# IFLA: Library Universality in a Divided World

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Harry Campbell joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1946 in New York, moving to the Libraries Division of UNESCO, Paris in 1948, where he organized the UNESCO/ Library of Congress Survey of National and International Bibliographical Services and was responsible for the UNESCO Clearing House for Libraries. He attended IFLA's Rome Conference in 1951 and worked with both IFLA and FID in organizing the Brussels 1955 World Congress of Libraries. In 1956 he was appointed Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library, Toronto, Canada and retired in 1981. From 1971 to 1977 he was active in the development of IFLA's Regional Activities programme and made frequent visits to INTAMEL and IFLA meetings. He was elected to the Executive Board of IFLA in 1973, and was First Vice President from 1974–1979. He was made an Honorary Fellow of IFLA in 1979. He was President of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations from 1984 to 1986 and served as a library consultant in China and other countries from 1981–1996. In 2002 he served as President of ExLibris Association, Toronto, which is active in the furthering of library history in Canada.

## An International Library Organization in Constant Evolution

The quarter century that elapsed after the World Congress of Libraries and the 50th Anniversary Council Meeting of IFLA in Brussels in 1977 was to see both a qualitative and a quantitative change in the scope and programme of IFLA. This might be summarized by a brief look at the changes which took place under the successive IFLA Presidents from 1977 to 2002.

Preben Kirkegaard, President from 1974 to 1979, who was a former Treasurer of IFLA and Director of the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, Denmark, spoke repeatedly of 'the new IFLA'. The President and the new Executive Board inherited a new structure of the organization following the passage of new Statutes and Rules of Procedure in Lausanne by the General Council meeting in 1976. The theme of that meeting had been IFLA's new mission and shape, and the decisions made there had transformed the structure and governance of IFLA, and had altered its name.

The new IFLA was no longer only a federation of national library associations – largely from North America and Europe – but was accepting individual libraries and information institutions worldwide as members, and was engaging in the management of professional projects across the globe. All members had voting rights in elections and meetings, but these rights had been carefully apportioned. In addition, individuals throughout the world could join as personal members (known as Personal Affiliates from 1976) but had no voting rights. Commercial sponsors from business and the information industry (known as Corporate Partners from 1999) were also admitted as members.



*Figure 1. Preben Kirkegaard, President 1974–1979.*

A further element of IFLA's newness in 1974 was the existence of two management groups, one the Executive Board which was responsible for policy and membership development, budget and finances, and the other the Professional Board, responsible to direct the planning and monitor the progress of IFLA's professional activities. The Executive Board was elected by delegates representing voting members present at the annual General Council meetings of the Federation. The Professional Board was made up of the Chairs of the Coordinating Boards of all the Divisions, along with a Professional Programme Coordinator.

A first test to the new organizational arrangements came as IFLA continued its work in implementing the recommendations of the International Meeting of Cataloguing Experts (IMCE) that had taken place in Copenhagen in 1969 following the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles held in Paris in 1961. A three year grant from the Council on Library Resources, Washington, DC in 1971 had provided funds for an IFLA Cataloguing Secretariat situated in London. In that year Herman Liebaers advanced the idea of Univer-

sal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and in 1974 the London office became the IFLA International Office for UBC.

An agreement was reached for the British Library to provide premises for the small staff of the IFLA UBC office under the management of Dorothy Anderson. They would draw on the professional support of the members of the new IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control. From the experience with this arrangement developed the management methods used to create future Core Programme units and Core Activities.[1] In establishing such Core Activities, the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL), a separate non-governmental body which had consultative status with IFLA, played a major role in securing cooperation between IFLA and the national libraries of the world.

During the 1970s there had been a stirring of interest in library associations in countries outside Europe and North America who were anxious to share in IFLA's information and library activities and to secure some of the benefits of membership in the international library community. From countries in the Pacific area various national library associations had joined; the Democratic Republic of Korea (1970), Singapore (1972), Indonesia and Malaysia (1973). There had been similar initiatives from African countries.

Difficult decisions concerning participation by various national library associations had to be made by the Executive Board at various times. In 1981 the People's Republic of China was admitted as a member, but this had required the membership of library associations of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to be suspended in 1976, although not the memberships of individual libraries. The South African Library Association was suspended as a member in 1972 but individual libraries in South Africa continued as Institutional members. Following an IFLA fact-finding mission in 1993, the Library and Informa-



Figure 2. Else Granheim, President 1979–1985.

tion Association of South Africa (LIASA) joined IFLA in 1997.

The elections at the Copenhagen Council meeting in 1979 resulted in the choice of IFLA's first woman president, Else Granheim of Norway (1979–1985). She was Director of the Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries, Oslo. During the term of her presidency Else Granheim presided over IFLA conferences in the Pacific and in Africa. Those meetings took place in Manila in 1980 and Nairobi in 1984.

Also during her presidency a second Core Programme of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) with the IFLA International Lending (ILL) office as its focal point was inaugurated in 1982. It was based at the British Library's Document Supply Centre in Boston Spa, England with Maurice B. Line as Director. This, like the International UBC office, was strongly supported by the British Library.

A further Core Programme, Preservation and Conservation (PAC) was launched in 1986 with its focal point in Washington, DC. It moved to the Bibliothèque Nationale in France in 1992. A Core Programme under the title Transborder Dataflow was hosted by the National Library of Canada, Ottawa in 1986. In 1988 it became Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT).



Figure 3. Maurice B. Line first Director, UAP Programme

In 1986 an Advancement for Librarianship in the Third World programme had been initiated by the IFLA Executive Board following the Nairobi, Kenya Conference. In 1988 this was recognized as a fifth Core Programme and was managed by the Secretariat of IFLA from The Hague.

During the 1980s the theme of information services and their place in libraries was highlighted at various annual IFLA conferences. The theme of Universal Access to Publications and access to world-wide information had been chosen for the 1978 meeting in Strbske Pleso, in the Czech Republic and in 1985 in Chicago, and it was to be featured again in succeeding years. Hans-Peter Geh, Director of the Württembergische Stuttgart, German Federal Republic became President from 1985 to 1991.

In 1987 Margreet Wijnstroom, who had been appointed as Secretary-General in 1971, retired. She was succeeded by Paul Nauta, who served until 1992. In 1986 IFLA met again in the Pacific area for an annual meeting, when the Japan Library Association hosted the Conference in Tokyo. The Australian Library and Information Association, which had joined IFLA in 1937, welcomed the Conference to Sydney in 1988 with the theme 'Living Together: People, Libraries, Information'.

*Figure 4. Three IFLA stalwarts enjoy a canal cruise at the Amsterdam Conference, 1998. L. to R.: Paul Nauta (Secretary-General 1987–1992; Hans-Peter Geh (President, 1985–1991); Herman Liebaers (President, 1969–1974).*



*Figure 5. Robert Wedgeworth, President, 1991–1997.*

In 1977 there were 102 nations whose various national library associations were IFLA members. The total number of library association members was greater, since many countries with a long history of library development had several national associations. Voting in the annual Council meetings was organized with larger countries receiving blocs of votes which were in most cases allocated by one association in each country among the other association members in the country. The financial contribution of national library associations was calculated on the scale applied to national membership in UNESCO, with some limits on the upper amounts payable.

By 1990 the number of countries whose national library associations had become members of IFLA had increased to 132. Individual institutional members amounted to 941 and there were 178 Personal Affiliates. During the decade of the 1990s the Federation received new memberships from library associations in over 28 countries, and engaged in an active period of worldwide expansion.

IFLA established working relations with a variety of other bodies with similar interests, providing an opportunity for a regular exchange of information and views on issues of mutual concern. It has Formal Associate Relations with UNESCO, observer status with the United Nations, associate status with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and observer status with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). IFLA offered consultative status to a number of non-governmental organizations operating in related fields, including the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) and the International Publishers Association (IPA). It became a member, along with the International Council of Archives (ICA), International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). This organization was established to collect and disseminate information and to coordinate action in situations when cultural property is at risk.

In August 1991 the IFLA Annual Conference was in Moscow. It occurred during the transfer of power that took place at that time in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

It was the Conference at which Robert Wedgeworth, Dean, School of Library Service, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York was elected President (1991–1997). Under Wedgeworth's presidency annual Conferences were held in New Delhi (1992), Barcelona (1993), Havana (1994), Istanbul (1995), Beijing (1996) and Copenhagen (1997). The PAC Core Programme expanded with regional centres in Caracas, Washington DC, Tokyo, Canberra and Moscow while the ALP utilized the IFLA Regional Division offices and staff in Dakar, Bangkok and São Paulo.

The 1997 Conference in Copenhagen elected Christine Deschamps, Director of the Bibliothèque de l'Université Paris V, as President. In 2001, in IFLA's first postal ballot for the election of the President and members of the Governing Board, Ms Deschamps was re-elected unopposed for a further term of two years (2001–2003). During this period, H. Kay Raseroka, Director of Library Services at the University of Botswana – also elected by postal ballot in 2001 – will serve as President-Elect in accordance with the provisions of the new Statutes which were formally adopted by the IFLA Council in Boston in 2001. Ms Raseroka

*Figure 6. Christine Deschamps, President, 1997–.*



*Figure 7. Leo Voogt, Secretary-General, 1992–1998.*

will automatically succeed Ms Deschamps as President in 2003.

Ross Shimmon, Chief Executive of the Library Association, London, England was selected in 1999 as Secretary-General, replacing Leo Voogt who had been appointed in 1992. When he took over his position, the new Secretary-General stated:

The challenges presented by the unprecedented scale and pace of change in our profession, and in the environment in which we op-erate, mean that IFLA is needed more than ever; as a global library champion to try to narrow the digital divide between the information rich and the information poor which, without positive action, threatens to grow alarmingly.

We need to be vigilant in defending people's rights to access to information, ideas and works of imagination wherever they may be challenged.

We need to help our members demonstrate the value of libraries and librarians in economic and social development.

We need to assist colleagues in parts of the world where the professional infrastructure is at an early stage of development.[2]

## Planning and Policy

IFLA's original Long-Term Programme, 'Libraries in the World', was issued in 1963 and served as a guide for IFLA's professional activities until 1975. In 1974 it was proposed that revised and updated documents projecting IFLA's activities for a five-year period would be more effective for planning IFLA's professional programmes. The Programme Development Group prepared IFLA's first Medium-Term Programme (MTP) Document for 1976–1981. In 1982 IFLA published the second MTP for the years 1981 through 1985. The various Core Activities (UBC, UAP and the International MARC Programme) prepared their own individual MTPs.

All of IFLA's professional groups were subject to a system of checks and balances to determine whether they were meeting the objectives upon which their projects were based. The Sections and Divisions constantly monitored new trends and developments to determine whether aspects of these could be incorporated as parts of the professional programmes in general and the Medium-Term Programme in particular.

Through the 1990s the Federation worked according to a policy that was approved in 1991 and re-affirmed by the Executive Board in 1996. Divisions and Sections planned their work and set goals for a four-year term with an accompanying action plan for two years. The Medium-Term Programme l998–2001 focused attention mainly on dealing with the electronic environment as it affected IFLA's basic objective to promote librarianship globally. Each Division had to carry out its programmes assisted only by limited financial resources.

Over the years, IFLA has issued various policy and position statements on key issues of international importance. Recent examples of these statements are referred to in the appropriate sections below.

## All Divisions Are Not Equal

The purpose of formalizing IFLA's professional activities into seven main Divisions in 1974 was to enable the membership to participate in international library professional matters on the basis of two different criteria: type of library institution and type of library activity. It was recognized that in many large national library associations there would be the resources that could allow many persons to contribute to IFLA meetings and professional activities. Room should be found for as many individual international library interests as possible. In the Divisions members could participate in the various Sections as they wished, paying the fees set out for joining them.

In 1976 a further Division was created to respond especially to the professional activities and interests of members in developing countries outside Europe and North America. All Divisions were governed by Divisional officers elected for two-year terms, but eligible for re-election. There were Divisional Coordinating Boards with members who were the Chairs and Secretaries of the Sections of each

Division. By 1 March 2002 there were thirty-seven Sections, ten Round Tables and six Discussion Groups organized within the eight Divisions. Most of the remaining Round Tables will be redesignated as Sections at the Glasgow Conference in 2002.

Each Section is encouraged to publish its own newsletter, generally on a bi-annual basis, which is sent to each Section member. Lists of the names of paid-up Section members are maintained at IFLA Headquarters in The Hague. Many Sections have also issued international guidelines on topics in their areas of interest. Examples of these are referred to in the summaries of Section activities which follow.

Discussion Groups are provided in order to test members' support for a newer IFLA programme topic, pending possible creation of a full Section that might deal with it. In 2001, for example, IFLA Council approved the transformation of the former Discussion Group on Reference Work into a Section. The topics currently covered by Discussion Groups are: Knowledge Management, Law Libraries, Marketing Library Services to Academic Communities, Metadata, Performance Measurement in Public Libraries, and Social Responsibilities.

## Divisions Dealing with Different Types of Libraries

The Divisions which were established in 1976 dealt with three main types of libraries:

- General Research Libraries
- Special Libraries
- Libraries Serving the General Public.

*Division of General Research Libraries*

There are three Sections in this Division, for National Libraries; University and other General Research Libraries; and Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments.

The Conference of Directors of National Libraries, which held its first full meeting in 1975, maintained close relations with the National Libraries Section. There were 802 registrations in these three Sections by 1 March 2002.[3]

National Libraries

This Section has provided international leadership to governmental and non-governmental organizations, including commercial agencies dealing with international information planning and organization. From its memberships many of the leaders of IFLA have been selected. Made up from the staffs of large and small national libraries throughout the world, this Section has guided the evolution of national bibliographic, legal deposit and the preservation of collections of a national character since the early days of IFLA's foundation.

University and other General Research Libraries

This Section's primary objective, as outlined in its 1981–1985 MTP, was the development of services that would enable these types of libraries to provide universal access to all publications. It was concerned with universal bibliographic control and the professional education of library staff. It recognized the importance of new technology, particularly its cost-effectiveness, and was concerned also with the cost to library services of major changes in bibliographical description. The Section worked towards the improvement of academic and research library services in the less developed countries and supported the organization of seminars and workshops in which librarians could exchange their experience with colleagues from other countries.[4] This Section, with 514 registrations by 1 March 2002, was the most popular of all IFLA Sections.

Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments

In its MTP of 1981–1985 this Section placed special emphasis on the acquisition, classification and docu-

mentation of the materials necessary to provide an effective service to parliaments. It encouraged direct contact between parliamentary libraries (as these remained the most rapid and efficient methods of providing reliable information on services) and it provided advice on the building up of new parliamentary libraries and the development of comprehensive parliamentary information systems. This Section emphasized the strengthening of cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and parliamentary libraries.[5]

*Division of Special Libraries*

The Special Libraries Division has seven Sections in 2002, covering Government Libraries, Social Science Libraries, Geography and Map Libraries, Science and Technology Libraries, Health and Biosciences Libraries, Art Libraries and Genealogy and Local History. The Division has as its primary objective the coordination of IFLA's interests in all those libraries or departments and service units within libraries which are devoted to a particular discipline or group of disciplines, or which provide services to users interested in a particular profession, activity or project. The main feature distinguishing them as a group is their provision of specialized information services for a specialized clientele.[6]

Because a large number of international organizations existed in the field of science and technology, and because the International Federation for Documentation (FID) had for many years developed programmes to meet the needs of scientific and technical libraries, IFLA was not alone in the field of scientific documentation and information exchange management. With the collapse for financial reasons of FID in 2001, there was a new opening for IFLA projects among libraries for furthering the international movement of science and technology information.

By 1 March 2002, the various Special Libraries Sections (excluding the recently-formed Genealogy and

Local History Section, which had not yet begun to register members) recorded a total registration of 508 members.

*Division of Libraries Serving the General Public*

The Division of Libraries Serving the General Public in 1997 contained the most Sections and Round Tables and recorded a total of 773 registrations – almost as many as the General Research Libraries Division. The Division had begun in 1976 with three Sections dealing respectively with:

- Public Libraries
- Libraries for Children and Young Adults
- School Libraries and Resource Centres.

To these there was added a Section for Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons (including people in hospitals and prisons, the elderly in nursing homes and care facilities, the house-bound, the deaf and the physically and developmentally disabled), which replaced an earlier sub-section for hospital libraries. Several Sections in the Division were based on initiatives of individual national library agencies. A Round Table for Libraries for the Blind, which became a Section in 1983, was created in 1977 and one for Library Services to Multicultural Populations in 1985. Both of these Sections represented important steps in IFLA's initiative to carry library services to a wider international library public.

The Section of Libraries for the Blind was particularly successful in cooperating with the many national services for the blind established in countries throughout the world. In 1998 the Section published *Guidelines for Library Service to Braille Users*.[7]

Following the publication in 1994 of an updated version of the *IFLA/ UNESCO Public Library Manifesto*[8], IFLA organized conferences and seminars in many parts of the world to urge government education decision makers at national and local levels to implement the principles expressed in the *Manifesto*, which is available in several languages.

IFLA subsequently issued a *School Library Manifesto*[9], which was ratified by the UNESCO General Conference in 1999. School libraries and resource centres have a fundamental role in all types of schools in today's information and knowledge-based society. IFLA makes the principles of this *Manifesto* widely known so that it may be implemented, as well as securing its translation into many languages.

In July 2001 the Public Library Section published the English language edition of new guidelines and standards for public libraries, *The Public Library Service: the IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development*.[10] The guidelines have since been translated into many other languages.

The Section of Libraries for Children and Young Adults is currently working on a new edition of its *Guidelines for Children's Library Services*, originally published in 1991, and has also issued *Guidelines for Library Services for Young Adults* in several languages.[11]

The Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations has also established guidelines, *Multicultural Communities – Guidelines for Library Services*[12] that are available in several languages and can be used regardless of the size of the populations to be served and the language used. In 1996, at a workshop in Beijing, the Section, together with the Section on Classification and Indexing, took up the topic of Universal Standardized Library Subject Headings, and considered the ways in which these might be achieved.

Three Round Tables form part of the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public:

- International Association of Metropolitan Libraries (INTAMEL). This Round Table began in 1967 as a gathering of directors on public libraries in urban centres of over 400,000 population at the time of the IFLA General Council meeting in Toronto. It collected and published statistics in public libraries in metropolitan cities, and gradually extended its membership so that it included 65 urban centres in 2001.
- Mobile Libraries
  This Round Table has been of interest to public libraries which serve scattered rural or urban populations. It has an important membership from the Latin American, Caribbean, Asian and African regions.
- National Centres for Library Services (ROTNAC)
  Largely composed of European members, this group represented the interests of national agencies established to provide technical services to a wide range of libraries in each country. By 2001, its Executive included members from a dozen European countries as well as Israel and the Caribbean.

# Divisions Dealing with Different Types of Library Activities

There were separate Divisions established in 1976 dealing with four distinct library activities:

- Bibliographic Control
- Collections and Services
- Management and Technology
- Education and Research.

*Division of Bibliographic Control*

After World War II governments in many countries supported the projects begun by UNESCO for the extension of national and international bibliographic control. A Division of Bibliographic Control was created by IFLA in 1976.[13] It encompassed the work of the existing Sections on Bibliography, Cataloguing, and Classification and Indexing.

By 1 March 2002 the Division contained 386 registrations and was a unique international meeting place for bibliographic specialists, as well as national and international library

and bibliographic agencies. National bibliographic control of publications in all their forms and variety had been recognized since the end of World War II as an essential method of achieving cooperation in sharing library resources. With the spreading of computer based library systems around the world, the road to achieving international bibliographical access was seen as requiring machine-readable cataloguing, classification and indexing standards that were operational in all countries.

This goal was at the heart of IFLA's major activity, Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), begun in 1974 and carried out with the co-operation of the members of the Division. The UBC Programme was linked to the development of machine-readable catalogue (MARC) standards and a Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) office was established in order to set up the necessary international standards. To assist members of IFLA in various geographic regions of the world keep abreast of developments, the Division, in cooperation with the UBCIM Office, organized bibliographic control seminars and workshops in the 1990s in places such as Romania, Brazil, Malaysia and Mexico.

In addition, an International Conference on National Bibliographic Services was held in Copenhagen, November 1998, where representatives from 72 countries met to discuss issues related to the continuing spread and development of machine-readable national bibliographies. The conference was held under the auspices of IFLA's Division of Bibliographic Control, the UBCIM Office, and the Section of National Libraries in cooperation with the Conference of Directors of National Libraries.

The purpose was to review and update the recommendations of an earlier International Congress on National Bibliographies held by UNESCO in 1977, in the light of the appearance of new types of publications and new distribution methods. Twenty-three recommendations relating to coverage, standards and distribution of national bibliographies were agreed to, and formed the programme to be implemented both through IFLA and by national bibliographic agencies.

*Division of Collections and Services*

Six Sections make up this Division:

- Acquisition and Collection Development
- Document Delivery and Interlending
- Serial Publications
- Government Information and Official Publications
- Rare Books and Manuscripts
- Reference Work.

The various types of library activities included in the responsibilities of the above Sections and its Round Table on Newspapers had attracted 686 registrations by 1 March 2002, reflecting the basic worldwide importance of collection management and acquisition methods that libraries had undertaken for centuries, and the recognition that many of these functions lend themselves to international cooperation between libraries.

In 2001, the Section on Acquisition and Collection Development issued *Guidelines for a Collection Development Policy using the Conspectus Model* in English, French and Spanish.[14]

The Section on Document Delivery and Interlending is the forum in IFLA for libraries and associations concerned with making information in all formats available throughout the world through a variety of resource sharing and document supply techniques. The Section works closely with the IFLA Office for International Lending in support of the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) Core Programme.

The pioneer operational agency of IFLA dealing with document delivery and interlending was its Office for International Lending (ILL) at the British Library's Document Supply Centre at Boston Spa, established in 1973. With only minimal financial support from IFLA, the ILL Office carried on over a period of thirty years establishing a widening presence in the evolution of information exchanges and the management of collection policies. It provided the leadership that would eventually lead to IFLA's Core Programme of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP).

In 2001, the Section on Document Delivery and Interlending, the Core Programme for UAP and the Office for International Lending published a major revision of *International Lending and Document Delivery: Principles and Guidelines for Procedure*,[15] which had been first agreed to by IFLA in 1954. The document includes references to other IFLA guidelines on specific aspects of interlending, such as the use of fax and e-mail.

The Section on Serial Publications issued the *Basic Serials Management Handbook*[16] in 1996.

The Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts turned its attention to the problems inherent in the safeguarding and preservation of library materials. This generated support, along with that from the Section on Preservation and Conservation, for the PAC Programme launched in 1986.

The newly established Section on Reference Work is still in process of registering members, its upgrading from a Round Table having been approved only in 2001.

The Round Table on Newspapers has issued *Guidelines for Newspaper Preservation Microfilming* in English[17] and French, and *International Guidelines for the Cataloguing of Newspapers*.[18]

*Division of Management and Technology*

By the end of the 20th century the manner in which libraries were

organized and managed in most countries bore little resemblance to the methods used in the 19th century. In order to help its members keep abreast of management and technical changes, this Division was created in 1977 and brought together key technical and management concerns in six Sections:

- Preservation and Conservation
- Library Buildings and Equipment
- Information Technology
- Statistics
- Management and Marketing
- Audiovisual and Multimedia.

The Division also had Round Tables on Women's Issues in Libraries and the Management of Library Associations.

The Division had a registration of 1001 by 1 March 2002, of which 438 were registered for the Information Technology Section.

The Round Table on Management of Library Associations has issued three sets of brief guidelines: *Guidelines for Financial Management of Library Associations,[19] Guidelines for Governing and Leading Library Associations[20]* and *Guidelines for Library Association Operations.[21]*

### Division of Education and Research

The Division of Education and Research has as its primary objective the support for the formulation and implementation at national levels of plans for library, information and archive systems. It believes that these can only be achieved through the provision of adequately educated and trained manpower. Such plans require the development and improvement of the links between education and research, bearing in mind the evolution of these services. The library needs of the non-industrialized countries require the support of research oriented towards their own special requirements. Research results, the provision of education of the highest standard, the development of library and information science professions and

strong and effective representations of the library and information services to governments nationally and internationally presuppose the dissemination of relevant information in these fields through the channels of reliable and regularly updated professional journals and education curricula.

The Division has Sections for:

- Education and Training
- Library Theory and Research
- Reading.

There are Round Tables for Continuing Professional Education, Library History, Library and Information Science Journals, and User Education. There were 446 registrations in the Division by 1 March 2002.

The Section on Education and Training recently issued *Guidelines for Professional Library/Information Educational Programs – 2000[22]*, which are in effect a revision of the *Standards for Library Schools* published by IFLA in 1976.

### Division of Regional Activities

The ground was prepared for IFLA's Division for Regional Activities in 1971, when a group of English-speaking members, mainly from former colonial countries, met at a UNESCO sponsored IFLA Pre-Session Seminar in Liverpool. There were similar meetings of French-speaking members in Africa in 1973 and Spanish-speaking members in 1974 in Washington, DC. The Division for Regional Activities was set up in 1976 with each of the three principal language working groups constituted as its members.[23]

The main purpose of the Division was to help the small newer national library associations in third world countries lobby for greater support for library development, including library and information training and library and information services financing. This Division was quite different in character from the other seven Divisions. It was not included in the responsibilities

of IFLA's Professional Board, remaining dependent on the Executive Board for guidance and financial assistance. From the viewpoint of the dominant European and North American library membership of IFLA, most of IFLA's financial resources were felt to be needed for the seven other Divisions, and for supporting the increasingly larger Annual General Conferences. The fact that IFLA did hold its Conferences in the Philippines, Kenya, India, Cuba, Turkey and China in the years from 1988 to 1996 helped to foster world librarianship, but at a cost to the programme in other Divisions. There was only so much support from the Headquarters staff that could be spent on the concerns of Third World member associations.

In 1984 representatives from the Division met to restructure their Sections so that they could perform more effectively. The result was a document entitled *The Twenty-five Essential Points*. It was agreed that a sub-regional structure, with a ten-member Standing Committee for each sub-region, should be established within each of the three main regions. They proposed the establishment of Regional Offices with Regional Managers and set out the geographical membership of the sections and rules for participation in the Regional Standing Committees and Divisional Coordinating Board. Some changes were made by the Executive Board following their outlines.

By 1995 the number of individual members of the Africa Section had grown to 88, membership of the Latin America and the Caribbean Section stood at 93 and there were 193 members in the Asia and Oceania Section, giving a total of 374. By 1997 the Regional Activities Division had acquired a larger number of individual members than several other Divisions, such as Bibliographic Control, or Education and Research, at that date. It had slightly fewer members than the Special Libraries Division. A new Core Programme plan entitled Advancement of Librarianship (ALP) had been launched in 1991 by a

*Figure 8. Derek Law, Treasurer, 1997–.*

Scandinavian group of countries and was showing impressive results.

By 1 March 2002 there were 639 individual registrations in the Regional Activities Division, with 133 in the Africa Section, 330 in the Asia and Oceania Section, and 176 in the Section for Latin America and the Caribbean. New national library association members joining IFLA from developing countries in recent years have included those of Lesotho, Namibia, Nepal (1990); Argentina (1994); Paraguay (1995); Surinam, Chile (1996); Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Myanmar (1997); Cambodia (1999) Papua New Guinea (2000); and Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Uruguay (2001).

The report of the Professional Board for 1997–1999 stated:

> However, we have to discuss further how to be able to secure representation from developing countries on the IFLA Governing Board. We see no future though, in keeping a separate division for the developing countries. We have experienced that the representatives from the three regions very seldom take part in the professional work in the other parts of the organization, and thus we miss their important advice and experiences in the different Sections that

deal with the various types of libraries or library activity.[24]

In 1999, when a new administrative structure was being envisioned for IFLA, it was recommended to IFLA Council that the Division of Regional Activities be abolished. To the surprise of many, the membership did not accept the recommendation, and the matter was restudied the next year. A report submitted to the 2000 Council recommended that the Division be continued, but that methods be tried to integrate the Division and its Sections into IFLA's existing structure.

## Management of the Professional Activities of Divisions and Sections

The evolution of the role of the Divisions from 1976 to 2001 in IFLA was marked by continuing discussion of the way in which the achievements of the Divisions could be evaluated, and the way in which funds that were at IFLA's disposal could be used to better advantage for Divisional projects. A Programme Development Group had been inaugurated in 1969 to plan the professional work of IFLA. At the time of the new Statutes in 1976 a Professional Board was created to coordinate the activities of the seven existing Divisions. This Board continued until 2001.

By 1999 it was seen that, among other changes in IFLA's management, there was a need for more effective and economical integration of policy and the professional work of the Federation. Treasurer Warren Horton stated that in 1997 IFLA had recovered from a financial deficit situation it had experienced in the late 1980s and early 1990s and that 1996 marked the fourth year in a row that a small financial surplus had been achieved.

The next Treasurer, Derek Law, reported that in 1998 income had been NLG 1,741,000 and expenditure NLG 1,640,000, giving a surplus of NLG 114,000.[25] Librarians and libraries in many countries

had experienced many of the same financial problems that had plagued the world in that period, with currency devaluation affecting library budgets. By 1998 there was a satisfactory trend in increasing revenue in IFLA, thanks largely to the support of Sponsors in the Basic, Sustaining and Patron categories.

In 1998 NLG 234,000 was spent on the Division, Section, and other professional programmes, with a further income of NLG 192,000 in grants for the Core Programmes. NLG 178,000 in grants had been received by IFLA, mainly from UNESCO[26] for professional activities. The Chair of the Professional Board reported for 1997–1999 that, except for the Core Programme officers, it was necessary to remember that all the members of the different committees handle their IFLA work voluntarily on the top of real jobs and personal lives. The Professional Board realized that time is a valuable commodity for many committee members. Creating large projects and publishing long substantial reports was becoming more and more difficult. She recommended that the next Board would have to look carefully at how the project money would be used.

## IFLA's Core Programmes and Activities

In the evolution of IFLA's new structure from 1977, members' interests developed from Discussion Groups to Round Tables to Sections. The Sections were added to the appropriate Divisions established in 1974. This progression allowed for participation of an increasing number of members, as well as providing for expression of new interests and topics springing up in the 1980s and 1990s. There was, however, a price that had to be paid. As a volunteer organization, IFLA could only command the personal time and energy that individual libraries or staff members could put at the disposal of the Sections or Divisions. The result was generally that over the years the Sectional projects were

modest in scope and effect, and often barely visible either in their own countries or abroad. There was a dilution in the amount of financial assistance that the Divisions could receive from the membership fees in order to carry out their work. Attention had to be turned to securing other sources of economic support if programmes were to be continued and expanded.

Instead of developing small projects based on volunteer interest, the IFLA Executive Board began to establish Core Programmes for a limited number of major activities that cut across Division lines, but were anchored in Division interests. The method which IFLA planners decided to use, starting in the late 1970s and on into the early 1990s, was to secure more paid staff assistance from national and other libraries for specific targeted activities, with the necessary funds to meet the cost of programmes, personnel and projects coming also in the form of donations and grants from a wide range of national and international government and non-governmental organizations and from various other members of the international library community, including commercial firms. This period of the 1970s and 1980s fortunately coincided with rising economic prosperity in some of the larger established national library institutions, particularly in Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain and the USA.

Unlike the Divisions, the IFLA Core Programme activities could count on regular financial assistance and the work of their own specialist international staff. In a period of 20 years, five Core Programmes evolved along with two Core Activities. In order to ensure coordination of Core Programme activities the Executive Board in 1979 established a small Programme Management Committee, (PMC) whose first Chair was Foster Mohrhardt. A representative from the Conference of Directors of National Libraries was a member. In 1991 the work of the PMC was taken over by the IFLA Professional Board and the Committee was disbanded.

## Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM)

The realization of the need to rationalize the record of the outpouring of printed and audio-visual scientific, technical, literary and artistic publications after World War II led to a search for international standardization in bibliographic registration and exchange. National libraries in all countries were caught up with the modernization of their copyright, legal deposit and national bibliographic responsibilities.

Following the post-World War II leadership of the British Museum Library and the Library of Congress of the USA, UNESCO introduced 'bibliographic control' into the international library lexicon in 1949 and accepted responsibility to assist libraries to meet the new international challenges in bibliographic and publication exchange.[27]

The time was ripe for the development of international bibliographic guidelines. National libraries took on the role of leadership, with particular attention to the needs of current national bibliographies. It was recognized by the directors of national libraries and UNESCO that efforts were now urgently necessary to produce agreed international recommendations in a timely manner. In 1961 the first of a series of international conferences on standardized library catalogue rules took place in Paris under the auspices of IFLA and with the financial support of UNESCO and the Council on Library Resources, USA. Out of the recommendations of this Conference, the International Standards for Bibliographic Description (ISBDs) gradually emerged. The British Library in London had provided premises to IFLA for drafting the ISBDs. In 1969 IFLA's International Meeting of Cataloguing Experts had met in Copenhagen.

In 1973 the IFLA General Conference in Grenoble made Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) a core

*Figure 9. Marie-France Plassard, Director, UBCIM Programme.*

programme along with the creation in London of a UBC office with a small staff. A further IFLA- and UNESCO-sponsored conference in 1977 in Paris was able to capitalize on the momentum that the UBC Programme had developed.

A concern that was now emerging in the world of bibliographic standards was the effect of mechanization. Machine-readable cataloguing standards, or MARC as they came to be known, were being developed in various countries seeking a solution to duplication in the provision of library collection records. The IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control undertook responsibility for dissemination of the publications developed by the UBC Core Programme and offering assistance in assessing the standards provided.

The search for guidelines for machine-readable cataloguing started in the 1970s and led in 1983 to the establishment of a universal MARC format and its inclusion in the UBC Core Programme. In 1988 the title of the Programme changed to Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) and the headquarters moved to the Deutsche Bibliothek in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Marie-France Plassard is currently Director of the Programme.

Figure 10. Graham Cornish, former Director, UAP Programme.

Considerable progress was achieved in creating new national current bibliographies in countries where growing literary output was stimulated by a rising publishing industry. By 1998, 67 newer countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Transcaucasia had developed current national bibliographies or suitable substitutions. The newest national bibliographies or 'new beginnings' were in Armenia (1995), Bahrain (1991), Brunei (1996), Namibia (1996), Turkmenistan (1991), and the United Arab Emirates (1990).[28]

The UBCIM Programme has issued several manuals and guidelines for UNIMARC, which are listed on the IFLANET website[29] and are also available in print from the UBCIM Programme.

*Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) and International Library Lending (ILL)*

Access to printed publications, particularly the exchange of official publications on an international basis, was a topic which had inspired governmental interest from the mid-19th century. The vast increase in worldwide scientific and technical publishing led large national libraries to pursue cooperative methods to secure access to such materials. The creation of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology (later to become the British Library Document Supply Centre – BLDSC) in Boston Spa after 1945, and its emphasis on filling library and user requests for information by lending thousands of periodicals internationally, revolutionized national and international practice for publication exchange arrangements.

An IFLA Office for International Lending (ILL) was created in 1973 at Boston Spa, with the support of the British Library. In 1977 a provisional Steering Committee for UAP was set up under W.R.H. Koops. In 1982 the Universal Access to Publications (UAP) Core Programme was officially established by IFLA and based at the BLDSC.

Over the years the UAP and ILL Core Programme sponsored a wide range of international and regional conferences on publication availability and lending. A major event in 1988 was the Interlending and Document Supply International Conference, held in London and organized jointly by the UAP Office and the journal *Interlending and Document Supply*. Topics covered ranged from models of interlending systems to the problems of the Third World and from copyright to the use of telefacsimile. Delegates from 28 countries registered for the event. There were also workshops in Eastern Europe and China, and seminars in Africa and Latin America. By 1999 the UAP office had begun to work on problems of access to digital materials for libraries, in cooperation with other IFLA units.

The ILL office distributed for sale the IFLA International Loan/ Photocopy Request Form, often as many as 100,000 annually. It inaugurated in l990 the IFLA Voucher Scheme to enable cash-free international interlibrary loan transactions to take place.

The British Library Document Supply Centre continued to provide accommodation and supporting services. Maurice B. Line retired from the British Library in 1988, but retained the position of Director of the Programme for some time after this. Graham Cornish was Director of the UAP Core Programme until the end of 2001.

The UAP Programme took on the secretaryship of IFLA's Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM), established in 1996 to ensure that the voice of the users of libraries would be heard in determining copyright legislation.

*Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT)*

During the 1970s and 1980s national libraries in many countries, along with national bibliographical agencies and leading large academic libraries, began to adopt online computer methods of handling many of their traditional collection management functions. With the coming of cheaper electronic data storage and transmission, many commercial publishers began to utilize online and CD-ROM methods of document production, updating, delivery and storage. In 1985 an IFLA Core Programme that became the Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications Programme (UDT) was established in the National Library of Canada, Ottawa. The Programme sought to facilitate national and international exchange of electronic data by providing the world library community with demonstrations of the way information technology and telecommunications could be utilized. Leigh Swain succeeded Cynthia Durance as Director of the International Office of UDT in Ottawa in 1988.

At the IFLA Conference in Sydney, Australia in 1988, a project to demonstrate the use of the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI)-based Interlibrary Loan (ILL) protocol for the international exchange of electronic ILL messages, was approved. This project was the major focus of the UDT Programme after 1988. Project participants were the British Library Document Supply Centre and the National Library of

Canada. The project consisted of two phases: the first phase was a feasibility study; the second phase was a pilot demonstration.

A second project in the UDT Programme was the creation of a technical working group within IFLA to formulate the positions of the library and information community on OSI-related issues. This was seen as a long-term project that required adequate funding and extensive consultation and definition. At the Sydney meeting of the UDT Advisory Committee it was decided to defer formation of this group pending the completion of the UDT ILL Demonstration Project, by which time the scope for the working group would be more apparent.

Establishment of IFLANET

A major focus for the work of the UDT Office was the establishment in 1993 of IFLANET, the IFLA website on the Internet. The site proved extremely valuable in carrying forward IFLA's programmes. At first hosted by the National Library of Canada, the site established mirror sites in Europe and Asia. Besides listing IFLA general information it carried annual Conference information and e-mail discussion lists of many of the Sections and Round Tables, as well as up to date information on IFLA's publications. Some 2000 other Internet sites and servers were linked to it. In 2002 IFLA Headquarters took over responsibility for the management of IFLANET, and the Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (INIST) in France became the main server site, with a mirror site still for Asia.[30]

Realizing that not everyone in the IFLA community has access to the World Wide Web or, if they did, it could be quite costly, one of IFLA's Patron Sponsors, SilverPlatter USA, first introduced a CD-ROM version of IFLANET in June 1996, called *IFLANET Unplugged*. Copies of the CD-ROM were distributed to all 1996 Conference participants. In 1998, IFLA and the Sponsor signed a contract under which the

latter will continue to produce and make available a yearly CD-ROM through the IFLA Conference in Glasgow 2002.

*Preservation and Conservation (PAC)*

IFLA's Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) was launched in Vienna, Austria during the 1986 Conference on the Preservation of Library Materials sponsored by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries, with IFLA and UNESCO.

Contrary to other IFLA Core Programmes, PAC was established in a decentralized way. It consisted of a central Focal Point to manage activities and Regional Centres responsible for developing projects in their regions. The Focal Point (International Centre) has been hosted by the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris since 1992 and there are six Regional Centres located in Washington DC, (Library of Congress), Caracas (Biblioteca Nacional de Venezuela), Tokyo (National Diet Library), Canberra (National Library of Australia), and Moscow (Library of Foreign Literature). The International Centre in Paris acts as the Regional Centre for Western Europe, Middle East and Africa. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff was the Programme's Director in 2000.

The International Centre and the Regional Centres cooperate closely. The main working rules are defined in an 'agreement' between IFLA and each Centre. Each Centre is independently managed and acts according to the requirements identified in its geographical area. The directors meet annually for working sessions to define the scope of the Programme.

The Programme received much cooperation from the IFLA Section on Conservation. *International Preservation News*, the newsletter of PAC, is published annually, along with guidelines on conservation methods and other reports.

An International Conference on Preservation and Conservation was



*Figure 11. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff, Director, PAC Programme.*

held at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, May 22–24, 1989 sponsored by IFLA/PAC, the IFLA Conservation Section, the IFLA Round Table on Newspapers, and the IFLA Section on Serial Publications. The first part of the conference (two days) was attended by scientists active in the field of preservation. The second part (five days) was a consultation on research and technology in preservation and consisted of presentations on the environment, insects and mould, basic materials research, and building design and construction.

In addition to responding to numerous requests for preservation information, the International Focal Point distributed a lengthy bibliography on preservation microfilming. PAC is also working actively with various national agencies in coordinating international response to damage to libraries, such as the disastrous fire that struck the Academy of Sciences Library in Leningrad in 1989.

The International Committee of the Blue Shield was created in 1996 by IFLA, ICA, ICOM, and ICOMOS for the protection of cultural heritage objects in case of armed conflict and natural disasters. This committee aims to be strengthened by the creation of national Blue Shield committees.

*Figure 12. Birgitta Bergdahl, first Director of the ALP Programme.*



*Figure 13. (L. to R.) Birgitta Sandell, Director of the ALP Programme, Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Officer, ALP, and Pensri Guaysuwan, ALP Regional Manager, Asia and Oceania, at the Amsterdam Conference, 1998.*

The PAC Core Programme collaborated with the Council on Library and Information Resources of the USA to publish the *IFLA Principles For The Care And Handling Of Library Material,* 1998.[31]

### Advancement of Librarianship (ALP)

ALP is the acronym used for IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World. ALP was officially launched at the IFLA General Conference in Nairobi (Kenya) in 1984.

The original concept was that the activities of IFLA for and in the Third World would need a formal structure so that fundraising and projects carried out would be better organized and coordinated.

The structure of the already existing Core Programmes was followed and a provisional Focal Point was established at IFLA Headquarters in The Hague. However, while UBCIM, UAP, UDT and PAC are subject-oriented, ALP includes a more general mission for the development and improvement of librarianship in the Third World countries. This means that ALP projects and projects developed by the other Core Programmes often have much in common. One could

question whether, for instance, a UBCIM or PAC project for the Third World is automatically an ALP project. IFLA Headquarters staff have said for many years that by its very nature the role of ALP was not always clear.

It was felt that the complexity of the work needed more attention and financial support than could be provided from IFLA Headquarters. In 1987 IFLA endorsed an initiative of the Nordic countries to set up a Focal Point for ALP in those countries. The Nordic proposal included a one-year pre-planning period and a three-year pilot project in order to explore how the Third World could best be served.

The Nordic initiative was received with enthusiasm by the Executive Board of IFLA and the plan was discussed at the Brighton Conference in 1987. IFLA members from Latin America and Asia asked that due attention be given in the planning and carrying out of existing regional activities and programmes, not only those undertaken by IFLA, but also those of other organizations. An important part of the study should be the way in which cooperation and coordination for all action plans by library organizations in the same region could be included in the new concept.

In September 1988 IFLA received the message that the Nordic Council of Ministers had not accepted the project. However, the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), via the Swedish Library Association (SAB), offered financial support for a one-year feasibility study and a possible Swedish Focal Point to be implemented at the University Library of Uppsala under the supervision of Mr. Thomas Tottie, Chief Librarian. Summarized, the terms of reference of the project were:

- definition of realistic objectives
- proposal of programme contents and priorities
- outline of structure and organization of ALP
- undertaking of consultations with future hosts of the programme, the regional and national levels, including the involvement of Sweden
- definition of funding sources and the start of preliminary negotiations with potential main sponsors
- proposal of ways of programme launching, implementation and functioning.

The project was initiated in 1991 and carried out in consultation with the Standing Committees of the Sections on Regional Activities

and the Managers of the IFLA Regional Offices. Birgitta Bergdahl was the first Director of the Programme and Birgitta Sandell became Director in 2001.

Discussions held on the relocation of the Regional Offices took a great deal of time and energy, and resulted in the move of the Regional Office for Asia and Oceania from Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to Bangkok (Thailand). In April 1989 the Executive Board appointed Ms Pongpan Rattanabusit, Librarian of the British Council in Bangkok, as Regional Manager. She was succeeded by Ms. Pensri Guaysuwan and the host of the Regional Office in Bangkok was the Thai Library Association, with strong moral support offered by the National Library of Thailand.

In 1997, in an attempt to address the problems of communication and coordination within the Regions, the Executive Board reviewed a proposal to amend IFLA's Rules of Procedure in such a way that the Regional Standing Committees would be treated the same as the non-regional Standing Committees. The proposal was implemented in the new Statutes of IFLA in 2000.

### Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE)

In 1997, IFLA created a Committee focusing on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE). In 1999 it issued a statement in which it affirmed its support, defence and promotion of intellectual freedom as defined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. IFLA declared that human beings have a fundamental right to access to expressions of knowledge, creative thought and intellectual activity, and to express their views publicly.

In its statement IFLA said that the right to know and freedom of expression are two aspects of the same principle. The right to know is a requirement for freedom of thought and conscience; freedom of thought and freedom of expression are necessary conditions for freedom of access to information.

IFLA asserts that a commitment to intellectual freedom is a core responsibility for the library and information profession. IFLA calls upon libraries and library staff to adhere to the principles of intellectual freedom, uninhibited access to information and freedom of expression and to recognize the privacy of library users. IFLA urges its members to promote the acceptance and realization of these principles.

In 2001 IFLA/FAIFE published a *Libraries and Intellectual Freedom World Report*,[32] a first major attempt to establish contact worldwide in regard to the practices of libraries and their defence of intellectual freedom. More than 140 countries were contacted and about a quarter of the independent nations of the world and a third of the countries represented in IFLA were included.

The *World Report* is a short, factual account and gives the actual situation in the country or region, including:

- the general situation concerning libraries, librarianship, and intellectual freedom
- specific cases, incidents, or examples of challenges of censorship, or other violations of intellectual freedom
- the legislation of relevance to libraries, librarianship and intellectual freedom
- library associations' positions and politics related to intellectual freedom including professional codes of conduct or ethics.

The accounts of national library situations provided an overview of the state of library service worldwide. They demonstrated the effects that wars, colonialism, ideology and religion have or have had on the development of libraries and the role they play in society.

The IFLA/FAIFE office is situated in Copenhagen, Denmark and is



Figure 14. *Susanne Seidelin, Director, IFLA/FAIFE, with Ross Shimmon, Secretary-General, 1998–, at IFLA Headquarters.*

supported primarily by Denmark and Sweden. The current Director is Susanne Seidelin.

### Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM)

The concern of IFLA with copyright and libraries dates back for decades. In the past 25 years efforts were begun in establishing a joint working group on copyright between IFLA and the International Association of Law Libraries at the General Council meeting in Washington, DC in 1974. High on the list of concerns at that time was the impact being made by computer technology on copyrights.

In 1997 the Executive Board established the Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) and Marianne Scott, former National Librarian of Canada, was invited to become Chair. The Committee aims to ensure that the voices of the profession and, more importantly, of the users of libraries, are heard in the international arenas determining copyright legislation.

A call for nominations for members was made and the Committee had its first series of formal meetings during the IFLA Conference

*Figure 15. Warren Horton, Treasurer 1993–1997, and Marianne Scott, Chair, CLM Committee, at the Amsterdam Conference, 1998.*

in Amsterdam in 1998. There was a wide range of issues which have legal overtones which were of interest to members. Copyright and, in particular, the activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) are paramount. Other issues were how to improve the knowledge and understanding of copyright among members, issues relating to the Florence Agreement, which deals with the importation of educational books and other information products, and licensing. CLM is most interested in clauses of contracts for fees and licenses, particularly those that have some impact on the concept of fair use or fair dealing.

The position in which libraries in many countries find themselves as a result of global mergers of large multinational publishing corporations has become a concern. Issues of privacy are paramount, and the repatriation of war booty is a topic of interest, as is the Blue Shield Agreement, and the protection of cultural properties during times of conflict and natural disaster.

The Committee consists of both nominated members and resource persons identified by Committee members as well as others who could make a valuable contribution in this area. Some 23 countries are represented on the Committee, giving a wide geographical and economic spread of interests. Working Groups of two or more Committee members have been established to look at all the topics mentioned above. The Secretariat is provided by the IFLA UAP Office at the British Library in Boston Spa. As well as providing the normal Secretariat services the UAP Office is collecting information on legal developments which relate to library matters throughout the world.

In 2000, the Committee issued the IFLA Position Paper on Copyright in the Digital Environment.[33]

## IFLA Looks Ahead

When the authorized delegates from fifteen countries met in Edinburgh on September 30, 1927 on behalf of their respective library organizations and signed the agreement that established the 'International Library and Bibliographical Committee' they did it as an act of faith in the place of libraries and bibliography in the world of the future.

By taking this step they provided the beginning for a Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

to grow over the next 75 years. Succeeding governing Councils of IFLA demonstrated this same faith. Modifications to the Statutes of the Federation were made in Rome and Venice in 1929, in Warsaw in 1959 and again in Rome in 1964. The changes made in Lausanne in 1976 established its management for the ensuing twenty years. The rapid membership growth of the 1980s demonstrated that further shifts in the IFLA management methods were again necessary. By 1990 the Federation included 1305 member library associations and affiliates and others with consultative status from 132 countries; 86 of which were countries in the Third World.[34] The Spanish language had become IFLA's fifth official language in 1989. A major effort was also made to form a group of sponsors for IFLA. These were commercial firms and agencies that would become members and provide financial support. As far as support from governments was concerned, IFLA expressed willingness to cooperate not only with the United Nations Agencies but also with the European Community and governments in other parts of the world. Participation at Annual Conferences had been growing, with numbers reaching 2000, 3000 and even 5000 persons.[35]

In 1999 a Working Group on the Revision of IFLA's Statutes and Rules of Procedure led by Warren Horton reported on very fundamental changes in the governing arrangements for IFLA. The Working Group was unanimously of the view that the Federation should continue to be essentially library based, but also hospitable to information intermediaries. It believed that the combination of associations, institutions and people was central to the future health and growth of the Federation and its effectiveness and vitality. However, its organizational structure at that time did not reflect this. Nationalism very much inhibited the potential of the Federation to be a truly worldwide body.

Key issues included the governing mechanisms, which made it ex-

tremely difficult for people outside the large developed countries which have formed the traditional power blocs in the Federation to be elected. This concentration of power was bad for the organization. The voting systems, based upon participation through attendance at annual conferences and a complex yet narrow proxy system, also acted to disenfranchise many members. The Working Group advocated a new structure for the Federation which would embrace the following principles:[36]

- the opportunity for wider international involvement from the membership at the policy level
- a more democratic electoral system while still recognizing that the Federation rests upon a strong association base
- more effective integration of the policy and professional work of the Federation.

The Working Group made the following suggestions in its first two recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That the Council, but meeting annually, continues as the governing body of the Federation.

Recommendation 2: That the present governing mechanisms be replaced by:

- A Governing Board of not less that 25 members but not more than 30 members responsible for the policy and professional activities of the Federation. That it be elected every two years by a postal/electronic voting system with the results declared at the next Council. That the terms of office are for two years with the possibility of re-election for one consecutive term of two years.
- The Governing Board membership to consist of the President and Vice-President (President Elect) elected directly by the membership; a Second Vice-President and Treasurer elected by the Governing Board from among its members; thirteen Governing Board members elected

by Council; and elected members of the Professional Committee representing the IFLA Divisions, and the elected Chair of the Professional Committee.

Further recommendations set out various other changes in the 1974 Statutes.

A discussion on the suggested changes took place at the Bangkok Conference in 1999 when all recommendations except one were ratified. After further discussion at the 2000 Conference in Jerusalem the revised Statutes of Rules and Procedure were adopted.

Article 6 of the new Statutes sets out the Federation's core values. These are:

- the belief that people, communities and organizations need free access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their physical, mental, democratic and economic well-being
- the conviction that the provision and delivery of high quality library and information services help guarantee that access
- the commitment to enable library associations and institutions throughout the world and their staff to participate in the governance and policy development of the Federation, regardless of geographical location
- the endorsement of the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- the belief in the right of all Members of the Federation to engage in and benefit from, its activities without regard to citizenship, ethnic origin, gender, language, political philosophy, race or religion.[37]

On the occasion of the General Conference in Boston, August 19, 2001, the new Council enlarged the categories of membership to permit more individuals to join, including as Institutional Members those who are sub-units of larger library members, one-person library units and

individual school libraries and resource centres. The membership rates for such one-person libraries in least developed countries were less than half the fee for those in developed countries.

## IFLA and the Digital Divide

Unlike access of libraries to printed publications, access to materials published and distributed electronically has caused many changes in all aspects of library services throughout the world. New methods and systems of conservation, collection building, reference use and staff training were needed to accompany the spread of the personal computer and its impact on libraries since the 1980s.

Not all users of libraries have access to electronic information services. Thus there has developed the term 'digital divide', which is used, *inter alia,* to describe the division between library services in rich and in poor countries, and between those which could bring the content of electronic communication networks to their users and those which could not. A first priority of the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group (part of the Education and Training Section) has been to address the growing gap between the information rich and the information poor both between countries and within countries. On 1 May 2002, IFLA proclaimed the *IFLA Internet Manifesto*, prepared by IFLA/FAIFE, which declared that

Unhindered access to information is essential to freedom, equality, global understanding and peace.[38]

The Manifesto is issued in English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Library services have found themselves having to accommodate a growing number of internationally traded electronic information products all seeking to ensure profitability for their owners. Beginning in

1985 the World Trade Organization (WTO) took inter-governmental responsibility for tasks previously carried out by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Several major international inter-governmental agreements affecting information services which the WTO adopted included the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

TRIPS became the most comprehensive international governmental instrument on intellectual property management. Library use of intellectual property was changed by its terms. The Agreement established minimum national standards for copyright and related rights, including computer programmes and databases. Those standards can be enforced in any countries that adhere to the Agreement. The development of enforcement methods in the TRIPS Agreement is a departure from pre-existing conventions on intellectual property rights.[39]

The stated objective of TRIPS is universality. Industrialized countries pressured developing countries to accept the TRIPS Agreement with the clear objective of universalizing the standards of intellectual property protection which the industrialized countries had incorporated in their own national legislations.

IFLA responded to this new international order with two major declarations, one on *Licensing Principles*, adopted in March 2001,[40] and the second on IFLA's position on the World Trade Organization, first adopted in 1999 and amended in 2001 at the General Conference in Boston.[41] By 2001, after several rounds of inter-governmental negotiations, thirteen countries, including the USA, Japan and Singapore, had made commitments to provide access in trading arrangements to 'libraries, archives, museums and other cultural services'. It is probable that more countries will be entering into GATS negotiations in the years ahead. This will have its effect on modification of the world



*Figure 16. H. Kay Raseroka, President-Elect, 2001–2003.*

digital divide, and can conceivably bring about changes in national library and information services, particularly in developing countries.

H. Kay Raseroka, President-Elect of IFLA in 2001, stated:

> The prominence of information communication technology in information delivery and the need for privatization, at the instigation of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, has resulted in the revival of interest in the formulation of national information policies. More often than not, however, such policies are concerned with information conduits rather than information content. It is imperative, therefore, that library systems, as content providers, participate in all efforts for creating information policies and advocate for the creation of a holistic approach through which clearly defined roles and sustainable financing of activities of all information service stakeholders may be established. This is an area in which high level international advocacy through UNESCO and IFLA is urgently needed.[42]

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