

Trends & Issues in Library Technology

IFLA IT Section Newsletter

December 2013

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From the Section Chair

“ The library has a central role as an efficient conduit of trusted information, as an expert mediator of information, and increasingly as the agent for the manager of local publishing content woven together by linked data.



Dear Colleagues,

Information technology remains one of the crucial areas of change that affects libraries across every aspect of their operation. These range from innovations in library buildings (green buildings), library technology, cloud services, and, of course, the web technology and social media platforms that library patrons use. The IT Section in IFLA could not, therefore, be busier.

Thanks to the energy and vision of the outgoing chair, Alenka Kavčič-Čolić, we had a very successful conference in the beautiful city of Singapore, including:

- A great pre-conference on linked data
- A fascinating session on inspiring solutions emerging from open source
- Our joint session with Preservation and Conservation on *Preserving for the future: Integrating physical and digital preservation*.

Among the new ideas emerging from the Singapore meetings was the establishment of a skills register of the IT section standing committee members to further broaden our engagement with the other IFLA sections. I was also delighted to see the Handbook for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliamentary Libraries translated to French and Spanish. As Information Coordinator in 2012, it was a rewarding experience assisting in the development of this handbook - published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Inter-Parliamentary Union & IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section through the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament.

A trend that has emerged in 2013 has been the ever-expanding scope of big data. The prying open of government data stores is making big data even bigger, providing extra-ordinary opportunities for information system “mash ups”. A further trend has been the emergence of alternative social networks such as Vimeo, Instagram, and Spotify. Here, we see speciation emerging in the social network arena where the Facebook behemoth is not so much challenged as driving an ever-enlarging social media vortex. All these areas offer further themes for discussion by our section and further opportunities for collaboration with other IFLA Sections.



This issue highlights some mobile technology activities at the National Library of Norway, and an annual IT workshop in Nigeria that demonstrates the importance and value of staff training and development.

Planning for IFLA 2014 is underway, and the IT Section is involved in seven core and partner programs. The titles are listed here, and also watch for latest news and updates on the IFLA IT Section’s email list and website. Digital resources like presentation papers will also be deposited in the IFLA Library at <http://library.ifla.org>.

I look forward to your comments and suggestions, and urge you to submit your IT news and articles here.

Best wishes to everyone for 2014.

Happy reading!

May Chang
Information Coordinator,
Editor

Cloud services are likewise changing the face of information provision. For instance, the arrival of Amazon Web Services in Australia saw their immediate growth in less than a year as a major provider of services in the information. Libraries are often early adopters of technology, and it is not surprising to see them active players in the cloud arena. For this reason, cloud services features as one of the themes of our IFLA congress sessions in Lyon. The IFLA trend report highlights pervasive issues of privacy and this challenging issue is a factor in the implementation of cloud-based services, and we will be looking at this aspect of cloud services in our session.

Technological change does not come without anxiety, and one of the most keenly felt areas of anxiety for libraries and publishers lies with eBooks. The IFLA trend report highlighted the ways in which the global economy will be changed by new technologies. Given the pace of change in this area, libraries have been remarkably nimble in adapting to the growing variety of devices and media formats they must deal with.

The library has a central role as an efficient conduit of trusted information, as an expert mediator of information, and increasingly as the agent for the manager of local publishing content woven together by linked data. Always taking the longer view, however, we also want to probe the issues of

preservation of eBooks. This is therefore our theme for a joint session with the Preservation and Management Section.

I would like to encourage members to subscribe to the IT Section email list at <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/ifa-it>, and to review the IT Section website at <http://www.ifla.org/it>. You will find there our updated strategic plan and action plan. Keep an eye out for our forthcoming calls for papers at the IFLA congress at Lyon in 2014.

I would like to thank the outgoing Chair of the Section, Alenka Kavčič-Čolić and outgoing Secretary Frank Cervone for their immense contribution to the section activities through to 2013. They have encouraged wide collaboration with other IFLA sections and development of interesting and highly relevant programmes for the section. I would also like to welcome the new Standing Committee members elected in 2013, and the incoming Secretary Lars Svensson and our new Information Coordinator May Chang. ■

Edmund Balnaves
IFLA IT Section Chair

At IFLA 2013, Singapore



Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre.



Lars Svensson, Judy Ng (Director, NLB, Singapore), Alenka Kavčič-Čolić, and Edmund Balnaves at National Library of Singapore, preconference planning.



Preconference on *User Interaction Built On Library Linked Data* at Jurong Regional Library.



IT Section first meeting.

Global Village – Mobile Access to Library Resources

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With the on-going interest in mobile technologies in libraries, we have included this extracted article to highlight activities at the National Library of Norway. It was first presented at IFLA 2012 in Helsinki, Finland. The full article is also published in Library Hi Tech, v.31:3, pp.467-477, and two sections are reproduced here with the permission of the author.

Introduction

“The new electronic interdependence recreates the world in the image of a global village.”

-- Marshall McLuhan, *Gutenberg Galaxy*

The prescience of McLuhan’s writings is striking, even though he did not foresee the rise of computers and the Internet. But 50 years later the network has indeed created a framework to sustain a virtual global village. Using cloud technology we are no longer dependent on specific schemata for the library field as such (even though they are still useful), but may share library resources on a global level with generalized protocols and access mechanisms. Access to online textual resources rapidly becomes commonplace.

The National Library of Norway provides premier information resources about Norway and the history and cultural heritage of this country; - collecting, archiving, organizing and distributing these materials. They date back to the Middle Ages and are based on a variety of physical carriers, - paper for sure but also materials like hide, parchment, paper, glass plates and other "old" formats.

Today, the foremost pillar of the library collection is the Legal Deposit Act. This ensures that virtually everything that is published in Norway can be found in the National Library. The Library is also building the national bibliography, a catalog of all Norwegian literature, which acts as a key to the important parts of these collections.

The National Library of Norway has been in the process of digitizing all its collections in order to erect a Digital National Library. These efforts play a key role in the country's digital library service. The library preserves original digital signals as well: Four national radio/TV channels’ data are transferred directly to the library every night. The library’s goal is to be a multimedia knowledge center among Europe’s modern national libraries. Up to now, more than 100,000 digital books have been made accessible via its website, and about 1000 books are digitized every week in the library.

At the same time providing online access, especially mobile access to these data, is of paramount concern. The number of mobile users is growing at an exponential rate. The mobile device is going to be the primary connection tool to the Internet in the future. We do not know yet how powerful this mobile exponential growth could be, but libraries must take the challenge in serious.

Library’s Digital Exhibition in the pocket

The National Library has an ongoing program for purely digital and combined physical/digital exhibitions. Every three to four months a thematic exhibit is organized by the Exhibitions and Anniversaries Section of the Library in the main exhibition hall. On display are physical artifacts about the chosen topic. In addition some of these materials are represented in digital formats as still and moving images (videos, animations) and other presentations formats for touch screens. (Fig.4a)



Fig.4a

The challenge here is mobility. How can we transfer digital presentations from the large exhibition touch screens to mobile devices? How can we create "mini" exhibits so that our users may play our digital shows outside the library and show exhibition videos to their friends on their mobile phones?

Fig.4b presents a mind map structure for the relationship between items in the physical collection, the touch screens in the exhibition hall (see left square in the diagram), PCs and mobile devices.

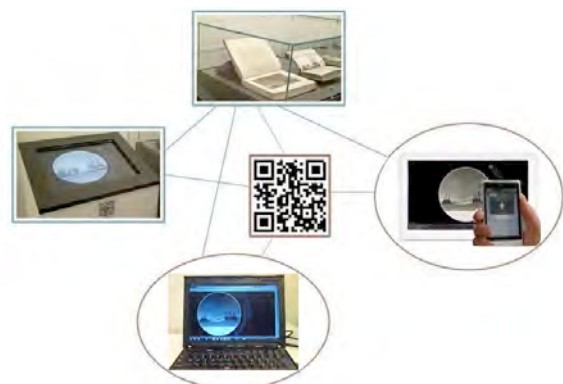


Fig.4b

The QR (Quick Response) code in the center of the diagram illustrates a core function. This is used to align or connect between different accessing modalities. Mobile users may access the digital exhibition by scanning the QR code that is placed on the wall of the touch screen box or beside a physical exhibit. Content is immediately conveyed by the wireless network in the exhibition hall and rendered on their mobile phone or e-pads. The m-users can also download exhibition apps on their mobile devices by scanning a similar QR code.

The exhibition PCs are integrated in exhibition boxes with touch screen surfaces on the top (Fig.5a and 5b). In Fig.5a, a user is scanning the QR code on the touch screen box using her mobile phone. Fig. 5b a user is browsing the image presentation on a pad (10" Galaxy Tab) after scanning the QR code. The users can also scan the QR code and download the presentations/videos on his/her mobile device and play them later anywhere outside the library. ■



Fig.5a



Fig.5b

IT Section Sessions at IFLA 2014, Lyon

- ✓ **Cloud services for libraries - safety, security and flexibility**
IT Section main session.
- ✓ **New technologies, information, users and libraries: Looking into the future**
IT Section collaboration with Division III on the Trend Report topic.
- ✓ **Cultural Heritage in the Digital Age**
IT Section collaboration with Preservation and Conservation (P&C) Section Satellite Meeting.
- ✓ **Digital preservation of e-books: Best practice in libraries**
Joint session by the Preservation and Conservation Section, IT Section and National Libraries Section.
- ✓ **User and Interface Challenges Related to Audiovisual and Multimedia Access**
IT Section collaboration with AV & Multimedia Section.
- ✓ **Law Libraries at the digital cross roads: Innovative solutions to complex challenges**
IT Section collaboration on a joint session with Parliamentary Libraries Section and Law Libraries Section.
- ✓ **Linked Data**
A Satellite Meeting in Paris hosted by Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), organised by the Semantic Web/Linked Data SIG, and sponsored by the IT Section.

Watch for updates and Call for Papers on the IT Section email list and IFLA website!



A Report on the 7th LITT National Workshop, October 2013, Nigeria

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Introduction

The Nigerian Library Association (NLA), Information Technology (IT) Section held its 7th Library and Information Technology Today (LITT) national workshop from 7-11 October, 2013 at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

The theme of the workshop was *Nigerian Libraries: Evolving in New Directions*, with over 65 participants from across the country and Ghana. The workshop was supported by RSUST, EBSCO, and Emerald Publishers.



Executives of the NLA IT Section with the Vice Chancellor, RSUST.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held at the Amphitheatre Hall of RSUST with the Vice Chancellor, Professor B. B. Fakae, all the principal officers, and the entire university community in attendance. The workshop was declared open by Professor Fakae in an emotion-laden speech, and a welcome address was delivered by the Chairman of NLA, IT Section, Ayodele Alonge.



The Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries at the opening ceremony.

The occasion was chaired by Dr. Femi Kadiri, the Rivers State NLA Chairman, who stressed the importance and timeliness of LITT 2013 to library and information science professionals in Nigeria. The Director of ICT Centre of the University, Professor S. A. Braide, delivered the Keynote Address.

Workshop proper

Immediately after the Opening Ceremony, the workshop proper commenced with the opening lecture titled *Augmented Reality, Dynamic Capability and Next Generation Libraries*. The session was anchored by Samuel Utulu, a Principal Librarian at Redeemer's University and a doctoral student at Capetown University, South Africa. The comfort of the training venue and availability of ICT hands-on equipment made participants feel at home as they could easily practice all that was taught.

Day 2, Tuesday, October 8, 2013: Samuel Utulu's presentation, *New Trends in Content and Resource Sharing Technology*, was quite revealing as the new technological innovations that handle virtual resource sharing among libraries were taught. The participants were given opportunities to share their individual library's experience and later engaged on hands-on practical.



Samuel Utulu during his presentation.

The second session was anchored by Felix Azubuike, the immediate past Chairman of the IT Section. His presentation entitled *Using QR Codes in Library Services* took the participants through the world of Quick Response Codes and their applications to library's service delivery. This session was very interactive and participants were encouraged to learn the process and practicalize it.

Day 3, Wednesday, October 9, 2013: Felix Azubuike and Ayodele Alonge briefly took the participants through the concluding part of the previous day's practical session. The first session for the day started thereafter.



Felix Azubuike during his presentation.

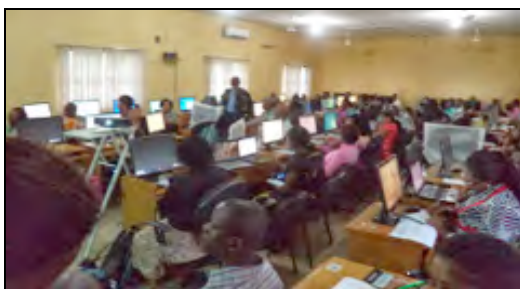


Ayodele Alonge making a presentation.

Dr Chinwe Anunobi, an Associate Professor of Library and Information Science and the Digital Librarian of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria anchored both morning and afternoon sessions. Her first paper was titled *Engaging Communities: What, Why and How of Connecting, Group Productivity and Collaboration Tools*. Her second paper was titled *Engaging Communities: The What, Why and How of Creating and Publishing, Finding and Organising/Re-using Tools*.



Dr Chinwe Anunobi during her presentation.



A cross section of participants at the workshop.

The two sessions were fully practical. Blogging, Twittering, Skyping and Organizational Management media were carefully taught. Issues concerning their account opening, registration, among others were practically done by the participants during

the two sessions. As usual, the participants were allowed to share their individual library's experience and some of the challenges faced in the course of providing cutting edge electronic library services to their clients. Advice and practical solutions were provided by the resource persons and experienced professionals. Emphasis was more on hands-on practical.

The Chairman of the Section, in an interlude between the two sessions, presented on Emerald Insight Publishers, one of the supporters of the Workshop.

Day 4, Thursday, October 10, 2013: The last presentations were delivered on by Dr. Ezra Gbaje of the Department of Library and Information Science, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. His presentations were entitled *Designing Library Websites for Maximize Usability; Library Website: A Tool for Online Information Services*; and, *Trends in Content and Resource Sharing Technology and Institutional Repository*. His presentations were educative and expository, and participants also had the opportunity to discuss with him one-on-one on various ICT related issues.



Dr. Ezra Gbaje during his presentation.



Another cross section of participants at the workshop.

Closing

The workshop ended with a closing ceremony. The University librarian of the University of Science and Technology, Dr. (Mrs.) Blessing Ahiazu (FNLA) showcased the rich collections/resources of the library. Felix Azubuike made a presentation on EBSCOhost highlighting several of their databases to participants.

The ceremony came to a close after participants were presented with their certificates and were given EBSCO pens, bags and other gift items. Participants also received Emerald gift items like customised USB flash drives, jotters and 14 days free access to all emerald journals to the first 50 registered participants. ■

Book Reviews

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Social Media Guidelines for Parliaments

Andy Williamson



<http://www.ifla.org/publications/social-media-guidelines-for-parliaments>

If you are pondering where to go with social media, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has published a short and very valuable open access title Social Media Guidelines for Parliaments. This valuable title joins the stable of other publications emerging from the collaboration between the IPU and the IFLA Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section (<http://www.ifla.org/publications/12>) and in particular the handbook for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliamentary Libraries. The fact that these publications are directed to Parliamentary Libraries makes them all the more relevant.

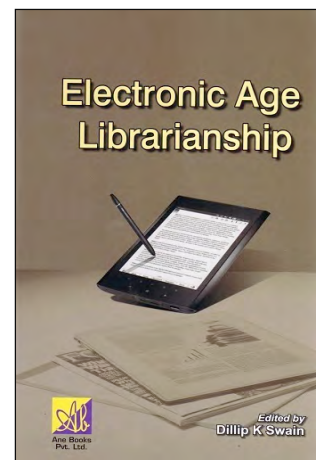
This publication discusses the issues of governance and oversight, compliance and legal issues, planning and strategies for social media engagement, and some great examples of use of social media for libraries. It is relevant for all libraries looking at venturing in the social media arena. Parliamentary libraries are challenged by social media both in providing direction to their patrons on its effective use and in making use of social media as an effective research tool. Increasingly, libraries are looking to social media as a meeting place with their patrons – because this is where their patrons are.

Unless, like the Count of Monte Cristo you have been locked away for a couple of decades, you will not have been able to avoid the unstoppable force of social media. Few are the organisations that remain solely within the citadel of traditional media communication. As early adopters of technology, libraries have been actively moving into the social media space, and this experience is helping to build a body of practice for entering the social media arena.

This is a very easy read – only 32 pages long – and a valuable insight into corporate use of social media. ■

Electronic Age Librarianship

Edited by Dillip K Swain, 2012.
Ane Books 2012.
ISBN 978 938116 247 7



IFLA represents a wonderful melting-pot of library experience around the world. This diversity makes the attendance at an IFLA congress a valuable experience for any librarian. It is the colour and variety of this experience which is also attractive in the publication Electronic Age Librarianship.

This collection of articles comes from all corners of the globe: Nigeria, India, Spain, China, South Africa, and Hungary to name a few. The publication covers e-information opportunities and open access trends, social networking, digital libraries, RFID and a range of case studies in managing e-resources.

What is clear in this collection is that there are opportunities emerging for libraries of all sorts to take advantage of mobile computing, electronic collections, open source and open access to transform (and in some cases revolutionise) the services provided by the library. This sort of transformation is nicely outlined in Dr Thanuskodi's chapter.

Dr Hirwade's profile of social media in Nigeria highlights the rapid adoption of this technology while reflecting on the professional development issues for librarians. Mobile computing, eBooks and electronic resources offer significant opportunities as well as challenges, and this publication provides a nice international perspective on these issues. ■



The Information Technology (IT) Section promotes and advances the application of information technologies to library and information services in all societies, through activities related to best practices and standards, education and training, research, and the marketplace. The scope covers IT for the creation, organization, storage, maintenance, access, retrieval, and transfer of information and documents for all types of libraries and information centers; IT for the operation of libraries and information centers; and, related management and policy issues. Of primary importance are applications of IT for supporting access to and delivery of information.

The section meets annually at the IFLA Congress; in between congresses, members collaborate with other Sections on programs and workshops. There are election ballots every two years as members complete their 4-year term. Currently, there are 21 standing committee members from 19 countries.

The IT Section is one of the largest in IFLA with over 300 members from nearly 80 countries, from all types of libraries, and a range of disciplines. It is also strongly involved with the activities of other IFLA sections. We welcome all members (<http://www.ifla.org/membership>).

The IT Section's website at <http://www.ifla.org/it> has news and resources regarding activities of the Section, session minutes, publications, and section membership details.

The IFLA-IT email list provides a forum for members to exchange ideas and experience in the use of information and communication technologies in libraries. Subscription to the list is at <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/ifla-it>, and the email address is ifla-it@infoserv.inist.fr.

The IT Section's newsletter, *Trends & Issues in Library Technology*, is published twice a year, in June and December.

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