

Report of the work of the ALP Core Programme

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Evaluation

Leo Kenny, a consultant of Sida, has evaluated the ALP programme in a report *The Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP)*, Sida Evaluation 97/13, Department for Democracy and Social Development.

He reaches the conclusion that "the IFLA/ALP programme is in many respects a paradigm of development co-operation. Relatively small seed funds have reaped substantial benefits across a Third World constituency which is large and diverse - geographically, linguistically, culturally and in terms of development needs. Using as a point of departure Southern perspectives and priorities, the programme has both harnessed and enhanced Southern experience. ...The programme has been developed and overseen by dedicated, effective and efficient Focal Point staff who have striven for cost effectiveness at every juncture. Their efforts have been adequately supported by IFLA's Regional Office staff as well as regional committees." (See Executive summary, p. 2). We are very happy with the result of this evaluation.

ALP's new Medium Term Programme

ALP's Advisory Committee has accepted the scope statement of the new Medium Term Programme for ALP. It has also been accepted in principle by IFLA's Professional Board.

The mission of ALP is to further the library profession, library institutions and library & information services in the developing countries of Africa, Asia & Oceania and Latin America & the Caribbean.

Within the special ALP areas the MTP goals are to assist in continuing education and training; to support library associations; to promote the establishment and development of library and information services to the general public, including the promotion of literacy; and to introduce new technology into library services. ALP also has a function as catalyst within IFLA for the organization's activities in Third World countries.

The scope of ALP is very wide and covers all kinds of library activities. Therefore, cooperation with relevant IFLA professional bodies as well as with regional and international organizations is essential to carry out the programme.

ALP achieves its mission through a carefully planned programme of different activities in close cooperation between the International Focal Point of ALP and IFLA's Regional Offices, IFLA's Regional Division and its three sections, as well as with other partners. This cooperation includes actions such as fundraising, scholarships and attachment programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops, pilot projects, publications and databases.

The ALP staff and the ALP Advisory Committee have also proposed that the name should be changed into "Advancement of Librarianship Programme", eliminating "in The Third World".

Areas of cooperation and partners Leo Kenny has 11 conclusions or recommendations for the ALP programme to follow in the future. From my starting point I have chosen the following four recommendations, which concern areas of cooperation or cooperation partners:

- * The ALP core programme must continue to systematically and strategically target remote rural and marginalised constituents' needs, as well as minority and other traditionally marginalised groups. (Rec. nr 2)
- * The ALP programme has facilitated and enhanced collaboration with international, national and regional organisations and institutions and used it very effectively to address the needs of Third World constituencies. However collaboration between ALP and other IFLA core programmes appears not to have exploited its full potential. (Rec. nr 5)
- * It is difficult to suggest that ALP is systematically promoting the role of libraries in nation-building processes in the Third World, without a more strategic approach to literacy. ALP should play a bigger and key role in the establishment of the IFLA Core Programme on Literacy. (Rec. nr 6)
- * ALP must maintain its emphasis on the establishment and development of library associations in the Third World. (Rec. nr 8)

As regards conclusion nr 7, which regards freedom of expression questions, ALP will return with a separate application to Sida, should the Committee on Access to Information and Freedom of Expression of IFLA reach positive and concrete recommendations.

Projects to be supported by ALP for the period 1998-1999.

The ALP International Focal Point (IFP) will itself work with the following projects:

We will continue to update the database of funders with new information, and will probably update it regularly on IFLANET from the future server of Uppsala University Library. We will also continue to publish the ALP Project Report Series, of which the latest issue is the Proceedings from the ALP supported workshop on Martinique, called "Tools for library development in the Caribbean area". Our bestsellers so far are the Guide to Institutions supporting Librarianship in Developing Countries, and the French and English versions of the proceedings from the 1994 Botswana Seminar on Information Provision to Rural Communities in Africa. We also plan to describe the library situation in the different areas of the world, using both hard and soft data,, for instance the country reports from our model workshops "Tools for library delvelopment".

Below I have enumerated the projects in the different parts of the world following the ALP goals and to some extent Leo Kenny's recommendations

Goal 1. To assist in continuing education and training

In Asia & Oceania ALP intends to continue to support the attachment programme. According to a new agreement between ALP and the IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Africa, the Regional Office in Dakar now handles the attachment programme itself (in Africa called "Staff development programme"). ALP IFP is only involved by mediating financial reports to Norad which supports the programme 1997-2001.

The Africa Section also plans a series of training seminars for librarians in the integration of the use of library materials in the curriculum of schools. The first seminar will take place in East Africa in 1998.

The ALP model workshop "Tools for Library Development" will be given for the South Asian sub-region, and for the South Cone sub-region in Latin America . A follow up of the workshop in Martinique in form of supporting one of the several good projects which were presented there, all concerning training of library staff.

Goal 2. To support library associations (Leo Kenny's rec. no 8) ALP will support the following four events in cooperation with IFLA's Round Table for the Management of Library Associations:

A seminar on networking for national library associations and libraries in West Africa. In Asia & Oceania: Two workshops for library association leaders in Micronesia resp. in South Asia., and, finally, a seminar of library associations in Latin America & the Caribbean area.

To support the Bilingual professional journal for Africa, planned by the IFLA Regional Standing Committee for Africa.

Goal 3. To promote the establishment and development of library and information services to the general public, including the promotion of literacy (Leo Kenny's rec.s no. 2 and 6) A Seminar on the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto for South East Asia and South Asia will take place in Malaysia next year, hosted by the National Library of Malaysia, in cooperation with IFLA's Section for Public Libraries. In 1998 a seminar with the same title will be held in Brazil. A proposal will be presented by IFLA's Regional Office Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean, Elizabet de Carvalho.

ALP also plans to support an expert meeting (maybe already in 1997) for library schools in Africa concerning training for rural community information services, as a follow up the seminar in Gaborone, Botswana, 1994. ALP is following up that conference also through producing "Guidelines for the evaluation of rural information services", a joint IFLA/UNESCO project. The responsible for this project is Diana Rosenberg of the International African Institute in London.

The support to the project " Feasibility study of the rescue of documents about/by ethnic groups in Central America" will continue until 1998, as well as the support to the Union Catalogue of Mongolian ancient materials in China. Also the Thai-Laos-Hmong childrens' books project will continue well into 1998.

Goal 4. To introduce new technology into library services.

In Asia & Oceania ALP intends to continue to support the programme of Scholarships in Information Technology with AIT in Bangkok and INSDOC in New Delhi as hosts, We also intend to look for a host in an Arabic speaking country.

In Latin America and the Caribbean ALP is supporting a prestudy called Capacitación en servicios de información, control bibliográfico y tecnologías de la información, which is financed by NCLIS, through IFLA HQ.

Regional support ALP also gives the three regional offices an annual contribution for their work for ALP, as well as some money for pre-studies.

Cooperation with Core Programmes (Leo Kenny's rec. no 5) The biggest thing which ALP is supporting as concerns cooperation with IFLA's other core programmes is the JICPA Committee's work (Joint IFLA/ICA Committee on Preservation in Africa), where ALP has managed to find no less than 220 000 USD from Danida, for the work of the committee during the period 1997-1999. The JICPA was inaugurated in Dakar, Senegal, in February 1996. In summary, its objective is to promote preservation of, and access to library and archival materials; as well as to co-ordinate the implementation of the recommendations of the the 1993 Pan African Conference on Preservation and Conservation of Library and Archival Materials which was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Ms Varlamoff, the PAC Director will tell you more about the committee's work when she speaks. Suffice it to say, that MR Afanou from Togo, a librarian is chair of this committee, and Mr Musembi, National archivist from Kenya, is the secretary general of the committee. They are both present here at the IFLA conference in Copenhagen, as well as a few other members of the JICPA Committee.

However, ALP is also planning two seminars on Bibliographic control in cooperation with the UBCIM Programme, one in Mexico this November, and the next one in Malaysia, in early 1998.

We are also cooperating with the UDT programme, concerning the ALP information on IFLANET, and to some extent with the UAP Core Programme.

Funders

ALP's main contributor is still Sida, with Danida as the runner up. Danida, in addition to giving all the support to the JICPA Committee, has signed a contract with ALP for 1997 - 2000, giving the IFP close to 300 000 SEK annually to cover the salary of a half-time librarian (Birgitta Sandell) and the running of the database of funders, as well as for our publications' and translations' programme. I have already mentioned the support from NCLIS in the USA (National Council on Library and Information Science). We are also regularly receiving contributions from BIEF (Banque internationale d'Information sur les Etats francophones) for activities in French-speaking countries around the world. I can also mention FINNIDA which supports ALP with 75 000 FIM annually. This support started in 1992 and continues until at least 1999. Finally, the IFP is supported by more than 25 library institutions and associations in the Nordic countries. Of these Uppsala University is the biggest donor.

However, almost as important as the financial support is actually the great support which our different actors in the regions give to the ALP activities in terms of their own work, their institutions' support, and their co-operation with library associations. They also very often manage to find other financial support for ALP projects from various funders.

Prospects for the future

IFLA's Executive Board has already asked Uppsala University Library to continue to host the IFP of the ALP programme up to and including the year 2000. It would seem natural to prolong this period until the end of 2001, when IFLA's Medium Term Programme ends. Ulf Göranson, the new director of Uppsala University Library, has declared his willingness to host the programme even longer than that. Renewed discussions will start later within IFLA.

The most important thing to underline now is the agreement reached in October 1996 between ALP and its Advisory Committee, consisting of the regional managers, the chairs and secretaries from the three regional sections, that the regional offices and the standing committees will gradually take over some of the tasks of the IFP from now on by administering the attachment (in-house training) programmes in Latin America and Africa. Also, the regional offices will undertake more fund-raising activities. The Africa Standing Committee has already appointed a fund-raising committee. The standing committees also intend to cooperate more themselves with other IFLA bodies in the future.