



countries, the compact disc provides a historical and visual context of the growth of South America and the Caribbean. Many of these photographs have been unavailable generally to the public; the compact disc acts as both a preservation and distribution medium for these valuable records.

¶ In the Hague, IFLA co-sponsored with the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and the European Commission on Preservation and Access a conference to address broad issues dealing with conservation of printed and other materials. Preservation management in many institutions addresses diverse responses from storage to digitisation. Appropriate policies to meet these differing preservation circumstances need to be invented not only at the institutional level but also at regional and national scales.

¶ The Joint IFLA/ICA Committee on Preservation in Africa met in Dakar, Senegal, in 1997 and in 1998 in Durban and Tunis to examine the special needs of libraries in preserving their collections and making them accessible. Librarians in the region increasingly need to create innovative methods to handle the environmental and other stresses affecting collections on a routine basis.

¶ IFLA's Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation, in conjunction with the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), started a new series of publications on conservation, entitled 'International Preservation Issues.' The first issue in the series, 'IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material,' includes chapters on security, disaster recovery, reformatting, audiovisual materials, and other topics.

**26-28 JANUARY 1998**

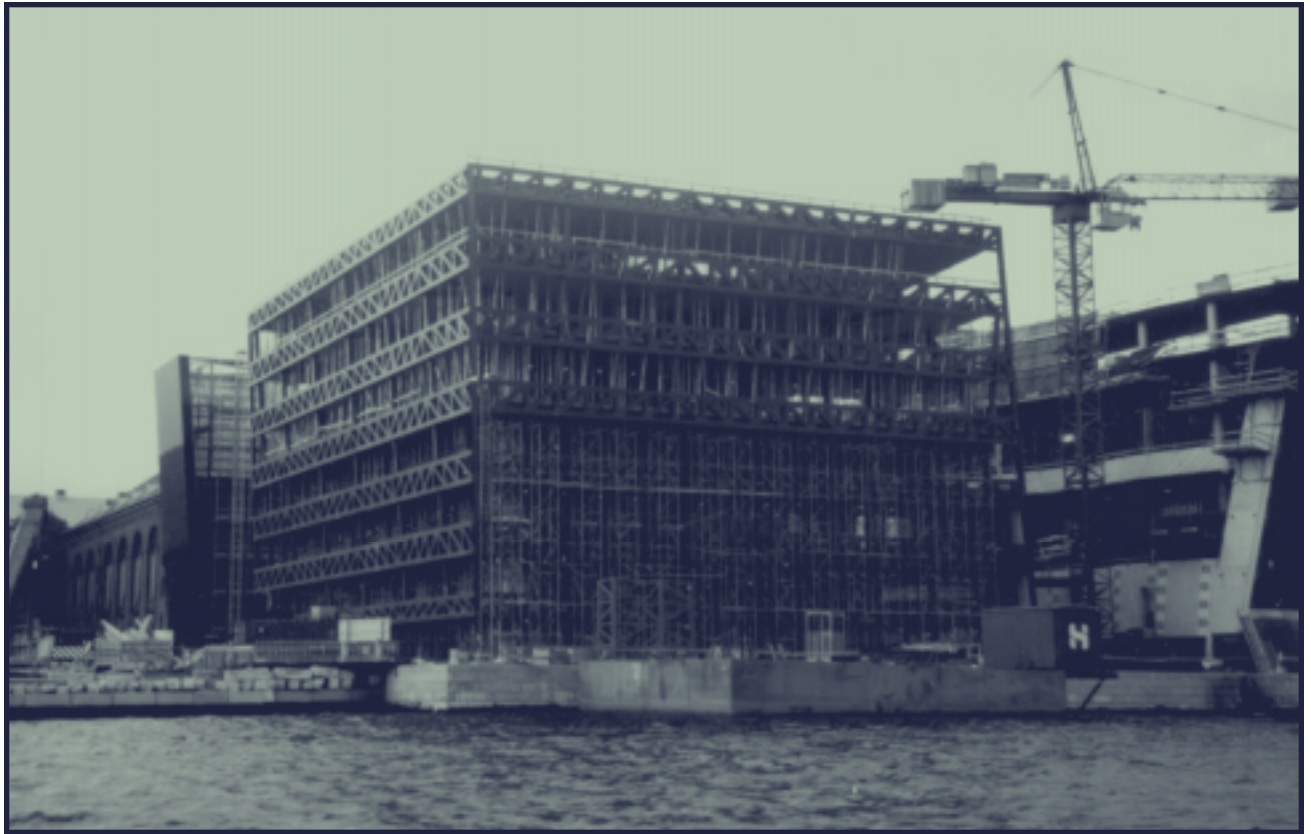
Budapest, Hungary. Klaus-Dieter Lehmann represents IFLA at the 6th International BOBCATSSS Symposium.

**12-13 FEBRUARY 1998**

Copenhagen, Denmark. Graham Cornish delivers a paper at the Conference and Workshop on 'New Developments in Electronic Copyright.' Organised by EBLIDA, Danish Library Association and National Library Authority.

**16 FEBRUARY 1998**

Paris, France. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff represents IFLA at the meeting of the International Committee of the Blue Shield.



ï A workshop on preservation training for librarians from Arab-speaking countries in Africa took place in Kairouan, Tunisia in 1998. The laboratory at Kairouan, focusing on papyrus, ink and bookbinding, played a major part in this practical seminar. Participants attended the sessions from Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.

ï In Tokyo in 1998, IFLA organised in conjunction with the National Diet Library of Japan the Ninth Symposium on Preservation, which focused on the conservation of digital information. Speakers were drawn from several Japanese universities, a publisher, and the National Diet Library. Practical approaches to many of the thorny technical and legal issues were

discussed, and all participants indicated increased institutional and individual cooperation in the future to address many of the unresolved problems facing effective digital preservation in libraries.

## ïDIGITAL COLLECTIONS

FACILITATE ACCESS,

BUT DO NOT FACILITATE

PRESERVATION.

BEING DIGITAL MEANS

BEING EPHEMERAL.Î

: Terry Kuny

### 4-6 MARCH 1998

Bangkok, Thailand. Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania Meeting

### 11-13 MARCH 1998

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Ingrid Parent, Gary Cleveland, Brigitta Bergdahl and Marie-France Plassard speak at the IFLA UBCIM

### Regional Seminar on Bibliographic Control.

### 23-24 MARCH 1998

London, UK. Isabelle Giannattasio, Chair of the Round Table on Audiovisual and Multimedia, represents IFLA at the Meeting of the FIAT/IFLA Round Table.

### 23-24 MARCH 1998

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. Regional Standing Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Meeting.

LIBRARIANS CHERISH BOOKS THAT  
 ARE ENTRUSTED TO THEIR CARE,  
 THEY KEEP THEM IN GOOD HEALTH,  
 THEY HELP THEM FIND  
 THEIR WAY INTO THE WORLD.  
 WITHOUT THEM,  
 BOOKS WOULD SURELY PERISH.†

: Aad Nuis

ĭ Educators from library and archives schools in nine African countries met in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1998 at an IFLA-sponsored meeting to analyse the state of preservation and conservation education in the curriculum. All participants agreed that preservation was not well represented in the curriculum, making it difficult to seriously treat conservation issues in many countries. A model curriculum was developed, representing a basic program in conservation; this curriculum will be adapted to the needs of the schools in each country, for students at different educational levels and with differing skills and aptitudes.

ĭ IFLA is leading an initiative to promote the use of permanent paper worldwide, with a resolution to UNESCO encouraging the use of permanent paper by all of its member states. Paper used in print for over the last century and a half slowly deteriorates; deacidification by libraries is a costly and time-consuming process of addressing this problem. With access to permanent paper at reasonable costs, IFLA hopes for a practical resolution to a vexing issue for all libraries around the world.

## SUMMARY

Umberto Eco called the end of the 20th century the age of forgetting, a time when information is lost, destroyed, and erased, for political, economic, and simply bureaucratic reasons. How many of the hundreds of thousands of new book titles each year will survive into the next century? Libraries, led by IFLA's efforts in concert with other international organisations, are working constantly to prove Eco wrong, by taking advantage of new technologies and techniques to preserve information for future generations in all of its diversity, by creating educational programs to train library professionals in information conservation and design. Indeed, the end of the 20th century will be better known as the age of remembering, when the memory of the world flourished under the catalytic leadership of IFLA and other international organisations.



### 23-25 MARCH 1998

Nairobi, Kenya. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff attends the JIPCA Expert Meeting of Educators.

### 24-27 MARCH 1998

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The IFLA Section for Latin America and the Caribbean organises a conference on the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, in cooperation with the Section of Public Libraries.

### 25-28 MARCH 1998

Moscow, Russian Federation. 9th Meeting of the Permanent UNIMARC Committee.

### 26-29 MARCH 1998

Leipzig, Germany. Klaus-Dieter Lehmann represents IFLA at the Leipzig Book Fair.





# Services and Standards

## INTRODUCTION

The incredible diversity of libraries, in the form of their patrons, collections, and personnel, make national and international standards a crucial part of librarianship and information management. IFLA for decades has been a recognised leader in developing standards for the exchange

of information, training and education, and service. IFLA continues to develop standards in concert with organisations around the world, by the active participation of its members in standards development and in the use of standards by its member institutions around

WHATEVER THE LEVEL OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT IN A LIBRARY, THERE ARE STANDARDS WHICH CAN BE OF USE. STANDARDISATION IS NOT JUST THE PRESERVE OF WELL-ENDOWED, HIGH-TECH ESTABLISHMENTS.

: Christine Deschamps

the world in nearly every process in libraries. IFLA supports a diverse program of activities to educate its members about standards, and to encourage the development of new standards to address rapid changes in the information landscape.

**30 MARCH - 2 APRIL 1998**  
Stockholm, Sweden. Sissel Nilsen, Kay Raseroka and Marianne Scott attend the Intergovernmental Conference organised by UNESCO on Cultural Politics Development.

**1 APRIL 1998**  
Sjoerd M.J. Koopman begins as the new IFLA Coordinator of Professional Activities at IFLA Headquarters in The Hague.

**6-9 APRIL 1998**  
Valparaiso, Chile. Christine Deschamps attends the joint IFLA/FID Workshop on Management and Use of Human Resources in Library and Information Work in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## HIGHLIGHTS

At the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1998, 120 participants from 72 countries discussed bibliographic control on a global scale as a means of updating recommendations from the 1977 Paris Conference.

Among the conference's notable conclusions, national bibliographic agencies were urged to continue their support of bibliographic standards especially in terms of electronic documents and files. In addition, participants in the Conference agreed that greater cooperation between institutions in terms of bibliographic data will only be possible with further harmonisation of standards.

At the IFLA Regional Seminar on Bibliographic Control in Malaysia in 1998, national libraries throughout Southeast Asia were encouraged to take leading roles in developing and adopting bibliographic standards. It was also strongly recommended to these libraries that national bibliographies be developed (where they do not exist) as well as the means to exchange bibliographic records between libraries.

In 1997, the Concise UNIMARC Bibliographic and Authorities manuals were released on the Internet on IFLANET; in 1998, these manuals were made available on the World Wide Web, thanks to the efforts of IFLA's Permanent UNIMARC Committee and the Core Programme on Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications. Access to UNIMARC will encourage libraries and librarians around the world to use this standard in their bibliographic activities for patrons and other libraries.

Can the lessons of traditional bibliographic control be applied to the superabundance of information on the Internet? A resounding yes, according to the participants at the IFLA-sponsored seminar on 'The Function of Bibliographic Control in the Global Information Infrastructure' in Vilnius, Lithuania (17-19 June 1998). Experiments with MARC, metadata and other standards show promise in developing standards and routines that will make information access a routine and successful effort on the Internet.

In 1998, IFLA approved guidelines for library service to Braille users, and encouraged all libraries to promote Braille and facilitate access to Braille resources for their patrons. Studies have indicated that Braille users are more likely to develop positive reading habits, enjoy greater opportunities for employment and are highly likely to secure graduate degrees. Technology or audio recordings are no substitute for an ability to read and write for both sighted and blind patrons. The guidelines recommend a number of steps for libraries to promote the use of Braille and to develop collections in Braille.

At the 1997 Regional Conference on Public Libraries in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, sponsored by the IFLA Section on Public Libraries and the Regional Section for Asia and Oceania, 250 librarians from Southeast Asia, Australia, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka discussed standards and guidelines to monitor and assess collections and services. In addition, libraries were encouraged to cooperate at regional, national and international levels to share resources and expertise, to meet the information needs of their diverse populations.

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### 6-7 APRIL 1998

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. Ekaterina Genieva represents IFLA at a seminar on 'How to Run a Library Association', organised by the Round Table for the Management of Library Associations.

### 14-17 APRIL 1998

Buenos Aires, Argentina. Christine Deschamps attends the 32nd Reunion Nacional de Bibliotecarios. Theme: '¿Dónde está la Biblioteca en la Aldea Global?'

### 26-29 APRIL 1998

Berlin, Germany. Carol Henry and Nancy John pay a site visit to Berlin for the bidding for IFLA 2003.

### 27-30 APRIL 1998

Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. Derek Law attends the 4th International Records Management Conference on 'The Global



¶ Proposals to strengthen bibliographic control in Latin America and the Caribbean were examined in the 1998 International Seminar on Universal Bibliographic Control, held in Mexico City. Participants discussed a number of issues relative to the design of databases, the exchange of bibliographic information, and current efforts to increase standardisation in bibliographic products developed by libraries.

¶ IFLA Core Programme on the Universal Availability of Publications has been operating a twinning program, linking libraries around the world in developing partnerships to improve services and collections. For example, a public library in the Democratic Republic of the Congo recently linked with a library in Canada to develop literacy programs and exchange library staff between the two institutions.

## SUMMARY

With the rapid growth of information resources and parallel tools to locate, retrieve and otherwise identify media, standards will only grow in importance as the global language to communicate about the identity and nature of information resources. As networks and other digital forms of connections alter the definition of distance between institutions, librarians and the public, standards will facilitate access, and make it possible for information to effectively transfer from any location to another with ease. IFLA's role in developing information standards will continue to grow in the next century, as IFLA continues to be a leader in encouraging the use of standards on a daily basis in thousands of libraries and other institutions around the world with its workshops, symposia and other educational programs.

### 28-30 APRIL 1998

Genoa, Italy. Leo Voogt represents IFLA at the Annual Conference of Italian Library Association and opening of the New Library *Libreria*.

### 5-6 MAY 1998

London, UK. Leo Voogt attends the Annual Meeting of the Research Libraries

### 6-8 MAY 1998

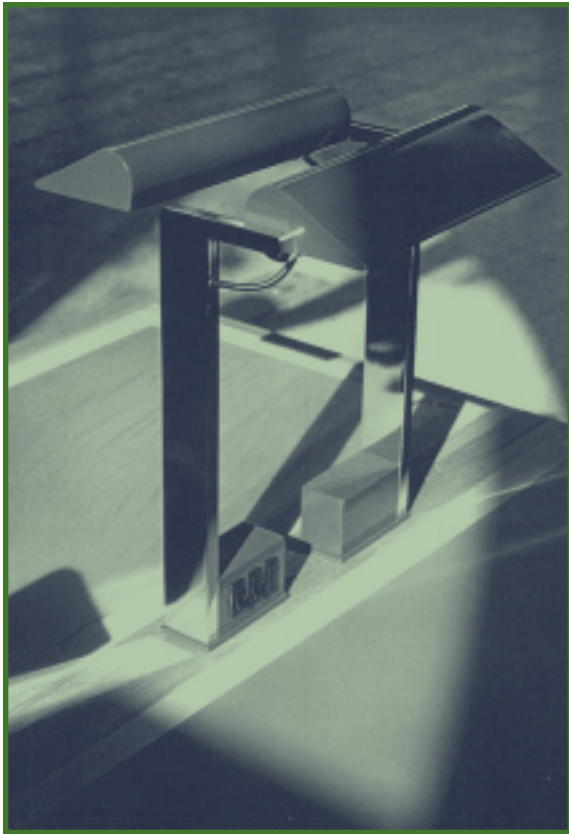
Aveiro, Portugal. Christine Deschamps and Gary Cleveland attend the 6th Portuguese National Conference on *Libraries and Archives in the Information Society: Strategies for the 21st Century*.

### 9-14 MAY 1998

Vienna, Austria. Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff represents IFLA at the Expert Meeting on the revision of the 1954 The Hague Convention.







# Professional Development

## INTRODUCTION

Librarians are playing crucial roles in the information revolution at the end of the 20th century. Libraries and librarians provide key functions to their patrons and clients, in acquiring, organising and assessing and finally communicating information. More than ever, professional training is helping librarians keep abreast of the latest developments in technology and information distribution. IFLA is playing a leading role in educating librarians throughout the world, but especially in developing countries, in taking

INFORMATION AND CULTURE SHOULD NOT MOVE ALONG SEPARATE PATHS

BUT INSTEAD LEAD TO A SQUARE THAT GIVES ACCESS TO MORE PATHS IN SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND PHILOSOPHY. THIS SQUARE IS THE LIBRARY.

: Rick van der Ploeg

advantage of new technologies to communicate with colleagues and libraries elsewhere. In addition, IFLA's efforts in organising classes, workshops and programs on nearly every continent make it possible for librarians at all levels and experiences to learn about new advances in bibliographic control, copyright, institutional cooperation, and technology. More than ever, professional lifelong learning is helping librarians assess new technologies, understand the competitive information market and handle diverse new sources for information on a global scale. This revived professionalism by librarians in turn fosters the local creation of knowledge and information in communities around the world, supporting new research and development as well as personal growth.

### 10-14 MAY 1998

Budapest, Hungary. Ekaterina Genieva, David Bender and Christina Stenberg attend a conference organised by OSI and the European Council and supported by Soros, on 'The 21st Century Information Society: The Role of Library Associations'.

### 11-15 MAY 1998

Athens, Greece. Christine Deschamps attends the meeting of ISO/TC 46.

### 14 MAY 1998

Athens, Greece. I. Hoel, former Chair of the Section on Preservation and Conservation, attends the meeting of ISO/TC 46/SC10 on 'Physical Keeping

### 12-13 MAY 1998

The Hague, Netherlands. Sjoerd Koopman attends the FID Third Meeting of the Global Information Alliance.

## HIGHLIGHTS

ï IFLA's 1997 General Council and Annual Conference in Copenhagen attracted 2,976 delegates from 141 countries. The delegates took advantage of a program featuring 170 professional papers as well as 20 workshops and poster sessions, 35 visits to Danish libraries and 185 booths in the exhibition area.

ï Thanks to the creation of the Danida Grant, 150 librarians from 85 countries were able to participate in the Copenhagen Conference. Additionally, 42 librarians from developing countries attended a pre-conference seminar in Aarhus, Denmark especially designed for them. Danida in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Development Aid and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science sponsored 79 young professionals from different countries to attend the Amsterdam Conference.

ï With some 3,300 delegates from 120 countries, the 64th General Conference of IFLA met in Amsterdam in 1998, providing participants with opportunities to hear 192 papers presented in 213 meetings. The Conference coincided with the 200th anniversary of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek; a special exhibit celebrating the anniversary was just one opportunity among many for Conference participants in Amsterdam.

ï The Hans-Peter Geh Grant for IFLA Conference Participation was established in 1991 to sponsor one librarian every year from the former Soviet Union, including the Baltic States, to attend an IFLA seminar or conference. For example, in 1997, the Grant was awarded to Ms. Sirje Virkus of Tallin Pedagogical University in Estonia. Ms. Virkus presented papers

at the IFLA Pre-Conference on Continuing Professional Education, and at the Copenhagen Conference session of the Section on Education and Training. In 1998, the Grant was awarded to Ms. Alevtina Choulinina of the Centre for Conservation at the Russian State University for the Humanities.

ï IFLA has had a long history of encouraging cooperation among libraries. Most recently, the Hirsch Library of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas, developed a partnership with the Gulbenkian Foundation Library in Lisbon, Portugal. There have been staff and information exchanges in this co-development of two art libraries with similar missions and collections.

ï With the cooperation of the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, evaluations were made of both the Copenhagen and Amsterdam Conferences. The evaluations provided crucial information to IFLA's Professional Board to make modifications in the professional program. These studies will assist future conference planners in developing arrangements for programs at a variety of logistic and professional levels.

ï A training program to revitalise public libraries in Thailand was started, enhancing the competencies of Thai librarians. Supported in part by the IFLA Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship, experts were brought in to teach some 200 trainers, who in turn are working with librarians in a variety of libraries throughout the country.

ï The Margreet Wijnstroom Fund for Regional Library Development is financed by contributions

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### 18 MAY 1998

Uppsala, Sweden. Leo Voogt and Matthijs Balfourt visit the IFLA ALP Office in Uppsala to discuss FORCE.

### 18-22 MAY 1998

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Alan Hopkinson consults the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina on what help could be given for the automation of the collection. The visit was financially supported by IFLA.

### 28-30 MAY 1998

Dakar, Senegal. Regional Standing Committee for Africa Meeting.

### 29 MAY - 3 JUNE 1998

Lisbon, Portugal. Leo Voogt speaks at the Spring Meeting of the Art Documentation Advisory Group hosted by the Biblioteca General de Arte of the Fundação Calouste