



## **Global Connections**

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

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#### **Report From the Chair**

As it was my first time in South America, I must say how much I enjoyed my visit to Buenos Aires. Although the weather was wet on the first day and extremely cold on the second day when I did my one sightseeing trip to Tigre and the Delta, the rest of the week could not have been better, with blue skies and spring temperatures.

After you got used to the slightly slower way of life and the huge amounts of steak (and very good local Malbec wine!) —the conference kicked off with the first of the Standing Committee's business meetings. We reviewed the year and looked at what we should be concentrating on in the coming year. The highlight of the meeting was hearing the presentations from both Qatar and Brisbane who were bidding to host the 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Medical Librarianship in 2009. Both presentations were excellent but the Committee felt (in a closed meeting) that Brisbane had shown more preparedness for the coming event and recognised the need for great support on the ground. The decision was ratified by IFLA during the meeting, so look forward to a trip to Brisbane in 2009!

The exhibition opening went well and meeting with exhibitors was valuable as always. I was impressed by the way the CLIP stand, which I had helped erect, exhibited a large array of FACET books and the fact that the panels did not fall off the wall (well- not until the next day).

Sessions were interesting, especially that on the new Alexandrian Library and the organisation seemed to work well. It was also a chance to meet up with old (and not so

old) friends and to make new acquaintances. Our session went particularly well and included a talk from the president, Margaret Haines, on the work being done at King's College, London, on information literacy. The Committee recommended the paper from China be published in the *IFLA Journal*, not least for the presenters' impeccable English!

I thought the social events were not as good as last year unless you were heavily interested in the Tango, but the reception at the British Ambassador's residence was excellent with very good entertainment .

At the closing session we were invited to Oslo next year. I was most interested in the fact that information on HIV/AIDS was singled out for special mention and I have since been in touch with Alex Byrne (President-Elect) on this very subject as I was concerned about possible re-invention of wheels.

Our second business meeting went very well as we discussed and edited our Strategic Goals for the coming year. We felt that a focus on health information for developing countries and the fact that IFLA's Section on Health and Biosciences Libraries Standing Committee should act as a forum for discussion of all the work around the world in this area would be a valid reason for the Committee to exist. The Goals will be published on the IFLA Website as soon as possible.

I traveled back to London very happy with the way the conference had gone and look forward to Oslo next year.

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### **Highlights from the Standing Committee Meetings**

The complete minutes of the two Standing Committee Meetings are available on the Section Website. Some highlights are noted here:

- **Financial report:** The Chair announced that the Section had a current account of 400.00 pounds. The funds are available to support speakers at the Oslo meeting, if necessary.
- **ICML9:** The 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medical Librarianship will be held September 20-23, 2005 in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The theme of the congress is *Commitment to Equity* and will include ten tracks as well as plenary sessions with a total of 210 papers. Some 1200 delegates are expected to attend.
- **ICML10:** The decision to hold ICML10 in Brisbane was ratified by IFLA. The invitation comes from the University of Queensland Cybrary. The other bid for this 2009 meeting was presented by the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar.

- **IFLA Meetings:** *Open Access* is the theme of the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section open session in Oslo in 2005. The session will be combined with a visit to the new National Hospital and Library, with a workshop at which speakers will offer perspectives from both the developing and developed worlds.
- **Seoul in 2006:** The Committee agreed that the Section hold a satellite meeting in Seoul, a one-day workshop on traditional medicine on the Friday before the IFLA Conference begins.
- **Projects for 2004:** Completed during the 2003/04 year include opening the Section List to public discussion, monitoring the planning for ICML9, and the posting of a call for bids and selection of a venue for ICML10.
- **Publisher Relations Advisory Committee:** The report of the PRAC meeting on August 25, 2004 was prepared by Rick Forsman. It is appended to the Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries minutes on the Section's Website.

Thanks to Dr. Rowena Cullen, Secretary for preparation of the Standing Committee Minutes. She adds the following personal comments:

Conference delegates were delighted with the city of Buenos Aires and the welcome extended by colleagues from Argentinean health libraries. Buenos Aires is a large sophisticated city, with many different barrios to explore, and endless entertainment and restaurants offering respite from the rigours of attending meetings and open sessions. Tango restaurants and shows filled with cheering patrons, and even an all night tango channel on TV, were some of the extracurricular activities on offer.

The Health and Biosciences Libraries Section open meeting was very well attended, and stimulating papers were presented by the four speakers present. Participants stayed on for a lively question and discussion session. Regrettably, one speaker, Raj Kumar, from India was delayed by travel problems and a summary of his paper only was presented by a colleague. However, because the Conference papers are issued on CD and were available in the Conference bag, section members and delegates are able to access and read this paper.

Once the rigours of the process for selecting a venue for the 10<sup>th</sup> ICML were over, members of the Standing Committee were entertained by the Brisbane team in their inimitable Australian fashion. They carried away lots of little Koala bears to publicise the ICML10.

### **Reflections from Michael Homan**

Although it was winter in Buenos Aires, the weather cooperated beautifully with sunny days and reasonably warm temperatures during the August IFLA meeting. The city is huge and crowded but friendly and inviting overall—and you simply could not have a

bad meal in Buenos Aires! The food and hospitality were fabulous. The meeting sites were well located relative to the hotels for conference participants and it was easy and inexpensive to get around. There is a special news report in the October 2004 issue of *American Libraries* that gives a good overview of the meeting including the major topic of the U.S. Caucus meeting on the new IFLA dues structure on Sunday, August 22, 2004.

The famous Argentine dance, tango (tango dancers were featured on the conference program cover and a gift CD-ROM of tango music was given to attendees by Elsevier), was not something I thought much before going to Argentina. But seeing an elegant tango performed on the massive stage of the Teatro Colon, one of the world's great opera houses, during the IFLA opening session in Buenos Aires was special indeed.

The IFLA meeting from a content perspective was very good including all the plenary speakers. I thought the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section programming on "Health Literacy for All" was one of the best I have ever attended with excellent papers by all participants. Only one paper was not delivered. Unlike most conference programming in the United States, vendors such as OCLC, Elsevier, Ovid, Thompson, etc. were featured during prime time at the IFLA meeting with significant blocks of time called "industry updates" devoted to formal vendor presentations. I went to the Elsevier industry update presentation and considered it not only well presented but it also contained very interesting content.

During its business meeting the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section addressed the issue of site selection for the 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medical Librarianship (ICML) to be held in 2009. The 9<sup>th</sup> ICML will be held in Salvador, Brazil in 2005. Beginning in 2005 the ICML will be held every four years rather than every five years. As noted above, the two presentations made to hold the conference at the University of Queensland in Brisbane or the Weill-Cornell College of Medicine-Qatar in Qatar were well received. The Section recommended that the 10<sup>th</sup> ICML be held in Brisbane, Australia.

### **Personal Notes From Jo Anne Boorkman**

Buenos Aires was a pleasant surprise for me. Winter in Argentina is much like winter in my part of California. While there were showers one day, the weather was sunny and comfortable most of the time. With the two conference hotels on the Rio de la Plata riverfront, it was pleasant walking from my hotel and between the venues when there was time. For those of us rushing off to the next meeting, convenient busses shuttled conference attendees between locations.

Highlights of the first Health and Biosciences Libraries Section business meeting were the two invitations for hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Medical Librarianship (ICML) in 2009. Jane Ann Lindley, Director Distributed eLibrary, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, presented an invitation for Qatar to host the meeting at their new facilities in Doha, Qatar [www.qatar-med.cornell.edu](http://www.qatar-med.cornell.edu). Janine Schmidt, University Librarian, and Heather Todd, Executive Manager for Biological and Health Sciences

Library Services, University of Queensland Cybrary, presented an invitation from University of Queensland Cybrary for the meeting to be held in Brisbane, [www.cybrary.uq.edu.au](http://www.cybrary.uq.edu.au). They had chosen the theme *Information, Influence and Impact 20/20 Vision—Positioning the Profession*. Both proposals were well organized, detailed and presented with enthusiasm. As noted above, the decision went to Brisbane.

Again this year the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section teamed up with the Sciences and Technology Section for a study tour day. These study tours provide participants with the opportunity to meet with local colleagues and visit their libraries. I enjoyed the visits we made to two libraries in the large Universidad de Buenos Aires system. Director Nancy D. Gomez and her staff gave the group an in depth tour of the Biblioteca Central “Dr. Luis Federico Leloir” Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales. Highlighted were the new Special Collections facilities for proper housing of the library’s rare books and archival materials that was funded through a series of grants. Across the city, we visited the Medicine Faculty Central Library. Director Maria Teresa Di Vietro and her staff also provided us with an in depth tour of the library, including their venerable history of medicine collection. The history of medicine physician/librarian had been to the U.S. National Library of Medicine to learn preservation and conservation techniques. However, lack of funds for proper housing and temperature control have proven to be a problem. Both libraries provide Internet access and local web-based resources for their clientele, in addition to print collections. Students rely on the library for textbooks and well-worn textbook collections were evident. Since this is a public university, there are thousands of students on both campuses. Our group was presented with gifts at both libraries and treated to a light lunch of sandwiches, cookies and drinks at the medical library. Our colleagues in Argentina were all most gracious.

Once again Carla Funk from the Medical Library Association (MLA) arranged for the Health and Biosciences librarians to get together for dinner. We had a wonderful meal featuring Argentinean specialties.

Following the conference I took some time to visit other sights in Argentina. My first stop was to see the spectacular Iguazu Falls on the border of Argentina and Brazil. Both countries have wonderful national parks surrounding the falls, with well-maintained bridges and overlooks for viewing the falls from many angles and heights. Tropical birds, butterflies, flowers and the ever-present scavenging coati make this a ‘must see’ stop for anyone visiting the country. Unfortunately, I only saw a few of the many flora and fauna in my guidebook. I ran into fellow IFLA attendee Julia Gelfand on my last day at the Falls.

My next stop was Bariloche, at the foot of the Andes, in northern Patagonia. With the deep Lago Nahuel Huapi and surrounding national park, it reminded me of our own Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada range in California. Chilly but clear weather again. I think the skiers were probably disappointed that the snow was almost gone; but it was just right for my visit. Here I ran into Michele Absalon from Universite Pierre & Marie Curie in Paris on one of the tours. We spent a delightful leisurely lunch and afternoon in Bariloche. Something we did not have time to do while at the conference.

I look forward to renewing acquaintances in Oslo next August and at the ICML in Salvador Brazil. Maybe take another trip to those beautiful Falls, too.

**All members are invited to submit items of interest to:**

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 **Health and Biosciences Libraries Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s28/index.htm>