



GEOGRAPHY AND MAP LIBRARIES SECTION
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

The Section's activities for the year culminated with a very successful Open Session "Mapping the African Continent" held at the World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council in Durban, South Africa. Speakers at the Open Session included two from Africa, one from the United Kingdom, and one from Russia. All of the presentations focused on various aspects of mapping the vast African continent. The Section also arranged two field trips during our stay in Durban. The first one took us to the Geography Department at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Our host was Dr. Diane Scott who arranged a very interesting program for our visit. We were treated to a tour of their map collection, presentations by several of their faculty members and students, and a scrumptious lunch. Our second field trip took us to the David H. Davies Memorial Library at the Oceanographic Research Institute of the South African Association for Marine Biological Research located at uShaka Marine World in Durban. In addition to a tour of the facilities, including the library, the director of the Institute, Rudy van der Elst, gave a very interesting presentation about the research taking place at the institute and the environmental problems the region faces especially as they pertain to the marine ecosystem.

Most of the 2006-2007 year was spent recruiting new members. We were moderately successful in this endeavor and were able to add several new members to our roster. However, the down side was that we also lost several members with the end result being that our membership remained about the same.

At the 73rd IFLA conference in Seoul the Rare Books and Manuscript Section had proposed a jointly sponsored satellite meeting to be held in conjunction with the IFLA conference in Quebec City in 2008. The topic suggested was "Rare Maps of North America: Their Cultural Significance, Their Research Value, and Their Security." Although the RBM Section did submit a proposal to IFLA HQ, there was very little activity during the course of the year and communication between the two sections was very limited. At the Durban, South Africa IFLA conference the newly elected chair of the RBM Section indicated during our Standing Committee II meeting that the theme of the satellite meeting had changed. The topic now is "Map as Page, Map as Print: How Maps Intersect with Books and Prints." Mark Dimunation, Library of Congress, would be the organizer of the satellite meeting and it would be held in Washington, DC August 6-7, 2008.

The Section produced one newsletter during the past year, one less than had originally been planned. Work on the “Guidelines for Handling Paper Maps in Libraries” is still a work in progress. Based on data collected at a workshop organized by David McQuillan that was held in Washington, DC in May 2005, the compilation of the data has now been taken over by Marcy Allen, Penn State University.

Works still in progress include the feasibility of establishing a clearinghouse for digital spatial data, a revision of the World Directory of Map Collections (4th ed.), and the possibility of creating a listserv for map librarians. A tentative committee was set up to further explore the content and format of a revised version of the directory. Members include Marcy Allen, Véronique Thome, and Anita Oser. There has also been some discussion with the Genealogy and Local History Section about sponsoring joint programs in the future and the general topic of membership issues. Plans are also underway for the Section’s Open Session at WLIC: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council in Quebec City, Canada, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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Geography and Map Libraries Section