



Council Report



IFLA COUNCIL REPORT 1997-1999



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS  
(IFLA)**

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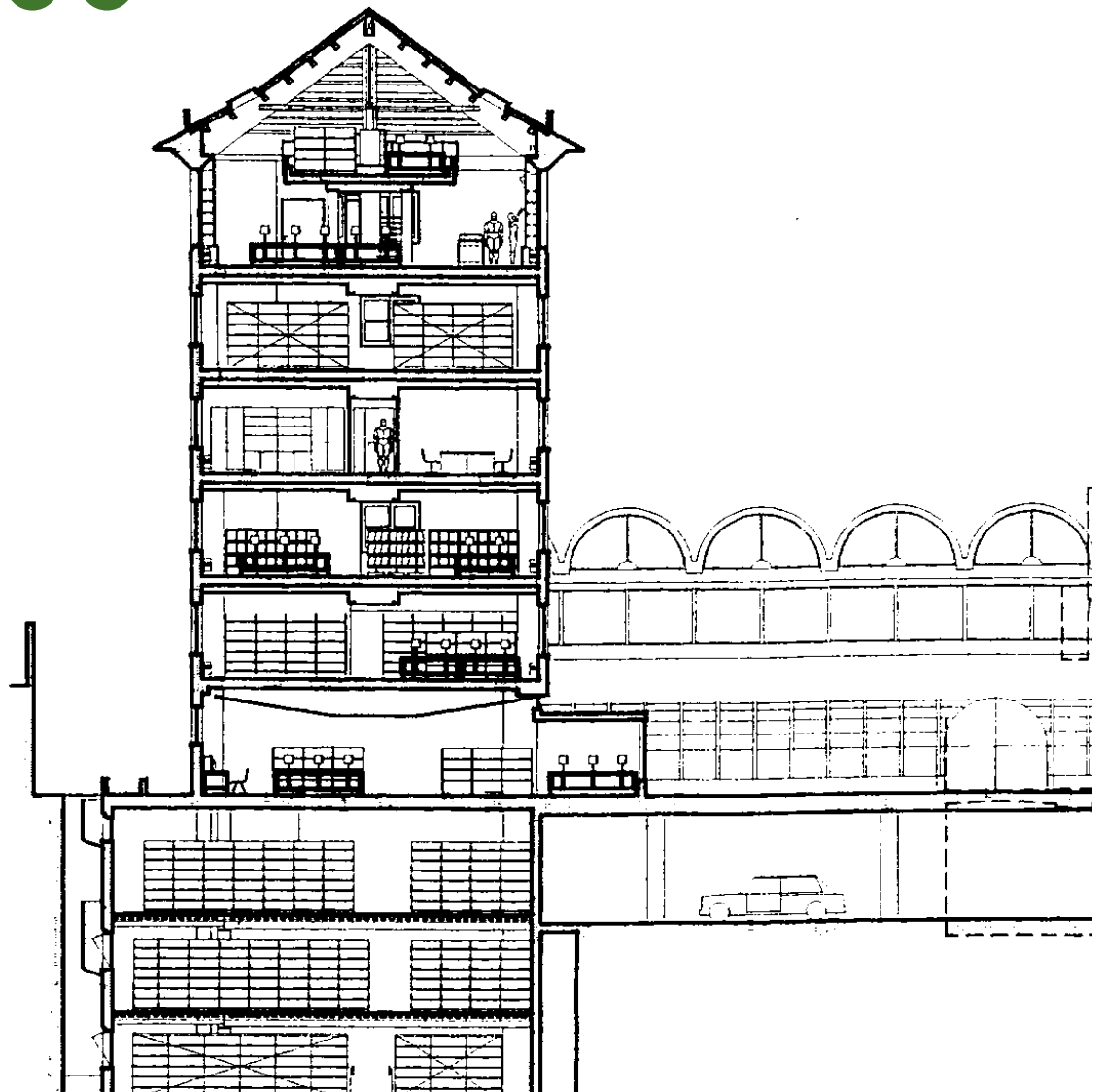
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Dear Colleagues,

It is my privilege to introduce the second IFLA Council Report; given the success of the first one, it is not difficult to surmise that this one will also raise a lot of interest.

The IFLA Council Report remains our best medium to reflect all IFLA activities during the two-year cycle separating each Council. It is also an excellent way to promote IFLA and its components, its professional programmes and projects. The Report demonstrates the activities of IFLA's Divisions and Sections during the preceding period, and gives general information to those interested in the profession, but unaware of the functional procedures of IFLA.

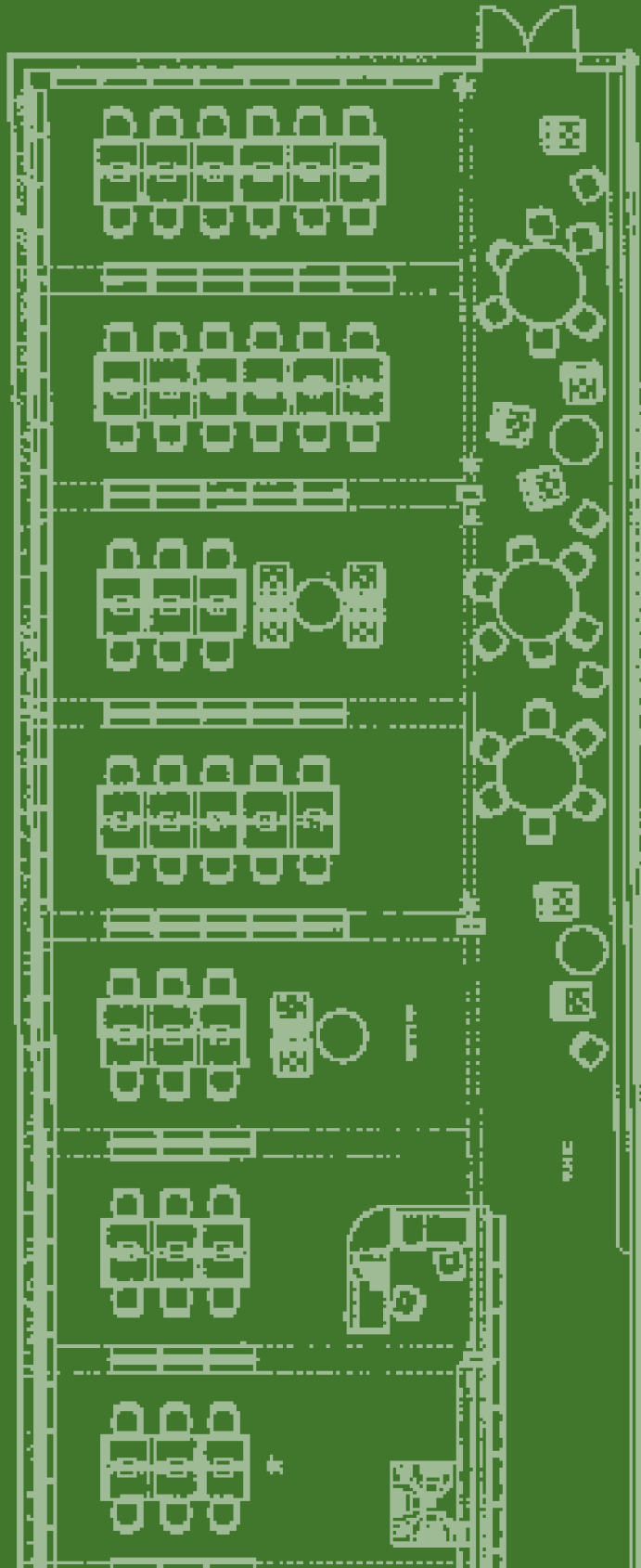
This August our Council and General Conference will be held in Bangkok, with elections for the first time in Asia. It is certainly very significant that the democratic procedure of voting should be happening during Councils held outside Europe and North America. We want to show clearly to the whole library community that IFLA works for librarians world-wide, and deals with library matters throughout the seven continents, whatever the level of development of the country, or of the library itself.

The IFLA Web site (at <http://www.ifla.org>) and its "frozen" reflection on the CD-ROM "IFLANET Unplugged", complement the Council Report as a source of information about IFLA. Together, they build momentum for the IFLA community, bringing together information specialists, librarians and documentalists who work nowadays globally. At the eve of the new millennium, our purpose is to give information on what we are doing, and to outline the achievements and objectives of the IFLA members.

*CHRISTINE DESCHAMPS*

**IFLA President**







The challenges presented by the unprecedented scale and pace of change in our profession, and in the environment in which we operate, 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 work with national and international partners to help ensure that librarians have the opportunities and incentives to acquire the skills to exploit rapidly developing communications technologies to benefit library users.

We need increasingly to speak up for libraries and librarians on the global stage to convince decision makers and influencers that we have a key role in the digital age.

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.

We need to demonstrate the value of preserving and conserving the records of our civilisations and our ability to do so.

We need to continue to play our part in developing international standardisation and compatibility, especially in the context of the new technologies.

In short, we are needed as never before. This is the rationale underpinning our internal review of the statutes which determine our governance. Our aim is to ensure that, as a membership organisation, our working methods lead to value for money, agile responses to the external environment and influential advocacy on behalf of libraries and librarians. Our aim must be: minimum bureaucracy; maximum impact, whilst sustaining democratic involvement.

This Council Report records the work of IFLA's officers, members and staff. I hope that you agree that it represents an impressive achievement of which we can all be proud.

I am delighted and privileged to have been appointed as Secretary General of your Federation. I plan to work with all those active in IFLA to build on the achievements of my predecessors to unite libraries and librarians worldwide, in the service of people who need access to knowledge.

I look forward to the challenge.

*ROSS SHIMMON*  
Secretary General of IFLA  
The Hague, July 1999







SEZIONE MODERNA

INFORMAZIONI BIBLIOGRAFICHE  
POSTAZIONI  
MULTIMEDIALI

LINGUE

SCIENZE NATURALI

SCIENZE APPLICATE 600

LETTERATURA 800

GEOGRAFIA E STORIA 900

