



Access to Information

INTRODUCTION

Libraries play an important role in providing information to diverse populations around the world, using any means at hand to transport knowledge in the form of books, magazines, compact discs, and other media to the public. In Cambodia, a community-based mobile library moves books by motorcycle from village to village. In northern Kenya, thousands of books move by camel from the main library in Garissa to nomadic settlements; elsewhere, computers and networks transport information from one library to another, giving new meaning to the phrase 'information on demand.' The use of information in

libraries stimulates in turn the creation of new books, magazines, and electronic resources. In a world where over 600,000 new book titles appear each year (on top of a backlog of 1.5 million titles), libraries act as gateways to the world's cumulated knowledge in all of

IT IS TO TEACH SOMEONE HOW TO READ

AND THEN NOT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH READING MATERIAL

IS AS CRUEL AS MAKING SOMEONE THIRSTY THEN DENYING THEM WATER.

: Alvaro Garzon. National book policy. Paris: UNESCO, 1997

its many forms. Librarians continue to find new ways to access information, organise and collate it for their publics, and use any means possible—from camel to supercomputer—to deliver information to patrons as quickly and efficiently as possible. Librarians will continue, too, to fight any restrictions—economic, political, bureaucratic—that hinder access to information for their patrons and staff. Libraries are simply windows to the world for their audiences, using any means at hand to deliver information.

31 AUGUST - 5 SEPTEMBER 1997

Copenhagen, Denmark, 63rd IFLA Council and General Conference, under the theme: 'Libraries and Information for Human Development'.

31 AUGUST 1997

Christine Deschamps is elected President of IFLA; Ekaterina Genieva and Sun Beixin are re-elected to Executive Board; Nancy John, Derek Law, Klaus-Dieter Lehmann and Kay Raseroka become new members of the Executive Board.

5 SEPTEMBER 1997

Sissel Nilsen is elected Chair of the Professional Board.

1 SEPTEMBER 1997

Lone Dybkjaer, Member of the European Union Parliament, delivers Plenary Address, 'Libraries and Information for Human Development'.

HIGHLIGHTS

Is information important to art museums and their publics? At the seminar entitled 'Art Institutions and Information Resources: Cooperative Strategies' held at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Library in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1998 participants demonstrated the importance of libraries in art museums to museum directors and other non-librarians. Libraries provide access to information that not only supports the internal activities of museums but also enhances public services and the interaction between museums and their research and academic communities.

ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

IS OF LITTLE BENEFIT IF

PEOPLE DO NOT TRUST THE SOURCE.

: World Bank, 1998

At the IFLA 1998 satellite conference on library services to indigenous people, held in Tromsø, Norway, recommendations were developed for increased cooperation of libraries and librarians across international borders to assist in the publication and dissemination of aboriginal materials as well as the creation of an aboriginal interlibrary loan service. This conference recognised the commonalities of issues facing librarians serving indigenous people, and acted as a focal point for the improvement, on a global scale, of services and policies in multicultural libraries.

At the 1998 IFLA Conference in Amsterdam, the Section of Libraries for the Blind discussed the uses of technology to improve access to information for the print-disabled. High cost and production delays impede the development of resources in alternative

formats. Libraries rich in alternate format collections are looking at ways for linking their collections to encourage interlibrary loan and electronic delivery of information. Other libraries and librarians are assisting in the creation of Web browsers that are broadly accessible, following international standards. A workshop sponsored in part by the IFLA Core Programme on the Universal Availability of Publications in Amsterdam in 1998 pointed out, however, that even with access to new technologies, there will be an incredible need for training and support to make these technologies work effectively. In a program sponsored by the IFLA Section of Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons in Amsterdam, it was pointed out that new information technologies change some basic ways in which information works, thereby reducing opportunities for some.

The IFLA Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) opened its offices in Copenhagen to consider basic issues surrounding the mission of libraries as gateways to knowledge. FAIFE has taken an active role, in participating in conferences and symposia and developing policies for consideration by IFLA's membership as a whole. FAIFE developed IFLA's Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom in March 1999, which defends and promotes intellectual freedom as defined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Early in 1999 in Grahamstown, South Africa, IFLA, in conjunction with the South African Library for the Blind, sponsored a seminar to address services to blind and visually handicapped Africans. Participants from nine African countries shared their experiences in providing library services to blind Africans. In addition to reports on progress in different African libraries,

2 SEPTEMBER 1997

Sir Roger Elliot, Chair of the International Council of Scientific Unions, delivers Guest Lecture, 'The Impact of Electronic Publishing on the Scientific Information Chain'.

3 SEPTEMBER 1997

Ursula Owen, Editor and CEO of Index on Censorship, delivers Guest Lecture, 'Gateways to Freedom: Libraries and the Next Millennium'.

5 SEPTEMBER 1997

Ester Sibanyoni, South African Woman of the Year 1997 and Librarian at the State Library in Pretoria, South Africa, delivers Guest Lecture on the many community projects she has set up since the state of emergency.



there was also a tour of the facilities of the South African Library for the Blind in Grahamstown.

¶ IFLA's Section on Reading has been working on programs and activities to encourage literacy and promote reading among children and newly literate adults. It was a co-sponsor of the 1998 international conference in Paris on 'Libraries, Reading and Publishing in the Cold War' and has cooperated with the International Reading Association on several projects.

¶ The School Library Manifesto, finalized during IFLA's Amsterdam Conference in 1998, points out the important roles of school libraries in promoting literacy, developing research skills and encouraging uses of information in all sorts of formats. The Manifesto was approved at the UNESCO PGI Conference in December 1998.

SUMMARY

How will information be accessible in the next century? Libraries and librarians have always been ready to take advantage of the latest tools to make information available to their patrons. In the last century, librarians were among the earliest users of typewriters and telephones, and in this century, librarians were among the first to see the advantages of computers and electronic bibliographic records, transmitted over networks to libraries around the world. In the next century, librarians will utilise whatever tools are at hand, from motorcycles and camels to networked computers and satellites, to make information more accessible to ever growing audiences in need of just the right book, magazine, computer program or video.

5 SEPTEMBER 1997

The Public Library of Piura, Peru receives the 1997 Guust van Wesemael Literacy Prize.

5 SEPTEMBER 1997

IFLA Council accepts 2 major resolutions; the Executive Board establishes a Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters and a permanent Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression.

5 SEPTEMBER 1997

During the Closing Session of the Conference, the Council approves a proposal from Marta Terry, First Vice-President of IFLA to make Robert Wedgeworth Honorary President of IFLA.





The Electronic Environment

INTRODUCTION

In the 1960s, libraries developed the means of creating digital bibliographic records as a way of sharing data among institutions easily and conveniently. In the 1970s and 1980s, with the growth of digital networks linking computers, libraries began to share bibliographic information regionally, then nationally and internationally. As the cost of computing and telecommunications drops, more and more libraries are linking their services to networks, sharing local resources with a global audience, removing barriers to information for all.

IFLA has played a stimulating role in the growth of electronic resources and cooperation, by organising educational programs, developing standards for information exchange, and encouraging the widespread use of enabling technologies. IFLA will continue in the next century to play a major role in the development of virtual libraries, the invention of new digital resources, and the education of the library professional in the use of new technologies.

IK KNOWLEDGE IS LIKE LIGHT. WEIGHTLESS AND INTANGIBLE,
IT CAN EASILY TRAVEL THE WORLD,
ENLIGHTENING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.Ā

10-12 SEPTEMBER 1997

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Sissel Nilsen and Philip Gill attend the Regional Conference on Public Libraries: Planning for Future Needs. Jointly organised by the Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia and the Council of Malaysian Public Library Directors in cooperation with IFLA.

17-18 SEPTEMBER 1997

Geneva, Switzerland. Ferris Webster, University of Delaware, USA, represents IFLA at WIPO Information Meeting on Intellectual Property in Databases.

21-26 SEPTEMBER 1997

Perth, Australia. Børge Sørensen represents IFLA at the INTAMEL Conference.

24-27 SEPTEMBER 1997

Edinburgh, United Kingdom. Bruce Royan, Chair of the IFLA Section on Information Technology, speaks on behalf of IFLA at the 32nd International Conference of the Round Table on Archives.

HIGHLIGHTS

Guidelines for OPAC Displays, standards in the display of online bibliographic information, were developed in a joint effort by four IFLA Standing Committees for the Sections on Bibliography, Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing, and Information Technology.

IFLA works to build consensus in the electronic environment with authors, publishers, broadcasters, librarians and users over the access to and distribution of digital information. IFLA supports broad coalitions coming together to find the most workable solutions for all parties in making digital information available to the public. IMPRIMATUR, developed in part by the IFLA Core Programme for the Universal Availability of Publications is a technological form of a consensus building exercise.



LET ME DESCRIBE MY IDEALISED

LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE.

THERE ARE LOTS OF BOOKS,

A CARD CATALOG,

A CHILDREN'S SECTION

WITH A STORY HOUR,

A READING ROOM WITH

THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS,

PLENTY OF MAGAZINES,

A BOX OF DISCARDED

PAPERBACK BOOKS,

A CORK BULLETIN BOARD STAPLED OVER

WITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS,

A CHEAP PHOTOCOPIER,

AND A HARRIED,

BUT SMILING LIBRARIAN.

: Clifford Stoll, 1995

Participants from Zimbabwe and Nigeria in the COPEARMS Special Interest Group meeting in 1997 provided some insight into the debates on widespread access to information in digital form. For many in the developing world, access to the Internet is not widespread. Growth in electronic information, without parallels in print, has little meaning for libraries and the general public in many parts of the world. In turn, information coming from the developing world will not be widely available in electronic form in the foreseeable future.

29 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 1997

Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff represents IFLA at the Third Meeting of the International Advisory Committee for the iMemory of the World Program.

6 OCTOBER 1997

LIASA, the Library and Information

23-24 OCTOBER 1997

Stockholm, Sweden. Marie-France Plassard represents IFLA at the International ISBN Agency Advisory Panel Meeting.

30-31 OCTOBER 1997

Amsterdam, Netherlands. IFLA UAP and IMPRIMATUR (a European Council Project) hold a conference on i The

31 OCTOBER 1997

Moscow, Russian Federation. Leo Voogt represents IFLA at the 75th anniversary of the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature.

NOVEMBER 1997

Paris, France. UNESCO General Conference adopts resolution on



ï The Seminar on the Use of New Technologies, held in 1998 in Praia, Cape Verde Islands, provided an opportunity for the chiefs of national and public libraries in Africa's Portuguese-speaking countries to analyse the ways in which technologies could encourage greater cooperation among their institutions. Software, databases, and other tools were examined as well as visits to local institutions actively using technologies to disseminate information widely.

**IK KNOWLEDGE GIVES PEOPLE
GREATER CONTROL
OVER THEIR DESTINIES.Î**

: World Bank, 1998

SUMMARY

Where will technology take libraries and librarians? The widespread use of information technologies has already led to an increased demand for librarians as intelligent agents, filters, and organisers of data and knowledge in communities around the world. As crucial elements of a global information ecology, librarians maintain the rich diversity of global information, by making information accessible in new ways with technologies and encouraging the birth of new resources. As local information ecologies grow, librarians will play ever increasingly important roles as agents for change, conduits for new information, and educators. IFLA will continue to play an important role as a catalyst in the information ecologies of the next century, as it has in the 20th century for thousands of libraries and librarians around the world.

10-12 NOVEMBER 1997

Florence, Italy. Eeva Murtomaa, member of the UBCIM Working Group on Minimal Level Authority Records (MLAR), attends the International Council on Archives Committee on Descriptive Standards (ICA/CDS) Meeting.

13 NOVEMBER 1997

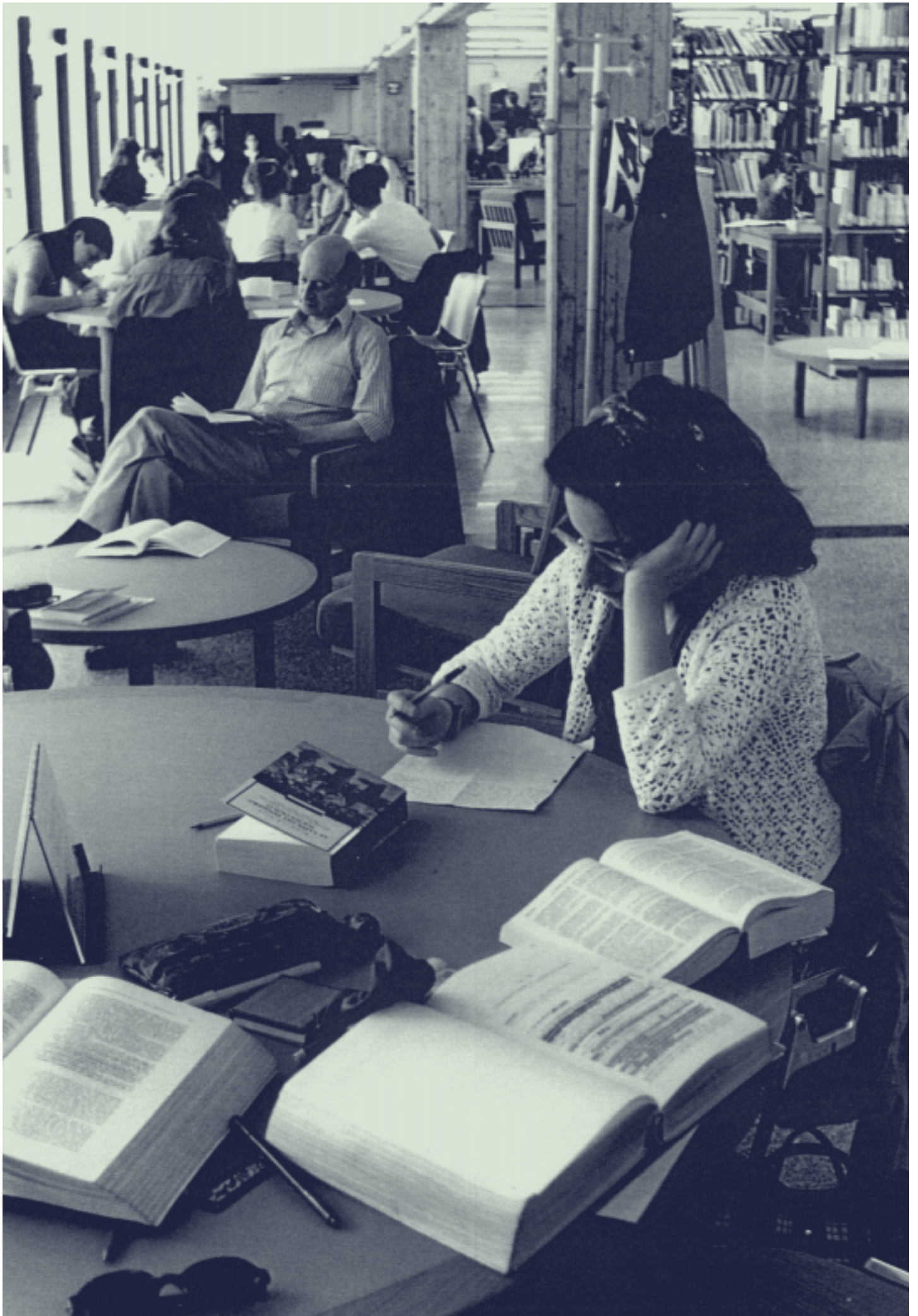
Paris, France. Marie-ThÈrÈse Varlamoff represents IFLA at the Meeting of the States Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

13-14 NOVEMBER 1997

Luxembourg, Luxembourg. Graham Cornish represents IFLA at the Third International Conference on Grey Literature.

13-14 NOVEMBER 1997

London, UK. Coordinating Project for Electronic Authors' Rights Management Systems, COPEARMS, Conference,





Preservation and Conservation

INTRODUCTION

Demands for information in the 19th and 20th centuries have encouraged the use of new technologies to create media for inexpensive and rapid dissemination. Yet these new technologies, from high-speed printing presses to computer networks, do not often provide easy parallel means for the preservation of information for future generations. IFLA, through the efforts of its Core Programme on Preservation and

Conservation and the Programme's regional offices around the world, has been leading a global effort to preserve information in media from papyrus to computer tape. These efforts have led IFLA to work with other organisations, notably the International Council on Archives (ICA) and UNESCO, in developing the means to educate librarians and their institutions about basic conservation practices, to identify appropriate materials in their collec-

CULTURAL HERITAGE IS A NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE AND

A PRECIOUS REMINDER OF THE COMMON WELL-SPRINGS
OF ALL HUMAN ENDEAVOUR AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION.†

: Federico Mayor

tions for preservation. In addition, IFLA is working to take advantage of new technologies to make materials more widely available in the course of their preservation, from collections of ancient texts to photographs from the last century. With IFLA's assistance and encouragement, information in the next century will be accessible in a rich variety of formats and interfaces, making libraries truly the memories of the world.

13-15 NOVEMBER 1997

Munich, Germany. Marie-France Plassard represents IFLA at the meeting of the Consortium of European Research Libraries, CERL.

21 NOVEMBER 1997

Paris, France. Christine Deschamps represents IFLA at the Extraordinary Conference of Non-governmental Organisations at UNESCO.

24-25 NOVEMBER 1997

Cairo, Egypt. John Cole, Chair of the IFLA Section on Reading represents IFLA at the First Meeting of the International Panel of International Reading for All Program, sponsored by UNESCO.

HIGHLIGHTS

¶ In 1998, IFLA's Core Programmes on Preservation and Conservation and Universal Availability of Publications began a major project, on behalf of UNESCO, to survey digitisation efforts in institutions around the world. This effort will lead to a virtual library of digital collections, a database of digital materials in libraries and other cultural institutions. This database will also include information on digital preservation, describing institutional programs to collect and save electronic information in various formats.



WITHOUT DOUBT,
LITERATURE PASSES ON
CONDENSED EXPERIENCE
FROM ONE GENERATION
TO THE NEXT.
IN THIS WAY IT BECOMES
A NATION'S LIVING MEMORY.†

: Alexander Solzhenitsyn

¶ IFLA is increasing its commitment to the International Committee of the Blue Shield, organised to stimulate preventive measures to safeguard cultural heritages from armed conflict and natural disasters. The Blue Shield is a UNESCO program developed by IFLA in cooperation with the International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). Blue Shield sponsored a seminar in Radenci, Slovenia in 1998 that brought together 31 participants from ten countries, including representatives of the armed forces, to discuss ways to protect cultural monuments and historical treasures. A declaration on the protection of cultural heritage was approved at this seminar, resolving to take all necessary steps to raise awareness of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.†

¶ A compact disc organising some 3,000 digitised Latin American and Caribbean photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries has been developed with the joint support of IFLA, UNESCO and the National Library of Brazil. Containing images from seven

25-26 NOVEMBER 1997

Paris, France. Françoise Danset represents IFLA at the UNESCO/NGO Consultation Meeting.

8-11 DECEMBER 1997

The Hague, Netherlands. Executive Board and Professional Board Meeting. The PB approves a proposal to change the name of ALP to 'Advancement of Librarianship Programme' and a proposal of the Section of Children's Libraries to change their name to 'Libraries for Children and Young Adults'.

5 DECEMBER 1997

Paris, France. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff attends the Meeting of the International Committee of the Blue Shield.

22-24 JANUARY 1998

Tokyo, Japan. Annabelle Herd represents IFLA at the IPA Symposium on Copyright. Theme: 'The Publisher in the Changing