



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Information Point

January 2010

The Government Libraries Section Newsletter

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Chair's Column

Greetings for the New Year!

It's been five months since we all met in wonderful, friendly Milan and renewed old acquaintances and made new friends. This issue includes one Section member's viewpoint of the Milan conference and events that have taken place since the conference. In a short seven months we will be meeting once again but not until details of numerous programs are put into place and much hard work accomplished. We hope that you enjoy the news items in this newsletter and we hope to hear from you or see you at one of our future programs. The Section gives a special thanks to our guest editor for this issue of the *Information Point*, Sanjay K. Bihani of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, India.

Adopt-a-Student

The Government Libraries Section supports in principle the initiative of the Education and Training Section to Adopt-a-Student. The goal is to draw current library and information science students worldwide to IFLA by selecting a student and sponsoring them with a one year IFLA student membership. It is hoped that this venture will produce the next generation of IFLA members and leaders. Yours truly has

already signed on to sponsor two students and both are now corresponding members of the Government Libraries Section – Josipa Bašić from Croatia and Sebastian Wilke from Germany. More information including the steps to take to sponsor a student are available at:

<http://www.ifla.org/en/set/adopt-a-student>.

New Online Publication

Soon the Government Libraries Section will debut a new online publication that was previewed and approved during the Milan conference. The Section intends to post an online publication that will include examples of mission and/or vision statements of government libraries worldwide. As an online publication, ease of update can be frequent. This project is an outgrowth of some research completed in 2009 for a couple of libraries that made an inquiry to the Government Libraries Section for some examples of mission statements for government libraries. The real mission and/or vision statements that we have collected can serve as models for ideas and adaptation to other libraries worldwide.

Section Membership

Finally, we are proud to report that the 2009 round of IFLA section elections resulted in six new members for the Government Libraries Section. This brought our total to eighteen elected members representing government libraries worldwide. It is believed that this is the largest number of active elected members in the last twenty years for the Section. Each Section is also allowed up to five corresponding members who can be appointed by the chair. For 2010 we have our full complement of five corresponding members.

--Jerry W. Mansfield, Chair 2009-2011

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Editors Desk

Dear Friends
Happy New Year 2010

It has been around five years from the day I was introduced to IFLA-Government Libraries Section during Oslo Conference in 2005. Nancy Bolt, the then Chair asked me to work for the *Guidelines* project of GL Section. I contributed two important chapters in the *Guidelines*, which was published by IFLA as Professional Report No. 106 in 2008. I was elected to the Standing Committee of IFLA-GL Section in 2007 and have been regularly participating in its activities and programmes.

The chair asked me to work as a guest editor for this issue of “*Information Point*” and I am very pleased to work as guest editor. The present team of Government Libraries section comprising Jerry, Patrick and Miguel is very active and I sincerely thank all of them for giving me this opportunity.

The recent IFLA Conference in Milan was very fruitful. In addition to various informative sessions, it was a pleasure to catch up with several colleagues and friends from various government libraries all over the world.

GL Section is preparing for its mid-term congress during April in Barcelona, Spain. We are grateful to our colleagues in Spain, who have been working to make this event

successful.

I would like to thank everyone for your contribution and support for this issue of *Information Point*.

-- Sanjay K. Bihani

Information Coordinator’s Report By Miguel Navas-Fernández

Website Improvement

Since the last general congress in Milan, a lot of effort has been carried out in order to improve the Section’s website. Since IFLA is using Drupal, (a software package that allows an individual or a community of users to easily publish, manage and organize a wide variety of web content) a new totally redesigned portal is available and every section has an Information Coordinator that serves as web editor to facilitate the website work for the section, supported by IFLA HQ webmasters.

Thus, you will note that the menu items and contents have been reconstructed. New features such as the Government Libraries Section logo image and the Barcelona 2010 Mid-Term Congress wiki have been published. For the past several months, various administrative documents and complete website pages have been uploaded as well.

Further enhancements include launching an email distribution list and we are waiting for the new IFLA weblog platform to be rolled out.

Barcelona 2010 Mid-Term Congress
The Government Libraries Section in

conjunction with the Library of Catalonia will hold a two-day mid-term conference in Barcelona on April 22-23, 2010.

The program will focus on Case Studies in Government Libraries and will be held at the Biblioteca de Catalunya, Carrer Hospital, 56, 08001 Barcelona. Specific details related to program, registration, time and room will be provided later. The website for the Library of Catalonia is <http://www.bnc.cat>. Participation will be free but registration will be required.

April 23 is Sant Jordi Day (Saint George's Day), the patron saint of Catalonia, when books and roses are celebrated. Many institutions will be open to the public on this day. For more information see: <http://www.gencat.cat/catalunya/santjordi/eng/index.htm>.

The Catalan Government Special Libraries Plans for 2010

The Office of the Library General Assistant Director arranged a meeting for the directors or managers of the Biblioteques Especialitzades de la Generalitat – BEG (the Catalan Government Special Libraries) on 14th December 2009. The focus of the meeting was to address actions done regarding special libraries and the planning for next year.

First, actions completed in 2009 were reviewed. Those consisted in the creation of the online directory, the beginning of the courses program “The Legal Frame of the Catalan Libraries”, the first stage of integrating the special libraries at the National Interlibrary Loan Service (MERCURI), including information regarding BEG at the Catalan government intranet and website, and planning for the migration of the union

catalogue. Second, working groups to support BEG libraries were described. Those included promotion, legal frame, digital library, services, and catalogue migration. They might be created during January 2010.

Third, and perhaps most important, the catalogue migration process and calendar was established. The current BEG catalogue uses old technology and software, and needs to be substituted by a new 2.0 information retrieval system. It should support MARC21 format, instead the obsolete local CATMARC. It may allow creating a customised interface for every library, and should include regular modules - cataloguing, loan, acquisitions, serials - and may provide value added services – consultable through PDAs or mobile phones, cover images, and alerts management. These features should be available by January 2011.

Libraries that may join are: special libraries in Catalonia, the current libraries at BEG, and the Catalan government libraries. This new special libraries catalogue is intended to be part of the future Union Catalogue of Catalonia, along with those of the Library of Catalonia, Public Libraries and University Libraries.



Conference Viewpoint

By Patrick Ryan

The Conference Sessions

Four sessions were of particular interest to me: (1) The Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) session, (2) the session on world economy and the effect on the libraries, (3) the Google session and (4) Libraries and

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Mass Digitization: Intellectual Property Challenges and the Role of Public Libraries.

No 1 (FAIFE) was very stimulating. The chair was particularly active and involved with the presentations. The session, as a whole, raised the bar on professional delivery at conference. The chair led into each section connecting well to relevant comments from previous speakers. The subject matter centered on information access in an age when security of information and access for the citizen may not always be compatible. There was a personal view from the Italian perspective on government using copyright to control information. Another view on the US Government's Children's Internet Protection Act and the potential liability of 3rd party Internet providers, i.e., public libraries. Closer to home the BBC's use of geographical technology on Internet access was given as an example of 'force feeding' technology whether the user wanted it or not. Issues around Digital Rights Management and the potential for surveillance systems were also raised.

Such topics rose above day-to-day library practice. IFLA conferences need more sessions such as these, which challenge everyday thinking and put our working lives into a wider context.

No 2 (World Economy/Libraries) - Another well-chaired session. The chair gave a very good overview of the current world economic position and asked the panel four questions. Individual country responses were interesting, e.g., one delegate, to general agreement, saw the current crisis as an opportunity for libraries to assume social responsibilities and empower the citizen through information and enable them to

build their lives. As far as librarians are concerned, nations appear to have common concerns.

There were some interesting thoughts from the floor, e.g., the global economic crisis had put pressure on South African shops to reduce prices – why not put the same pressure on journal suppliers to reduce subscription costs?

It was a full house, good participation from the audience and little flow of people heading for the exits.

No 3 The speaker from Columbia University (The Google session) was 'concerned at Google domination of the market'. The Google spokesman explained that 'Google's aim is to make information available not sell books'. The panel was well versed, descriptive and informative, as they went through the proposed Google/US Settlement, something not on my horizon but all the more interesting for that. The session stimulated interest – just what conference sessions should do.

No 4 As an avid 'Wire' TV viewer, I found myself enthralled by the presentation from the Queen's (NY) Librarian (Public Libraries session) who spoke passionately about activities in Brooklyn libraries to keep children and young people off the streets; about the recognition of social need, and the contribution libraries can make. We were told of activities such as: library classes after school for children with working parents, health information followed by exercise classes and activities to integrate immigrants into the US. All initiatives Carnegie would, I am sure, have sanctioned.

Overall organisation

I thought the overall organisation was

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excellent, nothing for me personally went wrong and I am not aware of any problems for anyone else. There were some niggles, chairs arriving throughout sessions - understandable if far more people than expected turned up - but I was at a session where very few chairs had been provided at the beginning and there ensued constant subsequent disturbance from chairs on the move long after the delayed session began.

The wisdom of Milan in August is questionable, it was a ghost town and there were solid reasons why the residents had left home. Conference facilities were lacking; soft seating at some locations would not have gone amiss and the local café overcrowded. That said, there was plenty of room in the conference centre to the point when I sometimes wondered if everyone had gone. But that is an IFLA phenomenon, where do 4,500 people go?

Social events

The social events were excellent; a meal in the centre of Milan certainly fed some life into the town. The concert at the Duomo was inspiring and the Monet exhibition was an unexpected cultural treat. IFLA does these events well. The OCLC evening was rather special as was the Lombardy lunch. Both sessions were imbued with the culture of Italy. One of the wonders of IFLA is that it does make librarians feel a bit special.

Professional benefits

For me the IFLA Conference meets its objectives, it certainly enriches my professional life by providing the opportunity to meet overseas colleagues. I look forward to it each year. It allows me the luxury of immersing myself in purely library matters and listening to others on how we might improve our libraries. Where

else would I have dinner with someone who speaks French, and English, lives in Canada, comes from Mexico and whose first language is Spanish?

Conclusion

The conference was certainly worthwhile, it enhanced professionally and personally and allowed me to learn how to live, if only momentarily, in another culture.

The physical act of going to the Conference does pay off but the benefit is not always immediate. That said also, having taken the time out from my own library, IFLA attendance did allow me to observe library activities and think about matters in my own library.

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FICCI International Conference on Traditional Knowledge, New Delhi (India) - A report

By Sanjay K. Bihani

The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in cooperation with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Government of India, organized an International Conference on Traditional Knowledge at New Delhi, India on 13th November 2009.

The Opening Session began with remarks made by Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Chairman FICCI Task Force on Traditional Knowledge and Former Secretary, Government of India. The keynote address delivered by Shri Ajay Shankar, Secretary, DIPP, M/o Commerce and Industry of

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Government of India. His Excellency Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, Geneva, inaugurated the conference. In his inaugural address he emphasized the need for practical and pragmatic solutions for effective protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. The concluding remarks were made by Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General of FICCI.

The Conference was attended by the author with more than 150 participants from across the globe, including, India, Bangladesh, Australia, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, USA, etc.

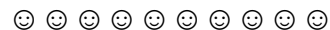
The objectives of this conference were to assist stakeholders in sharing their experiences, articulate views and provide meaningful recommendations regarding “The State of Play in the International Protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs): Perspectives on the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee (IGC)” and “The Effective Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions: National and Community Experiences.”

The Conference provided an excellent opportunity to understand the international developments on traditional knowledge; understand how intellectual property can be used for effective protection and commercialization of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions; discuss *sui generis* system for protection of traditional knowledge; share international experience on access and benefit sharing; discuss capacity building measures on traditional knowledge; and discuss the way forward in providing effective protection of traditional knowledge.

Distinguished speakers from The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), IP Australia, Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) of India, Copyright Board of Kenya, Adjunta para Organismos of Mexico, Indigenous Knowledge Systems Programme of South Africa, an Intellectual Property Expert from United States, Head of Traditional Knowledge Division of WIPO as well as many Indian experts in the field, addressed the participants and presented their invited talks and papers. These talks and papers were informative, interesting and included specialized case studies on the international developments on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. A question and answer session followed the presentations.

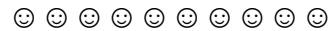
In the concluding session there was an open house discussion on “The Way Forward: Options for the Effective Protection of TK and TCEs.” Experts exchanged their views and ideas with participants and paved the way for an international consensus on this issue. This one-day conference, therefore, was more than successful in its objectives.

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Reports from Japan By Mika Lawler

**Special Lecture on US Federal Libraries
at the National Diet Library, Japan**



Dr. Makoto Nagao, Librarian of the National Diet Library (NDL), held the annual meeting of the directors of the Japanese government libraries on December 3, 2009 at the NDL in Tokyo and invited Ms. Sayuri Umeda, Senior Foreign Law Specialist of the Law Library of Congress, as guest lecturer. She presented a paper on behalf of Dr. Roberta Shaffer, the Law Librarian of Congress, former Executive Director of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) of the Library of Congress. The paper explained FLICC's mission and activities, which are to foster excellence in federal library and information services through inter-agency cooperation and to provide guidance and direction for the Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK). FEDLINK serves federal libraries and information centers as their purchasing, training and resource-sharing consortium. The presentation was very informative, and following it there was lively discussion among the participants on the differences between US and Japanese libraries and other matters of interest.

Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments

The Japanese translation of the *Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments* has been completed and will be soon available on the National Diet Library web site. The introductory article will be carried on the No. 47 electronic issue of the *Biblos*, (<http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/publication/biblos/index.html>, only in Japanese), which will be published in February 2010.

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Institutional, Association and Individual Members of the Government Libraries Section - IFLA Section 04

Argentina Biblioteca Nacional de Maestros

Australia National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales

Azerbaijan Presidential Library

**Bosnia and
Herzegovina** Parliamentary Assembly
of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Belgium European Parliament
Vlaams Parlement, Informatheek

Cameroon National Assembly

Canada Association of Parliamentary
Libraries in Canada
Canadian International
Development Agency
Canadian Library Association
Saskatchewan Legislative
Assembly
Canadian Space Agency

China National School of Administration
Shanghai Administrative Institute

Croatia Croatian Information
Documentation Referral Agency

Cuba Instituto de Información Científica
y Tecnológica

Cyprus Cyprus Health Sciences Library

Denmark The Administrative Library

Egypt Central Bank of Egypt

Finland Library of Parliament
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France Association des Bibliothécaires de
France
Bibliothèque administrative de la
Ville de Paris

Germany Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für
Wirtschaftswissenschaften
Deutscher Bundestag Bibliothek

Hungary Central Statistical Office

Iceland Upplysing Icelandic Library and
Information Science Association

India Ministry of External Affairs
Raja Rammohun Roy Library
Foundation

Ireland Houses of the Oireachtas, Library
and Research Service
Library Association of Ireland

Italy Biblioteca del Consiglio Regionale

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| | del Venete Biblioteca del Senato della Repubblica "G. Spadolini" Italian Library Association | United Kingdom Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals International Association of Law Libraries Welsh Assembly Government |
| Japan | National Diet Library | |
| Korea | Korean Library Association | United States American Library Association Chief Officers of Library Agencies Special Libraries Association |
| Madagascar | Bibliothèque Nationale de Madagascar | |
| Netherlands | Min. van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport, Kennis-en Info. Centru, voor Kennisontwikkeling Nederlandse Vereniging van Beroepsbeoefenaren in de Bibliotheek Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, Dienst Informatievoorziening | |
| Norway | Government Administration Services, Information Management Statistics Norway | |
| Portugal | Departamento de Arquivo, Documentação e Informação Associação Portuguesa de Bibliotecários, Arquivistas e Documentalistas | |
| Russian Federation | Republican Medical Library Russian State Library | |
| Saudi Arabia | King Fahad National Library | |
| Slovenia | National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia | |
| Spain | Biblioteca de Andalucía Biblioteca Corts Valencianes | |
| Swaziland | Swaziland National Library Service | |
| Sweden | Swedish Library Association Swedish Association for Information Specialists | |
| Switzerland | Bibliothek am Guisanplatz | |
| Tanzania | East African Community Secretariat | |



IFLA 2010 - Let's meet in Göteborg (Gothenburg)



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The Government Libraries Section Newsletter

10-15 August 2010, Gothenburg, Sweden

EDITORIAL NOTE:

This is the official newsletter of the Government Libraries Section of IFLA. It is published twice yearly. The newsletter may be reproduced and printed in electronic formats without permission, provided acknowledgement is made. Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Section Officers or the Editor.

We would like to see more global representation and would welcome a volunteer from each continent to supply a continental update or perspective to the newsletter – if you are interested please contact the Editor. Copy may be submitted to the Editor, Miguel Navas-Fernández at miguel.navas@gencat.cat in MS Word or in the body of an email message. Accompanying photographs are welcome.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback to the newsletter editor at miguel.navas@gencat.cat