

IFLA 2010: Grantee' Report

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INTRODUCTION

I was one of the beneficiaries of IFLA travel grant to attend IFLA 2010 – Gothenburg, organised by the Swedish Library Association. The grant included the invitation to attend the pre-congress Satellite Meeting on ‘The Global Librarian’ held in Borås, Sweden. Later on I attended the Main Conference and Congress at the Gothia Towers - Gothenburg.

THE PRE-CONGRESS SATELLITE MEETING ON ‘THE GLOBAL LIBRARIAN’, BORÅS, SWEDEN

The satellite meeting started on Monday 9th August, 2010 in Boras. The theme of the session was **The Global Librarian**. On hearing the theme ‘Global Librarian’ I was excited about discovering who this Global librarian is. Indeed, after the day I had appreciated the theme. This was attended by about 35 participants by invitation. The participants were some of the leaders or administrators of Library Associations in the respective countries. The purpose was to learn skills of management of library associations and learn how to be a global librarian in this changing LIS world. The programme featured documentaries such as Schanachie Tour - a Library road trip across America and gaming videos, paper presentations on new skills in libraries, next generation librarians, the role of a public librarian, path ways to internalize library career, how to become a global librarian, the library school and role of Library Associations. There were also discussions. The session concluded with by the closing remarks. All presentations were made by presenters who were highly skilled and knowledgeable. The Danish Union of Librarians gave the closing remarks and he put emphasis on knowing the library patrons because they are the reason for the libraries’ existence. He further emphasised the need to close the generation gap as well as membership relations management as being very critical areas if both the Librarian and Patrons are to have happy meaningful relations.

SOME OF THE LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE SATELLITE MEETING

- Librarians need to be in touch with the changes taking place in the different communities
- Librarians need to create fusion between these changes and the library. This means focusing on things which can be changed and identifying the core elements with which to incorporate the changes.
- Modern ways of managing school libraries. As the presenter put it "new learners, new challenges", meaning that different approaches to learning need to be identified and implemented to cope with changes in technology, society and culture so that a library of the future is created. On return home, I shared the knowledge with the ULIA Executive and we organised a one day school librarians seminar in which I presented a paper to effectively manage the school libraries.
- IFLA programme aimed at fostering international exchange through its 'IFLA - Adopt a Student' project. There are many brilliant LIS students who cannot afford the opportunity to become IFLA members let alone attend the annual conferences. Winning sponsorship and being mentored by well established LIS professionals is a great way of linking the old and the new generations of librarians.
- Managing Library Associations. We were taught techniques of managing better library Associations which I am planning to share with colleagues in the October meeting. I am sure our Association will be managed differently now.
- Remaining a Global Librarian. I am now looking out for opportunities that will enable me remain a Global librarian as advised by one of the presenters.

Participants drove by bus to Gothenburg which was very exciting.

Grantees in pictorial



A group of the thirty five grantees who participated in the Global Librarian Satellite meeting and the IFLA main Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, 2010.

THE IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND CONGRESS

1. Offsite session to one of the public libraries
2. Opening ceremony –the VIP speeches, key note address, the entertainment
3. Exhibitions
4. The Parties-opening and closing and exhibition, Cultural Night-Museum
5. Sessions attended -President Press conference- Plenary Session of SIG, LIS Education in Developing Countries, CDNL at University of Gothenburg, Study tours and Networking with different personalities in the LIS world

CHALLENGES

I tried to acquire as much knowledge and skills as I could however, somehow, I failed to locate some presentations that I thought were of interest because the place was really huge and locating the places for the presentations was not easy. And another challenge was a lot of interesting papers being presented at the same time.

CONCLUSIONS

I thank the Madam Josche and Mr. Sjoerd Koopman for all the information posted to us. It was really very helpful. I also thank IFLA for the grant and also organising the satellite meeting that has had immediate impact. I promise to remain a Global Librarian and to manage my Librarian Association better. I acquired a lot of new digital skills that I will use in my place of work. I was able to meet new people with whom I will network. I also managed to look for Josche who was very helpful in linking me with the IFLA person in charge of visas when some of the Ugandans had issues with visa. Thank you so much for the help. I thank IFLA for the opportunity. Please keep us on the listserv and inform us about new developments in the profession because this is one way of remaining a Global Librarian.