



## Social Science Section

### Annual Report 2003-2004

#### Introduction

The Social Science Section has had a quiet but productive year. Membership has slightly declined but interest in the programmes organised by the Section has increased.

	2003	2004
<b>Section Committee Members</b>	88	82
<b>Standing Committee Members</b>	12	10
<b>Meeting attendees</b>	16	12
<b>Open Session attendees</b>	60	100
<b>Number of Papers Presented</b>	3	5

The Social Science Section Officers are: Steve Witt (elected Secretary 2002), Jacques Hellemans (elected Treasurer 2002), and Margaret Robb, (elected 2003 as Chair).

#### Conference programmes

In Buenos Aires in 2004, our Section organized a programme jointly with Division VIII. The theme, *Changing roles of NGOs in the creation, validation and dissemination of information in developing countries*, was the perfect topic for both groups. Having a joint session meant that the programme was four hours in length. In order to keep the attention of our audience, we incorporated a “break-out” session inviting participants to share their own experiences with NGOs. This was successful. The following papers were presented: (See at: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s5/ssl-conf.htm#2004>)

- [NGO, information flow, and nation: an exploration in relationships](#)  
[O.N.G., flux d'informations et nation : une étude exploratoire des interrelations](#)

LYNNE M. RUDASILL (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, USA)

- [How to foster and strengthen civic life through information for action: the role of NGOs](#)  
[Comment stimuler et renforcer la vie civique à travers l'information pour l'action : le rôle des ONGs](#)  
[Como fomentar y fortalecer la vida civil a con información que promueve la acción: el rol de las ONGs](#)  
NORMA PALOMINO (University Torcuato de Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- [Non governmental organisations \(NGOs\) and library development in Africa](#)  
HELENA R. ASAMOAH-HASSAN (The Library, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana)
- [La alfabetización informacional para la ciudadanía en América Latina: el punto de vista del usuario final de programas nacionales de información y / o inclusión digital](#)  
SUELI MARA SOARES PINTO FERREIRA (Escola de Comunicações e Artes - ECA/USP, Sao Paulo, Brazil) and ELISABETH ADRIANA DUDZIAK (Escola Politécnica - EP/USP, Sao Paulo, Brazil)
- [NGOs, ICTs and information dissemination in Asia and Oceania](#)  
ELIZABETH READE-FONG (University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji) and G.E. GORMAN (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

In Berlin in 2003, our Section had two sessions, one on-site and another off-site. We had a higher attendance rate at the off-site session due to our being able to include social science academics and researchers. This was crucial to the success of the session since the theme concentrated on “meeting user needs”.

The papers delivered at the on-site Social Science Section’s session (on-site) looked at *Building strategic alliances with our special user groups: how social and political scientists cope with the new information paradigm*.

- [Research on the Research Support Needs of Social Scientists](#)  
[Recherche sur les besoins de soutien documentaire exprimés par les chercheurs en sciences sociales](#)  
MARGARET ROBB and MARK JANES (Social Studies Libraries, Oxford University, Oxford, UK)
- [Tipping toward the internet: global changes in political science research](#)  
[L'orientation vers l'Internet: des changements globaux dans la recherche en sciences politiques](#)  
RICHARD W. WILSON (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA)
- [Standardisation, heterogeneity and the quality of content analysis: a key conflict of digital libraries and its solution](#)  
[Standardisierung, Heterogenität und die Qualität der Inhaltserschließung](#)

## **Discussion Group**

The Knowledge Management Discussion Group organized a well attended and lively session at Berlin in 2003. As a result, it was able to convince IFLA to create a new Section for Knowledge Management which met for the first time in Buenos Aires in 2004.

## **Publications and Translations**

The Section produces an annual newsletter in August.

The Social Science Section continued updating and adding to the “Survey of National Education Libraries”, an e-publication edited by Jakob Andersen.

The Section’s leaflet was translated into Spanish (already available in French, Russian and English) and was made available in electronic and print version.

The Section’s Treasurer translated the papers presented in 2003 and 2004 so they were available on the web in both English and French.

## **Project**

A project examining the feasibility of repeating the INFROSS study, initiated in 2002 and paid for by IFLA, was completed and discussed by the Section in 2003. It was agreed that Hans-Christoph Hobohm would investigate funding from UNESCO for the replication of the INFROSS study. Unfortunately, the funding could not be found so the idea has been temporarily abandoned. Professional priorities a, d, f, g, h, i would have been achieved, if we had been able to take forward the study.

## **Objectives for 2005**

The Section will produce a newsletter in January, in addition to the usual August issue.

In Oslo, the Social Science Section will present a session on “Evidence-based librarianship” with case studies from the social sciences. This will be presented by a leader in the field, Anne Brice.<sup>1</sup>

The section is currently negotiating with a publisher to produce a book containing a collection of papers on the topic of “NGO collaboration with the library/information community”.

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<sup>1</sup> Evidence-based practice for information professionals : a handbook. Edited by Andrew Booth and Anne Brice. Facet Publishing, 2004.

The Section, in support of the plans to review all IFLA Sections, has taken part in the Pilot Project. We hope that the outcome will help to strengthen IFLA and assist in the progression of IFLA's core values.

*Margaret Robb*  
*Chair, Social Science Section*  
*24<sup>th</sup> November 2004*

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 **Social Science Libraries Section:** <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s5/index.htm>