



WOMEN AND LIBRARIANSHIP

Newsletter of the IFLA Women's Issues Section

(continues Round Table on Women's Issues)

Number 25 (November/December 2004)

...All about membership!

The IFLA WOMEN'S ISSUES SECTION (WIS) is a still new section with members from all over the world. The Section concerns itself with questions and issues that have particular relevance to women in the library profession and in the user community. Further, it develops programs designed to enhance the opportunities and the image of these two groups of women.

The Section on Women's Issues promotes the collection, research, publication, and dissemination of information on the status of women in librarianship. It also strives to identify discrimination in all forms, including disparities in resources, programs, and opportunities relating to women in librarianship.

If you are not yet a member of this Section, join us now. As a member you can support, participate in and share the benefits of a range of relevant professional activities. More detailed information on the Section and its activities is at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s41/index.htm>

Questions?

Please contact: Leena Siitonen, WIS Chair, at lsiitonen@yahoo.es
Or Monica Ertel, Secretary/Treasurer, at monicaertel@yahoo.com

Women and Librarianship, newsletter of the IFLA Women's Issues Section (WIS) is published semi-annually. To receive the newsletter or to change address, etc., send your name, address, job type, fax and voice telephone numbers and email address to:

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From the (interim) Editor: We apologize for the late publication of this issue of the Newsletter. The delay was unavoidable due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. (Beth Stafford, Interim Editor, bstaff@uiuc.edu)
Message from the Chairperson

At the beginning of the new year, it is customary, even traditional, to make promises: I'm going to..., and the most courageous of us have a list of things to do in mind. Before the new beginning, there is the old year ending. Only official bodies seem to follow the tradition of preparing an Annual Report. When it comes to the Women's Issues Section of IFLA, of course, our Treasurer has prepared the official financial report. As members we can see most WIS activities on IFLANET.

Many of us carry wonderful memories of the successful program, poster session and standing committee meetings during the wonderful conference organized by our Argentinean colleagues. There were some problems too, especially in our communication with each other, as well as collectively with other professional groups.

If we pose the question, "Is WIS needed?" or, rather, "For what is WIS needed?" what answers can we find, and where can we find them? My personal impression is that WIS is needed – badly. This need was shown again when more than 30 persons answered our Call for Papers for Buenos Aires. It was shown when IFLA Journal accepted a WIS paper for publication. It was shown when FAIFE requested WIS contributions. And it was shown in the attendance to the WIS Program. WIS is needed and invites all information professionals to work together on our primary concerns: Women's access to information and library services for women. We are looking forward to an active and successful 2005, an IFLA election year, together.

**WORLD LIBRARY & INFORMATION CONGRESS
71st IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE & COUNCIL
14-18 AUGUST, 2005, in OSLO, NORWAY: VOYAGE TO DISCOVERY**

WOMEN AND WORLD PEACE has been declared as the theme of WIS's program at the World Library and Information Congress in August, 2005. Librarians, educators, researchers, social scientists, and others have submitted proposals for papers that provide insight and experience on the role of information and libraries in supporting world peace, particularly as it relates to women and women's issues. Proposals are being evaluated currently. We all look forward to a stimulating exchange of perspectives.

IFLA Women's Issues Section (WIS)
Business Meeting Minutes
Sunday, August 22, 2003 14:30 - 17:20
Saturday, August 28, 2003 14:30 - 17:20
Buenos Aires, Argentina

I. The meeting was called to order by Leena Siitonen, Chair of the IFLA Women's Issues Section (WIS). Monica Ertel, Secretary/Treasurer was also present. The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting and introductions were made around the room of all attendees. Approximately 7 people attended each meeting as noted at the end of this report. The following people are members of the Section:

Leena Siitonen (Chair), Monica Ertel (Secretary/Treasurer), Maitrayee Ghosh (Information Coordinator), Thelma Tate (Newsletter Editor), Kalpana Dasgupta (India), Marta Terry (Cuba), Mary Biblo (USA), Claire McInerney (USA), Salma Chowdhury (India), Subair Roselyn (Nigeria), Olufunmilola Olorunda (Nigeria), Sunita Barve (India), Jackie Druery (USA), Karin Alexander (Germany), Ruth Bature (Nigeria)

II. The agenda was approved and adopted.

III. The minutes from the WIS meeting in Berlin, Germany 2003 were approved.

IV. Report of the Chairperson

The Chair reported on the status of the Women's Issues Section. She reported on the resolution introduced by the Women's Issues Section last

year. 40 voted against, 163 abstained and 595 were in favor. WIS is at the center of IFLA's affairs. FAIFE is interested in women's issues and Alex Bryne would like to see a special project involving women's issues. The chair reported that the membership is growing.

The chair reported that IFLA Publication #106 – Women's Issues has been published. It was a tremendous amount of work especially since the publisher wanted computer-ready copy. It is available at the IFLA stand. IFLA wants the list of author's addresses to send them a copy of the book. There were 28 papers in the publication. The chair is interested in another publication of invited authors on specific topics. She has spoken to Nancy Quinn, chair of the Publication Committee who encouraged the idea.

The chair reported that the transfer from Round Table to Standing Committee has been smooth. She would like to get more members for the Standing Committee from South America.

The Poster session #69 was prepared by Maitrayee Ghosh and will be held Tuesday from 12 - 1 and hosted by Mary Biblo and Thelma Tate.

V. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Section ended the year with \$117.95 US. Concern was expressed about building up the reserves. Mary Biblo suggested that the Treasurer's Report be published in the newsletter when it is submitted to IFLA Headquarters in October.

VI. Report of the Newsletter Editor

Thelma Tate reported on the WIS Newsletter. Two issues were published this year and distributed electronically. One issue was also printed in hardcopy but the second issue was issued only in electronic format due to increases in postage and printing costs. Thelma reported that Rutgers has kindly picked up some of the costs of publishing the hard copy. The Chair indicated that eight hard copies need to be sent to IFLA and one to Division 6.

The Chair reported that she had received input from one of the speakers in Berlin. This speaker would like to have more input from members, perhaps regional reports. Barbara Ford suggested checking with the organizing committee for the next conference to provide us with someone who could give us a perspective on women. We could also ask for a summary of women's issues in the country where the next conference is to held.

Marta Terry suggested a topic on literacy in Venezuela. Marta said she would mention this at the Latin America section and will carry the message to this group. She suggested that perhaps we could send a letter to members about our section and ask for their input about what is important.

Mary Biblo recommended that we send a note to attendees at our session after the conference and ask them to send us information about what they are doing in relation to women's issues.

Thelma mentioned that an electronic copy of the newsletter has been mounted on the IFLA website. She suggested that it would be a good idea to post the availability of this on the WIS listserv. We may want to look at using regional offices as a way to distribute the newsletter to members of their region in order to save on postage.

VII. Strategic Plan 2004-2005

1. Strategic Plan 2004-2005: This has been approved by the Professional Board without making any changes. The Chair stated that she tried to make it progressive and realistic. It has been published in the WIS Newsletter and on IFLAnet.

2.1 Membership issues: The Chair encouraged attendees to widen the Standing Committee membership by recruiting new members. The Section needs people who represent ideas from around the world.

2.2. Membership of the Standing Committee and preparation for elections 2005: The chair mentioned that we need to prepare for elections. We need clarification of the requirements for the Standing Committee. Thelma Tate mentioned that it would be a good idea to put this on the listserv and in the newsletter.

2.3 Promoting WIS within IFLA: Which other groups to cooperate with and The Chair reported that sixteen satellite meetings were approved by IFLA for OSLO. IFLA would like cooperation between sections. We could perhaps do a program with mobile libraries since many women get information from these mobile libraries. Ian Stringer-London and Ruth Ornholt - Norway are organizing a satellite meeting for the Mobile Libraries Standing Committee to be held in Bergen. We may want to consider working with them.

A discussion of the poster session ensued. It was recommended that all names of the participants be listed for the poster session. Mary Biblo and Thelma Tate should have been included this year. A suggestion was made that the theme next year could be "Voyage into Partnerships."

The Chair discussed how a member of IFLA could get onto the Standing Committee. The deadline for asking to be on the committee is

March. Standing Committee members must be members of IFLA in order to apply. Current officers are eligible to run again. Information on this will appear on IFLAnet. IFLA will send out information in October. The Chair encouraged new members and contributing members. In June, the Chair will circulate a list of potential candidates. Potential members need to clarify attendance requirements with their management so that they can attend the conferences. Conferences will in Oslo in 2005, Seoul in 2006 and South Africa in 2007.

VIII. Publications

1. Newsletter Women in Librarianship: Appears on IFLAnet but will send email note to the mailing list to point people to IFLAnet. Maria Catera (University College of London) offered to translate the newsletter into Spanish.

2. WOMENISS Discussion list - The Secretary mentioned that we need to get more activity on the listserv. Perhaps have the Chair or Secretary send a welcome note to new subscribers to the listserv and say something about the group and the issues we are interested in discussing.

3. WIS brochure: Contents, design, logo, translations, distribution, cost

4. WIS documents on IFLANET: current situation report by Information Officer

5. Promotion of Women's Issues at IFLA monograph (IFLA Publication No. 106)

IX. Program in Oslo - 2005

The Chair reported that Olufunmilola Olorunda (Nigeria) is coordinating ideas for Oslo. She has sent the Chair thoughts on the theme. The theme will be "Women and the World Peace." Kalpana Desgupta (India) has agreed to work with Olufunmilola. Lorraine Jackson (USA) and Marta Terry (Cuba) have also agreed to be on the committee. The theme of the IFLA conference in Oslo is "Voyage to Discovery." Lorraine Jackson suggested getting someone of international stature such as Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, Oprah Winfrey or perhaps authors in Norway (perhaps a children's author) to speak. She suggested Deborah Ellis who has written about women in Afghanistan. It will be important to link this topic of peace to libraries. The Chair is trying to get other Standing Committees to work with us.

FAIFE is working on ideas for a program on Libraries and Human Rights.

There may be possibility of working with them on a program. Susan Searing (USA) suggested a topic having to do with gender. Another suggestion was made to sponsor something that would get women together for a meal or other social event. Perhaps a tea. An idea was made

that after the Opening Session, there be a meeting place for women/members who are traveling alone to meet with other SC members.

Seoul - 2006

The Chair would like to organize a satellite meeting. This would need to be presented to IFLA Headquarters by March 2005.

Program in Buenos Aires - 2004

We had five papers presented at the conference this year. The theme was "Women, Libraries and Economic Development." Papers were presented on Thursday, August 26 from 10:45 - 12:45pm. Approximately 80 people attended the program. Following are the speakers and their papers:

Beatriz Casa Tirao. "Libraries for women and the requirements of economic and social development: A gender focus."

Agnes Adjabeng (presented by Gloria Sarku, Parliament of Ghana). "Libraries as a source of relevant information to support and enhance economic development for women."

Yolanda Maloney and Soledad Alfaro. "Role of traditional libraries in the skills acquisition of under-represented women."

Olufunmilola Olorunda (presented by Dr. Ghaji Badaur (Bayero University of Nigeria). "Women's information needs for economic development."

Adetoun Oyelude, Roselyn Subair, Bolajoko Adewumi. "Libraries, Information and Resource Centres as a tool for women and economic development in Nigeria."

X. Announcements

XI. Other business

A letter from Sisel Nilsson was read in which a raffle to be held during the conference was described. The Standing Committee was asked to sell tickets for 3 pesos each. The raffle will be Tuesday evening at the event. Prizes have been contributed from conference attendees.

The Chair reported on a visit to Memoria Abierto, part of the Memory of the World Program (UNESCO). She met with Graciela Karababikian who is interested in working with the Women's Issues Standing Committee to

support their work. The Chair will let FAIFE know about this group as a possible speaker in OSLO.

XII Closing

The Chair thanked attendees and welcomed them to participate. She said we need "Heads, hands, hearts and legs."

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Monica Ertel, Secretary/Treasurer

Attendees:

Leena Siitonen (Chair)
Monica Ertel (Secretary/Treasurer)
Thelma Tate (Newsletter Editor)
Marta Terry (Cuba)
Mary Biblo (USA)
Barbara Ford (USA)
Lorraine Jackson (USA)
Susan Searing (USA)
Gladys Camere (Peru)
Maria Coteria (UK)
Merinda McLure (USA)
Kirsten Andersen (Canada)

Selected Resources

Joshi, Ila, ed, Asian Women in the Information Age: New Communication Technology, Democracy and Women Singapore, Asian Media Information & Communication Centre, n.d. ISBN 99710905-72-3

Hancock, Linda, ed. Women, Public Policy and the State
MacMillan Education Australia Pty Ltd, 1999 ISBN 0-7329-5531-9

Sharma, Joseph and K., eds. Terror, Counter-Terror: Women
Speak Out London: Zed Books, 2003

Women and Internet: a Croatian Perspective ISBN 953-6967-08-1

To order, contact: babe@zamir.net
(IIAV Int'l News, 11/04)

Women Living Under Muslim Laws website: www.wluml.org

International Information Centre & Archives for the Women's Movement (IIAV) Makes Film

The role information plays in women's lives is the subject of a new film premiered in Amsterdam in October, 2004. Password:Women tells the story of women worldwide who are using new media such as Internet to improve their lives and the lives of their families and communities. IIAV commissioned a Dutch film crew to follow women in places as diverse as Macedonia and Uganda, as well as during an international conference in Geneva. Password: Women is available in different formats, with English, Spanish, and Dutch subtitles, for E12.50 +postage. See: www.iiav.nl/password:women/eng (IIAV Int'l News, 11/04)

KNOW HOW CONFERENCE ON THE WORLD OF WOMEN'S INFORMATION 2006

The Centro de Informacion y Documentacion Programa Universitario de Estudios de Genero (PUEG) in Mexico will host the third Know How Conference on the World of Women's Information in August, 2006. The Know How Conference is a process of sharing knowledge and expertise between women's information specialists throughout the globe. The IIAV hosted, as part of this process, the first Know How Conference in August, 1998.

The Know How Conference mission is to improve the accessibility and availability of women information services throughout the world, at the local and at the global level. Hundreds of women's information centres, our activities as diverse as our geographies, work to strengthen the position of women. Our accessibility, and the availability of our information, is essential to our work and a prerequisite to proper policy making at international, national, and local government levels. The Know How Conference is committed to creating a forum where ideas and experiences from the South, North, West, and East are equally represented.

(IIAV News, 11/04)

One More Resource

A new source on globalization and its political, economic, and social consequences includes a separate domain on women. The entire source is constantly being expanded. Currently most content is in French, but a sizable portion is in English.

See: <http://www.peuplesmonde.com>

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