



IFLA Mobile Section
Newsletter Number 1
Autumn 2002

A large Welcome to the New Mobile Libraries Section



Welcome to the first issue of the New Look Mobile Libraries Section Bulletin. This is the first issue since the group's acceptance as an IFLA section, to be known as the Mobile Library Section (MLS). The existing committee of the former Round Table on Mobile Libraries have been accepted as the new committee and have made decisions about the future of the group. One of these was to resurrect the newsletter and accordingly the group appointed me as editor.

Ian Stringer

Message from the Chair

Here is a message from Stanley Ng'ang'a, from Kenya, the Chair of the new Section

1.) Transformation of RTML to a Section

The RTML ceased to exist after the Glasgow Conference. I have communicated to John Day Chair of Div.II-CB and Sjoerd Koopman at IFLA Headquarters on the new arrangements . Both the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer have now assumed the roles of officers of the new section (Mobile Library Section - MLS). The former RTML Executive Committee becomes the MLS - Standing Committee ad Interim until after the elections in 2004 - 2005.

2.) Membership Recruitment

Announcement for recruitment of new members to be made by the section Information Officer - Ruth through IFLANET, IFLA-L, IFLA Journal, Newsletter of other sections etc.

3.) Revision/updating of Posters and Brochures for the MLS

Thelma to co-ordinate the exercise in liaison with Ruth and Victoria. The three to commence arrangements for the sections poster session in Berlin.

4.) Mobile Meet/Presence

Ian to continue with contacts for programmes in Berlin and Argentina.

5.) Working Group Session in Berlin

Joyce to co-ordinate preliminary activities.

6.) Call for Papers for Berlin Open Session

The Chair is working on draft to be released by Information Officer before end of October 2002.

7.) MLS - Newsletter

Ian and Ruth to co-ordinate and invite articles from members and other interested groups for the first newsletter of the MLS. The Chair is submitting information previously sent to Ernest to Ian to include in newsletter.

8.) Revision of Strategic Plan

Members to submit their views/suggestions to Chair on revision of Strategic Plan for the Revised Plan to be ready by end of October 2002.

9.) Projects

(a) World Wide Survey on Mobile Libraries Project

Members are requested to visit the web and share their suggestions, comments, impressions etc. with their colleagues. Thelma to collate views expressed for a report to be submitted to the DIV.III March meeting (2003).

(b) Projects - approved after Boston IFLA

The Secretary/Treasurer to request for release of funds from IFLA Headquarters to facilitate implementation of the approved projects. The co-ordinators of various projects were identified as:-

- * Thelma/Richard - to co-ordinate the Guidelines for Non-Motorised Mobile Library Service.
- * Joyce/Ruth - to co-ordinate the publication of the proceedings of the 67th IFLA RTML in Boston.
- * Thelma/Ian - to co-ordinate the Nigerian Feasibility Study.
- * Joyce/Ruth - to carry out preliminary exploratory work on proposed Archiving of the RTML History (no funds were allocated for this).

(c) New Projects - Approved in Glasgow

The co-ordinators of the new projects are requested to submit to the Chair a brief paragraph (500 words) on the objectives and methodology to be followed in implementing the projects. This is to enable the Chair submit the formal request for project approval to the Div.III - CB. The information is required before the 1st Oct. 2002.

The two projects are:-

- * Revision, updating and Translations of the 1992 Annotated Bibliography on Mobile Libraries.

: Co-ordinators - Thelma/Ruth/Victoria. Thelma to submit PARA on objectives.

- * Research on New Technology in Mobile Library Services.

: Co-ordinators - Ian/Ruth/Victoria. Ian to submit PARA on objectives.

10.) Reports

(a) Projects request forms - to reach Div.III - CB by 1st Oct. 2002
Action: Chair

(b) Administrative/Financial Reports - to reach IFLA Headquarters by 1st October 2002.
Action: Secretary/Treasurer

Members are requested to give the above matters, particularly their individual assignments due and early attention, so as to facilitate smooth

implementation of our MLS activities as well as enhance a successful MLS participation in the Berlin Conference in 2003.

S K NG'ANG'A CHAIR MLS

IFLA 2002 Glasgow

Those of you unable to travel to Scotland missed a treat. This was an excellent IFLA. It was one of the biggest ever, drawing in 4500 delegates. There were more foreign delegates (i.e.. not from the UK) than at any previous IFLA. The venue was convenient to hotels and also to the main student accommodation.

After the initial confusion over finding out which room the session was in things settled in easily. The rooms were named after Scottish Islands most of which have Gaelic names. So for the poor delegate who struggled with English this was an extra hazard. However the guides provided were all friendly and very helpful.



Here are some of the highlights for me.

The Mobilemeet

Wet rainy weather failed to dampen the spirits of mobile librarians from all over the world who gathered to see a fine collection of 39 vehicles from different parts of Europe.

It was the biggest mobilemeet ever seen in Scotland and was the first ever at IFLA. Over 150 delegates came just for the mobilemeet and were joined by many others who had arrived for the whole week.

There were mobiles from Sweden , Holland Ireland, England and of course Scotland. There were big vans from Edinburgh and small vans from the Highlands. Many of the vans were proudly carrying awards from previous meets.

The first impression on visiting every van was the bright contrast to the weather outside. Light and bright interiors and always a welcoming member of staff proud to tell of all the great features on the van. There were pc's, internet, on-line systems, photocopiers, air-conditioning, sound systems, and displays, whilst for staff comfort there were toilets, refrigerators, microwaves and coffee machines.

The meet was formally opened by Baillie Cameron who told the delegates of her delight in seeing all the vehicles and also told of the great things to be found in Glasgow.

She was followed by ex-librarian John Hunter, now consultant, from Shetland who told of the current situation in Scotland . He advocated partnership working to arrest the decline in mobile library usage.

Christer Carl from Sweden but now working in Denmark gave a lively presentation on how to gain funding to build your mobile and how he has visited various countries for inspiration. He showed slides from all over Europe.

He was followed by Ruth Ornolt the County Librarian of Bergen in Norway. Bergen is the home of the bookboat, Epos. Ruth gave an entertaining presentation of life on board the boat. We saw splendid pictures of staff leaning over the rail in the sunshine, but we also saw the boat breaking through the ice to get up the fjords to the remote villages.

We saw books returned to the boat by tractor by walking and by wheelbarrow. All in all it looks a wonderful service and most of the delegates were wondering about asking for an application form

Those who decided not to work in Norway must have been sorely tempted by the next presentation, a double act from Australia by Robert Pestell from Queensland State Library and Marian Morgan-Bindon from Gold Coast City Library. They showed us lots of Australian mobiles from all over the country. Marion gave a detailed description of the new Gold Coast City mobile which included setting up the van and moving the office pods which extend outside the vehicle creating even more space inside.

Delegates then had a couple of hours in pouring rain to explore the vehicles and vote for the best. I accompanied Christer and Ruth who judged the awards.

In the afternoon the delegates were thoroughly entertained by Scottish author and playwright Liz Lohead.

Altogether a memorable mobilemeet, and one which the committee hopes will be repeated at future IFLA's. I have made contact with the German and Argentine Library Associations to try and achieve this.

Poster Sessions

Aree Cheunwattana of Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand and a member of the IFLA mobile Library section was one of the stars of the poster sessions in Glasgow with an excellent presentation on the various methods of book delivery in her home country.

Mobile Buses

She had a section on the Bangkok Mobile Library Service run by 10 new air-conditioned buses.

Book Houses (Containers)

There was a section on Bangkok's book houses. These are standard 3m x 6m freight containers fitted out as a library with books. They have a cosy and homely atmosphere which has proved so popular that the existing ten units are to be supplemented with a further 20 units.

The Floating Library

There are two book-boats in use which offer a collection of over 2000 books and educational facilities, to riverside communities. One of the boats is equipped with computers.

The Elephant Libraries

Elephants are used to carry information and educational materials to 46 remote hill villages in Northern Thailand. Materials carried by elephant include, book boxes, satellite dish, generator, computer, video and cd players and writing boards.

This project has been awarded the UNESCO literacy prize for 2002 . Well deserved for effort and innovation

Library Train for Homeless Children

This is a joint project with the railway police in an initiative to keep homeless children from crime and exploitation by channelling them to more constructive activities. The train is parked in a siding near the railway police compound.

The children learn to read and write and to appreciate cleanliness, orderliness, good health, beauty and art in a carefully designed and nurturing environment.

A second train is being prepared for a slum community in Bangkok. Once again it is a three vehicle set up. A library carriage, a classroom carriage and a computer and music room carriage.

Are is to be congratulated on bringing this wonderful set of innovative service delivery methods to the eyes of the world.

Bibliography

I have received a few books on mobile libraries

IFLA Professional report Number 72

University Librarian Thelma Tate of New York USA has produced an excellent report on her work on studying the Donkey Drawn Libraries of Zimbabwe Not only is this a report on the current situation but the guide lists the challenges and suggests ways forward

IFLA professional report Number 73

Another excellent work from Thelma Tate this time studying the camel Library service in Kenya

Both the above available from IFLA

Gili Cristina Montserrat of Barcelona Libraries, Spain has sent me an interesting illustrated book about the mobile libraries of Barcelona from the earliest vehicle to the splendid new Bibliobus

contact for further information

s.biblioteques@diba.es

From Patricia Schmidt in Frankfort, Illinois USA has sent me an excellent little booklet for children about the new Frankfort bookmobile. This delightful yellow vehicle is called Thomas and the booklet shows how he came about. The story starts from the mining of iron ore which is really getting down to basics

Contact pschmidt@frankfortlibrary.org

About the editor

I was asked by the committee to do the newsletter as I already have experience in this field as I am currently editor of the UK newsletter on mobile libraries, Service Point. This comes out 3 times a year and as well as UK articles always includes items from other countries.

A bonus in editing both newsletters will be that I can use some of the material I receive for Service Point in the IFLA newsletter, as I usually have more overseas material than I can justify in Service Point.

I work for Barnsley Libraries in England where amongst other things I run the mobile library service, and have been known to drive the mobile libraries on occasion. I have been a committee member of the UK Branch and Mobile Libraries Group since 1988 and the UK rep for mobile libraries since 1993.

I have written a book on mobile libraries, A History of Britain's Mobile Libraries (available from me at GBP 6.50 plus postage) I also do articles about mobile libraries for a transport magazine Heritage Commercials.

Ian Stringer Editor

Group contacts

Stanley Ng'ang'a, Kenya, the Chair
knls@nbnet.co.ke

Ruth Ornholt, Norway International Co-ordinator
Ruth.Ornholt@hordaland-f.kommune.no

Joyce Jelks USA Treasurer/secretary
Jej9572000@yahoo.com

Thelma Tate USA
Ttate@rci.rutgers.edu

Ian Stringer UK Editor
ian_bmlg@hotmail.com