

## **Government Libraries Section**

### **Annual Report 2008-2009**

#### **Conference Programs**

Our 2008 and 2009 IFLA annual conferences held in Québec City, Canada and Milan, Italy, respectively, continued to draw large crowds to our varied paper program presentations. For both years we joined forces with another section to jointly hold a conference program. The benefits of co-sponsorship were clearly larger crowds, less conflict in scheduling, and a more diverse audience.

#### **Publications**

In 2008 at the Québec conference we introduced IFLA Professional Report No. 106, *Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments*, edited by Nancy Bolt and Suzanne Burge. The *Guidelines* provide advice, examples, and models of behaviors, services, and best practices to be used or adapted by government librarians worldwide. The publication does not attempt to provide solutions but, instead, strives to foster creativity and to promulgate ideas for adaptation in local library settings. The *Guidelines* have been translated into Russian with German, French, Spanish, Catalan, and Japanese translations anticipated in 2010. Print copies were sent to numerous libraries and library schools in developing countries.

A new online publication was confirmed during the Milan conference and is in the pipeline for its debut in 2010. 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 African libraries who made an inquiry to the Government Libraries Section for some examples of mission statements for government libraries.

#### **Membership**

The 2009 round of IFLA section elections resulted in six new members for the Government Libraries Section. This brought our total to 18 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 Government Libraries Section.

-- Jerry W. Mansfield, Chair  
November 2009