



UAP



# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the IFLA Programme for the Universal Availability of publications

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## NEWS FROM THE UAP OFFICE

### The President's travels

Being President of a national library association requires plenty of travel as well as being Director of UAP! As President of the UK Library Association I have had the pleasure of attending the ACURIL conference in Nassau (Bahamas), the Canadian Library Association conference in Edmonton (Alberta) and the ALA in Chicago as well as IFLA in Jerusalem. I spoke at all of them on topics such as electronic copyright, the future of our profession, the jigsaw of information and the role of the publisher in the modern world. In January I shall revert to "normality" but I shall have had a year to remember!

*Graham Cornish*

### IFLA's Core Programmes

IFLA's overall structure and its statutes have recently been the subject of a major review, and the proposed changes were accepted by the membership during the General Conference in Jerusalem in August. The challenge of ensuring wide participation by members from developing countries is the subject of another review being managed by the Working Group on the Future of Division VIII. While some progress has been made here already, discussions are continuing on how to achieve the best balance between the work of the regional sections, Division VIII, and the Core Programme for ALP (Advancement of

Librarianship). Results of those discussions should be available next year.

A separate but related review has also been carried out on the operation and structure of the Core Programmes. There are five well-established Core Programmes, each having a small number of permanent staff and each hosted by a national library or other major library. In recent years, two new groups have been established: the Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM), and Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) have been pivotal in setting out IFLA's position and in representing libraries worldwide in the areas of copyright and freedom of information respectively.

These seven groups are now being referred to as Core Activities (rather than Core Programmes), and the IFLA membership again voted to implement a series of recommendations to improve certain elements of the Core Activities. Their relationship with the rest of IFLA; reporting responsibilities to the IFLA Professional Board; the provision of three-year workplans linked closely to IFLA's new professional priorities; and a closer relationship with those libraries which host and/or contribute funding to the Core Activities are just some of the areas which have been under scrutiny.

It is hoped that the changes will help to re-focus the work of this part of IFLA, and will ensure a clearer financial picture of these very important core IFLA activities.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### IFLA Twinning Database



The IFLA UAP Office recently came to the end of a three-year project to develop a database which would match potential partners, but the results did not really justify the

resources required to maintain the database, in spite of the interest in the project.

Following on from the workshop held at the IFLA Conference in Jerusalem (see separate report) the UAP Office has decided to close down the database. All libraries listed on the database will of course be told of this decision, and advised of alternative options for building networks.

## GUIDELINES



### Principles and Guidelines for International Lending

International ILL is governed by a set of basic principles which were first established by IFLA in 1954. After several previous revisions, we are now undertaking a major review of the principles, and plan to publish them widely in the near future. One of the most basic tenets of international lending is that individual nations should accept responsibility for ensuring material published in that country is made available to libraries in other countries. An efficient national ILL system is a basic requirement, since effective international lending relies on good national systems. A clear policy for both national and international ILL is necessary, to ensure all libraries are aware of the most effective way to request and supply material both within and outside of the country.

The revision of the principles is being undertaken by the Office for International Lending and the IFLA Section on Document Delivery and Interlending, and the latest draft is available on the UAP pages of IFLANET.

### Fax and Email Guidelines

A reminder that the Office has already produced guidelines for libraries which send international ILL requests by fax or email. Copies can be obtained by contacting Pauline Connolly or they are available at

<http://www.ifla.org/VI/2/p3/g-fax.htm> and  
<http://www.ifla.org/VI/2/p3/g-ill.htm>

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### Links between libraries: twinning, networks and partnerships

Workshop organised by the IFLA Core Programme for UAP and the IFLA Round Table on Continuing Professional Education, held during the IFLA General Conference in Jerusalem, 13 August 2000

There is a great deal of enthusiasm for building partnerships between libraries or between individual library professionals. A number of successful partnerships exist, and lessons can be learnt from these on how to establish professional and practical links between libraries. On the other hand, the good ideas behind library twinning are not always easy to put into practice. In order to explore what needs really exist in this area, and to ascertain whether a 'partnership database' is the best way to match libraries seeking to build professional links, a half-day workshop was held during the IFLA Conference to discuss these and related issues.

Four speakers illustrated the broad spread of interest in the idea of library partnerships, and the different approaches that are made to the challenge of successful library twinning. Linda Ashcroft, Chair of the Round Table on Continuing Professional Education, inspired delegates with a call to stand up and be counted. Rather than sit back and wait to be invited to form partnerships, Linda urged library professionals to make their voices heard and their needs known, pointing out that building professional links is an excellent means to personal professional development. She emphasised the importance of keeping in touch with your library association, and in voicing concerns to them. Resource sharing might involve exchange of materials, or staff, or simply expertise, but partnerships do not need to be based on a stronger partner supporting a weaker one, since "equal partnerships can build strength".

Jean Poland presented a paper written by Jeanette Regan from the Australian National University, which described the Physics Astronomy Mathematics Asia Pacific Forum (PAM-APF) project to support equal access to information resources in that particular subject field. This particular project does work on the basis that stronger partners should support those with greater needs, and is a reaction to concerns that rapid technological developments are increasing the divide between information "haves" and information "have-nots". The Forum uses the strategies of providing publicity, access to international forums and the local voices of those in need to improve library and

information provision in developing countries. There have been real and tangible successes in the work of the Forum, and those attending the workshop were keen to know if similar forums exist in other subject or geographical areas. It was suggested that the Forum could be developed and promoted as a model on which other subject-based support networks could be based.

The ALA (American Library Association) Sister Library Programme is already widely known, and Sarah Long, Past President of the ALA, offered an inspiring insight into the difference the programme has made to community library links between US and foreign public libraries. With the slogan "Libraries build community", Sarah explained how the opportunity to build relationships with libraries in other cultures can help all librarians learn, understand and better serve their own communities. The ALA International Relations Office also supports the programme, and maintains a database of Sister Library arrangements.

The IFLA Core Programme for UAP has been maintaining the IFLA Twinning Database for three years. The database was developed to match libraries seeking twinning partners, much along the lines of a dating agency. Libraries would apply to have their details entered on the database, and UAP staff would aim to put two libraries in touch with each other, matching their needs as closely as possible. The database emerged out of earlier work by UNESCO, which identified a need for a central focal point for libraries wanting to find a partner library. Pauline Connolly, the database manager, explained to the workshop participants that the database had not achieved the expected results, and that the Office for UAP was considering closing it down, since the results had not justified the resources spent on maintaining it. There was a good discussion on how libraries could best find suitable partners, and why the ALA Sister Library programme had been so successful in matching libraries, while the IFLA Database clearly had not.

It was agreed that a database containing applications from libraries was probably not the best route to successful partnerships, given the wide diversity of type, size, subject area, level of technological development, and needs demonstrated by the libraries which had applied. Personal contact, or an individual direct approach to specific libraries appear to be better methods of building partnerships. What emerged clearly from discussions was the need for an information resource on models, guidelines, case studies and existing successful partnerships to which people could refer when considering building a twinning link. The work already carried out by the IFLA Section on Science and Technology Libraries in this area was highlighted and applauded.

Abstracts of the Workshop's papers are available on the UAP pages of IFLANET, together with links to the full papers where these are available. Interested readers are also referred to the Section on Science and Technology Libraries' IFLANET pages at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s7/p1994/cooplib.htm>, and to the ALA Sister Library programme at <http://www.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.html>

### **ILL in Portugal**

The Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal has recently hosted the first ever national seminar on interlending. The 1as Jornadas de Empréstimo Interbibliotecas brought together over 100 ILL librarians from Portugal, and signalled the beginning of increasing co-operation on a national level, and a recognition of the importance of resource-sharing both within and outside the country. The Core Programme for UAP was delighted to be invited to take part in the Seminar, which recognised the important aims behind the concept of universal availability of publications. Further details of the results of the Seminar, and about ILL in Portugal, can be obtained from Elisa Soares, ILL Librarian at the Biblioteca Nacional, at [esoares@bn.pt](mailto:esoares@bn.pt).

### **Repository Libraries**

Repository libraries have been subject of renewed awareness in recent years, following the very successful first International Conference on Repository Libraries, which took place in May 1999, and the establishment of an IFLA Discussion Group and related internet discussion list. Repository libraries provide long-term storage of material which has been removed from 'regular' libraries through lack of space. Often serving all libraries in a country or region, the repository library assumes ownership of the contributed material, and can offer real benefits in cost savings through reduced shelf space in other libraries, and through de-duplication of stock. They play a vital role in ensuring continued access to little-used material, and are an important player in the aims of UAP.

The UAP Office recently participated in the 2nd Nordic-Baltic Repository Library meeting in Mo I Rana, Norway, and supports further co-operation among repository libraries, both within that region and internationally. Both the Nordic-Baltic group and the IFLA Discussion Group have plans for research into current repository library practice, the possible development of best practice guidelines, an assessment of the need to offer a redistribution service, and the role of repository libraries in the electronic world.

A report of the Nordic-Baltic meeting can be found at [www.nb.no/nbrana/depot/repoite/](http://www.nb.no/nbrana/depot/repoite/), and details of the

repositorib discussion list are available from Pentti Vattulainen, National Repository Library of Finland, at pentti.vattulainen@nrl.fi.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### INTERLENDING & DOCUMENT SUPPLY 7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**1-5 October 2001**  
**Ljubljana, Slovenia**



Jointly organised by the UAP Office and the National and University Library, Ljubljana and supported by the IFLA Section on Document Delivery and Interlending

Ljubljana, which offers excellent conference and tourist facilities, while retaining the warmth and charm of a small town. Outside the city, the Alps are just one hour's drive away, and coastal resorts within easy reach too. In addition to presented papers there will be an exhibition and it is also hoped to hold hands-on workshops (see separate Call for Papers).

### PUBLICATIONS

A complete list of current publications for sale may be requested from the Office. In addition, the following titles are available free of charge:

- **National Libraries of the World: an address list - 4th Edition, new in 1999**
- **IFLA Fax Guidelines**
- **IFLA Email Guidelines**

All publications can be ordered by contacting Pauline Connolly.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Director of the UAP Programme and Head of IFLA Office for International Lending  
**Graham Cornish**

Programme Officer  
**Sara Gould**

Research Officer  
**Pauline Connolly**

Officer Administrator  
**Tracy Bentley**

The Office is fully linked to the Internet system. All staff can be reached on a general Email address IFLA@bl.uk and individual members of the team can be reached by using the formula: `firstname.lastname@bl.uk`. The general office telephone number is +44 1937 546254 (which is also the number for Pauline Connolly). Other numbers are:

546123 (Graham Cornish)  
546254 (Sara Gould)

The UAP Office has a home page on the WWW at:  
<http://www.ifla.org/VI/2/uap.htm>

The UAP newsletter can be received electronically by contacting Pauline Connolly.

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