



June 2009

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The Newsletter is the official publication of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations.

The Newsletter is made available to all Section members as a benefit of membership.

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CHAIR'S COLUMN

By: *Mijin Kim*



It is Tulip Festival Season in Ottawa, which not only celebrates spring, but also signifies the strong friendship between Canada and the

Netherlands, dating back to WWII when Canada provided refuge to the Dutch Queen and her children. To thank the Canadian public, the Dutch government sends about 200,000 beautiful tulip bulbs to Ottawa every year, where an International Festival is held to admire them. What a perfect multicultural backdrop from which to write this column.

This year is election year at IFLA and we will very sadly say goodbye to some of our dear colleagues of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations, and happily welcome many others. Our committee is very fortunate to have so many interested participants and we are most happy to announce that we will have 21 full members and one ex-officio member for the next term. Welcome all! We will be featuring each of our new members in this and upcoming newsletters and we will provide a complete list of names of the new committee. To our outgoing members, we thank you for all of your camaraderie, hard work and dedication to our committee.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations is sponsoring a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Indigenous Matters. We are very pleased to work with its energetic and enthusiastic

Convener, Loriene Roy. In December, we traveled to Sydney, Australia to meet with Section members from Australia and New Zealand interested in developing the SIG. They will host a conference to coincide with Brisbane 2010. The discussions were fruitful and I believe that the SIG has many good ideas to bring forward to Milan. Thank you to the State Library of New South Wales for hosting the meeting.

In March, our section held its Midyear Meeting in Osaka, Japan. The Japan Foundation's Japanese Language Institute hosted our meetings in their wonderful facilities and we are very grateful for their amazing hospitality. A big, 'Thank you,' to Ms. Hamaguchi, the Librarian at the Institute, for her provision of our library tour and for making the most of our visit. And of course, thank you to our fabulous committee member, Yasuko Hirata, as she made this a perfect Midyear Meeting experience.

The highlight of our meetings was a wonderful reception that was thrown in our honour by the Japan Library Association, the Committee on Multicultural Library Services, Librarians for a Culturally Diverse Society, and many individual Japanese Librarians. We feasted on Japanese delicacies, listened to traditional Japanese music and watched a performance of Japanese storytelling. It was an unforgettable evening and we are truly honoured. In addition, the committee visited the impressive National Diet Library in the modern, state-of-the-art facilities in Kyoto and the bustling Osaka Public Library which was filled with very satisfied patrons.

During the meeting, the committee worked very hard to finalize the

...CHAIR'S COLUMN CONT'D

conference program for Milan, make final changes to the revised Multicultural Guidelines which will be available this summer, and learn about the new IFLA website, among other business. All of the meeting minutes can be found on our website at: <http://www.ifla.org/en/library-services-to-multicultural-populations>.

The IFLA Congress in Milan is quickly approaching and our committee is anticipating another successful conference session. This year, the theme of our session is *Creativity and the Arts: Libraries Building on Multicultural Heritage*. We invite everyone who will be in Milan to participate in our session on Wednesday, August 26th from 9:30am to 11:30am. Our Section meetings are open to everyone and we welcome your attendance. The full Milan programme is now available on the IFLA website at: http://www.ifla.org/annualconference/ifla75/Summy_Programme_v.1.pdf.

Lastly, we are hosting a post-conference satellite meeting in Palermo, Sicily. This unique conference entitled, *Libraries and Society: a Pan-Mediterranean*

Perspective, will take place in the backdrop of one of the most beautiful cities in southern Italy. Information and registration can be found at: <http://www.iflamed.unipa.it/index.php/iflamed/2009>.

We hope to see many of you in Milan or Palermo! Spero di vedervi lì!

IFLA SECTION MEMBER: REFLECTION

By: *Lourina de Voogd*

The eight years that I have spent in the IFLA Section Library Services to Multicultural Populations comes to an end in Milan 2009. Prior to my assignment to IFLA in 2001, I occasionally participated in IFLA conferences, where I presented the multicultural services of the public libraries in the Netherlands. The 'real' immigrant countries, the United States, Canada and Australia, became our model. It has not been difficult to see the enormous importance of the IFLA world conferences as they facilitate the exchange of practices, inspiration

and outstanding examples. There is also the value of broadening one's perspective from practical services to the scope of strategy, research and methodology. These benefits are still central for the IFLA of today. Many people from all over the world meet with the same dedication and ambition.

I was assigned to IFLA in 2001, after the Boston conference. I returned from Boston to the Netherlands just one week before the 9/11 attack which, for me, has set the political framework for every IFLA world conference since. In fact, IFLA visitors have been witness to a number of events where history was written. In Moscow, change was given birth; in Jerusalem, the peace process ended and *intifadah* began; and recently, our satellite meeting in Pretoria 2007 coincided with desperate refugees from Zimbabwe crossing the border. I was reminded that while public libraries may have little influence in a political context, they are vital to the personal life of many individual people.

There are very proud moments when IFLA has created a necessary platform. For example, in Seoul, our Japanese delegate presented a Librarian from Myanmar, dressed in traditional costume, who spoke of the 'home-library' he had set up for immigrants in Tokyo.

The most rewarding highlight of the Section, and the common endeavours of its members, is undoubtedly the IFLA Multicultural Library Manifesto, accorded by the IFLA Governing Board in 2006. Hopefully, it will be on the agenda of UNESCO this year and will contribute to multicultural library services all over the world.

My last IFLA Midyear Meeting took place in Osaka in March of this year. Quite accidentally, I discovered the old house of Dutch studies, *Tekijyuku*, now a little museum, cramped between huge office blocks. The renowned Japanese

New Member Biography:

Fred Gitner



Fred J. Gitner has been Coordinator of New Americans Program & Special Services at Queens Library since January 2006, after having served as the New Americans Program Assistant Head (1996-2004), and NAP Coordinator (2004-2006). He currently provides library services to residents of Queens whose first language is not English, older adults, persons with disabilities and job seekers.

Mr. Gitner received an B.A. in Modern Languages from Hamilton College, an M.A. in French from Middlebury College and a Master's degree in Library Service from Rutgers University.

He is co-editor of *Bridging Cultures: Ethnic Services in the Libraries of New York State*. He has published many articles on library services for immigrants and has spoken on this topic at the 2008 IFLA conference in Quebec City.

... REFLECTION CONT'D

scholar, Ogata Koan, taught western medical students in the beginning of the 19th century by reading handbooks to them in the Dutch language. In the showcases, I saw the handwritten Japanese-Dutch notebooks of the young students. It must have been a tremendously difficult task, deciphering classic Dutch medical language. The students demonstrated their ability and they represent a great impact on science and welfare in Japanese society. This story comforts me and strengthens my hope that there will always be young people who possess open minds and an interest in study, whilst cherishing curiosity and respect for diverse cultures and humankind.



Ogata Koan Statue

THE SPECIAL LIBRARY OF THE FUNDACIÓN TRES CULTURAS DEL MEDITERRÁNEO: PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES

By: Olga Cuadrado Fernández

Introduction

The special library of the Fundación Tres Culturas del Mediterráneo (Foundation of Three Cultures of the Mediterranean, hereafter referred to as Foundation or Three Cultures) was created with the purpose of supporting the Foundation's mission and goals of providing access to information. In addition to housing a collection, the library is a public space and meeting place for the

New Member Biography:

Anne Hall



Anne has worked in the Australian public library system for more than 30 years and has been at Fairfield since 1990. She is the Manager of Library and Museum Services for Public Libraries, NSW, and a member of the Public Libraries NSW-Metropolitan Association on the Working Group on Multicultural Library Services. They are looking forward to hosting the Satellite Conference in Sydney in 2010. Fairfield Library Service has five libraries serving a culturally diverse population of 190,000. The Council area is 32km southwest of Sydney and covers 104 sq kms. Over 50% of the residents are born overseas with 95% from non-English speaking countries. The libraries offer books, magazines, DVDs and e-resources, English conservation classes, literacy classes, on-line tutoring programmes and weekly story times.

Anne has enjoyed her library experiences and found satisfaction through her work, as public libraries make a positive impact on the community they serve.

Andalusian community, and supports the development of a network of similar specialized centres on either side of the Mediterranean.

Selected Seminars and Activities Addressing Multiculturalism

In its attempt to create new venues for promoting dialogue, the Foundation wanted to highlight the role of libraries and library professionals in facing the challenges of a socially responsible global society. Therefore, in April of 2006, it presented an international seminar on *The Information Society in Development Cooperation: a New Challenge for Libraries and Librarians*. The seminar highlighted the role of public libraries as democratizing agents of culture, and a commitment was made to the development of information technologies as a means to combat social inequities.

Three Cultures was one of the institutions selected by the Spanish Ministry of Culture to develop projects for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, declared by the European

Commission. To this end, the Foundation developed a program titled *Biblio-Dialogue in Europe: Intercultural Libraries, New Technologies and Youth*. The program was held at two different venues, one in Berlin and the other in Seville. Focusing on young people who will be the protagonists of intercultural dialogue in the near future, *Biblio-Dialogue* aimed to promote and enhance the role of libraries as catalysts for intercultural dialogue and facilitators of mutual understanding, especially with the use of new technologies. For this conference we had the participation of IFLA president Claudia Lux and other IFLA members, among them Clara M. Chu, Carmen Madrid, Kay Raseroka, Fred Gitner and Kirsten Leth Nielsen.

In October 2008, the Foundation collaborated with UNESCO and the Library of Andalucía (Spain) in the *Training the Trainers Workshop on Information Literacy* within the series of workshops in the *Information for All Program* that UNESCO is developing in various countries around the world. The Foundation was responsible for the "trainer participants" from North Africa and

... SPECIAL LIBRARY CONT'D

ensured that they had the opportunity to expand and deepen their knowledge, with special emphasis on the use of Web 2.0 tools and the development of materials for specific segments of the population.

Three Cultures is also committed to the universal values that enable dialogue and equality among peoples, not only possible through oral and written expression, but through music. Therefore, in May 2008, the guide *Fonoteca Civica of Ethnic Rhythms* was presented at the centre. The *Fonoteca Civica* is a guide that brings together 600 discs representing more than thirty years of musical production from around the world. This year we organized the *International Workshop on the Role of Libraries in the Social Participation of Minorities*, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy, Goethe Institute and French Institute of Madrid to highlight that all types of libraries - from public to special - should strive to address the challenges posed by the current information and knowledge society, such as reducing the digital divide, working towards a globalization of culture, and fostering a new intercultural society.



The Foundation's special library will continue to face the challenges of a global society and will serve to support the goals and objectives of the Foundation, providing another space for the exchange of knowledge and dialogue among the diverse cultures, peoples and languages of the Mediterranean basin.

FIRST CONFERENCE ON MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY SERVICES IN KOREA

By: Volker Pirsich

In late April 2009, the first two conferences on multicultural library services were held in Korea as a joint activity of the Goethe Institute, Seoul, and the Korean Library Association. One of them was held in Ansan, the other in Seoul. The issue of multicultural library services has just recently received importance in Korea, as the number of foreign passport holders exceeded one million in 2007, representing, at present, more than 2% of the total population. The greatest number of foreign passports come from China, followed by persons from other Asian countries, such as the Philippines and Vietnam.

The venues for the two seminars were chosen with care: Ansan, one of the cities in the commuter belt of Seoul, has the highest percentage of foreign passport holders in Korea, and Seoul, where the venue served as a library in an area with a comparatively dense migrant population.



Venue in Ansan

In addition to the experts from Korea who gave impressive speeches on the demographic changes in Korea, speakers gave overviews on the Korean way of offering library services to the migrant population. The participants (more than 100 in Ansan and more than 50 in Seoul) learned about the experiences of small multicultural libraries that are established in quarters with a

noteworthy migrant population, such as the Ansan Immigrant Support Center, and the Dongdaemun district of Seoul.

As a guest speaker, Dr. Volker Pirsich, chair of the German panel of experts *Intercultural Library Management* and member of the SC of IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations, was invited, as suggested by the Goethe Institute.



Pirsich made two presentations at each of the seminars, presenting the latest achievements of multicultural library services in

Germany. He also gave an overview of IFLA's activities (Seoul) and made a presentation on the multicultural library services in his library system, Hamm City Libraries (Ansan).

It proved strategically favourable that the Korean partner - the Korean Library Association - and the Goethe Institute choose a partner from one country with few well developed multicultural library services (compared to Canada, Australia, and Scandinavian countries, among others). They chose Germany where there is still a long way to go despite different developments and conditions, so Q&As related to recent experiences played a big role during both seminars.

Pirsich pointed out that it would be desirable that Korea join IFLA activities in the near future, starting with translations of the existing and forthcoming IFLA documents, and soon trying to join the Section and nominating one person for the Standing Committee.

There was also something quite remarkable: The majority of the speakers and participants were not

... CONFERENCE IN KOREA CONT'D

familiar with foreign languages. The presentations of the guest speakers, prepared in English, were translated into Korean but the presentations of the Korean speakers were made only in Korean. That said, a first decisive step was made, and we can be sure that the knowledge and use of universal languages will increase considerably in the near future.

IFLA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON INDIGENOUS MATTERS

By: *Loriene Roy*

In early December 2008, we received the good news that the IFLA Professional Committee had officially approved the establishment of the IFLA Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters. We are thankful to the Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section for offering us our first home and we would especially like to note the

exceptional help of the Chair, Mijin Kim.

Our first efforts have been directed toward these tasks:

1. gathering input from indigenous library groups;
2. collaborating with representatives of ATSILIRN (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network) to develop a proposal for a satellite conference to take place in Canberra immediately after 2010 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Brisbane. If approved, the venue for the satellite will be provided by AIATSIS, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, followed by an open session at the 2009 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Milan.

We announced the birth of our SIG at several events. I attended part of the American Indian Library Association business meeting in Denver, Colorado on Sunday, January 25th, where we provided an update on the establishment of the

SIG. As a member of AILA, I am able to post to its electronic list.



The sixth International Indigenous Librarians Forum took place from February 1st to 4th at the Wananga-o-Raukawa, one of three tribal colleges in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Approximately 95 delegates were in attendance, including 85 delegates from Aotearoa/New Zealand and ten international delegates from Australia, Canada, and the United States. The Forum organizers provided a program slot to discuss our SIG. Delegates were thoughtful in their comments about the nature of the SIG and what it might contribute to indigenous librarianship. I launched the Facebook group from the Qantas Lounge at the Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand airport on Saturday, February 7th. The link to the Group is:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=66990630010>

and the description reads: "A group for those interested in library services for and with indigenous peoples. All are invited to join; you need not be an institutional or personal member of IFLA. The group includes indigenous members and those who support these issues."

The Group is one vehicle for discussion for members of the IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters, formally established in December 2008. The SIG evolved out of IFLA past President Alex Bryne's Presidential Task Force on Indigenous Matters, a focus on library services for the traditional owners of the land. Indigenous peoples know who they are and the IFLA SIG will host face-to-face meetings at the annual IFLA

New Member Biography:
Ruth Fassbind-Eigenheer



Ruth was born in Zurich, Switzerland on October 26, 1955. She discovered the world of letters and books in school and became a passionate reader. After 12 years of school, she pursued practical training at the public libraries of Zurich. After receiving her diploma, Ruth became a leader of the Children and Youth section of an urban library. In the seventies, there was significant change in society and, as a result, in literature. Ruth decided that it was advantageous for her to pursue her university degree and studied European Popular Literature at the University of Zurich. She was very interested in children's books, old and new, and from every part of the world.

In 1992, Ruth received her Doctorate and was asked to be a Chief Librarian for the Zurich Public Library. Ruth's interests lie in reading promotion and children's reading programs. She has also been involved in the development of 1,000 public libraries, implementing a section for foreign books which is constantly updated. Ruth has contributed significantly to the library's multicultural society as she believes that the needs of diverse communities must be met.

... SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP CONT'D

conference each summer. Discussion threads may cover a variety of topics from news alerts to calls for papers and conference attendance. Your participation may reflect your interests, activities, and learning styles. Our goal is to promote exchange on information services for and with indigenous populations. As such, our information exchange focuses in a positive direction on services today with an eye on the future while honouring the past. As with other indigenous gatherings, we come together with respect for each other, generosity in spirit, and a desire to improve the lives of the next generation.

Dr. Loriene Roy is the first Convener of this IFLA SIG. She is Anishinabe (Ojibwe), enrolled on the White Earth Reservation, and a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Her father was makwa, or bear clan, and a member of Mississippi Band image of Ojibwe. Her mother is of Pembina Band.

The image we are using for the Facebook group is a photo I took in Palmerston North of Te Kupenga o te Matauranga on the Hokowhitu Campus of Massey University. It was the first Maori cultural house built on a campus, it opening in 1980. I asked Spencer Lilly for permission to use this image and he responded:



"No problem. We are very proud of our whare (house) and our waharoa (gate way), although the grass is normally greener. The marae name is Ruahine and we also have a teaching complex named Te Haonui."

This process indicates how we are trying to observe and model cultural protocol in our activities and deliberations.

As of 15 May 2009, we have 183 members and 15 discussion threads. We invite anyone interested in indigenous library services to join the group and contribute. We look forward to a productive information sharing session in Milan.

MIDYEAR MEETING IN OSAKA

By: Susana Alegre Landaburu and Yasuko Hirata

The Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section held its annual Midyear Meeting in Osaka, Japan from March 14th to 17th. Eleven members of the Standing Committee and three accompanying persons gathered for the meeting. The Japan Foundation's Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai graciously hosted our Midyear Meeting.

The Japan Foundation's Japanese-Language Institute is situated on the opposite side of the Kansai International Airport. It has an 18-storey dormitory building and several classroom buildings which provide accommodations and language programs for students and scholars from abroad who come to study Japanese language and culture. Fortunately, we were able to stay in the dormitory, which offered inexpensive accommodations and a classroom for our meeting. There, the Section members had the opportunity to visit the Institute Library which collects materials of Japanese society and culture.

Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday afternoons were spent on study tours. On Saturday morning, we visited the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library, which opened in 2002, where Mr. Suzuki arranged the guided tour. The Kansai-kan has a unique collection of books, periodicals, and newspapers written in various Asian languages. It also holds materials about these regions written in Japanese and European languages. We then visited the

Osaka Municipal Central Library, located next to the subway station. Mr. Yoshihara, the Chief Librarian, welcomed us. The Central Library is one of the largest public libraries in Japan. It holds multilingual materials, mainly Chinese, Korean, and English and provides various services to diverse multicultural populations.



Kinkaku-ji



Todai-ji

Other than the library visits, we enjoyed seeing Nara and Kyoto, old Japanese capitals. Some of the places we visited, such as Todai-ji in Nara, and Kinkaku-ji and Kiyomizudera in Kyoto, have been named to the UNESCO world heritage list. A few Japanese colleagues, Miyuki Hamaguchi, Toru Koizumi, Yasuyo Inoue, Michiyo Sato, and Ryuichiro Takahashi, accompanied us on these trips.

At our meetings, we discussed several matters, including this year's Section conferences. There are sessions on creativity and the arts during the IFLA Conference in Milan and the satellite conference in Palermo on *Libraries and Society: a Pan-Mediterranean Perspective*.



On the evening of March 14th, after returning from the trip to Nara, we were invited to a wonderful reception hosted by the Japan Library Association Committee on Multicultural Library Services and the Librarians' Network for Culturally

... MIDYEAR MEETING CONT'D

Diverse Society. Professor Noboru Shiomii, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Japan Library Association, gave the welcoming speech. Committee members had the opportunity to meet Japanese colleagues and enjoy a picture-story show and traditional Japanese music, including a concert with koto and shamisen. This was a memorable evening for the committee members.

LIBRARY TOURS DURING THE MIDYEAR MEETING IN JAPAN

By: *Volker Pirsich*

An integral part of the Midyear Meeting of the IFLA Section Library Services to Multicultural Populations has always been library visits. During the recent Midyear Meeting in Osaka, three visits were on the agenda:

1. The National Diet Library (NDL) - one of the hubs of the Japanese library system;
2. Osaka Municipal Central Library - one of the biggest public libraries; and,
3. The Library of the Japan Foundation - Japanese Language Institute where the Midyear Meeting was held.

All three libraries revealed with how much effort our Japanese colleagues are putting toward updating libraries with well developed stocks and study facilities for an increasing number of customers in education.

The NDL is the only national library in Japan. The library is similar in purpose and scope to the Library of Congress. The NDL consists of two main facilities in Tokyo and Kyoto, and several other branch libraries throughout Japan, such as the International Library of Children's Literature. Kansai-kan (the Kansai Library), designed by Fumio Toki,

opened in Kyoto Prefecture in 2002 and is the second facility of the NDL.

The Kansai-kan, a building with four storeys above ground and four storeys below, has a total floor area of approximately 60,000 m², 80% of which is in the basement including reading rooms and stack rooms. The stacks from the 2nd basement to the 4th basement can hold



approximately 6 million volumes. The Kansai-kan, which is designed to serve as a research library, has open shelves of reference books and government publications in the General Collections Room. It also has domestic books and periodicals that are in high demand, foreign periodicals, science and technology related materials, etcetera. The stacks are intended to be provided via remote service (document delivery service, inter-library loan)

and for on-site reading. A wide variety of Asia-related materials can also be found in the Asian Resources Room which were presented in detail to the IFLA visitors.

For a guided virtual tour, visit: <http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/service/kansai/guide/visit.html>

Osaka Municipal Central Library: (<http://www.oml.city.osaka.jp/english/index.html>) is one of the biggest public libraries in Japan and declares itself as a, "Fund of knowledge and wisdom." The library understands itself as a public library in the American tradition. The Central Library is the focus of a library system which comprises 23 branches and two bookmobiles.

The Central Library is situated in a huge building (reopened in 1996) with six floors above ground (three for media presentation and study rooms) and six underground floors (one for AV materials and three for closed stacks, rare books included). Entrances are from the first

New Member Biography:
Stephen Stratton



Stephen was born, raised and educated in Michigan. He received his B.A. in Communications from the University of Michigan in 1984, an M.A. in Counselling from Eastern Michigan University in 1988, and an M.L.S. in Library Science from Wayne University in 1992. He then decided that winter was much too long in Michigan, eventually landing him at California State University Channel Islands in 2003.

Stephen is now the Head of Collections and Technical Services at CSU Channel Islands. Beginning in 2003, it is the newest of 23 campuses in the California State University system. Stephen has also served as a Librarian at the New York Public Library, George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University. His work has been predominantly in government information and collection development in the health and social sciences. His research interests include information provision to the GLBT community, literacy and literacy instruction and access to HIV/AIDS information for diverse communities. His book, "The Encyclopedia of HIV and AIDS," was published by Facts on File in 2003 and is currently under revision for publication in 2010.

... LIBRARY TOURS CONT'D

basement (close to a subway station) and from the ground floor. In addition to Japanese materials, there are English, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog, Indonesian, Thai, Spanish, Portuguese, and Vietnamese materials available, including AV materials in Chinese and Korean.

The Library of the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute:

(<http://www.jpfi.go.jp/e/kansai/aboutus/library.html>), founded in 1997, has a wide range of material on Japanese society and culture to help participants in the Japanese language courses.

The present holdings comprise some 40,000 books (27,000 in Japanese and 13,000 in foreign languages) plus 280 periodicals. Nearly all languages of the participants are provided and this means nearly all official languages in the world are available.



IFLA Visitors

This library really is a cosy place to either study or sojourn, and, because of the multilingual and multicultural stacks, a place to make discoveries for both the participants and IFLA visitors.

It is a library that is very well looked after by the Librarian, Miyuki Hamaguchi, who, alongside our Japanese member, Yasuko Hirata, cared perfectly for the IFLA visitors.

LIBRARIES BUILDING A MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE IN MILAN

By: *Susana Alegre Landaburu* and *Tess Tobin*

Creativity and the Arts: Libraries Building on Multicultural Heritage is the theme for the Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section's program in Milan on Wednesday, August 26 from 9:30am to 11:30am. Ms. Kirsten Leth Nielsen from the Oslo Public Library (Norway) will open the program and talk about the traveling exhibit, *The Magical Cape*, which is based on the bilingual book entitled, *The Magical Cape – A Journey through Islamic Art*. The exhibition, which has traveled to libraries throughout Norway, consists of a beautiful pavilion decorated by Iranian-Swedish glass artist, Teymor Zarre.

Ms. Vesna Injac from the National Library of Serbia will present her paper entitled, *National Library of Serbia as the Coordinator of the European Romani Digital Collection*, which highlights the creation of a digital collection of Romani heritage.

Memory, Authenticity and Cultural Identity: The Role of Library Programs, Services and Collections in Creating Community, which will be presented by William Welburn and Veronda Pitchford from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign and Chicago Urban Libraries Council (USA), addresses the idea that living and collective memories of diverse communities are validated through preservation and access, not only to books and other textual materials, but also to stories, oral histories, musical and dance performances, art, and other forms of expression.

The last paper, *Library Helps Russian Minority Preserve Traditions Online*, is by Ms. Anca Cristina Rapeanu from the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) in Bucharest, Romania. This paper documents the efforts of a small public library in the village of Jurilovca, Romania to preserve their local heritage through the use of new technologies.

New Member Biography: Anne Kristin Undlien



As a Chief Librarian, Anne has contributed to Norway's library system for more than 20 years. She earned a B.A. in Librarian and Information Science from Oslo University College and has formally studied Journalism, Mathematics, Natural Science and Project Management. Anne has been a Librarian in Norway's schools and libraries since 1985, supervising collections, library services for adults, research, and IT development, among others.

Anne was the Vice-Chairperson for Special Committee for Multicultural Library Services from 2006 to 2007 and Treasurer for the same group from 2005 to 2006. The committee is a special division under NLA, the Norwegian Library Association. She is the libraries' member in a national group representing libraries, archives and museums working toward accessibility for disabled people since 2006.

... HERITAGE IN MILAN CONT'D

**98th BIBLIOTHEKARTAG –
ERFURT, GERMANY**

By: *Susy Tastesen*

As the Secretary of our Multicultural Section, I was invited by German library/librarians organisations to join the 98th Librarians Day that took place during the beginning of June.



International Guests in Front of University Library

They invited approximately 35 international guests, some of whom were speakers and others from similar organisations in other countries. There were about 3,000 German participants and a few from other countries (mostly German speaking) who registered.

The conference was similar to the annual IFLA conference, but smaller and mostly in German – with business meetings and an exhibition hall to display library equipment. I participated in sessions on multicultural library services in Germany, floating collections, and approaches to lobbying.

I met many German librarians at the social events and they were all very helpful with my German – German people are normally grateful if you can speak just a bit of their language, but if not, they speak English very well. They inquired about Copenhagen Public Libraries, about our section and what I thought of the conference.

I attended two study tours. Firstly, we visited the Erfurt University Library, opened in 2000, which was very nice, light and bright, and

secondly, we visited Weimar, where we saw the Duchess Anna Amalia Library, a fantastic library in a Rococo hall which unfortunately burned in 2004. 50,000 materials were destroyed and 62,000 seriously damaged. It was opened after reconstruction in 2007 and it is beautiful! They also had a modern study centre with a capacity to hold 1 million items.



Goethe and Schiller

Unfortunately, it is not permitted for photos to be taken of Anna-Amalia Library, but the statue pictured above is of Goethe and Schiller in Weimar. Goethe was the first director of the library and both Goethe and Schiller were great poets.

I recommend that you participate in the conference next year, taking place in Leipzig.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to extend our congratulations to Clara Chu, who has been appointed Chair and Professor of the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Clara will be leaving Los Angeles at the end of July as the new job gives her the opportunity to take on new tasks and to address multicultural issues, to which the department and university are committed. Greensboro, North Carolina has an important history related to civil rights. It is where the sit-in at the all-white Woolworth's lunch counter took place after four black college students were denied service. The

city has also seen an increase in diversity, most recently of the Latino population. Clara will be happy to host a Section meeting once she is settled.

UNC is very lucky to have her!

**New Member Biography:
Vickery Bowles**



Vickery has worked for Toronto Public Library in a number of capacities over the past 27 years. She is currently the Director of Collections Management and City-Wide Services overseeing collection development for the Library's collections in English, French and 40 other languages. Vickery is also the director liaison for the Library's Multicultural Services Committee which is responsible for the development and implementation of program initiatives to meet the needs of Toronto's diverse communities.



Welcome to Palermo/Italy

August 31, 2009 – September 1, 2009

The IFLA Section Library Services to Multicultural Populations invites you to the IFLA Milan 2009 Satellite Conference

Libraries and Society: A Pan-Mediterranean Perspective

The Palermo post-conference will bring together librarians interested in the field of multiculturalism and library services in the Mediterranean area. Don't miss the opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with other professionals from other parts of the world!

Topics:

- Freedom of information
- The digital divide
- Cultural institutions and their services in the Mediterranean countries
- Resources on Mediterranean libraries, and all over the world libraries dealing with Mediterranean issues

Target Audience:

- Librarians planning the development of multicultural services delivery
- Librarians/cultural heritage operators/professional educators trying to improve strategies for intercultural dialogue
- Members of cultural institutions dealing with users and collections from the Mediterranean region
- Professionals from public or private institutions interested in pan-mediterranean issues

Conference Venue:

The Chiaramonte Palace, known as Steri Palace, University of Palermo

Call for Papers Open!

If you wish to send a paper proposal check the website under "Call for Papers" - **The deadline for submission of proposals is May 15th.**

Register Now!

Proceed to the website and read through the options for registration and Payment. **Early Bird registration deadline is June 30th.**

Conference Website: www.iflamed.unipa.it

Conference Manager: Domenico Ciccarello

For questions: d.ciccarello@dicpm.unipa.it

Hope to see you in Palermo!

IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations

Standing Committee Members of IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section 2009

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