataloguing field.

In 1962 IFLA's first permanent central secretariat was established by a UNESCO grant; Anthony Thompson became the first full-time IFLA Secretary General. During this time IFLA began to exhibit real strength in the realm of programming; in 1963 the Federation published *Libraries in the World,* a long-term program for IFLA, which distinguished itself by an imaginative and realistic view of IFLA's future development. Attributed mainly to Leendert Brummel, it was also the work of Sir Frank Francis, F. G. B. Hutchings, and Herman Liebaers. Gradually the importance of sections for types of libraries and committees for types of library activity increased, enabling IFLA to react adequately to urgent library problems. IFLA's firmness of purpose became exemplary and resulted in steady growth. When Thompson resigned in 1970, the Federation had 250 members in 52 countries.

In 1971 an energetic President, Herman Liebaers, National Librarian of Belgium, moved the Secretariat to The Hague at about the same time that Margreet Wijnstroom began her term as Secretary-General. The Federation has been located at the Royal Library since 1982. Liebaers managed to interest several funding bodies in the work of IFLA. He launched the UBC (Universal Bibliographic Control) programme and brought the librarians of the Third World into IFLA. With support from the Council on Library Resources, a small, effective Secretariat was strengthened at The Hague, and a permanent office for UBC was set up in London. A regional office at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia was founded with assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency, and a program for the various world regions was developed.

When Liebaers left IFLA and the library profession in 1974, IFLA could claim virtually universal international membership with 600 members in 100 countries. Liebaers had the vision and drive necessary to adapt IFLA to the demands of modern society. He also had the foresight to use the services of a Program Development Group, a core of experts who paved the way for some major IFLA projects, such as Universal Availability of Publications and public library development, but who also had a keen eye for smaller, but nevertheless valuable, projects. This group would later develop into a statutory Professional Board.

The implementation of new programme offices and absorption of a continually expanding membership, now including institutional and personal members, progressed under the presidencies of Preben Kirkegaard, Director of the Royal School of Library & Information Science in Copenhagen (1974-1979) and Ilse Granheim, Director of the Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries, Oslo (1979-1985), IFLA's first woman president. The Association began to assert itself in new ways in the global initiatives for universal access, international cooperation, and standards for bibliographical description and practice. The 1977 Brussels conference commemorated IFLA's 50th anniversary. In the next decade the enlarged vision resulted in the first conferences held in Asia (Manila, 1980) and Africa (Nairobi, 1984). Political concerns also were evident in the acceptance of official members from the People's Republic of China, a move that denied membership of national associations in the Republic of China (Taiwan). Membership of the South African Library Association was suspended in 1972; the reconstituted national association was admitted in 1997.

Hans-Peter Geh, Director of the Württembergische Landesbibliothek Stuttgart, served as President from 1985 to 1991—a period of transition for IFLA. Not only did the tension begin to mitigate between Soviet-oriented European members and Western-oriented members, but emerging technological issues clamored for attention. While the 1988 conference in Sydney was a first for Australia, the especially memorable 1991 Conference in Moscow was a milestone in international professional solidarity and was a symbol of fresh possibilities that lay ahead. Paul Nauta served as Secretary-General from 1987 to 1992. The foundations were laid for IFLANET, the electronic network that provides current global links among the headquarters staff, member units, and individuals.

The final decade of the century witnessed the presidency of Robert Wedgeworth, formerly Executive Director of the American Library Association (1991-1997) with Leo Voogt as Secretary-General (1992-1999). During this time fresh relationships were forged with international organizations with kindred interests even as direct support from UNESCO diminished. New member library associations from 28 nations joined IFLA and conferences convened in new sites such as Havana, Beijing, Bangkok, and Jerusalem. In addition to the establishment in 1993 of IFLANET, the Association took action on support of global intellectual freedom by establishing in 1997 its committee and office dealing with Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE). Christine Deschamps, formerly Director of Bibliothèque de l'Université Paris V was elected President for 1997-2003, while Ross Shimmon, formerly Executive Director of the Library Association (UK), began his tenure as Secretary-General in 1999. Under their leadership the IFLA statutes have been reviewed and revised and the current governing structure instituted. Holding the new office of President-Elect is Kay Raseroka, Director of the University Library of Botswana, Gaborone, the first IFLA president from outside the Northern Hemisphere. These developments, taken as a whole, seem promising for the future of IFLA.

Currently more than 1700 associations, institutions, and individual persons from 143 countries are members of IFLA. The 2002 Glasgow conference proudly celebrates 75 years of IFLA service to the worldwide library and information community.

Organization and Structure. After years of sometimes-heated discussions, a new structure for IFLA was approved by the Council in Lausanne in 1976, with another changes occuring in 2000. The current Statutes define the mission as follows:

1. The Federation is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization. Its membership is composed of: associations of libraries, librarians and information services; libraries; and library and information organizations.

2. The purposes of the Federation shall be: to promote high standards of delivery of library and information services; to encourage widespread understanding of the value and importance of high quality library and information services in private, public and voluntary sectors; and to represent the interests of its members throughout the world.

3. In order to fulfil these purposes the Federation shall undertake such activities and enterprises and establish such units which its governing bodies shall determine. The Federation's Medium-Term Programme shall be prepared at regular intervals by the Governing Board in consultation with appropriate professional units of IFLA. The Medium-Term Programme shall be published.

Membership. The name of the organization was expanded in 1976 to include *institutions,* libraries, library schools, and bibliographic institutes). It became the

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Since that year IFLA has had two main categories of members, Association and Institutional. Both have voting rights in all matters and meetings. However, in Council meetings Association Members have more votes than Institutional Members, at least 51 percent, with 7 to 35 votes for the joint Association Members in any one country. Association members may consist of national and international associations. Relatively new membership categories are Personal Affiliate and Student Affiliate, with no voting rights. Honorary Fellows are individuals recognized by IFLA for their outstanding contribution to the Federation. There is also the opportunity for Consultative Status for related international organizations. Among those with Consultative Status are ICA (International Council on Archives), ICAE (International Council on Adult Education), ISO (International Organization for Standardization), and IPA (International Publishers Association). Other international organizations, mainly concerned with librarianship, tend to join IFLA as International Association Members with voting rights; for example, IAML (International Association of Music Libraries), IATUL (International Association of Technological University Libraries), COMLA (Commonwealth Library Association), LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche), EAHIL (European Association for Health Information and Libraries), and ACURIL (Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries).

Steering Bodies. The main steering bodies, as defined by the current Statutes are the Governing Board (along with its Executive Committee) and the Professional Committee. (These were until recently called the Executive Board and the Professional Board.) The first "is responsible for the managerial and professional direction of IFLA with guidelines approved by the Council." It consists of the President, the President-elect, ten directly elected members every two years and nine indirectly elected members of the Professional Committee. The second is charged "to ensure coordination of the work of all the IFLA units responsible for professional activities, policies, and programmes." It consists of a chair (selected by the outgoing Committee), an officer from each of the IFLA divisions and three members of the Governing Board.

In the 1970s and 1980s IFLA set up a number of Core Programmes—now referred to as Core Activities. These initiatives, described in more detail below, are: Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM), Universal Availability of Publications (UAP), Preservation and Conservation (PAC), Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT), and Advancement of Librarianship (ALP). In May 1979 the Executive Board-at that time headed by Preben Kirkegaard-decided to establish a Program Management Committee to coordinate and manage IFLA's Core Activities (formerly Programmes), including their objectives, financing, and functions, and also to facilitate the liaison of those activities with the work of the Sections and Divisions.

In 1983 the Council (since 1977 convened in odd years only) approved the *IFLA Perspectives,* a document in which the Executive Board defined the Core Programs (now Activities) and their functioning. These *Perspectives* were the result of the deliberations of a Task Force convened by Else Granheim, IFLA President from 1979 to 1985.

In 1990, at the request of then-President Hans-Peter Geh, the Executive and Professional Boards, set up a Task Force to carry out an examination of the steering, managerial, and advisory structures and coordination of IFLA's professional program, including the Professional Board, the Program Management Committee, Core Programmes, Sections, and Round Tables, and IFLA Headquarters. The Task Force was to look at these bodies and their relationship with the information profession at large, with a view to clarifying roles, simplifying and reducing administrative overheads, strengthening cooperation, and effectively integrating all the professional work of IFLA.

Currently, as an organization chart would show, the membership is directly involved in voting in the Council (General Assembly), and in voting for members of the Governing Board, as well as in selecting their representatives to the Division Standing Committees. The Executive Committee and its subcommittees report to the Governing Board, as do the executives of the Core Activities.

Subunits. In IFLA Sections can be considered the grassroots of the organization; they are grouped together in Divisions for coordination. Members and affiliates register for the Sections of their choice and can nominate and elect persons for membership on Standing Committees, the core groups of experts that develop the program of the Section and ensure its execution. The Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Sections form the Coordinating Board of the Division to which they belong. The Chairpersons of the Divisional Coordinating Boards form the Professional Board. Round Tables were phased out in 2002, but informal Discussion Groups remain.

Headquarters. The Federation is headquartered in the Royal Library, The Hague, Netherlands. The staff consists of the Secretary General, the Coordinator of Professional Activities, and six other staff members. Staff members are responsible for the daily management of the organization: liaison with related organizations; coordination of professional groups and units within IFLA; maintaining the secretariats of the Governing Board, the Professional Committee, and various other committees; maintaining liaison and general oversight of the offices that implement the Core Activities; and issuing periodical publications. They work in close cooperation with national organizing committees in preparation for the annual general conference.

Activities. IFLA's professional programme consists of a wide variety of activities. These can be looked at from two points of view—one treating all operations as elements in the functioning of an integrated whole, consisting of the library or information centre, the other viewing each operation as a separate activity with its own techniques. These approaches have been expressed in IFLA by the growth of two kinds of groups—one consisting of professionals responsible for a particular kind of library or information centre and another consisting of professionals concerned with the tech-

niques appropriate to a particular operation that is common to various types of libraries or information centres.

Representing the first approach are the nearly 45 Sections within the 8 Divisions of IFLA. All have their own programmes—ranging from sophisticated university and research library management studies to the professional training of public librarians, from the establishment of regional braille centres in developing countries to reference services for making electronic information available, and from the improvement of the status and image of the library and information profession to the development of well-established school libraries. Currently, the eight Divisions are (1) General Research Libraries, (2) Special Libraries, (3) Libraries Serving the General Public, (4) Bibliographic Control, (5) Collections and Services, (6) Management and Technology, (7) Education and Research, and (8) Regional Activities.

There are also several Core Activities described below whose work cuts across the Sections, and IFLA actively encourages cooperation among Sections.

Representing the second approach are the Core Activities, all but one of which are hosted by a national library that serves as the international focal point for it. The first initiatives, usually building on earlier efforts, have evolved since their establishment in the 1970s. In 2002 they number six. The earlier Core Programme focal points are located in Boston Spa, England (UAP), Frankfurt (UBCIM), University Library Uppsala, Sweden (ALP), and Paris (PAC), whereas UDT has now ceased to exist. To these, two new programmes were added in the 1990s—Activities dealing with Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) based in Boston Spa and Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) based in Copenhagen. Regional offices, which serve as extensions of IFLA Headquarters and the ALP efforts, are maintained in Bangkok, Dakar, and São Paulo. A brief description of these units follows.

ALP. Consultations on development of the Advancement of Librarianship started appropriately during the 1984 IFLA Nairobi Conference. The ALP Core Activity received new impetus with the establishment of an International Focal Point at Uppsala University in 1990. The objectives of ALP are to promote the progressive improvement of library and information services in developing countries to enable them to play an active role in national development and to enter more fully into general IFLA activities. The most important programme areas of ALP are: encouraging education and training; strengthening library associations; promoting library and information services to the public, with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas; stimulating identification and involvement of libraries with literacy programs; and encouraging new perspectives on emerging technology. Consistent with its objectives, ALP administers the DANIDA travel grants that enable Third World librarians to attend IFLA general conferences. The subject-oriented Core Activities and the Divisions, Sections, and Discussion Groups will continue to execute a substantial number of projects and other activities for developing countries.

CLM. The significance of copyright issues for IFLA resulted in the establishment in 1997 of the Copyright and other Legal Matters Activity. CLM seeks to ensure that the perspectives of the library profession, practitioners and users alike, are represented effectively in international arenas considering the future of copyright and intellectual property policy and their implementation. It deals with issues, such as trade barriers to the acquisition of library materials, disputed claims of ownership of library materials, authenticity of electronic texts, subscription and licensing agreements, and other legal matters of international significance to libraries and librarianship. CLM's numerous position papers and other publications offer guidance to the international community and IFLA members for developments in the coming years.

FAIFE. The Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Activity was established in 1997 and works on behalf of IFLA to defend and promote the basic human rights defined in Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its overall objective is to raise awareness of the essential correlation between the library concept and the values of intellectual freedom by collecting and disseminating information and stimulating dialogue both within and outside the library community. Through its Committee of 27 it monitors the state of intellectual freedom within the library community worldwide, supports IFLA policy development and cooperation with other international human rights organizations, and responds on IFLA's behalf to violations of principles. The Scandinavian aid agencies have provided financial support.

PAC. The Preservation and Conservation Activity was established in 1986 with the aim of promoting solutions to the serious problems of physical deterioration of library and information materials. All facets of the program are oriented toward establishing an international milieu in which preservation activities can flourish and through which preservation information can flow. The decentralised programme has established regional centres in Canberra, Caracas, Moscow, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C. that work with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (the International Focal Point) by assisting with its projects, by publicizing its goals and activities, and by representing the preservation needs of the region to it. The centres are linked in a network that serves regional and international purposes. In addition to sponsoring preservation workshops in Africa in recent years, PAC has sponsored a worldwide survey of digitized collections in major cultural institutions in cooperation with the UAP Activity.

UAP. IFLA's international activity for Universal Availability of Publications was established in 1982 and has as its guiding principle that each country should be responsible for supplying its own publications by loan or photocopy on request to other countries. UAP concerns encompass such matters as interlibrary lending systems, exchange of publications, legal deposit, copyright, and cooperative acquisition schemes. The scope of the programmme was extended from examining the barriers to making

documents available in formats appropriate to the readers' needs. Publicity, research, and guidance and advice to others have played a large part in the initial development of the program. Additional research interests include ongoing study of the role of national libraries in the new information environment—that is, examining the use of new technologies as well as their collection policies with regard to non-print materials, ranging from sound and film to electronic publishing. UAP administers the International Interlending Voucher Scheme. Continuing interest in the role of copyright law and its effects on availability resulted in the establishment of a separate unit, the Copyright and other Legal Matters Activity (CLM) in 1997.

UBCIM. IFLA's international activity for Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC was established in 1983 and has concentrated on the development of International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions (ISBDs), UNIMARC formats, and publications dealing with machine-readable cataloguing and the exchange of bibliographic records. UBCIM activities completed in the late 1980s and early 1990s include a study sponsored by the Commission of the European Community to facilitate the international exchange of bibliographic records and to establish the feasibility of using UNIMARC among the national libraries of the European Community, based on their present computer facilities; and a workshop to investigate the possibilities for the exchange of bibliographic data by conversion from CCF (Common Communication Format) records to UNIMARC or from UNIMARC records to CCF. It regularly monitors needs for revision in future editions of guides to UNIMARC formats.

UDT. The Universal Dataflow Telecommunications Activity was established in 1981, and worked to promote the electronic transfer of data between libraries and their users; to reduce telecommunications barriers; and to monitor development, provide information, and support the promotion, implementation, and use of compatible international standards for library-specific applications of electronic data communications. In recent years UDT has assumed responsibility for the development and maintenance of the electronic services of IFLANET, the global network for IFLA that connects its members. By 2002 UDT has essentially ceased its work or transferred its functions to other bodies.

Conferences and Meetings. To carry out IFLA's projects and activities, the importance of regular personal contact must not be underestimated. IFLA holds General Conferences each year, with more than 150 professional meetings during the conferences. Every second year (in odd years) such conferences are combined with Council meetings, where IFLA's business affairs (elections, budget, and rules) are dealt with. Recent venues include: Chicago, 1985; Tokyo, 1986; Brighton, 1987; Sydney, 1988; Paris, 1989; Stockholm, 1990; and Moscow, 1991; New Delhi, 1992; Barcelona, 1993; Havana, 1994; Istanbul, 1995; and Beijing, 1996; Copenhagen, 1997; Amsterdam, 1998; Bangkok, 1999; Jerusalem, 2000; and Boston, 2001. The 75th anniversary conference, the year 2002, takes place in Glasgow, near to Edinburgh, the site of IFLA's first meeting in 1927. Future conferences are planned for Berlin, 2003; Buenos Aires, 2004; Oslo, 2005; and Seoul, 2006.
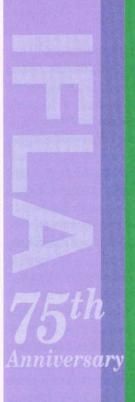
Publications. Periodical publications of the Federation are the quarterly *IFLA Journal* and *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control; IFLA Annual,* issued yearly; and *IFLA Directory,* issued biennially.

IFLA Publications is a monograph series, published by K. G. Saur (Munich, London, New York, and Paris). Titles issued in this series include *World Guide to Library, Archive, and Information Science Associations; Education and Training for Conservation and Preservation; Reference Services for Publications of Intergovernmental Organizations; Managing the Preservation of Serial Literature;* and *Library Buildings: Preparations for Planning.*

A new series, *IFLA Professional Reports,* published by IFLA Headquarters under the auspices of the Professional Board, was started in 1984 to ensure that the results of IFLA professional projects reached the wider audience for which they were intended. Titles issued in this series included *Guidelines for Library Services to Deaf People, Guidelines for Children's Library Services, Guidelines for School Libraries,* and *Standards for University Libraries.*

The Core Activities consistently release publications dealing with issues with which they are concerned. Here are some examples. ALP issues a continuing Project Report Series and released *Model Curriculum for Rural Community Information Studies* (2000). CLM issues a series of papers on various copyright-related issues and recently released *IFLA Position on Copyright in the Digital Environment* (2000) and *IFLA Licensing Principles* (2001). FAIFE's recent publications include *IFLA Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom* (1999), *Libraries in Kosovo/Kosova: a general assessment and a short and medium-term development plan* (2000), and *FAIFE World Report: Libraries and Intellectual Freedom* (2001). PAC has an extensive publication series, including the periodical *International Preservation News,* and publishes the policy document *IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material.* UAP produces many policy planning documents among which are *The Digital Library: Challenges and Solutions for the New Millennium* (2000) and *International Lending and Document Delivery: Principles and Guidelines for Procedure* (2001). UBCIM publications include the *International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions* (general, monographic publications, serials, non-book materials, cartographic materials, computer files, antiquarian, and printed music), as well as recent titles, such as *Guidelines for Authority Records and References* (2001) and *UNIMARC Manual Authorities Format, 2nd rev. ed.* (2001). UDT publications include *Selecting Electronic Document Formats* (1999).

All Core Activities and many Divisions, Sections, as well as other units, issue newsletters to keep the library community regularly informed on new developments, activities, and projects they have undertaken or coordinated.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND AUTHOR NOTE

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