

The Chair Speaks



[Photo Credit: Rinus van Schie/ Westervoort]

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be able to write to you, readers of our Newsletter.

Last August, during the Durban Conference, we had to say goodbye to many of our much appreciated members of our Standing Committee.

On behalf of all members of the children's section, I want to thank Dr. Ivanka Stricevic for all the hard work she has done -- two years as a secretary and four years as Chair. Many nightly hours she worked to fill IFLA forms, provide articles for the Newsletter, write the annual reports, apply for projects, answer the many, many emails the Section receive from all over the world, and much more.

So now I am taking over and therefore I would like to take the opportunity to explain how I feel about IFLA and specifically the Children and Young Adults Section.

The Section is a group of hardworking people. We warmly welcome anyone interested in libraries for children and young adults. But (of course there is a "but"!) the members of the standing committee are often people from Europe, USA, Canada -- very North/ Western-oriented you might say.

For me, as Chair for the next two or four years, my personal challenge lies in this: to make the IFLA Children and Young Adult Section a real worldwide section!

Our Section wants to work together especially with librarians from Africa, Middle and South America, Middle East, Oceania and Asia to change the perception of being too Western/ European oriented.

I am aware that funding for travelling and conferences is very hard to obtain when you are a librarian in another part of the world. But that does not mean your voice cannot be heard!

We look forward to your participation at our main and pre-conferences as well as through our e-mail list at (infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/child-ya).

We invite colleagues from all over the world to contribute articles for SCL News. We look forward to you sharing your best practices for publication on IFLAnet.

As far as the Standing Committee meetings are concerned, we want to focus on discussion and exchange. Minutes of previous meetings and announcements will be emailed ahead of the main conference every year in August.

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We have even started experimenting with a Wiki for collaborative documentation (please visit ya-guidelines.wikispaces.com).

We want to improve our own digital skills (do what we preach!)

So our precious time will be used optimally when we meet during conferences.

I'll finish by welcoming our new secretary, Viviana Quiñones, and by thanking the members of the Section for their trust in me and I hope to be able to fill the shoes of the previous chair, Ivanka Stricevic. ✿

Ms Ingrid Bon

Arnhem in Bibloservice Gelderland, The Netherlands
Chair & Treasurer of IFLA Section: CHILD

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Editor's Note

Some time back (before the 2007 conference in Durban, South Africa), I suggested to our Standing Committee members that we use a Wiki to edit a draft of the YA Guidelines that some of the members were assigned to review. With a Wiki, any number of people can edit the document (the thought of us editing and passing a Word document via email didn't appeal to me). I received enough positive replies to go ahead and explore the idea.

After consulting with the relevant people in IFLA HQ, we were informed that IFLA did not have specific prohibitions on us using a Wiki. So we went ahead and started one for the revision of the YA Guidelines.

Here's the URL: <http://ya-guidelines.wikispaces.com/>

We've used a free Wiki-hosting service (for obvious reasons, budget-wise). Because it's a free service, there are limitations to how much we could customise the Wiki. For instance, we couldn't restrict anyone from editing the pages unless we subscribed for a paid account.

However, from my experience with a personal wiki-project, it was quite unlikely for total strangers to abuse the Wiki (delete all the pages, for example). Even if it did happen, the information could be restored quite easily. Backup of the information was also a breeze. With the service we were using, there's a feature where I could choose to receive notifications for any changes made to any page (another handy feature to keep track of when and what information was updated).

You don't really need to know what is a Wiki, or how it works. To edit a page, just click on "EDIT" (I mean, with a button that says "Edit This Page", it's pretty self-explanatory I think).

There's no need to sign up for any account either. We allow anonymous edits to the Wiki. The IP address is logged, in case you're wondering. The free service also allows us to track the specific date and time of the changes made (check out the "History" tab), and allows us to make comparisons of different page-versions (most, if not all, Wikis have this feature). Each page has a Discussion forum, so if you only wish comment and not edit, just post your comments.

Basically, if you know how to use word processing softwares like MS Word, then you'll intuitively know how to edit the pages in the Wiki. You don't have to worry about making "mistakes" because we can always revert to a previous saved version (same applies if the space is abused or defaced).

It's an experiment for us, and so far so good. Apart from being more efficient, I feel that providing a Wiki allows interested professionals (who are not in the committee) to be included in the revision process.

Seems like a nice fit with the Section's aims, in my opinion.



Ivan Chew

National Library Board, Singapore
Information Coordinator, IFLA Section: CHILD

Early literacy programs in Australian libraries

Contributed by Mylee Joseph



Early or emergent literacy describes what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school.

Schools and teachers are important but our parents, and what happens before we reach school, are more significant. It is estimated that by the age of three, 50% of our language is in place. At five, it's 85%. Language is either there or missing by the time a child starts primary school.¹



As Dr Susan Hill points out "The relatively new occurrence of library-based programs for 0-2 year olds has been a challenge to many library staff. Traditionally libraries have provided preschool-based programs for 3-5 year olds where book reading, storytelling and craft activities are relatively common.

Staff therefore felt anxious about engaging babies in book reading activities and some felt quite uncertain about having a large group of babies in the library."²

This article considers some of the programs in Australia, which specifically target the needs of very young children and their parents, in partnership with public libraries.

Early words www.earlywords.info

The Early Words program in Western Sydney emphasises the need to build the basic skills that children need for reading and writing from birth.

In response to the needs of a multicultural community the program provides simple tip sheets for parents in ten community languages including: English, Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Hindi, Korean, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

The local Aboriginal community have also been engaged in tailoring tip sheets and resources to suit their particular needs. The Early Words program has established strong links with the public libraries in the area, liaising with children's library staff regularly and sharing expertise from speech pathology, teaching and occupational therapy perspectives with the library professionals.

The Little Big Book Club www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

An early literacy program for 0-5 years, The Little Big Book Club began in South Australia. The program features a strong partnership with the state wide daily newspaper, The Advertiser, who feature information about recommended books for children, storytelling programs at local libraries and 'good news' stories about the fun of reading aloud to preschoolers.

Continues on Page 4

1 Sinclair, A. (2007) 0-5: How Small Children Make a Big Difference *Provocation Series* 3 (1), 5.

2 Hill, S. (2006) Baby bounce: the Little Big Book Club way to begin literacy for children 0-2 years. Paper presented at the *Early Literacy Research Symposium, International Reading Association Annual Conference*, Chicago, April 29-May 5 2006

Continued from Page 3

The media coverage takes the message of early literacy out into the community reaching many people who may never have been regular library users.

The club features monthly recommended titles for children and encourages parents to take their children to the library. In South Australia the club provided every baby aged between four and six months with a reading pack including a book, a story time DVD and information for parents.



The program also provides support to library staff through a training program called *Building literacy before school @ your library*. This program included key milestones in child development and workshoped presenting programs to very young children from 0 – 2 years. The program is also supported by a detailed website featuring activities linked to the book selections and information for parents.

Better Beginnings www.better-beginnings.com.au

The *Better Beginnings* program aims to introduce children to appropriate books and language related activities, provides guidance for parents as their child's first teacher, raises awareness in the community of the value and fun of sharing stories with children, introduce families to the services that libraries offer people of all ages. The program includes packs for parents of new babies and information about their local public library's services.



Let's Read www.letsread.com.au

The *Let's Read* program is built on these key principles "Parents need to understand the importance of reading with their young child and how to do it. They need to have clear and simple information, as well as being shown the techniques – "Share and Show"... *Let's Read* is designed to be delivered at four points during a child's development, these being from 4 months, 12 months, 18 months and 3½ years... The best person to "Share and Show" with a parent to promote the reading messages is a community based professional that the family trusts."³ The program builds partnerships in communities drawing together libraries and the many professionals in the community who work with children.

This is a very quick snapshot of some of the early literacy programs provided across the country to Australian families.

It is clear that public libraries are a vital link in our communities, supporting parents and fostering early literacy skills in children from a very young age. ❀



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³ Let's Read ~ Underpinning philosophy <http://www.letsread.com.au/pages/philosophy.php>

Highlights of the second runner-up of the Poster presentations at the IFLA conference 2007 -- "Every Baby a Book" programme (launched nationwide in Malaysia on 27 July 2007)

Contributed by Rashidah Begum bt. Fazal Mohamed, Chairman of the Working Committee on Every Baby a Book Programme, Malaysia.

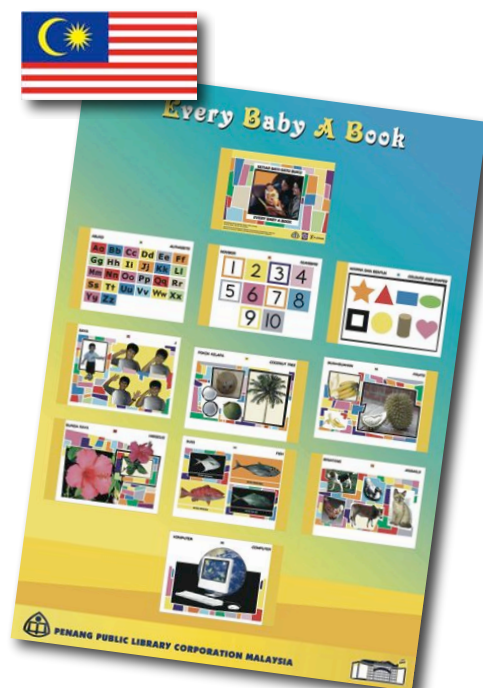
The key feature of the "Every Baby a Book" programme is an "eco-friendly, hand-made, attractive, non-toxic, strong and sturdy, washable cloth book" developed and designed by library staff.

There are colourful and culturally meaningful images and concepts, like the alphabet, numbers, colours, shapes, self, images from Malaysian flora and fauna, and the ubiquitous computer.

There is a Parents Guide by way of "talking points" in the book. These "talking points" provide information related to the images, as well as suggestions for activities to make the parent/ caregiver and child interaction a fun and enjoyable experience each time the book is used.

The programme encouraged parents and caregivers to be involved in introducing the child to the world of learning at an early stage. It also aims to increase the membership and usage of the library.

For more details about the Cloth Book and the programme, contact:
Shukriah Binti Hj. Yon, Director, Penang Public Library Corporation, JKR
2118, Jalan Perpustakaan, Seberang Jaya, 13700, Penang, MALAYSIA
Tel: 604-3971058; 604-3979949 H/P: 6019-4714247
Email: shuk@penanglib.gov.my



Have you signed up?

CHILD-YA Mailing List

Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section Mailing List.

The purpose of this list is to support the work of the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section. We aim to promote international cooperation in the fields of library services to children and young adults, and to encourage the exchange of experience, education and training and research in all aspects of this subject.

Webpage: <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/child-ya>

Do you have articles or stories to contribute in SCL News?
Do you have problems accessing the online copies?
Please contact our Section's Information Coordinator for enquiries or assistance.



Country Highlights: Japan

Contributed by Naoko Sato & Kazuko Yoda

All-Japan Library Conference

The 93rd All-Japan Library Conference was held in Tokyo from October 29-30, 2007.

The Japan Library Association (JLA), Children & Young Adult (C&YA) Committee, managed the sectional meeting, which focused on training for library staff. There were four reports from different types of library and one from the C&YA Committee.

Urayasu City Central Library, which is near Tokyo, offers courses for its staff to become lecturers.

Fukuoka Prefectural Library, which is far from Tokyo in the south of Japan, has set up four kinds of training courses according to various levels: these are basic, expert, thematic and special. The aim is to train the library staff of municipalities within its district.

The C&YA Committee first began offering JLA's training course of lectures for children's librarians in 1980. It includes lectures on the Treaty of Children's Rights, and services for babies.

The International Library of Children's Literature, branch of the National Diet Library, has been holding a lecture on children's literature once a year since 2004. Attendees come from various districts in Japan.

The Tokyo Children's Library is a special private library. Highly respected literati including Ms. Momoko Ishii, and Ms. Kyoko Matsuoka, founded it 52 years ago. It has been accepting one or two trainees every year from 2002. The trainees are put through a rigorous and substantial training course lasting one year. At the end of this term they deliver an open and detailed presentation for interested parties.

After the five reports, a panel discussion was held. The coordinator concluded that, for the future, enhanced cooperation between libraries would help create a good training framework.



JAPANESE BOARD ON BOOKS
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

JBBY

社団法人 日本国際児童図書評議会



IBBY President lectures at the ILCL

On July 7, 2007, Ms. Patricia Aldana, President of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), and Ms. Chieko SUEMORI, Vice-President of the Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBby - www.jbby.org/english/index.html) were invited to the International Library of Children's Literature (ILCL), a branch of the National Diet Library (NDL).

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Each of these distinguished guests presented a lecture.

Ms. Aldana's was titled "Books that are windows, Books that are mirrors - Why multi-cultural publishing matters and what does it mean?"

The lecture traced her efforts in introducing children's publishing in Canada that had a multi-cultural focus, and also her belief that books were important in acting as "windows" and "mirrors" for children, helping them to understand the wider world, as well as themselves.

And Ms. Chieko Suemori gave a lecture titled "Look toward Multi-culture - People I met at IBBY". Her lecture centered on her four years as an IBBY International Board member, and how books were particularly important to children who were afflicted by poverty or war.

After the lectures a welcome reception was held for Ms. Aldana by Dr. Makoto Nagao, the Librarian of the National Diet Library. The reception was honored by the presence of Her Majesty Empress Michiko.

Ref: www.ndl.go.jp/en/publication/ndl_newsletter/156/566.html

Two Exhibitions at ILCL

The first was titled "Look up at the sky: Children's Books on the Sun, Moon and Stars", and it was held from February to September 2007.

More than 300 materials were assembled from a wide range of sources, including literary lore, the latest science related to celestial objects, as well as a model of rocket and replicas of space suits. During the exhibition period, there were lectures made by scientists and folk-tale researchers, and handcraft sessions on making space chart plates.

The second exhibition was titled "Palette of Dream Colours III, and it aimed "to encourage the creative activities of picture books illustrators in Asian, African and Latin American regions".

There were a total of 69 pieces of the original prize-winning drawings, along with 160 picture books, from the 15th Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations held by the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (www.accu.or.jp/en).

Mr. Emad El-shafey, an Egyptian children's literature author, gave a lecture titled "Children's literature and the public libraries in Egypt—the Reading promotion activities in Egypt" in October. *



Naoko Sato,
Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library
Kyoto, Japan
Standing Committee Member of IFLA Section: CHILD



&

Kazuko Yoda
Japan Library Association, Yokohama, Japan
Standing Committee Member of IFLA Section: CHILD





Country Highlights: United Kingdom

Contributed by Annie Everall



The UK Summer Reading Challenge www.bigwildread.co.uk

Now in its ninth year, the Summer Reading Challenge aimed at 4 – 12 year olds is the UK's largest promotion of children's reading. Run by public libraries, it involves 660,000 children, creatively encouraging them to read. Research shows that taking part in the challenge boosts children's reading confidence and enjoyment. The 2007 challenge 'The Big Wild Read' is encouraging children not only to read, but also to make a positive difference to their environment. As part of the BBC Breathing Places initiative, the Summer Reading Challenge is a special partner in The Woodland Trust's 'Tree for All' campaign, the biggest ever children's tree planting initiative. Every book a child reads as part of The Big Wild Read will earn tree tokens, which will be translated into up to 20,000 new trees for regional UK woods. Children signing up to take part will be given a bright and colourful folder to record their summer reading. They will also receive sets of stickers (including scratch and sniff ones of flowers, fruit and smelly compost), and other incentives too, fridge magnets, moving image bookmarks and packs of wild flower seeds to attract wildlife into gardens and neighbourhoods. Children who complete the Summer Reading Challenge by reading six or more books will receive a medal and a certificate. Libraries also organise thousands of inspirational workshops and events linked to the challenge theme, to encourage children and families to explore reading further and enjoy other creative activities. This year as a result of a partnership with the British Council, children in 28 other countries around the world will also be taking part in The Big Wild Read.



'Shout, Whisper & sing – developing a strong voice for children's library services' CILIP Youth Libraries Group Annual Conference 2007 14 – 16 September University of Hertfordshire www.ylg.org.uk

This is the major conference in the UK for all those interested in children's and young people's books, reading and libraries. The conference is about how we can positively influence those people who matter to library services. It's about giving staff who work with children and young people, whatever their role, the skills, abilities and confidence to speak convincingly about the value of library services and working together to develop powerful advocacy strategies and techniques to bring children's libraries into the limelight. The conference also includes a celebration dinner with this year CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway medal winners. For further information or to book a place contact Karen Usher (email: Karen@musher.demon.co.uk) or speak to her while she is at IFLA.



CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medal Winners - www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk

Awarded annually by CILIP: the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, the Carnegie Medal is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book for children and young people and the Kate Greenaway Medal is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people. The 2007 medals were awarded to:

- Carnegie Medal – 'Just in Case' by Meg Rosoff published by Penguin
- Kate Greenaway Medal – 'The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon' by Mini Grey published by Jonathan Cape



In 2007 the CILIP Carnegie Medal celebrates its 70th Anniversary and the CILIP Kate Greenaway its 50th. To mark the Anniversaries, there has been a yearlong celebration including a national vote to find out the public's favourite Carnegie and Greenaway winners of all time. They turned out to be –

- Carnegie Medal – Philip Pullman 'His Dark Materials Book 1 Northern Lights
- Kate Greenaway Medal - Shirley Hughes 'Dogger'

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**Love Libraries Campaign** www.lovelibraries.co.uk

Love Libraries is a campaign to improve libraries, led by Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, in partnership with Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), The Reading Agency and Society of Chief Librarians (SCL). The Love Libraries Award is designed to find libraries that are offering the best services for young people and finding new and exciting ways to attract young people into libraries. 48 nominations were received and five have been short-listed. The short listed five are:

- Urban Art at Birmingham Central Library
- Book Pushers in Derbyshire Libraries
- Youth Forum in Grangetown Library
- Variety Shows in Lambeth Libraries
- Get it Loud in Libraries at Lancaster Library

The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony on Wednesday 3rd October

**Derbyshire Libraries Book Pusher** www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Derbyshire Libraries Book Pushers are teenage reading advocates, trained by library staff to spread their love of reading among young people. They share their views on books they've read with peers, librarians, publishers and other people interested in supporting teenagers' interest in reading.

They give presentations in schools, libraries and the community; produce creative displays in libraries of their recommended reads; influence the selection of library books; deliver training for library staff to help improve services and encourage more people to discover all the great things libraries have to offer.

They are groups of 12-16 year olds selected from local schools and/or library reading groups by audition; they are asked to stand up in front of a panel and talk about a book they've enjoyed reading and why. Those selected are given training in public speaking, choosing text to read during performances and communication skills. Through the presentations they are able to influence book selection in libraries, inform publishers which books young people like to read and why and encourage other teenagers to broaden their reading and try new books or genres. They have given presentations and workshops at local, regional, national and international conferences. The Book Pusher initiative is currently one of five short listed projects in the Love Libraries Award.

**Derbyshire Libraries Young People's Reading Debate** www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Each year young people, library staff, teachers, authors, school librarians and publishers come together to take part in the annual Young People's Reading Debate, organised by the Library service. The aim of the debate is to raise the level of discussion about books, reading and libraries, give young people a voice and improve their skill and confidence, build partnerships and contribute to the citizenship agenda. It takes place in the Council Chamber at County Hall. The 2007 motion was 'This house believes that the internet can replace books'. A hundred year 10 pupils from fifteen secondary schools across Derbyshire hotly debated this topic alongside authors Sherry Ashworth and Matthew Skelton, before soundly defeating the motion with an acknowledgement that both books and the internet are needed. Young People across Derbyshire were also able to add their comments to the debate through the b-line website. The young people were impressive in their debating. As one of the visiting authors said, 'This event re-inspired my thoughts on young people and reading. Not only the level of argument but also in the way young people respected each other's opinions'. ✿

**Ms Annie Everall**

Derbyshire, United Kingdom

Standing Committee Member of IFLA Section: CHILD



Country Highlights: France

*Contributed by Viviane Ezratty, Soizic Jouin & Nic Diamant
(Translated by Viviana Quiñones)*

Children's literature has a more and more important place at school, at university, in research and in French society in general. Librarians for children have largely contributed to this positive evolution. Some examples:

Two international seminars on children's literature have taken place at the Bibliothèque nationale de France: one on the life and works of Roald Dahl; the other on translation of children's literature – a subject little explored in France before.

At the request of the Ministry of Education, librarians for children participated in the drawing-up of a list of books for 5-8 year-olds. This list, sent to every school in France, is used by teachers to develop children's love for reading.

Those wanting to be primary school teachers must now pass an exam on children's literature. Their training includes courses on children's literature, which are often taught by librarians.

Several excellent reference titles on children's picture books have been published.

Every summer, the libraries of the City of Paris have organised open-air "libraries" -- beach umbrellas, carpets and lots of baskets with books, librarians settle in public gardens, squares, buildings entrance halls... to tell stories and make discover the pleasure of reading together

Lately, questions have arisen again in France about library services for teenagers: must one allow them a separate place, even a special section, within public libraries? (Unlike some other countries, very few public libraries in France have a special section for teenagers or young adults); what to do to lead to books those teenagers who don't like reading, and which are the books to suggest to them?

Librarians also ask themselves many questions about collection organising. The traditional borders are being questioned:

Children and adult collections: in several new libraries, non-fiction for adults and for children are completely or partly mixed up

Different types of documents: must we intermingle printed material and other material like access to the Internet or CDROMs, or not?

Genres: publishing for children does not follow 'traditional differences'. One can now find picture books or very illustrated books intended not for young children but for older ones, comic books that are in fact non-fiction books, and also composite books (text + CDROM or text + internet site)

Another concern among children's librarians is the conservation of very old books for children, patrimonial or more recent but old enough to have been replaced on library shelves.

Several French regions have set up plans for shared conservation. Numerous libraries participate in these plans either as poles for conservation on a domain, an author, a publisher or a genre. Or more modestly, by sending their weeded books to the different conservation poles. These conserved collections cater to a large public: students, academics, book or library professionals, nostalgics or even children themselves, curious to know more of the books their parents or grandparents loved.

At the request of the former Minister of Culture, a big operation called "Livres 2010" was launched about the future of book.



Open air "libraries" in Paris

Questions have arisen again in France about library services for teenagers:

Must one allow them a separate place, even a special section, within public libraries?

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This operation included children's books and reading which were the subject of one of the 11 regional round tables that prepared the final report, published in July and giving directions for future public policies on book and reading in the coming years.

One of the recommendations of the Report is that a National Centre for Children's Books be included in the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF).

This Centre will be La Joie par les livres, which has been working for several months in order to prepare its incorporation to the BnF in January 2008. Within la BnF La Joie par les livres will pursue and develop its activities as National Centre for Children's Books.

Since April 2007, La Joie par les livres was no longer in charge of the Children's Library of Clamart (which is now run by another association). La Joie par les livres develops its activities in Paris, for adults interested in children's literature and reading: resource centre, publications, website (www.lajoieparleslivres.com), continuing education for professionals, seminars, promotion of book and reading. It is the French section of IBBY, whose partnership with IFLA has been reinforced in the last years.

Finally, the theme of the annual conference of ABF, Librarian's Association of France, was in 2007 the large and interesting question of library publics. The Association has just created a committee for children's librarians. One of its working themes will be, precisely, the question of young publics. *



*La Joie par les livres
resource centre on
children's books and
reading*

Viviane Ezratty
Bibliothèque l'Heure Joyeuse, Paris, France
**Out-going Standing Committee Member
of IFLA Section: CHILD**



&

Soizik Jouin
Médiathèque Chaptal, France
Standing Committee Member of IFLA Section: CHILD

&

Nic Diamant
La Joie par les livres
French National Centre for Children's Books



[Nic Diamant, former treasurer of our Section CHILD, retired in September 2007. Jacques Vidal-Naquet is the new Director of La Joie par les livres.]



*Last issue of Takam Tikou,
professional review on children's
books and reading in Africa, the
Arab world, the Caribbean, the
Indian Ocean - published by La
Joie par les livres*

The SCL News is published twice a year, in June and December. Issues are available primarily via IFLANET. Requests for materials via normal mail would be entertained on a case-by-case basis.

We welcome suggestions for stories and articles that promote international cooperation and the exchange of ideas and experience, in the fields of library services to children and young adults. Please contact the Section's Chair and/or Information Coordinator for enquiries.



Country Highlights: Singapore

Contributed by Ian Yap & Ivan Chew

It was a typical busy year for us. Here are highlights of the year's activities for **Children's Services** and **Young People's Services** from the Public Library:



Youths providing "Designs In Demand"



Students answering quiz questions and Proving It



Teen Online Chat

YOUNG PEOPLE

Designs in Demand

This was a new initiative by the library to reach out the youths-at-risk in Singapore, through design projects in public libraries. The library worked closely with probation officers from the Ministry of Community, Youth and Sports (MCYS). Both parties aimed to engage the young probationers through their creativity and artistic skills.

The youths were involved in mural paintings, card-making workshops and poster designs. The librarians in charge also take the time to link library books with the tasks they are doing, for instance, showing them craft books, books with interior design ideas, and thematic ideas. After the events, they said they would like to return to the library for more of such activities.

Prove It! – An Information Literacy Competition for youths

This nation-wide contest, conceived and organised by a team of Young People Services librarians, challenged students' ability to seek information from credible sources. Aimed at students 14 to 16, it saw 62 teams from schools across Singapore competing at the regional and national levels. Prior to the contest, students attended workshops that offered pointers to information sources.

Through the competition, students had to acquire information literacy skills and learn to work as a team to complete the given tasks within a time limit. Teams had to look up different sources like print, Internet and databases for answers and more important, verify their answers with any two sources. Participating students said the contest was challenging, interesting, and useful.

Teen Online Chat - Singapore and Germany

With the help of the Goethe-Institute Singapore, we organised an online chat event for 57 teens from Germany and Singapore. The Urban Library Reutlingen and Stadtbibliothek Solingen in Germany, and the Jurong Regional Library and Woodlands Regional Library in Singapore, hosted the online sessions.

Librarians acted as facilitators in three online chatrooms. The discussion allowed the teens to connect and share each other's culture and lifestyles. Singaporean teens took the initiative to create multimedia slideshows on Singapore sights and sounds, to share with their peers in Germany. It was noted that the teens appeared very engaged in the chat session until it ended.

CHILDREN

KidsREAD Programme

Since 2004, this year-long programme, for children (ages four to eight) from low-income families, has involved 5,000 participants. The programme grew from nine Reading Clubs to 70. The clubs are run solely by volunteers. The programme has also become a meaningful community involvement project for school students, where they are committed to assisting in the clubs as part of their community service.



KidsREAD club

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Junior Reading Ambassadors (JRA)

This was an inaugural programme that selected 13 Primary School children (9 to 12 year olds) to be ambassadors in promoting reading and libraries to other children. These ambassadors went through a training camp; learning about library services; genres and authors; storytelling and dramatization; handling media interviews. They have since gone to many public platforms to tell about the benefits of reading, conducted buddy-reading events, provided media interviews and hosted major children's events. They also induct younger children in their schools about reading and the use of the library.

10,000 Fathers Reading

This was a nationwide movement to encourage fathers to read to their children on a regular basis. The launch included a carnival held at the beach, a Father-child Reading Corner in a large tent, sport game and carnival booths. We also had an online Dads' Chatroom and many father-child post-event reading activities.

Original stories from librarians

This was our 5th year in publishing original Children stories written by National Library Board staff. The stories, in all our four official languages (English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil), was compiled into a book and sold at our public libraries.

Asian Children's Festival (ACF) 2007

This year's festival opened the weeklong KidsAsia Expo. There were traditional children's games, food and exhibits of old, and a "Woodstock-like" event with children performing on stage.

The ACF also saw our first-ever all-night Children slumber party. Participants were entertained by stories all night, toured the Singapore Arts Museum and woke up performing Taiji to the rising sun at the National Library's Observation Deck.

Once again we had the regular MRT Read & Ride Event, where a subway train was transformed into a land of storytelling. Hundreds of children listened to stories told in the trains from one station to another, ending with a musical performance at the last stop.

The new "Born to Read, Read to Bond" package

This programme promotes reading as a child-bonding activity for parents with children 0-6 years. In 2007 we targeted not only parents of newborns but also expectant parents. The library gave parents a care bag that contained:

- A Baby Journal (includes a 25-page information guide with important phone numbers)
- A Baby's First CD (includes stories, nursery rhymes and poems read by librarians)
- A Baby's Height Chart
- An activity calendar for 4 to 7 year olds (includes a guide to a smooth transition to school life)

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Ian Yap
National Library Board, Singapore
Manager, Children's Services

&



Ivan Chew
National Library Board, Singapore
Information Coordinator, IFLA Section: CHILD



Junior Reading Ambassadors



*JRAs at the 10,000
Fathers Reading
Carnival*



*ACF Storytelling in
the train*

Highlights of the IFLA Pre-Conference:

"INNOVATIVE MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ALL, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LITERACY, LEARNING AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY"

15-17 AUGUST 2007 PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

[Editor: The following are extracts from the "Interim Report to the IFLA Standing Committees on Library Services to Multicultural Library Populations, Libraries for Children and Young Adults, and the Reading Sections" (22 August 2007), compiled by Dr. AJ Swanepoel, Chair of the Local Organising Committee, Pretoria.]

The full report contains details of the conference planning and proceedings, and comments on the challenges faced. We feature the extracts here, as there maybe valuable learning points for those who may organise similar activities.]

From the report's
Executive
Summary:

**"From an
organisers point
of view the
conference was
very successful.
The LOC
received
sufficient
income from
registration fees
and
sponsorships to
reach all its
goals and pay all
its expenses...**

**...Feedback
from speakers,
exhibitors and
delegates during
and after the
conference also
indicated that
they regarded
the conference
as very
successful with
high quality
papers and
presentations."**

Cooperation between the three IFLA's Sections

On 26 August 2006, at the 72nd IFLA General Conference in Seoul, South Korea, representatives of IFLA's **Library Services to Multicultural Populations (MULTP) Section**, the **Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section** and the **Reading Section** agreed that all three sections co-organise the 2007 Satellite Conference of the MULTP.

The three sections cooperated in reviewing proposals to present papers, publicising the conference, identifying keynote speakers, chairing the conference sessions, and guiding the Local Organising Committee.

Challenges - Right at the beginning of the planning phase in 2006, the Local Organising Committee was not always sure to what extent it had to get approval or guidelines from the IFLA MULTP Standing Committee before commencing with particular plans. The same uncertainty reoccurred after it was decided in August 2006 to plan the conference in cooperation with IFLA's Reading Section and the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section. Once the broad parameters of the conference were determined by the three Sections the LOC continued full steam ahead and cooperation between the LOC and the three Sections had been very good and effective.

Local Organising Committee – LOC (South Africa)

The LOC consists of volunteers who responded on an invitation posted on a listserv of the Library & Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). Although over a two-year period several volunteers were involved the following members formed the core of the LOC. The LOC met once a month.

Challenges - Very few members of the LOC had previous experience in planning and organizing a conference. Fortunately it provided a great learning opportunity and experience for everyone.

The conference programme

Delegates experienced the programme as well-balanced, interesting and informative. Speakers provided a mixture of theory and practice, innovation and best practices from a variety of perspectives, libraries and cultures.

Challenges - Although the participation of three IFLA sections in one conference provided many opportunities it posed a challenge for the LOC to accommodate a large number of variables into one programme. The LOC had to ensure that the programme provide sufficient balance in terms of IFLA Section representation, as well as country, gender and culture representation. In addition the program had to accommodate the interest of a very wide target group, including "library staff, educators, researchers, professionals involved in literacy and learning, languages and linguistics, community workers (from NGO:s and the like), archivists, museum workers, booksellers and publishers from South Africa, the African continent and worldwide". *

**CALL FOR PAPERS: Open session by the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section
In Québec, Canada
at the 74th World Library and Information Congress
under the theme "Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding"
10-14 August 2008**

Session title: Setting sails for new horizons: what tools do we need and do we want?

In order to optimize global sharing and learning at the 2008 IFLA Conference, the Libraries for Children and Young

Adults is planning a session where we can discuss how to respond the different challenges children's libraries are facing these years.

The children live different lives all over the world, the various media are changing very fast - and the libraries still have to offer relevant library services in harmony with society and with children.

What specific challenges has your library faced and how have you dealt with them?" (Challenges for example: staff untrained, old insufficient or inadequate collections, lack of budget to buy books, lack of information about good books, lack of books in the readers' language, lack of communication with other colleagues, lack of understanding by the community of the importance of children's reading...)

- How can libraries support and encourage reading? Opening the book to children and give the children "a hunger for reading"
- How can we offer the proper media or formats?
- How must the library room change in order to be attractive to children?
- How can libraries support education and digital knowledge?
- How can libraries develop digital services to children?
- How do we reach the children in their own world?
- How can we close the gap between children and staff; do they speak the same language?

Participants are asked to present visually enticing materials to engage IFLA delegates and show best practices.

Participants' contributions could include **demonstrations of reading activities, story telling, the provision and use of local language materials, training techniques, reading promotion, theatre etc.** that take place as part of a library or community programme in different parts of the world.

You are invited to submit proposal in English for this session. The following should be provided:

- **Name and institution** of presenter(s)
- **Description of programme/project/research/campaign/storytelling session etc.** (1 page, up to 350 words)
- **Relevant biographical information** of author(s)/presenter(s)
- **Kinds of materials** to be presented
- **Equipment needed** (table, board) - organisers will not be able to supply computers or electronic equipment

Send your proposals by January 15, 2008 via e-mail to Ingrid Bon: ingrid.bon@biblioservice.nl

The abstracts will be reviewed by the Review Committee and 4 proposals will be selected. The RC will make every effort to have representation from all continents. Diversity of language will be accepted but a simple hand-out in one of the IFLA languages will be encouraged. Successful proposals will be identified and announced by February 20, 2008.

All presenters will be listed in the final IFLA Programme. Therefore they will be invited to prepare a full text of presentation of their programme, by April 15, 2008 to allow time for the review of papers and preparation of translations; papers should be no longer than 20 pages.

Expenses:

It is the presenters' responsibility to find funding for their participation (registration fee, travel, accommodation and associated costs). IFLA, The libraries for children and young adults section are not in a position to fund the attendance at the Conference. *



Alexandra Children's Library, Johannesburg, South Africa: Battle of the Books, Story Skirmish & other highlights

Contributed by Florence Mdluli

The Johannesburg 3rd Avenue Alexandra Children's Library is a specialised children's library offering reading programmes and activities aimed at fostering a culture of reading in a multicultural community, and to promote personal growth which contributes to a brighter future.

We offer the following: early childhood development, born to read, book talks, family literacy, reading competitions for primary schools, helping orphans and other children in the afternoon with school projects and with reading, science quiz competition, and reading circles for staff.



Story Skirmish and **Battle of the Books** are school-based, competitive, reading programmes that are held each year. They are open to primary schools, grades 4 & 5 and 6 & 7. Each school is provided with a set of questions, rules and a sample score sheet. The competition, which starts after the winter schools holidays, begins with the library round and ends with the finals in end October.

Six primary schools (56 children and four teachers) took part in the Library-round Battle of the Books. The two winning teams in that round would meet in the Zone-round to battle it out.

For Story Skirmish in the initial Library-round, nine schools took part, with three emerging as winners. Eventually, four schools went on to the Regional round in October 2007 held at Ivory Park Library.



Continued from Page 16

On 17th November 2007 Thuto ke le thabo celebrated their graduation party at the Alexandra Children's library. 30 kids attended with their parents, and 20 kids graduated. During the ceremony, the kids entertained the audience with different activities such as music, traditional dance, etc.

On November 21st Glynis Glacherty from Soul Buddies visited the library with her staff, where she focused on training them how to work with children. The trainees were regional Soul buddies staff from countries such as Mozambique, Namibia and Botswana.

They played different educational games with the kids, and also discussed real life issues with the kids. The younger children did activities like drawing to express their feelings, expressing their likes and dislikes.



We celebrated our Christmas on November 27th 2007. We had 1000 kids and 40 teachers from 12 crèches. Again, the kids entertained and performed activities like drama, music, rhymes, Christmas carols and traditional dance. Everyone had a great time.



On the 30th November 2007, Sunshine pre-school graduated. 35 kids were present with their parents, and 25 kids graduated. They also had activities like music, drama, traditional dance etc.

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Florence Mdluli
Branch librarian
Alexandra 3rd Avenue Children's Library
Johannesburg, South Africa



Words from some of our incoming and outgoing Standing Committee members...



"I am **Kirsten Boelt**. I work as a deputy city librarian in Aalborg, Denmark. Aalborg is in the northern part of Denmark and has about 200,000 inhabitants. I have been a librarian since 1978. I have worked in different libraries in Denmark and a few years in Greenland. Library services for children have always been my focus area and I have followed all the developments here. In the next issue of this newsletter I'll give an update on the Children's library services in Denmark."

Soizik Jouin ~ "I am French and I live in Paris. I have worked for 29 years in the network of the public libraries of the City of Paris. I have been responsible for three Children's libraries. I am now preparing the opening of a new library. It will open in December 2007 in the ninth district of Paris (near Pigalle). I have always worked in children's libraries because I have a passion for Children literature and I would like to communicate it. I think that working in a Children's library is always exciting and interesting with constant new challenges. I am very happy to be on the Children Section. It is a unique occasion to share reflections and experiences with colleagues from other countries. I think that the role of the Children's libraries is fundamental in all societies. It's very important to work together so that these libraries become more beautiful, more open to the new ideas and always attentive to their public."



Viviana Quiñones says, "I come from Buenos Aires, where I studied and taught literature until libraries for children took hold of me... I started working at La Joie par les livres, French Centre for Children's Books, in 1985, first in charge of the French section of IBBY, then since 1987 at the "intercultural" department, cooperating with African librarians and publishers: library network for "critical reading", promotion of African books, publishing of the annual review Takam Tikou on children's books and libraries in Africa, the Caribbean, the Arab World... I have conducted workshops in different African countries on library services for children, and am the editor of a handbook for self-training on library work for children, *Faire vivre une bibliothèque jeunesse: Guide de l'animateur*. It is for me an honour to be a member of the Section's Committee, and its secretary!"

Nic Diamant ~ Treasurer of our Section until the beginning of 2007, has since retired as a librarian. She studied at the prestigious "Ecole des Chartres" à Paris and very soon chose to work in public and children's libraries, as well as teaching (she set up the distance teaching programme for librarians at the University of Paris). Nic was Deputy Director of the Library (BPI) of Centre Georges Pompidou and Director of La Joie par les livres, French Centre for Children's Books. She is the author of the *Dictionary of French Writers for Children*. She was a member of IFLA Public Libraries Section, then of our Section since 2001. Nic highly appreciated IFLA work, especially the challenge to produce tools, like the Guidelines, that are useful and meaningful to librarians everywhere and at the same time, anchored in reality.



Lars Aagaard served the Section for two terms, from 1999 to 2006. He received the Lysholt-Prize, a professional award given by Danmarks Biblioteksforening (The Danish Library Organisation) in 1999. Lars has been a Children's librarian since 1969. During the 1980s he developed public library services for children through toy-lending services. In Dansk Centralbibliotek for Sydslesvig, he developed many varied services and activities for a library serving a minority population widely spread over a large area.



[Photo Credit: Flensburg Avis]

Viviane Ezratty says, "I was very lucky to be part of a welcoming, lively and hard working Committee. That made it easier to find one's place within the huge and pretty anonymous IFLA conferences. When I joined in 1999, the president was the very efficient English children's librarian John Dunne, who was nice enough to speak slowly so that those for whom English is a foreign language could understand! These last years, it has been the very dynamic Croatian Ivanka Stricevic, working in a great partnership with committee secretary Ingrid Bon from the Netherlands. She made us all work at high speed!"



[Viviane will share a longer article in the next issue of SCL News, on her thoughts of working in the Section]

SCL STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS' STATUS – December 2007

No	Name	Country	Start of Term One	Start of Term Two (if re-nominated)	Status as of Dec 2007
1	Mr Lars Aagaard	Denmark	1999	2003	End of Term Two (maximum term)
2	Ms Kathy East	United States	1999	2003	End of Term Two (maximum term)
3	Ms Viviane Ezratty-Liivartowski	France	1999	2003	End of Term Two (maximum term)
4	Ms Ivanka Stricevic	Croatia	1999	2003	End of Term Two (maximum term)
5	Ms Letizia Tarantello	Italy	2001	2005	Current
6	Ms Nic Diamant	France	2001	2005	Resigned
7	Ms Verena Tibljas	Croatia	2003	2007	Current. Re-nominated for 2007-2011
8	Ms Ingrid Bon	Netherlands	2003	2007	Current. Re-nominated for 2007-2011; Elected as Chair; Treasurer appointment
9	Ms Annie Everall	United Kingdom	2003	2007	Current. Re-nominated for 2007-2011
10	Ms Young Sook Song	Korea, Republic of	2003	2007	End of Term One; no re-nomination
11	Ms Olga Andreeva	Russian Federation	2005	2009	Current
12	Mr Ivan Chew	Singapore	2005	2009	Current. Appointed as Information Officer
13	Ms Ute Hachmann	Germany	2005	2009	Current
14	Ms Tae Suk Hwang	Korea, Republic of	2005	2009	Current
15	Ms Patricia Muller	United States	2005	2009	Current
16	Ms Naoko Sato	Japan	2005	2009	Current
17	Ms Linn Tonnessen	Norway	2005	2009	Current
18	MS Kazuko Yoda	Japan	2005	2009	Current
19	Ms Kirsten Boelt	Denmark	2007	2011	Current
20	Ms Barbara Genco	United States	2007	2011	Current
21	Ms Soizik Jouin	France	2007	2011	Current
22	Ms Patrizia Lucchini	Italy	2007	2011	Current
23	Ms Viviana Quinones	France	2007	2011	Current. Elected as Secretary.

If you wish to contact the Section...

Ms Ingrid Bon

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About the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section

The Section's major purpose is to support the provision of the library service and reading promotion to children and young adults throughout the world.

Its main objectives are to promote international cooperation in the fields of library services to children and young adults, and to encourage the exchange of experience, education and training and research in all aspects of this subject.

The Section's concerns include the provision of library services to all children and young adults in different cultures and traditions in cooperation with appropriate organizations and to adults interacting with children and young adults.

More information at:
www.ifla.org/VII/s10/index.htm