



Global Connections
**Newsletter of the IFLA Section
of Health and Biosciences Libraries**

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Report from the Chair

I was unable to attend the conference due to a continuing health problem and can now report that I am doing fine. I am already planning my trip to IFLA in Berlin!

In this issue you will find reports from the Glasgow Conference provided by Rick Forsman, our Secretary/Information Officer, and Jo Anne Boorkman, our Committee's special advisor. Official documents of the Section such as the revision of the Strategic Plan and the minutes of the meeting are included.

The Section will be concentrating on three goals this year. Of primary importance is to increase the membership of the Section and the Standing Committee. We have received many excellent ideas for projects, but do not have the manpower to attempt them. If you wish to join the Section, please check the IFLA Website, <http://www.ifla.org>, for membership information. IFLA is currently accepting nominations for new standing committee members. We are particularly interested in representation from countries that have not been represented previously. If you are interested in the Standing Committee you will need to be nominated by a Section member. Please contact the Chair at ysabel.bertolucci@kp.org if you have questions about the process.

Additional goals include identifying and endorsing appropriate guidelines and position statements defining the need for accessible health information with a cost structure that is affordable and that employs fair licensing principles. Arne Jacobsson and Ingegerd Rabow will continue to monitor this goal. The third goal is to continue providing quality programming for the annual IFLA conferences. In 2003 we will be co-sponsoring a session on Bioinformatics with the Science and Technology section.

We have an ambitious year planned. Please contact me if you are interested in assisting with any of the goals or have other ideas for Section projects.

Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year!

Ysabel Bertolucci, Chair

Glasgow A Rousing Success!

More than 4,300 individuals from 131 countries attended the 68th IFLA Conference in Glasgow along with some 144 exhibitors. There were 1,000 first-time attendees. As is usual, the host country provided the largest number of participants with 1,443. More than 500 came from the United States, 158 from the Russian Federation, 145 from France, 140 from the Netherlands and more than 100 from China. More than 4,000 attended the 2001 conference in Boston, USA.

The highlights of the meeting from Jo Anne Boorkman.

One of the many pleasant surprises at IFLA 2002 was the sunny weather that accompanied the warm friendly greeting by Glaswegians to their many visitors from around the globe. This was especially nice, since we had been warned that the season had not been very “summery.” Rick Forsman did an admirable job sitting in for Ysabel Bertolucci, who was unable to attend the meeting. We missed you, Ysabel! The minutes, elsewhere in the Newsletter, attest to how efficient this Section is in getting our business accomplished. We were able to omit the second meeting, giving those not ready to go home a chance to explore Glasgow and check out all the interesting architecture, have lunch at the Charles Rennie MacIntosh-designed Willow Tea Room, and generally relax.

Our Section’s programs were special highlights that provided three varied aspects of the changing scene for health sciences libraries. BioMed Central Publisher Jan Veltrop’s presentation, *Turning Publishing On It Head*, outlined a vision of achieving open access to scientific information. BioMed Central provides authors with an opportunity to publish in peer-reviewed electronic journals with the guarantee of open access and self-archiving for perpetual access. He outlined the business model BioMed Central has established to achieve this vision, including new roles for authors, publishers, societies, and librarians.

Prudence Dalrymple presented her thoughts on the *Impact of Medical Informatics on Librarianship* (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/098-115e.pdf>) as the nature of health sciences librarianship and the introduction of the role of the Informationist changes to adapt to the expanding role of informatics and evidence-based medicine in the health care environment. The paper is also published in the *IFLA Journal* 28(5/6):312-17,2002.

Miriam Pollack’s presentation, *Democratizing Human Genome Project Information: A Model Program for Education, Information and Debate in Public Libraries* (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/135-115e.pdf>) gave a wonderful example of how the North Suburban Library System in Illinois, USA, is bringing the community together to discuss, debate and educate the public on this complex and rapidly growing area of knowledge.

The Section program, *Expanding the Scope of the Virtual Health Library*, attracted more than 100 attendees and was deemed successful by all

Section member, Ingegerd Rabow’s presentation, *The Personal Touch: Availability and Branding of Licensed Material*, at the Science and Technology Libraries program, *Negotiating with Friends or Foes*, gave a splendid example of how Lund University Libraries have provided a user-friendly approach in making electronic resources available to their clientele.

Another highlight for me was meeting the keynote speaker, Martin Nakata, who spoke on *Indigenous Knowledge and the Cultural Interface* (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/149-138e.pdf>) and his work on the intersection of knowledge and information systems. Our brief conversation while waiting for the train led me to attend his presentation, which introduced me to a fascinating area of study and how the Internet

environment brings wonderful new connections along with much more complexity for those who are often marginalized in our modern society.

Of course, IFLA does a splendid job providing a host of social and cultural events and Glasgow2002 had an abundance of them. The opening reception at the Science and Technology Center on the banks of the Clyde was a fine way to start the conference. Thursday many of us went to Edinburgh to experience a bit of the Edinburgh Festival fringe, attend a fine reception at the National Museum of Scotland, and end our day with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo (<http://www.edinburgh-tattoo.co.uk/>) which included a number of pipers, military bands, and even a bicycle band from the Netherlands. It provided a unique venue for cultural exchange.

I am looking forward to Berlin in 2003 and hope to see many colleagues there.

Minutes of the IFLA Health and Biosciences Libraries Section August 17, 2002, Glasgow Scotland

Secretary Rick Forsman (USA) called the meeting to order at 14:35 p.m. on behalf of Chair Ysabel Bertolucci (USA) who was unable to attend the meeting due to health problems. Welcome and self-introductions were made by Standing Committee members in attendance: Ingegerd Rabow (Sweden), Birgit Lange (Denmark), Arne Jakobsson (Norway), Hilda Nassar (Lebanon), and Julija Dresner (Russia). Guests included Julia's husband, a librarian from France, Becky Lyon (National Library of Medicine, USA), and Jo Anne Boorkman (USA) who served as recorder for the meeting.

Major areas of the Minutes include Tasks for the Coming Year, Programming for the 2004 Meeting, Section Strategic Plan, and Announcements.

Tasks for the Coming Year

Rick Forsman and Julia Gelfand from the Standing Committee of the Science and Technology Libraries Section have agreed to present a joint program on Bioinformatics at the Berlin conference. Colleagues at the Max Planck Institute will help arrange speakers for this program. A tour to visit the University of Applied Science at Potsdam, the historic castle, and the GIS Information Centre is also being planned. The 69th IFLA General Conference and Council will be held August 1-9, 2003 in Berlin, Germany.

Discussion followed concerning the problem with asking speakers to pay the IFLA registration fee. This is a concern expressed by all Division II officers and the Division Chair was charged with registering strong opposition to this policy with the Professional Committee.

Programming for 2004 Meeting

IFLA Headquarters is expecting difficulties in funding for the 2004 meeting because of the economic situation in Argentina. The challenge will be to find local speakers. Arne Jakobsson suggested that we should build on the overall theme, *Access Point Library: Media – Information – Cultural*, and have a call for papers from our membership for a contributed papers session. The group endorsed the theme suggested by Ingegerd Rabow: *It Takes Two to Tango—Medical Information Specialists in Collaboration with Health Workers*. Any papers not accepted for the session could be transferred for poster session consideration.

Actions to be undertaken:

Follow-up with listserv discussion on the theme.

Becky Lyon will check for medical library affiliations that NLM may have in Argentina to identify local contacts.

Ysabel Bertolucci will check with BIREME for additional contacts and coordinate with them regarding the International Congress on Medical Librarianship in 2005.

Appoint a committee in 2003 to develop timeline for call for papers, submitting papers and for developing criteria for paper review and selection of papers.

Section Strategic Plan—Discussion and Revision

Goal 1. Change the name of the Section to Section of Health and Biosciences Libraries. The Professional Board approved the name change. **Goal completed.**

Goal 2. Program for Glasgow. **Completed.**
Program for Berlin—in progress.

Goal 3. Develop a position statement, with input of WHO and NLM, defining the need for accessible health information within a cost structure that is affordable and that employs fair licensing principles

Arne Jakobsson attended the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) in Helsinki and the 4th ICOLC meeting in Greece in October 2002. This group is drafting an initiative on accessible health information and he recommends that the Section consider supporting this group's statement. Following discussion, **Goal 3 revised to read:**

Goal 3. Identify and endorse appropriate guidelines and position statements, defining the need for accessible health information within a cost structure that is affordable and that employs fair licensing principles.

Action: A report on the October ICOLC meeting along with any position statements made will be submitted for the Section's review and consideration by Arne Jakobsson and Ingegerd Rabow. They will also review the NLM Website regarding licensing guidelines for Section review and possible endorsement.

Goal 4. Increase communication between librarians interested in health and the biosciences.

Actions: Jo Anne Boorkman will draft an item for listservs and newsletters promoting the Standing Committee of the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section.

The Section will continue to plan programming in collaboration with EAHIL.

Meeting Announcements

Officers from selected Sections were extended an informal invitation to provide a Section liaison to the Publisher Relations Advisory Committee. Rick Forsman attended a PRAC meeting on behalf of the Section.

The Secretary reported that the conference program in Berlin will have shorter sessions – two hours rather than two and one-half hours. Section Council meetings will also be shortened to one and one-half hours.

The Governing Board has reconfirmed that the 2004 conference will be in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Sections were asked to provide a liaison to the Division VIII, Developing Countries. Hilda Nassar is a member of Division VIII and will serve as the Section's liaison.

Publication on the IFLA Website. IFLA has required formal papers from speakers, but speakers today would prefer to offer their powerpoint slides for the Website rather than formal papers. IFLA is still reluctant to accept this format.

Concern was expressed by Division officers about last minute changes and additions to the program. When attendees need to make travel plans in advance, they are often not able to take advantage of additional programming. Concern was also expressed about pre-conference programs that are held outside the host city. These have the potential for taking registrations away from the main conference when attendees find them more focused on their subject interests.

No member of the Standing Committee was able to attend the Division II Coordinating Board meeting on August 23 so a brief written report will be submitted.

The Section will receive a formal report on ImageLine for review and comment as to its usefulness to the Section.

Editor's Note

All readers are invited to submit reports of interest to the Newsletter. Please send reports to the Editor
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My IFLA Experience

by Linda Watson

One of the joys and privileges of serving as the President of the Medical Library Association is the opportunity to travel the country (and sometimes the world) representing the association and the work of health information professionals. One such opportunity of a lifetime was the journey to Scotland in August 2002 for the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) meeting in Glasgow.

I began on Sunday morning with a run in the IFLA 5K where I joined 31 other librarians, including SLA President Bill Fisher, and 43 local athletes in beautiful Bellahouston Park. The race raised funds for IFLA's charity - Books for All, a UNESCO supported venture to supply schools in developing countries with needed materials. Braving a cold and steady rain, intrepid photographers Carla Funk (MLA Executive Director) and my husband Bill Cooper cheered me on as I crossed the finish line, not quite last!

The theme of the IFLA Conference was *Libraries for Life: Democracy, Diversity, Delivery*. [See <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/index.htm>], One speaker from the Netherlands spoke of space and conceptual planning for public libraries and envisioned “extreme libraries” in hotels, grocery stores and gas stations combined with large futuristic regional depositories for research and archival collections. I attended an industry update by Elsevier Science CEO Derk Haank including their announcement of an agreement with the National Library of the Netherlands to be the first official digital archive for Elsevier Science journals. The Health and Biosciences Libraries Division included presentations by BioMed Central publisher Jan Veltrop on new publishing paradigms, and by Pru Dalrymple on the impact of medical informatics on librarianship and its implications for the Informationist [<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/098-115e.pdf>]. Miriam Pollack from Chicago described a very interesting public library program on presenting the many facets of the Human Genome project [<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/papers/135-115e.pdf>].

A highlight on Tuesday night was a special performance for IFLA attendees by students at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. The combination of traditional Scottish music, classical, and big band sound was riveting. On Wednesday, Carla Funk arranged the traditional MLA-member dinner at a Glasgow restaurant, where we shared camaraderie, our experiences at the meeting, and our post-conference travel plans. My braveheart husband also experienced haggis for the first time, and found it not bad!

On Thursday, I traveled to Edinburgh for a tour of the Royal College of Physicians by library director Iain Milne, and learned about their challenges of preservation and access in a historic building. That evening, after a reception at the National Museums of Scotland, we braved a brief downpour to file onto bleachers on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle for a highlight of the trip – the Military Tattoo. You can get a glimpse of it <http://www.edinburgh-tattoo.co.uk>. It’s hard to describe the impact of a cast of 1200 pipers, military bands, horses, Scottish dancers, and even a band from the Netherlands on bicycles! It really was magnificent and something I’ll never forget.

I thank MLA for the opportunity to attend this international conference as a representative for our association along with Carla Funk and many others who value and promote our global role.