

# NEWSLETTER

Regional Section for Latin America and the Caribbean

Nº 16 December 1990 — Manager Elizabet Maria Ramos de Carvalho

## EDITORIAL

We end 1990 with a summary of the achievements of our Region.

We published three NEWSLETTERS, one circular letter, and the first volume of the "Special Publications" series, titled: *Palabras por la ocasión de la inauguración de la Oficina Regional de IFLA para la América Latina y el Caribe*, in São Paulo.

The Section held three meetings one in São Paulo, in March 1990, and two in Stockholm. All the members of the Section's Executive Committee were present to the first meeting, with the exception of Nicaragua. Several Latin American professionals attended the Stockholm meetings, in addition to some members of the SC. As it is mentioned in the minutes, many librarians participated in our meeting due to the joint efforts of IFLA's General Secretariat and the Organizing Committee of the event. We thank them.

This year, also, the ALP Program, supported by the Swedish International Development Agency, gained momentum.

We feel that in effect there is a greater integration in our Region. IFLA's efforts have not been in vain.

In 1991, the newsletter will continue and the Regional Office will publish IFLA's Official Documents in Spanish with Venezuela's IABN help with the translation.

Projects are a constant concern and we intend to obtain funds from sources within our continent. For that purpose, we count on the support of all the members of the Executive Committee. We also expect to continue to receive information from

all the subregions and accounts on the activities of libraries and information services from our countries. Without news, from the Region, the newsletter is useless.

## NEWS IFLA AND ITS SECTIONS.

### NEXT IFLA CONFERENCES

1991, Moscow, August 18-26  
Organizing Committee  
Kozlova, L.F., 3 pr. Kalinina, USSR 101000  
Moscow  
Telephone 202-3565, Telex 41147 GBL. SU  
Registration fees until May 1st: US\$ 300.00. After  
May 1st: US\$ 350.00.

### THEME: Libraries and Culture: their relationship

The USSR organizing committee has proposed and IFLA has agreed the theme "Libraries and culture: their relationship" and its seven sub-themes:

#### Knowing and understanding each other

Libraries as cultural centres  
Science without boundaries  
Libraries and new thinking  
Libraries and world art

#### Libraries in a multi-national state

Library services to multicultural populations

### **Libraries as internationalists**

International book exchange as a form of mutual cultural enrichment

### **Children as creators of the 21st century**

Libraries in the international upbringing of children and youth

Aesthetic education and the library

### **Access to the information resources of world culture by modern technological methods**

International library networks

### **Preservation and conservation as a means of retaining the cultural heritage of the world**

International cooperation of libraries in assisting the restoration of collections that have suffered as a consequence of natural disasters

### **Librarians and the system of continuing education**

1992, New Delhi, August 30-Sept. 5. 100th anniversary of S.R. Raganathan.

Theme: Library and Information Policy Perspectives.

Information:

Indian Organising Committee

A/40-41 Ansal Buildings

Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110 009

India

**The Section of Libraries for the Blind** would like to increase the number of members from Third World countries.

Further information with the President of the Standing Committee:

Edwige Mortyr

Norwegian Association of the Blind Library Science

PB 5900 — MEDFEHAUGEN

0308, Oslo 3, Norway

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRE-SEMINAR ON PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY, HARNOSAND 13-17 AUGUST 1990**

### **PREAMBLE**

1. Under the auspices and initiative of the Swedish International Development Agency, The Swedish Institute and the town of Harnosand, and with the assistance of IFLA, 22 delegates and 10 observers from 23 developing countries met in Harnosand, Sweden, to discuss public library policy situation in their various countries with a view to finding new alternatives for the improvement of public library provision.

2. In attendance at the Seminar Was the IFLA organizing committee of the Seminar, comprising Marta Terry, Lena Skoglund and Guust van Wesemael.

3. Five papers, a keynote address and country reports were presented at the seminar.

4. After five days of exhaustive discussion and a fruitful exchange of ideas among the participants the following recommendations were adapted:

4.1. We recommended to IFLA to review and update the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1972), in order to enable Public Libraries to cope with the information needs of the modern society. In order to implement this recommendation we urge IFLA to organize regional workshops, to help redefine the role of public libraries and the profile of the public librarian in developed countries.

4.2. We acknowledge what IFLA has done to promote training and education for librarians in developing countries, for instance the Dakar "Seminar on Reading Promotion" in 1990 and the various harmonization seminars.

In spite of this effort we feel there are still areas in the field of public librarianship and education that should be taken into consideration, such as social communication techniques, the role of the librarian in literacy and post-literacy campaigns, repairing and conservation of library materials, the applications of new technologies in libraries, among others.

In order to cater adequately for these areas we suggest that more seminars, workshops and conferences be organized annually in the different regions for librarians in the framework of the new Medium-Term Programme of IFLA.

4.3. We commend IFLA for undertaking the project to review the role of public libraries in the eradication of illiteracy (1989). As a follow-up we recommend that workshops be held in the different regions in the developing countries to exchange information strategies and programmes on public libraries and literacy.

4.4. We recommend that the IFLA Section of Public Libraries and the Section of School Libraries work together in close collaboration, working on School and Public Library Relationships take into account the national experiences of the various countries, especially those of the developing countries.

4.5. We recommend further that IFLA should foster a policy of twinning libraries in all directions, north-south, south-north, etc., and that such twinning be encouraged on a reciprocal basis.

4.6. We recommend that IFLA makes the Florence Agreement available to all national Libraries Associations and those officers in charge of library policies in the different countries, for further dissemination to all libraries and urge all governments which have not yet signed the Agreement to be signatories.

4.7. Due to the seriousness of the rural-urban migration problem we recommend that a pre-

session seminar be held to examine and evaluate the role of public libraries in the provision of services to rural-urban migrants.

4.8. Finally we recommend that IFLA should support the organization of Book Fairs as means of promoting reading and book development, facilitating collection development, enhancing interaction among librarians in developing countries. Further to this the Section on Acquisition and Exchange of IFLA should take note of this recommendation and include it in its Medium-Term Programme (MTP), 1992-1997.

In addition we urge IFLA to accelerate the implementation of the coupon system.

## CONCLUSION

We consider that the success of this Seminar was due to the cooperation and the provision of logistics and financial support by IFLA and the different Swedish institutions, in particular.

We therefore wish to sincerely express our profound gratitude to them. We equally thank the local authorities of Harnosand, Kramfors and Sundsvall. We also thank our Swedish colleagues, especially Ulla Maria Ahlman, Lena Skoglund, Louise Limberg.

Finally we hope that our recommendations would be considered seriously for implementation by IFLA.

## REPORT ON THE SEMINAR

### May Brooking Negrão

1. The seminar gathered representatives from 23 countries of the three regions: Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and Asia and Oceania. Our region was represented by librarians from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, Jamaica, and Trinidad/Tobago. The program was divided as follows:

- presentation of papers related to the sub-themes: policies, libraries and reading promotion, libraries and the growth of major cities, collection development, relationship of public libraries with education;
- discussion by language group (Spanish, French and English) of the presented papers with relation to the sub-themes; presentation of proposals and projects;
- presentation of the situation of public libraries in the regions;
- visits to libraries.

1.1. Analysis of papers and summary of discussions about them.

1.1.1. Public Library Policy (main theme)

The theme was presented by Else Granheim, director of the Norwegian Public Libraries System. Among the general ideas presented the following stood out: Norway's decision with regard to the children, who are considered as a priority in the actions of public libraries, with several activities towards reading promotion. Regarding library management, every library has its own budget and must prepare short-, medium — and long-term plans. Therefore, due to their planning activities in local libraries, librarians need professional qualification in management.

Discussions relating to the paper concentrated on the formation of the librarian: manager, keeper, cultural animator, social agent, pedagogue, communication expert; and on the difficulties arising from the diversity of his/her functions, specially in developing countries.

### 1.1.2. Libraries and reading promotion

The papers presented reflected the situations in Thailand and Zimbabwe.

Thailand has had a significant development in the area of education and libraries. There exists a Non Formal Education Department that somehow coordinates activities in this area, including those related to the participation of public libraries in non-formal education.

Reading centers have been organized in the rural areas as a third-level of the public library system. Where access is difficult, in addition to library cars and library boats, motorcycle libraries have been adopted, providing a faster and cheaper service.

In rural areas, reading centers adopt the Mural Newspaper system, where news are reproduced in a simplified language.

The discussions helped to establish the differences in the role of public libraries in relation to reading promotion and eradication of illiteracy. The actions of public libraries are different for illiterates, functional illiterates and illiterate children and youths; however, it was proposed that libraries should only take responsibility for alphabetization wherever there are no institutions in charge of this work. As teaching is not a function of the librarian, wherever there are institutions concerned with the eradication of illiteracy, the library should establish a link with such organizations, provide room for alphabetization courses and reading workshops, encourage attendance to the courses, and disseminate information about them.

### 1.1.3. Public Librarg System and the growth of major cities.

The theme was presented by May B. Negrão who took the city of São Paulo, Brazil, as an example of the situation, for case study.

Her paper focused the relation of the city dweller and the function of public libraries in a metropolis, specially their performance with regard to migrants and marginal inhabitants. The theme was illustrated with overheads and slides from the collection of Biblioteca Mário de Andrade and excited much interest because it was the first time that such subject was approached in a public libraries seminar and because it is a problem not only for Latin American cities, but also for other regions such as the case of Bangkok, in Thailand.

The paper was discussed and some proposals were made with relation to the role of public libraries in the acculturation or in the integration of migrants to the urban lifestyle, their adaptation to a new culture; the function of public libraries as a center for cultural and community development; the interaction of public libraries with other institutions and the political role of public libraries with relation to citizenship (civil responsibilities, the right to and the meaning of vote, etc.).

#### 1.1.4. Collection development

The general theme was presented by the representative from Ghana, who gave an account of the situation in Africa with regard to book production and the difficulties for importing books.

Some subjects were dealt in the discussion of the theme: the "Florence Agreement", and international treaty that exempts books from import duties; the publication of oral history accounts; the national book and library centers; the book law existing in Colombia and Chile (the national library service agree to purchase a certain percentage of the published titles and publishers offer 40% to 50% discounts); censorship; international donations; etc.

#### 1.1.5. School libraries and their relation with the public library system

The theme attracted much interest and gave rise to intense discussions, but no magic solution nor general guideline came out to produce an appropriate procedure.

In most countries, there are very few school libraries, and their function is carried out by the public libraries in some way or another. As regards the situation in Latin America, there is the example of Mexico where 90% of the users are students who use the space available, but seldom get the books. In Costa Rica and Venezuela, agreements were executed by the Education and Culture Ministries involving interaction and cooperation activities. Discussions also extended to the two roles of the public library, as a permanent education nucleus and as an institution supporting teaching and formal education. Alternatives for a closer collaboration between public and school libraries were

analyzed (parallel and integrated systems, school/community libraries). As it was difficult to single out solutions or due to the lack of proven alternative models, an analysis of the situation in Latin America was recommended. This should give rise to a seminar to discuss the analysis and to prepare guidelines or alternative models for the countries in the Region.

#### 1.2. Visit to Public Libraries and to the Training Center for International Action

**Harnosand** — The seminar took place at the cultural complex of this town with 28,000 inhabitants. The complex includes a theater, conference rooms, an exhibition hall and a library. As all Scandinavian libraries, Harnosand's is well furnished and equipped, with a top level collection. In the rectangular library there is an acoustically insulated area for younger children, The concept of "baby library" — an area of the public library where parents and children interact — is a reality in Nordic countries.

**Kramfors** — An attraction of special interest was the enlargement and relocation of space and the reorganization of the services provided (extension of library's cultural activities). The front part of the library progressed over an empty space and reached the pedestrian street of the town's commercial center.

**Sundsväl** — This library was the most attractive and admiring. It is part of a cultural complex that comprises a theater, an art museum, an historical museum, an archive, and art school for children, the town's cultural administration, and a restaurant. Four buildings formerly used as cellars make up the complex. The group of librarians and cultural authorities praised the connection of the buildings and its floors and the advantage taken of every space for diversified cultural activities.

The collection is divided by major subjects and each area displays its books in a very attractive way. The "erotic" exhibition called the attention of all the participants.

**Sando-U-Centrum** — Training Center for Swedish citizens who are going to work in third world countries. Lodging and training are provided, including language studies, Geography, History, habits and customs, etc. Nicaragua is the country that attracts the largest number of Swedish volunteers in our Region.

#### **IFLA — 56th General Conference: Report**

The Conference gathered 1660 delegates and involved the work of 300 volunteers. There were 170 exhibitors in the Libraries and Information Systems Fair (equipment, bibliographic heritage, technical processing systems, etc.).

A total of 217 professional and administration meetings (from the several organizations that make up IFLA) were held. All the papers sent to IFLA by June 15 were published and released.

The papers from our region were the following:

#### Section of Latin America and Caribbean

- Mobilization of Library Resources for Knowledge, Literacy and Development in the English-speaking Caribbean.

**Albertine Jefferson** (Jamaica).

- Le Rôle des Bibliothèques dans l'Alphabétisation des Adultes aux Antilles-Guyane et en Haiti, le Caribe Francophone. **Marie Françoise Bernabé** (Martinique).

- Los Recursos Bibliotecarios en América Latina. Panorama General. **Rosa Maria Fernandez de Zamora** (Biblioteca Nacional/Mexico) and **Myriam Mejía** (Colcultura/Section of Public Libraries/Colombia).

- Bibliotecas Públicas, Informaciones y Ciudadanía (May Brooking Negrão/Brazil).

#### Section of Mobilelibraries

- Mobilelibrary Services as a Functional Unit in Public Library Systems: The Brazilian and the United States Contexts (a Brazilian Scenario), **Rosa Maria de Sousa Lenna** (Brazil).

Round Table Management of Library Associations

- Library Association and Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World. **Stephany Ferguson** (Jamaica).

#### Section of Library Theory and Research

- La Investigación Bibliotecológica en México. Porque y para qué. **Estela Morales** (Mexico).

The papers of the Section of Latin America and Caribbean will be published in the "Special Publications" series.

#### SECTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

There will be two vacancies for 1991. Our Region has no representative in this Section, which is has many works in this area. We will make efforts to have a representative in the Section. Item 2 — IFLA 56th ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Stockholm, August 18 to 26, 1990.

#### REGIONAL OFFICE AND ALP

The Manager of the Regional Office and one of its staff members participated in the administrative meetings of IFLA on Regional Offices and ALP Programs.

The following subjects were treated at the joint meeting of the three Regional Offices with Mr. Guust Wesemael:

- Elections for the Standing Committee. IFLA shall send a normative instruction.
- Frequency of the NEWSLETTER.
- Budget for 1990 and 1991. The Budget prepared by RO/LAC was distributed as a model. The funds requested for 1990 should be credited in September, and for 1991, in January.

#### ALP PROGRAM

The ALP Program was first presented by Birgitta Bergdahl on Sunday morning, August 19. Her report, with a list of some projects, had already been distributed in the folders. IFLA's Professional Board discussed it with the official representatives from the three Regions and identified three priority projects, all from Africa. We believe that the judgment by the Professional Board was premature, since LAC was the last region where the ALP Program was discussed with Ms. Bergdahl. We were, therefore, at disadvantage in the time for preparation of projects.

#### NEWS

#### IFLA Affiliates and Regional Associations

- Colégio de Bibliotecarios de Costa Rica Apartado 7020 — San José, Costa Rica, Afiliado a la Federación de Colégios Profesionales de Costa Rica.  
President: Licenciada Raquel Perez Badilla  
Executive Director: Virgina Monero Galvez
- The 10th anniversary of the Bibliographic Comutation Program (COMUT), which provides approximately 1.2 million copies of articles to almost 900 Brazilian libraries every year, was celebrated in Brasilia by initiative of IBICT, the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology.  
IBICT issued its 1991 schedule for the specialization course in Documentation and Information. Further information may be obtained from: Escola de Comunicação UFRJ — Av. Pasteur, 250 — Fundos — CEP 22290 — Rio de Janeiro-RJ. Telephone no. (021) 275-3545 and 295-9399.

**Address Update**

Please send to the RO address modifications of affiliates as well as the addresses of librarian associations in our Region so that we may send the NEWSLETTER to all the interested parties.

**GENERAL NEWS  
OF INTEREST TO THE  
REGION**

- The Jamaica Bauxite Institute — P.O. Box 355 — Hope Gardens, Kingston 6, Jamaica, informs that the JBI Journal is now bilingual English/Spanish. The major overview of the international economy and the aluminum Industry is translated fully and the abstracts and/or introduction of the other articles.

This is an attempt by the Institute to attract the Spanish-speaking readers of the Region.

- A Workshop on Cultural Development and Animation for Public Libraries Personnel in Ecuador was held in Pasto, from August 13 to 17, 1990, for 25 Regional Coordinators of the Public Libraries System of Ecuador, by the Public Libraries Section of COLCULTURA, Colombia. The methodology used was theoretical and practical, allowing participants to establish a direct relationship between analysis and implementation. The instructor acted as a guide, trying to make the participants, complement, discover and develop each of the work areas, according to the theme. Visual displays and papers were used as supporting materials, providing information and contributing to the dynamics and analysis.

This methodology is determined by the cultural fact, development and animation according to the dimension of the work demanded from the Librarian within the communities.

The following themes were developed: Public Libraries, Cultural Information, Cultural Animation, Community Participation, Cultural Administration and Services.

- Master Degree in Librarianship  
Centro de Ciências Sociais Aplicadas  
Campus Universitário  
58000 — João Pessoa — PB — Brazil  
Telephone no. (083) 224-7220 ext. 2483  
Main area: Library and Society. Research lines:  
Planning and Management of Information Services;  
Library Performance in Poor Communities;  
Information for Regional Development and Cul-

tural Dimension of Development; Reinforcement and Enrichment of Cultural Identities; Enlarging Participation in Cultural Life; Formation of International Cultural Cooperation.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT 1991**

IASL welcomes applications for the Leadership Development grant for the 1991 conference in Everett, Washington, U.S.A. This is a \$500.00 (U.S.) grant designed to assist a person from a developing Third World country to attend an annual IASL conference.

Applications must be filed by January 20, 1991. The award will be announced May 1, 1991.

**ELIGIBILITY** Leader in the area of school library development in a developing country.

**QUALIFICATIONS** Definite position of leadership in the community, system or nation. Program of action in place. Support of Supervisor/Administration indicating that program will continue.

**APPLICATIONS** May be requested from:  
IASL Secretariat  
P.O. Box 1486  
Kalamazoo, MI 49005  
U.S.A.

- TRANSLATIONS:** The RO requests that information on works, articles and other documents that are being translated into Spanish be sent for inclusion in the NEWSLETTER in order to avoid duplication of work in our Region, which already lacks bibliographic materials.

**PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED  
BY THE CLEARING HOUSE**

BOWDEN, Russel. Guideline for the management of professional in the fieldes of archive (PGI-89/WS-11)

The document has been prepared under contract with the IFLA by the chairman of IFLA ROUND TABEL for the Management of Library Associations. It aims at assisting in raising the people of professional associations with the objectives of making them more efficient and better managed. It is hoped that they will undertake stronger roles in the development in their countries of national library, archives and information services.

CARROLL, Frances Laverne. **Guidelines for school libraries.** The Hague, IFLA Headquarters, 1990. (IFLA Professional Reports, 20).

FEATHER, John. **Guidelines for teaching of preservation to librarians, archives, and documentalists.** The Hague, IFLA, 1990. (IFLA Professional Reports, 18).

GALLER, Anne M. & COULTER, Joan M. **La Bibliothèque Scolaire: administration, organisation, services.** La Haye, IFLA Headquarters, 1990. (IFLA Professional Reports, 23).

IFLA Annual 1989: Proceedings of the 55th General Conference, Paris, 1989. IFLA, München, Saur, 1990.

IFLA Communications 1989: a bibliography of IFLA Conference papers. The Hague, IFLA Headquarters, 1990. (IFLA Professional Reports, 22).

IFLA Directory 1990/91 which contains the names and addresses of all officers, the professional groups with their terms of reference, the names and addresses of members of IFLA, a list of IFLA publications and other data on IFLA and its activities.

IFLA J., 16(3), 1990.

IFLA Regional Section for Asia & Oceania. Newsletter, 3, June 1990.

SPECIAL Libraries Associations. News release.

INTERNATIONAL Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control, 19(1) Jan/Mar, 1990;  
19 (3) Jul/Sep, 1990.

The UNIMARC Manual in Portuguese, was translated by the National Library, Library, Lisbon, Campo Grande, 83 - 1751 Lisbon Cedex, Portugal.

The new Director of the UBCIM (UNIVERSAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL MARC) is Mr. Kurt Nowak, Deputy Director of the Deutsche Bibliothek, Zeppelinallee 4-8 D.600 Frankfurt-am-Main 1. The Programme Offices is Ms. Marie-France Plassard.

The Round Table on audiovisual: Guideline for library service. The Hague, IFLA Headquarters, 1990. (IFLA Professional Report, 21).

#### **Editorial**

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Ivone Tálamo

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May Brooking Negrão

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