



## Action for Development through Libraries Programme Core Activity (ALP)

**Annual Report 2007**

By Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Officer

### **MISSION**

Libraries constitute the basis for all citizens' free access to information. Thereby everyone is given the opportunity to participate in the democratic processes of the society and improve their lives. By furthering library and information services in Africa, Asia and Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Action for development through Libraries Programme (ALP) aims at supporting main key human development issues: literacy, lifelong learning, bridging the digital divide and sustainable development.

ALP is mission oriented and not subject oriented like other IFLA core activities. Therefore, co-operation with relevant IFLA professional bodies and with regional and international organisations is essential to carry out the programme.

ALP achieves its mission through a carefully planned programme of activities and close co-operation between the International Focal Point of ALP and IFLA's Regional Offices, IFLA's Regional Division and its three sections, and other partners. This co-operation includes fundraising, scholarships and attachment programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops, publications and databases.

### **STAFF AND FINANCE**

IFLA, Uppsala University and 15 Nordic library associations and institutions fund the International Focal Point (IFP) for ALP at Uppsala University Library. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) funds are also used for the secretariat. To this should be added contributions in kind from Uppsala University Library.

The ALP IFP is staffed by: Birgitta Sandell, Director of the Programme, and Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Officer (part-time 40%).

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

#### **ALP Meetings and Seminars**

Sida supported ALP with 394.000 EUR in 2007. In addition to the funds Sida has allocated for the professional activities, those responsible for projects in the regions contributed with their own resources and raised considerable funds from external sources.

*A workshop to review curriculum in Library schools in Africa to accommodate development in ICT*  
The workshop took place 20-23 November 2006 in Namibia and no reports had been received in time for the reporting last year.

22 participants were drawn from library schools, libraries, archives and museums in Botswana, Namibia, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They reviewed the current curricula in selected schools in East, Central and Southern Africa and made recommendations on

how ICT best can be incorporated into the curricula. A mechanism has been agreed upon on how the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations will be carried out. It was also agreed that participants would inform their colleagues and try to get their departments to infuse ICTs in their curricula. A listserv called LISICT, open to all colleagues in the LIS profession and where LIS departments can share information on integration, has been set up. ICT skills are vital to employment in the library and information science. ICTs integrated in the curricula in the library schools will help future librarians to give better service to the public.

*A workshop to review curriculum in Library schools in French speaking Africa to accommodate development in ICT*

The project started with targeting seven internationally recognised library schools situated in West and Central Africa. Schools from nine countries participated: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Niger, Congo, Senegal as well as the Free University in Brussels. 100 questionnaires have been sent out by the Senegalese Library Association - 60 responses were received. A scientific committee, consisting of members representing the nine schools and co-ordinated by École des bibliothécaires, archivistes et documentalistes (EBAD) has been working through the Internet. The workshop with 28 participants took place in August 12-14, 2007. Results achieved: improved education/training, possibilities for exchange of students and lecturers and a mechanism for an effective cooperation between institutions. A declaration, called "Dakar Declaration concerning good governance, transparency, democracy and development" was elaborated and approved. The directors of the schools expressed their willingness to develop cooperation and exchange and it was decided to keep three entrance levels and to co-ordinate the length of each entrance level.

*Seminar on Information Literacy (IL) in Africa (Ethiopia)*

With financial support from Sida and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland ALP paid for 37 persons to attend the 'Colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning' held at the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa from 29 – 30 April 2007. This was one of the workshops preceding the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee Development Information (CODI V) 1-4 May 2007 that enabled several librarians and experts in various fields – agriculture, health, education, gender, economic development, governance, ICT, geo-information statistics – to participate in the colloquium. They used the outcomes of the colloquium to influence decisions at the CODI V meeting by making presentations on the fields above as related to Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning. The information reached out to 150 participants and the entire continent of Africa will benefit.

*Workshop on reading promotions in Sub Saharan Africa*

The strategic planning workshop on reading skills promotion was held 14-16 February 2007 in Windhoek, Namibia. 60 librarians, literacy tutors, teachers and educationists involved in reading promotion programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa attended the conference. 13 applicants from Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe got funding for their attendance. They presented papers based on various interventions that have been tried in different African countries in the attempt to address the problem of reading skills acquisition by young children. The SACMEC studies - testing the reading ability of Grade 6 learners in 14 Sub-Saharan African countries - found the majority to be below the expected levels. Librarians and educationists wished to see a change, hence the workshop. Good examples of reading promotion programmes were presented and recommendations set up. The Namibia Library and Information Council (NLIC) contributed to the event with SEK 60.850, Namibia Library and Archives Service (NLAS) with 56.175 SEK and the City of Windhoek with 9.500 SEK.

*Central American seminar on IFLA/Unesco Manifestos on Public Libraries, School Libraries and Internet*

The seminar took place 26-28 March 2007 in Costa Rica with 96 people from Central America participating. Interesting data on the state of the current situation of public, school, and university libraries were presented. In Round tables and workshops the regional policies were analysed, and proposals and strategies (based on the Manifestos) were elaborated. The purpose was to give the participants knowledge and means to influence politicians and get them to understand the importance of libraries. Universidad Nacional Costa Rica contributed with 20.000 USD.

*Training seminar on ICT for information professionals from North Africa*

The seminar took place in Morocco in March 2007. In addition to a large number of Moroccan participants, six participants coming from Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, and Tunisia attended this seminar. The seminar that was divided into two parts; a two-day conference dealing with information technology training needs in North African countries and workshops on digitisation, digital repositories and library management to meet information technology needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. ALP supported six persons from outside Morocco with Sida money. Several observers from abroad were also invited. The Goethe Institute contributed with paying the experts and half of the translation costs.

*Seminar "Making the West African National Library Association functional"*

The Seminar was held in Abuja, Nigeria 14-17 March 2007. The 25 delegates came from the following countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Sierra Leone, the Gambia and Nigeria. Issues such as transformation of Anglophone Library Associations in West Africa, library advocacy, fund raising, education and training and the roles of library associations, strategic planning and collaboration and partnerships were discussed. At the end of the workshop guidelines were developed for the use of WALA members. An e-mail group was established for communication and monitoring among participants. The functioning of the Cameroon national association is being followed up.

## **The World Library and Information Congress in Durban**

### **Speakers Grants**

*A speaker's grant for younger Professionals to present a paper at the World Library and Information Congress*

With money from Sida, ALP supported eight people selected to present papers at the Congress:

Four men and four women from South Africa, Senegal, Malawi, Pakistan, the Philippines, Morocco, Peru and Panama presented papers at the World Library and Information Congress in Durban. According to their reports the conference was very useful and productive in terms of learning new services and technologies in the library and information services, how to share information sources and the use of standards. They were eager to share the new developments learned with colleagues, and several reports had also information about meetings the grantees had organised to inform colleagues in their home countries and lists of new professional contacts. Meeting international colleagues, sharing information and creating a new international network were all mentioned as very important. Younger grantees said they have gained better self-esteem. We have noticed that earlier grantees have become active within IFLA and we have received project proposals from several earlier grantees.

The Division of Regional Activities and IFLA ALP had a joint Open Session with the theme “Libraries at the forefront of grassroots development”. ALP projects were dealt with in the following three papers.

*“Facilitating grassroots development: the role of ALP in Division VIII countries”*

G.E. Gorman and Daniel G. Dorner (Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand, and Birgitta Sandell (IFLA/ALP, Uppsala, Sweden)

*“IFLA/ALP y América Latina: Una alianza sostenida para ampliar el acceso a los Servicios Bibliotecarios y de información en la region”* (IFLA/ALP and Latin America and Caribe: a partnership to extend the access to information and library services to the whole LAC Region)

César Castro Aliaga (IFLA/LAC, Lima, Perú)

*“Educating Information Literacy Educators in Asia-Oceania”*

Daniel G. Dorner (Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand)

All papers are available at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/Programme2007.htm>

*Grants for three experts to present papers at a workshop in South Africa on Mould, Pests & Dust: Preservation Policies & Management*

The satellite meeting was held 14–16 August 2007 in Durban in connection with the World Library and Information Congress. The speakers were providing institutional situations and solutions to mould, pest and dust prevention. The 58 attendees were provided with a broad range of problem/solution scenarios as well as hands on examination and identification. They have learned about Integrated pest management (IPM), using non-invasive methods to prevent or at least minimise the risk of pest infections, and the main principles of IMP – monitoring, discouraging pest, modifying the environment and targeting treatments. This approach has considerable advantages minimising harm to both humans and environment and once established is likely to be more cost-effective than a passive or reactive approach. Hopefully more of the cultural heritage can be preserved and less be destroyed when people know about the threats.

*Grants for Africans to participate in the IFLA Libraries for the Blind pre-conference and workshops in Grahamstown, South Africa*

100 persons, 87 from the outside and 13 from the South African Library for the Blind (Blindlib), attended the pre-conference with the theme ‘Library Service for print disabled people: a tool for literacy, held 14-15 August 2007. 10 persons were IFLA ALP/Sida grantees. 15 persons attended the 2-day workshop on tactile picture books for children following the pre-conference. 7 persons were IFLA ALP/Sida grantees. Of the grantees three were speakers, two at the pre-conference and one at the workshop. Beside IFLA ALP the FORCE Foundation contributed with 6000 EUR and the South African Ministry for Arts and Culture made it possible for 16 South Africans to attend. The pre-conference gave both a hint of what the developing world is doing in the field of alternative formats accessible to the blind as well as the state of libraries for the blind in African countries.

The workshop had an almost immediate effect. The participants started making their own books that they also were able to distribute to the target group. It is a work that doesn’t involve great resources once you have learned the method.

*Conference on Innovative Multicultural Services for all*

This seminar was organised by the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations and was held in Pretoria 15-17 August 2007 prior to the World Library and Information Congress. The conference attracted 115 delegates from diverse countries and multicultural environments. There were more than 30 delegates from South Africa, such as LIS professionals and students, to whom registration was facilitated by the possibility of getting a reduction of the attendance fee,

due to a special grant from the Netherlands Library Association. Their presence contributed well both to the general multicultural theme of the conference, and to the aim of supporting global networking initiatives on matters like the global information gap and the multi-linguistic situation in South Africa and other countries. Other groups were library staff, educators, researchers, professionals involved in literacy and learning, languages and linguistics, community workers, archivists, museum worker, booksellers and publishers. The broadness of the target groups added to the value of the sessions and influenced positively on the emphasizing of different perspectives of the topics discussed. It is difficult to determine the sustainable impact of a conference shortly after but it is hoped that the conference will have a lasting impact on the lives of many children and adults, in South Africa and all around the world, that are not included in the present-day information society due to information illiteracy, multi-linguistic hardships or simply a lack of reading ability. The need of an increase of multicultural competencies is evident and the Pretoria conference has been playing a part when it comes to highlighting the essential issues of multicultural and multi-lingual science – and practices – in different diverse surroundings. By balancing these two perspectives against each other, the intention was to bridge building between scholarship and field work, thus making it easier to improve methods and accomplishments of objectives, aiming to better access of information.

Birgitta Sandell and Gunilla Natvig participated in the Congress in Durban and took part in the Regional Standing Committee meetings.

#### *ALP Advisory Board Meeting*

A meeting with the ALP Advisory Board was held during the Congress under the chairmanship of Adolfo Rodríguez, Researcher, Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas UNAM, Mexico. The other members are: Premila Gamage, Chair of Div. 8 and member of the Governing Board; Winnie Vitzansky, Secretary General, Danish Library Association; Ulf Göranson, Chief Librarian, Uppsala University; Gary Gorman, Professor of Library and Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington and Gunnar Sahlin, National Librarian of Sweden and IFLA Treasurer. Another meeting of the Board took place in the Hague in December 2007.

#### *ALP/FAIFE Sida Grant Steering Committee Meeting*

A meeting with the ALP/FAIFE Sida Grant Steering Committee took place during the Congress. Members are: Peter Lor, Secretary General, IFLA and Chair of the committee; the Director of ALP, Birgitta Sandell and the director of FAIFE; the Chair of the ALP Advisory Board, Adolfo Rodríguez and the Chair of the FAIFE Advisory Board, Paul Sturges, Professor, Deputy Head of Department of Information Science, Loughborough University. The purpose of this committee is information sharing, promoting collaboration and coordinating of activities and reports. Another meeting of this committee took place in The Hague in December 2007.

#### **IFLA Regional Standing Committee Meetings**

The annual meeting of the Regional Standing Committees in their own regions are most important for the development of ALP.

Birgitta Sandell participated in the Africa Section meeting in Windhoek, Namibia and Gunilla Natvig in the Latin American and Caribbean Section meeting in San José, Costa Rica.

#### **ALP Steering Committee Meeting**

The ALP Steering Committee, consisting of the Chairs and Secretaries of the three Regional sections and the three Regional Managers, met in Uppsala 15-18 October 2007. Projects that have taken place 2005–2007 were evaluated using the following assessment parameters: Objective achieved; measurability; why it is good; new knowledge gained; sustainability of project; materials

developed/published; follow up activities; who benefited; expected outreach (numbers); any deviation from objectives.

Activities for 2008-2009 were discussed and planned for. The three regions presented their projects to each other and the observers, Carol Priestley, Sjoerd Koopman and Paul Sturges. The group, many of them new in their positions, learned from each other and it was decided that an intra-regional seminar on preservation should be held in Pretoria early 2009. The Director of the PAC Programme has been asked to draft a proposal. The committee was also updated on ALP matters and the latest from IFLA Headquarters.

### **Scholarships and attachments**

#### *In-service Training Attachments in Asia and Oceania*

Three persons were selected for attachments in 2007 at institutions in the region.

Two librarians from India and the Philippines have had internships at the Victoria University of Wellington Library between 1 to 30 September 2007. One librarian from Pakistan was at the National Library Board in Singapore. During this four-week training course the participants were introduced to different services offered in the library, oriented around "End Note", and were also given hands-on experience on how to prepare modules on information literacy, library orientation, new techniques and approach in performing internet search and handling information queries. This information we have from the immediate reports. According to a follow up, done by the Regional office in Singapore, earlier grantees have applied the knowledge and experience in their respective libraries, such as automating certain library functions, conducted workshops for fellow librarians, created web based services. Thus, their institutions have also benefited from the training as well as the library users, the public. We assume that the same applies to this year's grantees.

#### *Scholarships in Information Literacy and ICT, Asia and Oceania (*

The four-week course in the use of ICT and creation of local electronic resources was held between 12 November and 7 December for the fifth time at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. There were 6 scholarship participants (four women and two men coming from Bahrain, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines). The group was very dynamic and interactive. In addition to training in information literacy programme development, delivery and evaluation, they also studied how to create effective web sites using the latest software for this purpose, and each participant was required to undertake an individual IT project involving the creation of a web site for their workplace. At the end of the course, each student had to make a presentation to demonstrate his or her project to the other students and the workshop's lecturers. Also, they had the opportunity to visit a number of the best libraries in Wellington.

### **Other projects**

#### *In-house training for public librarians in Latin America*

12 librarians with management or coordinating posts in public libraries were selected to attend a one-month course in Medellín, Colombia. The programme allowed the participants to strengthen their communication and networking abilities at national and regional levels and, be exposed to new developments and best practises. The programme contained workshops, practical exercises and work in some areas, visits to libraries and cultural institutions as well as meetings and interviews with professionals. When applying for the scholarship the candidates had to explain how they were going to multiply the acquired knowledge when returning to their countries.

#### *Training courses for accessible alternate material for the blind and print disabled*

The training courses in making tactile picture books and DAISY production were planned to be held in November 2007 but due to change of staff at Blindlib it was only possible to carry out the training course in production of tactile picture books for blind children. However, it has now been

decided to carry out a DAISY workshop in September 2008 when new staff is employed and has got the basic knowledge of digital talking books production and two of the decentralised studios are in operation.

Beatrice Christensen Sköld and Annika Norberg produced course material (tactile picture books that can be found at the IFLA ALP web page) and plans. One workshop was held November 13-14, 2007 in Grahamstown and another one November 15 in Cape Town. In Grahamstown 11 people had gathered for the workshop. They went through the whole production process using the course material produced beforehand. It was decided that Blindlib make four books in 20 copies in the first year. The books should be for toddlers. The books will be produced by GADRA, an NGO which trains unemployed persons for work and also teaches illiterate blind people to read Braille. A production plan has been prepared. TPB paid 50 per cent of the personnel cost and Blindlib for accommodation in Grahamstown.

At the Cape Town workshop 22 persons were present. They came from libraries, rehabilitation, schools for blind and publishers. The training above was repeated. Biblionef South Africa (Biblionef is an international NGO using books as a source of development) has been involved in the work since they have an extensive network and they have also been helping with holding the workshop. Biblionef will buy the books and disseminate them among the blind and to Blindlib. This will give many more young visually impaired children access to books.

*Young people in a poor community trained to gather and organise information about their community*

A poor community in a suburb of São Paulo has carried out a pilot project where data were collected by the community itself and presented in a way people understand. 120 young people between the ages 15 and 21 were selected and provided nine weeks training to conduct surveys, decode and handle existing data. The purpose was to make local citizens more knowledgeable so that they can influence politicians and others in power, thus improving their lives. The young people have during their training been working as apprentices locally to facilitate employment. The project has also resulted in Co-operatives that for legal reasons also involve the parents. The final evaluation seminar took place 25-27 October 2007. The project was presented in different ways; one was a 31-min video. According to the six experts from Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador and Chile, who made an evaluation of the project, access to information is a strategic key to fight poverty and this project should be presented as a model for the region. Presentations of the project are available online at: [www.itaimpaulista.com.br/bccc](http://www.itaimpaulista.com.br/bccc) and [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) search >Base Comum de Conhecimento Cidadão<. The report will be translated into English.