



IFLA Division VI.

## **WOMEN'S ISSUES SECTION**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004**

*by Leena Siitonen and Monica Ertel*

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General. The year 2003 - 2004 presented many challenges for the Section who had made a successful transition from Round Table to Section and whose activities focused on expanding activities, increasing membership, promotion, publicity and programs. WIS concerns itself with questions and issues that have special relevance for women in the library profession and in the community and it develops programs designed to enhance the opportunities and the image of these two groups.

The Standing Committee. Ms. Mary Biblo, USA; Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta, INDIA; Ms. Monica Ertel, USA; Ms. Leena Siitonen, SPAIN; Ms. Beth Stafford, USA; Ms. Yoko Taguchi, JAPAN; Ms. Thelma T. Tate, USA; Ms. Marta Terry, CUBA.

Officers: Chairperson (Interim): Ms. Leena Siitonen, SPAIN; Secretary and Treasurer: Ms. Monica Ertel, USA; Information Coordinator: Ms. Maitrayee Ghosh, INDIA.

The Standing Committee had two meetings during the World Library and Information Congress in Buenos Aires, 22 - 27 August 2004. The minutes of these meetings were placed on IFLANET.

Membership. The Section has been promoted by means of flyers in four languages, publications, a Discussion List on IFLANET, and ,at the Congress. a Poster Session and a Program. Meeting with congress attendees at the IFLA's booth brought the Section to the attention of many new prospective members. There were approximately 20 registered members and, therefore, recruiting efforts were expanded through informal networking with attendees at the Program. WOMENISS Women's Issues Discussion List was coordinated by Monica Ertel and counted in July 2004 with 64 participants. For informing current and prospective new members, IFLANET and some other Web sites were used.

Strategic Plan 2004 - 2005 was discussed at the Section's meetings and finalized in due time. The most crucial issue in it is that IFLA should continue through its international contacts and activities to observe, enhance and promote women's access to information. As Ms. Mary Biblo put it: "We must ask: *Can your library support women?*".

\*\*\*Budget: The Section's funding is too limited and causes continually shortages: Mailing of the Newsletter via regular mail was done only once, although for some members receiving a paper copy had been more beneficial, due to the fact that they do not have any reliable access to IFLANET. The Section is constantly looking for other sources for funding and was very pleased that translations of papers for the Congress were paid by IFLA. However, an event planned together with the Memoria Abierta, a group of women's organisations, could not be organised Buenos Aires, because there was no local funding and the Section's funds were already committed. As of January 1, 2005, WIS had approximately \$300US in its bank account.

### **Publications:**

The Section started using a new logo, invented by Monica Ertel, in which a woman is carrying a book above her head, to provide a strong image for the Section.

The Section published two issues of the Newsletter "Women and Librarianship," co-edited by Beth Stafford and Thelma Tate. Nos. 23 and 24 were partially translated into Spanish.

A new monograph was published: Women's Issues at IFLA. Equality, Gender and Information on Agenda. Papers from the Programs of the Round Table on Women's Issues at IFLA Annual Conferences 1993 - 2002. Edited by Leena Siitonen. München: K.G. Saur. IFLA Publications 106. ISBN 3-548-21836-2.

A plan was made to prepare another monograph with invited papers on "Women's Issues in Libraries."

Paper by Agnes Adjabeng, GHANA,: "Libraries as a source of relevant information to support and enhance economic development for women" was selected for publication by IFLA Journal.

### **Conference Programs:**

The Program at WLIC 2004 in Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA, had the following six papers on the topic "Women, Libraries and Economic Development". All papers were published with translations on IFLANET.

- Agnes Adjabeng, GHANA. "Libraries as a source of relevant information to support and enhance economic development for women "
- Diane Astobiza, ARGENTINA. "Popular libraries : A space with a 'social mission'."
- Beatriz Casa Tirao, MEXICO. "Las bibliotecas para mujeres y las demandas del desarrollo economico y social: un enfoque de genero."
- Yolanda Maloney and Soledad Alfaro, USA. Libraries for life: The role of traditional libraries in the skills acquisition of underrepresented women."

- Olufunmilola Olorunda, NIGERIA. "Women's information needs for economic development" and

Adetoun Oyelude, Roselyne E. Subair and Adewumi C.O. Bolajoko, NIGERIA. "Libraries, information and resource centers as a tool for women and economic development in Nigeria." There were, however, only three presentors, while several speakers had not secured funding for registration and travel and, thus, were not able to participate. This particular issue was discussed at the Section's meeting and it was decided to urge presentors to procure necessary funds, e.g., travel grants well in advance.

"Women and the World Peace" is the topic chosen for the WLIC 2005 in Oslo, NORWAY.

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 **Women's Issues Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s41/index.htm>