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*“A country where the people don't walk - they dance...”*

This quote is taken from a sign at the Cape Town International Airport - one of my first pleasant impression of South Africa.

The ARL IFL Conference Attendance Grant sponsored by SAGE and Ex Libris was greatly appreciated. I really appreciated and enjoyed my IFLA Conference 2015 experience. And, the information gained at the various sessions complimented by the opportunity to interact with colleagues from around the globe was invaluable. It has never failed to amaze me at library forums such as this one, that librarians, regardless of their demographics - geographic location, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds face many of the same and similar challenges. It is also refreshing to know that they are also always very willing and eager to connect, share their experiences, ideas, resources and solutions – they are truly librarians without borders. I strongly believe that this sense of a global community is a significant and intrinsic catalyst poised to propel the information profession and library systems internationally towards a positive upward movement.

One aspect that stood out at the various IFLA presentations that I attended was the fact that librarians also contribute significantly to sustainable communities and social development - in terms of outreach, technology instruction and literacy programmes. These initiatives all contribute to and impact the architectural design of tenacious and strong societies.

The congress presented an avenue for me to meet and interact with many new professionals from various parts of the globe, whom I am now pleased to call friends. My network has expanded, and I gained the confidence to call on my foreign colleagues and receive support, advice, exchange ideas on issues; as well as an invitation and opportunity to visit their various foreign institutions for the purpose of comparative studies, research or just to experience a new culture. This experience will augur well to further enhance my personal and professional development.

It is always a good idea to connect with veterans in the field. And, the IFLA forum presents an ideal forum for this type of interaction - to enquire about their experiences, challenges, innovations and how they endeavoured to develop their respective institutions - especially in times of scarce funding and dwindling resources. This invaluable information gained can be shared with my peers to add value to the developmental process at my home institution.

As a young developing professional, the sum of my IFLA Conference 2015 experience is a cherished one that has empowered, enlightened and inspired me. It has been a stop at an oasis, before continuing on the journey ahead. I feel competent to multiply my experience by sharing it with my peers, library community and stakeholders of my institution at home in Trinidad and Tobago.

I now consider myself an IFLA ambassador, because I intend to encourage other library professionals to attend the IFLA conferences and share their unique Caribbean viewpoint.

IFLA is usually held at various exotic destinations, providing an education, as well as the opportunity to visit other parts of the globe and embrace its diverse and rich cultural offerings. This year's 81st World Library and Information Congress which was set against the wonderful backdrop of Cape Town, South Africa brimming with the vibrant richness of the country's flora, fauna, dizzying landscapes and screen saver coastlines, and not to be remiss of its unique history, culture, warmth

of the people, scintillating music, delicious culinary treats, the buzz of the V and A Waterfront, and the country's overarching amazing beauty. These are all memories that I will forever treasure.

My sincerest thanks again to SAGE/Ex Libris for the award of the Attendance Grant.