



## **Action For Development Through Libraries Programme (ALP)**

### **2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

By Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Officer

#### **MISSION**

Libraries constitute the basis for all citizens' free access to information. Thereby everyone is given the opportunity to participate in the democratic processes of the society and improve their lives. By furthering library and information services in Africa, Asia and Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Action for development through Libraries Programme (ALP) aims at supporting main key human development issues: literacy, lifelong learning, bridging the digital divide and sustainable development.

ALP is mission oriented and not subject oriented like other IFLA core activities. Therefore, co-operation with relevant IFLA professional bodies and with regional and international organisations is essential to carry out the programme.

ALP achieves its mission through a carefully planned programme of activities and close co-operation between the International Focal Point of ALP and IFLA's Regional Offices, IFLA's Regional Division and its three sections, and other partners. This co-operation includes fundraising, scholarships and attachment programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops, publications and databases.

#### **STAFF AND FINANCE**

IFLA, Uppsala University and 13 Nordic library associations and institutions fund the International Focal Point (IFP) for ALP at Uppsala University Library. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) funds are also used for the secretariat. To this should be added contributions in kind from Uppsala University Library.

The ALP IFP is staffed by: Birgitta Sandell, Director of the Programme, and Gunilla Natvig, Administrative Officer (part-time 40%).

#### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

##### **ALP Meetings and Seminars**

Sida supported ALP with 346.275 EUR in 2009. In addition to the funds Sida has allocated for the professional activities, those responsible for projects in the regions contributed with their own resources and raised considerable funds from external sources.

##### *A workshop to train library and information professionals in Information Literacy skills (India)*

Because of the swine flu the main workshop was postponed to 18-19 December 2009. Prior to the main workshop two workshops were organized, one in May with 75 local participants (40 men and 35 women) and the second in August with 55 local participants (32 men and 23 women). After the workshops the organizers were convinced that participants had achieved a fair understanding of information literacy skills. The main workshop attracted a large number of participants, a total of 152 registrations, 87 men and 65 women. They came from SAARC countries like Nepal, Sri

Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh and from different categories, public libraries, academic library systems, library associations, educators, activists and policy makers. The objective was to make the participants understand and be able to express the relationship between effective information literacy skills and the knowledge society, and according to the report, the objectives were met. The design and delivery of Information Literacy Skills generated a lot of interest and led to a continued discussion on the methods and delivery and its importance in the knowledge environment. The participants will go back to respective organizations to share their experience.

*A workshop to train library association leaders and professionals in library advocacy and policy development (Sri Lanka)*

The workshop was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka 12-13 February 2009. With support from the Sri Lanka National Library and Documentation Service Board (NLDSB) the number of participants was increased and 100 participants were offered training free-of-charge. The 100 participants represented the library associations in Sri Lanka, India and Nepal, the Sri Lanka National Library, Special, University and School libraries, community development officers as well as members from Local government. It was felt that the workshop was extremely useful. The participants received hands-on training on “Developing Action Plan Worksheet”. How to deal with media and legislators was also discussed. The idea of library advocacy was totally new to most of the participants till this workshop and they said that they learnt how to make public aware of their libraries, how to get support of political authorities and media. Some public members of local bodies and community development officers said that they are taking back progressive ideas and assured that they will work as library advocates in their regions, and find funding for it should not be a problem. A number of politicians who participated expressed their willingness to sponsor such workshops and invited SLLA to join with them. The outcome of the two days workshop is several conclusions and resolutions and a library advocacy and policy development model was developed, to be used in future programmes. It was also decided that an additional workshop will be held in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka and other follow-up workshops based on the present one, should be conducted throughout the country.

*To support a workshop on Information Literacy (IL) (Bangladesh)*

The workshop was planned for 2008 but was postponed and held June 22-26, 2009 in Dhaka. It was planned to accommodate 20 participants, eight from abroad and 12 locals, but due to the overwhelming anticipation from the local participants 10 more seats were added. Among the 30 participants six were from India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Tanzania and the rest were local librarians, 21 men and 9 women. The objective was to introduce the concept of information literacy in Bangladesh and other SAARC countries and to make librarians competent to run Information Literacy programmes after the training – capacity building of library professionals in the SAARC region. The training workshop included a variety of exercises, both group work and individual. The interaction between trainers and trainees were lively and participants said that the workshop would help them to make their own models of information literacy education and to implement some of the ideas from the workshop in their countries. The participants agreed to arrange national workshops/ conferences on the topic and to develop their own models and training materials for utilizing at their libraries. The workshop is seen as a milestone in the history of library science as it was the first time IFLA came to the country.

*To support the pilot project ‘A book for a child’ (Botswana)*

The project started in 2008 and the idea was that a book should be bought for each child. But, instead of giving the books to the children, the books were given to the schools. The project introduces the reading habit in primary schools by making books available and encouraging reading. Teachers from 10 selected schools have been trained how to start and run a library in a school setting. Materials have been selected, quality checked, purchased, catalogued and distributed to the selected schools. Botswana Library Association intends to continue to build on

what is already on the ground, to increase the collections in the schools, help the schools monitor usage and measure the impact of availability of reading materials on the performance of the children with the help of Botswana National Library Service. Other sponsors of this project were ACHAP, Springer, PRG and the Department of Primary Education.

*A training workshop in library skills for Palestinian teachers in the West Bank and Gaza*

In spite of the difficult situation in Palestine CARE managed to continue its cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and the Department of Education at UNRWA and carry out the training and meet the goals set in the proposal. The training started March 19 and ended May 9, 2009. The total number of participants were 34 instead of 25 as planned, 19 males and 15 females. 25 came from the public sector and 9 from the private, 20 from town, 5 from villages and 9 from camps. A learning kit for each trainee was prepared. The training combined practice and theory and all training was conducted in library premises. Several local Palestinian community institutions cooperated with CARE to conduct this training, they are: Birzeit university, Ramalla Municipality, The Greek Catholic School, The Friends School, Latin Patriarche School and Al-Bireh Municipality. The trainees were committed, no absentees at all despite the restrictions on movement. Considering the difficult situation of the Palestinian schools the conducted training had a very positive impact on both stakeholders (Ministry of Education) and the school librarians as the responsibility was shared by capable institutions/associations. Comments and recommendations were to promote freedom of expression and freedom of thought among Palestinians in general and both teachers and pupils in particular, and promoting non-violent thinking and multicultural approaches through making access to information a right. A website will be created to assist in the exchange of information and experience with both local and international experts. Forging connections among these groups can contribute to the strengthening of the Palestinian system and thus contribute to a stronger society.

*Follow-up seminar on capacity building interventions on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*

The seminar took place 1-3 June 2009 in Accra, Ghana. 16 participants, 10 women and 6 men from Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cameroon, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria attended the seminar and presented country reports. The following was discussed:

- strategies for libraries to achieve the MDGs
- how to engage with governments
- guidelines to work with to attain MDGs
- concrete action plans.

A statement on Library Capacity Building Interventions was declared the last day of the seminar, and strategies for library capacity building were drawn up.

In October a second follow-up seminar took place in Pretoria. This seminar was aimed to enhance the capacity of libraries in the Southern African sub-region to make them sustainable and to enable them to function effectively to meet the MDGs. The 15 participants, 9 women and 6 men, came from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia and Lesotho. The workgroups formulated the "Pretoria Statement on Library Capacity Building Interventions for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Southern Africa". It is expected that the participants will pass on what they have learnt and engage in discussions with other professionals, in order to realise the objectives. A brochure based on the proceedings will be published that will form a guidelines for participants to use in their respective countries. The organisers, IFLA Regional Office for Africa, Unisa Library and the Africa Section will be in constant links with participants to ensure that the outcomes are implemented.

*To support a workshop to promote reading (Puerto Rico)*

Seven professionals from Peru, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico presented experiences of reading projects undertaken in their libraries. The presentation given by Doris Samanez on Book-lending points arose much interest. There were 58 participants and they took actively part in the workshop and they had sessions where they formulated reading promotion projects that could be used in their respective institution. In spite of an increasing number of public libraries in the Hispanic Caribbean there have been very little outreach efforts. Group discussions lead to final recommendations and potential activities, and a blog was created.

*International seminar on the Public Library and the Information Society (Peru)*

The seminar took place 24-26 March in Lima, Peru. There were altogether 320 Peruvian librarians and students in LIS. Most of the 28 foreign librarians presented papers or acted as moderators of the round tables during the seminar as did 24 Peruvian librarians.

The objectives of the seminar were to analyse the actual situation and suggest policies, strategies, plans of actions and a structure of co-operation in order to stimulate the development of the Public Library in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Other funders than Sida were Cámara Peruana del Libro, Fundación Banco Continental and Documentación, Bibliotecas e Informática S.A.

In connection with the seminar the importance that the IFLA LAC Section and ALP (with funding from Sida) has had for the development of libraries during the last 20 years was recognised. A series of projects and activities implementing new models of library service, spreading the IFLA/Unesco Manifestos on Public Library, school libraries and Internet, models for reading activities, scholarships, and training of librarians among other things.

*Support a workshop on Digital library development in the Arab States (Lebanon)*

This three-days workshop was planned for 2008 but held 2-4 April 2009 in Beirut, Lebanon. It brought together an emerging community of librarians and educators, 120 participants (88 female and 32 male) divided between librarians, library directors, information solutions providers and representatives of official bodies, such as AFLI. Participants and speakers came from across the Arab world, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Syria, Kuwait, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Oman, Jordan and Lebanon. There was a big difference in knowledge and experience between the different institutions in terms of digital libraries and digitization. The resolutions included for example the importance of;

- creation of awareness amongst the decision makers in the library field and the public as to digitization and the conversion of traditional libraries to digital ones
- training and development of library staff in the skills needed to create a digital project and the need to begin digital projects related to the digitization of manuscripts and resources of historical value or those prone to be damaged, lost, stolen or forged.

See <http://picasaweb.google.com/kjaroudy/LLAIFLARegionalWorkshop>

*Support a seminar on connecting Africans to their own resources: developing policies and strategies for Africa's digital future*

The above project and "Putting Libraries on the African Development Agenda" were put under the umbrella event, "The First International Conference on African Digital Libraries and Archives" (ICADLA-1) and took place 1-3 July 2009 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The first part was a roundtable designed for senior programme leaders of key African regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations to discuss the importance of ensuring that information and knowledge resources and services are recognized as critical for inclusive development, and provided for in the design and implementation of African

development strategies and programmes. The other part, the digital libraries forum aimed to bring together key African and international stakeholders to discuss critical policy issues and explore approaches and challenges facing them in relation to the development of digital libraries, archives and related knowledge and heritage resources. Over 200 speakers, delegates, media and exhibitors from 25 countries attended the conference. The male-female participation ratio was about 5:4. The participants included specialists and directors of libraries, archives and other knowledge institutions. Others were information technology experts, researchers, training officers, business managers, professors, university students etc. The participants stated that libraries are central to the development of the societies.

Recommendations were set up. Carnegie Corporation of New York also contributed with funds to the event.

#### *Building preservation into digitisation projects (Vietnam)*

This project was approved in October. It has received additional funding from INASP and Atlantic Philanthropies that made it possible to invite 30 participants, 24 from Vietnam, two from Laos, two from Cambodia and two from Nepal. The workshop was running for three days in English and with Vietnamese translation, at the General Science Library HCMC. The purpose of this “Train the Trainer” project is to prepare managers to build preservation management into new projects at their inception and to retrospectively add preservation management to existing projects.

#### *To support a seminar on services for the blind and print disabled (Brazil)*

The first seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean took place in 1993 in Cuba. A NGO in Brazil (Bibliotecas Braille & comunitarias, construyendo la ciudadanía) with an extensive network organised a second seminar on library service for the blind and print disabled people last November. 250 participants attended the event, among them representatives from Cuba, Peru, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. The purpose was to provide the responsible authorities with information on new technologies in order to give better library service to visually impaired people.

### **The World Library and Information Congress in Milan**

#### **Speakers Grants**

#### *Speaker's grant for younger Professionals to present a paper at the World Library and Information Congress*

Two men and five women from South Africa, New Zealand, India, Cuba, Vietnam and Argentina presented papers at the World Library and Information Congress in Milan and participated in workshops, meetings and sessions. Three of the grantees were part of the ALP cooperation with MLAS (Management of Library Association Section) and CPDWL (Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning), the joint session “Librarians on the catwalk: communicating for advocacy to influence policy and practice”. According to their reports the conference gave them the opportunity to share their own knowledge and research and network with international colleagues, which was very useful. They have gained new knowledge from colleagues' experiences. As one grantee said, “All these opportunities are great benefit to me. They encourage me to work in the library and information areas as well as share my knowledge to colleagues.”

All papers are available at: <http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference/ifla75/programme2009-en.php>.

Birgitta Sandell and Gunilla Natvig participated in the Congress in Milan and took part in the Regional Standing Committee meetings.

### *ALP Advisory Board Meeting*

A meeting with the ALP Advisory Board was held during the Congress under the chairmanship of Gunnar Sahlin, National Librarian of Sweden. The other members are: Buhle Mbambo-Thata, Chair of Div. 8 and member of the Governing Board; Helena Asamoah-Hassan, member of the Governing Board; Winnie Vitzansky; Ulf Göranson, Chief Librarian, Uppsala University; Gary Gorman, Professor of Library and Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington. Another meeting of the Board took place in The Hague in December 2009.

### **IFLA Regional Standing Committee Meetings**

The annual meeting of the Regional Standing Committees in their own regions are most important for the development of ALP.

Birgitta Sandell participated in the Asia and Oceania Section meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. Gunilla Natvig participated in the Section meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru.

### **Scholarships and attachments**

#### *In-service training for middle or senior staff in Asia and Oceania*

Two people were selected for attachments in 2009 at institutions in the region.

One librarian from Thailand was offered an attachment at the Li Ka Shing Library in Singapore and. During this four-week training the participants were introduced to different services offered in the library and were also given hands-on experience on how to design and develop a training programme. , library orientation, new techniques and approach in performing internet search and handling information questions. One librarian from India spent one month at the Rangsit University Library where he was trained in IT, electronic resources and library services.

#### *Scholarships to a course in Information literacy and ICT Applications*

There were eight scholarship students this year (7 women and one man coming from Lebanon, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, Indonesia, Fiji and Samoa) that attended the four-week course in Information Literacy and IT held in Wellington, New Zealand at Victoria University from 16 November through 11 December 2009. The workshop's content and learning activities addressed both theoretical and practical aspects of information literacy education. Theoretical aspects included sessions on contextual variables, programme planning, learning styles, needs assessment and programme evaluation. The practical components were focused on the participants' learning how to develop effective search strategies and how to evaluate information and web sites. The intensive classroom sessions were mixed with visits to top libraries in the Wellington Region. The students rated the workshop very highly, especially appreciating the group work in class and the library visits, but this year there were some negative comments about the IT component, noting that the facilitator went through the material too quickly at times. This point may reflect the fact that some students have very little IT background.

### **Other projects**

#### *To support a proposal outline for an international curriculum in Library and Information Studies in Central America*

The project to elaborate a proposal outline for an International Curriculum with emphasis on Information Literacy for the Library schools in Central America originates from the results of the seminar on IFLA/Unesco manifestos held in Costa Rica 2007. The project is divided into three phases and phase one, with support from Sida, has been completed. The coordinator of the project has seized all opportunities to promote librarians' understanding of the importance of an

International Curriculum. She has attended workshops and seminars in almost all countries in the region and a proposal has now been elaborated for designing and implementing an International Curriculum for the education in Librarianship and Documentation in Central America. The payment was made in 2008.

*Support in-house training for public librarians in Latin America*

The objectives were to improve the working methods for Latin American public librarians with the help of an in-house training programme at the COMFENALCO department of Culture and Libraries in Medellin, Colombia. COMFENALCO is a very innovative and creative organization and widely known for its working methods. There were 37 applications and 13 librarians with management of coordinating posts in public libraries (from Uruguay, Paraguay, Guatemala, Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize and Colombia) attended the course that took place from 2 to 31 July 2009. The programme contained workshops, practical exercises and work in some areas, visits to libraries and cultural institutions as well as meetings and interviews with professionals. When applying for the scholarship the candidates had to formulate a project to be carried out in their home countries with dates of performance within 18 months and at the end the participants will have to deliver a report of 2000 words. Each participant had a tutor who could help to work out the plan of action and then see to it that it is executed.

The programme allowed the participants to strengthen the networking abilities and be exposed to new working methods and library practises developed in the COMFENALCO libraries in Antioquia. The project was paid for in 2008.

*Book lending points in San Salvador and in Santa Tecla, El Salvador and in Cajamarca, Peru*  
Books and journals are lent via library staff who is pushing book-filled grocery carts in markets in Cajamarca, Peru and in three markets in El Salvador. The idea is to promote the book and reading, and before buying the books the public library conducted a survey to find out what kind of books the customers and vendors think would be interesting. Many vendors bring their children to the market during the workday. The Public Library is responsible for the management and the continuation of the project that started in the beginning of November.

*Train young people in a poor community to gather and organise information about their community*

Tiradentes is one of the 96 districts in São Paulo. It has more than 200.000 inhabitants and most of them were earlier removed from favelas to this district. The infrastructure is poor and violent crime rate is high. For 20 years an Institute has trained young people to express themselves in playing theatre, writing poems etc. 40 young people were now trained in collecting data about the cultural area in the community. This year, geoprocessing will be used in cultural mapping for street theatre groups (about 200) in São Paulo city and the youngsters are invited to help with the mapping.

The aim of the project is to give the citizens free information about their community so that they with their new knowledge can have more influence over the decision making.

The videos produced during the course can be found on the internet:

<http://www.miraperipharia.com/index.php?option=com>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHGcqRB8uxo&feature=related>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dODiIvNZ5\\_c&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dODiIvNZ5_c&feature=related)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYWoxPGTAdU&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9YOkSVLoM&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EM3qJbSO6A&feature=related>

*Internships in Information Technology (Mexico)*

For the selection of participants a call was elaborated and spread. 49 applications were received and 15 librarians from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay were selected to participate in the five weeks training at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas (CUIB).

The program consisted of four modules. Technology applied to:

- Collection development
- Organization of information
- Information services, and
- Distance education.

The delegates had to present a final report and were also required to demonstrate their interest and personal commitment by submitting a proposal outlining a digital library project for their own institution and/or other institutions in their countries in order to multiply the knowledge.

UNAM contributed with 10.000 USD to the project.