

**IFLA Journal**  
**Volume 22, No. 4, 1996**  
**ISSN: 0340-0352**

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## **Libraries Oriented to the New Pluralistic and Integrated World Order**

Fei Xiaotong

### **Abstract**

*The author's views on the relationship between libraries and economic development based on his personal experience and his experience in academic research are presented. This broad survey ranges from family study rooms of the gentry to non-governmental libraries located over the vast countryside, and from fields of knowledge monopolized by a small number of people to the establishment of knowledge and information systems shared by the broad population. The author states that a market economy is growing rapidly in today's world, and that in their contacts with each other during the development process, various types of economies and cultures should be communicating by means other than conflict. The library is a centre for the dissemination of knowledge and information, an important ideological and cultural stronghold, and will have many opportunities for the development of society at the turn of the 21st century.*

## **A View towards Library Users**

Wedgeworth, Robert

### **Abstract**

*In the 1990s, change in the information environment, and the rate at which this change has been taking place, preoccupies not only the library community but society as a whole. Technical advances such as the Internet have radically influenced the future role which libraries and librarians will play. Against the background of the librarian's traditional role as the collector, preserver and recorder of society's knowledge, the author explores the array of new questions and dilemmas which the Information Age has thrust the library community. It is now widely accepted that there is a direct link between timely access to accurate and reliable information and a nation's positive economic development. Consequently, users' expectations of libraries as providers of information are rapidly changing. Emphasis is placed on the fact*

*that the quality and variety of user services are more likely to be the distinguishing characteristic of libraries in the future. As more libraries are managed by automated systems and more technology-based information sources are available in libraries, how will these systems and services be used to improve services to users? New training programmes must be devised to help librarians meet the needs of these new users, an area in which IFLA is particularly active.*

## **Tax. Beginning a Conversation on Access to Information and Freedom of Expression**

Choldin, Marianna

### **Abstract**

*The author, resource person for IFLA's Committee on Access to Information and Freedom of Expression, presents assumptions that underlie her views on access to information and freedom of expression: 1) librarians, information professionals, and members of national and international associations are committed to the fundamental principle of access to information and freedom of expression; 2) every country, with no exceptions, has problems with access to information and freedom of expression; 3) people within a country know their own situation better than anyone else and are therefore in the best position to suggest strategies and solutions for improving access and achieving freedom of expression in their own country; 4) there is a universal human need for freedom of expression, and this urge is as strong and as inexorable as the urge to censor. The article is concluded with the presentation of four areas in which IFLA can be active.*

## **Exploiting Online Potential: Information, National Development and Libraries**

Webb, T.D.

### **Abstract**

*Economic and social development can be greatly accelerated by libraries that create online databases composed of research conducted within their own institutions. At universities and research centres in developing nations, bodies of new information are abundant, relevant, and close at hand. Yet most of this information will never find its way into conventional channels of information dissemination, such as print publications or vendor-produced databases. But this information can become the content for original, library-based databases and other online resources that will stimulate further research and promote national development, and give libraries a new and important role as points of information provenance.*

## **National Policy for School Libraries: A Survey**

Galler, Anne

### **Abstract**

*The article describes the process of consultation, preparation and dissemination of a questionnaire regarding national policy for school libraries, under the aegis of the National Library of Canada where the author spent a year as a Fellow. It explains the background that led to the survey, the preparation and testing of the questionnaire in both English and French and the mailing to 100 countries to all members of the CDNLC which is affiliated with IFLA. The responses received from 51 countries are analyzed, and compared with other studies conducted in the field. There is also a list of documents attached to the article, which describe the various policies as established in the countries of some of the respondents, as well as the list of the 51 countries that participated in the survey.*

## **Intellectual Capital and Knowledge Management**

Koenig, Michael E.D.

### **Abstract**

*A major theme emerging in the management literature in the last two years can be encapsulated in the phrase "intellectual capital". The basic concept is a simple one: that a major component of the value or worth or effectiveness of an organization lies in the knowledge and expertise and information that the organization possesses and employs, and that this intellectual capital should be explicitly recognized and nurtured, and, in so far as practicable, measured. The article describes a programme to capitalize on intellectual capital, includes the role of the librarian in this programme. It also identifies the literature and reviews its major themes so that librarians and information officers can contribute further to it.*

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