



## *Global Connections*

### **Newsletter of the IFLA Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries**

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#### **Congratulations**

to Bruce Madge upon his election to the Chair of the IFLA Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries during the annual meeting in Berlin. Mr. Madge is currently Assistant Director for the Patient Advice and Liaison Service for the National Patient Safety Agency where he manages the team dealing with patient and public inquiries and is developing an information service on patient safety.

His previous positions include service as Head of Health Care Information for the British Library, the National Library for the United Kingdom, where he was head of the section indexing most of the UK input into MEDLINE and where he produced the AMED database on complementary medicine and allied health. He also served at the British Medical Association where he was involved in medical informatics and held posts in National Health Service libraries.

His book, *Harnessing Health Libraries*, recently won a commended award at the BMA Book Competition and he is now working on a biography of Elizabeth Blackwell, the herbalist. His interests include playing the guitar and driving his Jaguar XJ-S.

#### **And To**

Dr. Rowena Cullen the newly elected Secretary of the Standing Committee. She is an Associate Professor in the School of Information Management at Victoria University of Wellington, and currently Director of the Master of Library and Information Studies programme. She teaches courses in management, reference, information policy, web content management, and health information.

Dr. Cullen has published several articles on family physicians' use of health information and a two-part paper, *Evaluating Digital Libraries in the Health Sector*, will be published in the December issue of *Health Information and Libraries Journal*. She is also completing a book on health information on the Internet for Greenwood Press. The book reviews the structure, quality, and economics of health information on the Internet, rather than individual web sites.

During her time on the Standing Committee, she will encourage health librarians in the Oceania region to take more active part in the activities of the Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries. She can be contacted at [rowena.cullen@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:rowena.cullen@vuw.ac.nz).

### **IFLA In Berlin: The Chair's Report**

This year IFLA was held in Berlin, an interesting city to explore even in the unusually hot temperatures that pervaded Europe. This was my first IFLA (not counting Glasgow where I served on the British Library stand) and I was unsure what to expect. As my current role does not include a lot of practical librarianship, I tended to go to sessions that were more philosophical in content. The quality varied, but was generally good and the chances to network were excellent.

I helped on the stand representing MLA and EAHIL and was happy with attendance although the stand was not ideally placed. Tours were great and helped orient people in what is a confusing city. The social events were superb (and I am afraid to say better organized than Glasgow) and gave delegates a chance to mingle and network. By far the most impressive event was the UK Embassy evening where we were treated extremely well and my US colleagues are now eternally indebted to me. All in all, I was very pleased with a meeting that I felt I might not enjoy, well apart from the bit of being elected Chair.

My personal goals for the Standing committee are to seek a higher profile for the Section and to support health librarians in the developing world wherever and whenever possible.

### **Meetings of the Standing Committee**

The Health and Biosciences Libraries Standing Committee met twice during the conference and discussions were held on the following:

The Strategic Plan for 2001-2003 was reviewed. The goal to change the name of the Section has been completed. The Committee has a standing goal of providing open sessions and workshops that are driven by the professional priorities of IFLA, namely access to information, professional development, and standards at each meeting.

The Strategic Plan goals and actions were updated for 2003-2005 and are available from the Chair at [bruce.madge@npsa.nhs.uk](mailto:bruce.madge@npsa.nhs.uk).

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Elected for the 2003-2005 terms of office were Bruce Madge, the Chair/Treasurer, and Rowena Cullen, Secretary. The new officers will share responsibilities of the information coordinator duties and they will also serve on the Board for Division II and attend the Coordinating Board Meetings.

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The Standing Committee agreed to keep responsibility for planning future International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML) conferences. Pat Thibodeau, President of the Medical Library Association (MLA), who was present at the meeting, informed the group that MLA is considering having the 2009 annual meeting in Hawaii and suggested that the ICML 10 might be held in conjunction with MLA. The focus of that meeting would be on the Pacific Rim. This idea will be explored by the Standing Committee. President Thibodeau also announced the formation of a new Task Force on Global Initiatives with the following members: Michael Homan, Ysabel Bertolucci, and Bruce Madge. The 2004 MLA annual meeting will highlight MLA members who participate in global relations.

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Elenice de Castro from BIREME distributed the brochure for the ICML 9 and the 27<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress on Health Sciences Information, CRICS 7 that will be held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil on September 20-23, 2005. The theme for the meeting is *Equity to Information*. Calls for participation will be available soon and the Standing Committee is planning a stand for the ICML 9 at the annual MLA meeting in Washington.

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The theme for next year's Section programs will be *Health Information Literacy*, identifying ways of empowering patients through the use of information. The Committee also discussed making contact with the Argentinian Medical Library Association to arrange trips to see locations of interest and will consult with IFLA about organizing a local workshop on information retrieval skills for non practitioners. All ICS members are urged to attend or participate in some way.

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During the second Standing Committee meeting, the Strategic Goals were edited after Rowena Cullen reported on the IFLA President's meeting. President Kay Raseroka's theme for her presidential term (2003-2005) is *Life-long Literacy*. Conference themes for the 2004 and 2005 conferences are *Libraries: Tools for Education and Development* and *Libraries: A Voyage of Discovery*.

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Ideas for next year's Section meeting in Buenos Aires include MEDLINEPlus in Spanish, public library dissemination of health information, and use of hairdressers to disseminate health information (a profile on use of hairdressers in Alabama on National Public radio

was mentioned). The papers will evaluate success in empowering patients/consumers with health information. One paper will be presented in Spanish.

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Ideas for upgrading the Standing Committee Web page were outlined:

- list of Standing Committee Members with term dates and brief biography
- list of cooperating organizations, with links to other Web pages
- future programs and meetings
- good practice in teaching health information.

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The Health and Biosciences Libraries and the Science and Technology Libraries Sections presented a joint programme on Bioinformatics this year in Berlin. The two sections also enjoyed a visit to the Geophysics Institute in Potsdam with an excellent program and a tour of Potsdam. For details, please see the meeting report by Jo Anne Boorkman.

### **Membership Report**

Dr. Cullen reports that the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section has members from all corners of the globe, and all kinds of institutions. Europe is well represented, with members from Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. Scandinavia is also represented with members from Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark and it should be noted that three of the standing committee members come from Scandinavia.

Asia and Oceania are well represented by members from China, Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, Australia, and New Zealand. Members from the Middle East include health information professionals from Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon. South and Central America are represented by Costa Rica and the Bahamas, and North America by a strong contingent from Canada and the United States. Members come from medical libraries, research institutes, pharmaceutical companies, NGOs, library associations, and library schools.

### **Meeting Highlights from Jo Anne Boorkman**

Berlin in August was HOT and HUMID, as was all of Europe this year. Since my home in the central valley of California, is also HOT in August, I should have been prepared. What we do not have is humidity. So, I had to try to remember that one needs to slow down and drink lots of water in such weather. Slowing down is hard to do at an IFLA conference.

Berlin welcomed us warmly, providing IFLA registrants with weeklong passes for public transportation—buses, u-bahn, and train. All registrants were encouraged to sign up for a

free three-hour tour of the city. This provided us with a wonderful orientation to the city and we were traveling around almost like natives by the end of the week.

Rich Forsman, once again did an admirable job chairing the Section's first meeting in the absence of Ysabel Bertulocci. We missed you again, Ysabel! At that meeting, the Section representatives elected Bruce Madge (UK) as chair and Rowena Cullen (NZ) secretary for the next biennium. I assisted with the minutes again this year and also moved from "special advisor" status to representative to the Section from the Special Libraries Association, representing the Biomedical and Life Sciences Section.

The program, *Bioinformatics: an Evolution of Two Decades*, was the program presented jointly by the Sections of Health and Biosciences Libraries and Science and Technologies Libraries. Three speakers from Germany provided varied perspectives highlighting the problems of extracting quality data from large "libraries" of genetic sequences and properly annotating and validating the results.

Julia Gelfand and Jean Poland from the Science and Technology Section organized a study tour to the Telegrafenberg [GeoForschungsZentrum (GFZ)] in Potsdam. The group was given an overview of the Institute's work in astronomy and earth sciences, a tour of the old and new libraries, a visit to the Einsteinurm observatory and a lovely walk through the woodsy grounds. The day concluded with a tour of Potsdam, with stops at Sans Souci and Schloss Cecilienhof where the Potsdam Conference was held at the end of World War II.

I had an adventure getting to visit the Medical Library of the Charite—Campus Virchow Clinical Centre. One of the librarians was glad to hear that his fellow Berliners had been helpful in providing directions for me to catch the proper train. The Library, a historical building on the campus that was once the Pathology Department, has been beautifully renovated to provide an inviting and high-tech environment for research and study. Staff provided an orientation to traditional and electronic resources at <http://www.charite.de/ch/bib/> as well as a demonstration of a virtual interactive teaching module used by faculty in clinical settings.

Carla Funk, Executive Director of the Medical Library Association (MLA) arranged dinner at an outside café for Section members who enjoyed a wonderful Italian meal and the balmy evening and each other's company. Many Section members helped staff the MLA booth, providing an opportunity to get better acquainted with each other and to promote the activities of MLA, EAHIL, the 9<sup>th</sup> ICML and NLM's MEDLINEPlus. Conference participants could not get away without picking up at least one MEDLINEPlus screen cleaner brush.

I look forward to renewing acquaintances in Buenos Aires next year!

## **From the Editor's Desk**

The U.S. 2001 IFLA National Organizing Committee will support the participation of twenty librarians from the Americas (South America, Central America, North America, and the Caribbean) to the IFLA 2004 Conference in Buenos Aires. Entitled 'Fellowship for the Americas,' the fellowship will cover air travel, shared accommodation, a per diem food allowance, and conference registration fees.

To be eligible librarians must be from the Americas, born after 1962, have a minimum of five years of working experience in a library or information setting, and not be a regular IFLA conference delegate. The program is funded from the net revenues earned from the 2001 Conference in Boston.

The application deadline for the IFLA Conference in Buenos Aires is January 15, 2004. Applications in English and Spanish can be completed online at <http://cs.ala.org/ifla2004>.

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Access to the Cochrane Library for the whole of Latin American and Caribbean is now available through BIREME. Any health professional, library, hospital, faculty or health institution in Latin America and the Caribbean can now access the Cochrane Library without charge via the Virtual Health Library (Biblioteca Virtual en Salud, BVS). This includes the complete Cochrane collection, full-text systematic reviews with links to Spanish translations and the main database of controlled clinical trials (CENTRAL). For further information please see <http://cochrane.bireme.br>.

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The IFLA Governing Board is posting offers of help from the international library community to help rebuild the library infrastructure in Iraq on its Website, IFLANET. Offers should be sent to [ifla@ifla.org](mailto:ifla@ifla.org) and the information will be posted at <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/iraq-aid.htm>.

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**Please send news of your organization, meetings of international interest, or of members of the Section to the Editor at:**

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