



Winter 2011

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The Newsletter is the official publication of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations.

The Newsletter is made available to all Section members as a benefit of membership.

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CHAIR'S COLUMN

By: Mijin Kim



Newsletter of the Year!

Ever since I became a member of

IFLA's Standing Committee on Library Services for Multicultural Populations, we have been talking about how to win the very elusive "Newsletter of the Year" award. Every year at the closing ceremonies of IFLA Congress, we sat and watched as other sections went up to receive the award. It seemed like every committee meeting, we talked about what to change, how to improve, how to win that award!

Over the years, we did make many changes in what we included in the newsletter. A couple of years ago, we started to focus more on our IFLA related activities, the work of the section and the promotional work we do. And we wrote about the work of librarians all over the world advancing multicultural librarianship.

In addition, the section had many high profile projects and successes in the last couple of years such as the IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto which really gave us exciting topics to write about. I think that the enthusiasm and the wonderful personalities of the committee really came through in the newsletter.

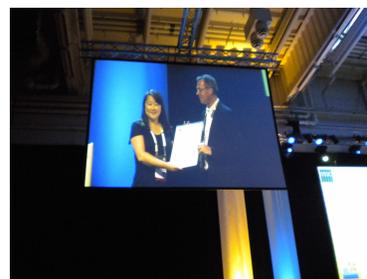
So, fast forward to the closing ceremonies of Göteborg, 2010. We are sitting in the audience as

Patrice Landry, Chair of IFLA's Professional Committee is introducing the Newsletter of the Year award and we are whispering to each other lamenting another year without an award. Then, like magic, they call our committee's name. We literally fell off of our chairs! We thought for sure that they would have let the winning committee know in advance so we had no expectations whatsoever.



Mijin Kim and Patrice Landry

Great job to everyone, to our fabulous editorial and design team at Toronto Public Library, our section and all the contributors over the years. We did it!



Mijin Kim accepts the newsletter award

IFLA Congress

The Newsletter of the Year award was the crowning achievement of another successful conference for the committee this past summer. The Göteborg, Sweden conference committee needs to be congratulated for putting

together such a strong program and well organized conference with only a year to plan.

The section presented very interesting programs that were well attended with both the Reading Section and the Children and Youth Section. In addition, I had the honour of presenting our IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto at the annual UNESCO program.



UNESCO Open Forum

It is always wonderful to see our colleagues, promote the work we do and have many hours of discussions about international librarianship at the annual IFLA conferences. We are anticipating another strong program in Puerto Rico next summer.

In addition, the section's midyear meeting will be held in Seville, Spain in February, 2011. We have a full agenda planned to further the work of the committee and to network with the libraries in the region.

Special Interest Group on Indigenous Issues Renewed

The IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations is very pleased to report that at the December meeting of the Governing Board, the Special Interest Group on Indigenous Issues was renewed for another two years. The section proudly sponsors the Special Interest Group. Loriene

Roy, Professor at the University of Texas has been reappointed as Convenor for the next two years.

Election Year

This year is an election year for IFLA. Many of our colleagues on our standing committee will be finishing their terms so we are hoping that new members have submitted their names to be nominated onto the committee. We are looking for enthusiastic members from diverse regions who are committed to multicultural librarianship and who have the time and energy to devote to the work of the section. Information on the nomination process can be found on the IFLA website: <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/call-for-nominations-for-section-standing-committees>.

Information on the work of the section, meeting minutes, publications and list of members can be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/en/mcultp>.

THE MULTICULTURAL SECTION AT IFLA 2010 IN GÖTEBORG

By: *Susana Alegre*

This year's Conference started for our section with lots of hard work. We had decided to hold a whole day meeting for SCI, and I must say it was worth it! Otherwise we would have left many things undone. We would like to thank once more our generous hosts at the Västra Götaland Regional Library for their hospitality.

Again, this was a year with a lot of participation from our Section and SIG on Indigenous Matters in different sessions. We first participated in the UNESCO Open Forum on Thursday August 12th. Our chair, Mijin Kim, spoke about the IFLA Multicultural Library Manifesto, the result of years of work in the section, which was officially approved by UNESCO this year, and the work and cooperation between both organizations that has led to the recognition of the Manifesto.



Joint session with Reading and Literacy section

This year we had two very interesting open sessions. On the first one, in collaboration with the Literacy and Reading Section, we had presentations from [Finland](#), [Canada](#), [Switzerland](#), [USA](#), [UK](#), [India](#) and [Sweden](#) under the theme *Libraries promoting reading in a multicultural, multilingual society.*



Speakers and moderators at the joint session with the Literacy and Reading section

The second one, *Children's Libraries: open access to different cultures*, was organized

jointly with the Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section. This time, presentations came from [South Africa](#), [China](#), [France](#), [Poland](#) and [Spain](#).



Joint session with the Children and Young Adult section

We also had our SIG's session, about which our colleague Lorie Roy, its Convenor, is giving more information in her article.

SIG MEETING AT 2010 IFLA WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS

By: *Lorie Roy*

The IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters held an open business meeting at the 2010 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Göteborg, Sweden. The meeting was held Friday August 13, 2010 with approximately 40 people in attendance.

Annual Highlights: This is a review of major and noteworthy events that have taken place over the previous year concerning indigenous library services.

We noted new and major book awards arising from international communities that recognize indigenous authors. These include the 2010-2011 First

Nation Communities Read Program (Canada), the 2010 Ngā Kupu Ora Māori Book Awards (New Zealand Aotearoa), and the 2010 American Indian Youth Literature Award (<http://www.aianet.org/>) awarded by the American Indian Library Association (USA).

We highlighted selected website and digitization efforts. The new Talk Story website (<http://www.talkstorytogether.org>) resulted from collaboration between American Indian Library Association and Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. This site provides storytime ideas, book list tips for families and libraries. Another site, The Indigenous Portal (<http://iportal.usask.ca/>) continues to add useful content.

We recognized library events organized for indigenous peoples. Ethiopia Reads celebrated the opening of the new Segenat Children and Youth Library, Mekelle, Tigray Region, Ethiopia. Ira H. Hayes Memorial Library, Arizona, USA organized a reading program with incentives and a solar oven demonstration on the Gila River Reservation for the Akmiel O'otham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) community members. St. Stephens Indian School/ High School Library, Wyoming, USA hosted a Safety Fair in the library featuring an "Alive at 25" driving class, a mock car crash, and information on hunting safety, parenting and Internet safety. On April 15th, 2010 Operation Teen Book Drop, delivered a new book to 10,000 teenagers attending schools on Native reservations and Tribal Lands across the USA. This event was coordinated by Readergirlz, the Young Adult Library Services Association, GuysLitWire, and a new partner,

If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything, a national reading club for Native children.

We mentioned work in classification, policies, and guidelines. The Library of Congress announced a new Law Classification schedule on *Law and Sociology of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas* (Classes KIA-KIP: North America). In July 2010 Member states of WIPO drafted a 'legal instrument' for 'traditional cultural expressions'. <http://keionline.org/sites/default/files/WIPOexpertTCEText4instrument.pdf>. A Task Force of the American Library Association drafted a document, [Librarianship and Traditional Cultural Expressions: Nurturing Understanding and Respect](#) (<http://wo.ala.org/tce/>). A new ALA Presidential Task Force on Traditional Cultural Expression is considering a new document for ALA and expects to report to ALA Council on their progress at the 2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego.

We acknowledged gatherings of indigenous librarians that took place over the past year and others that are forthcoming. In the USA, the 2009 national Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums conference took place in Portland, Oregon that October. Te Ropu Whakaha (Maori in Libraries and Information Management) met for their hui-a-tau or annual gathering at Onuku Marae on the South Island of New Zealand in March 2010. The annual Tribal College Librarians Professional Development Institute took place in Bozeman, Montana, USA in June 2010. The 7th International Indigenous Librarians Forum will occur April 4th to 7th, 2011. Hosted with the Sami Parliament in Karasjok, Norway, the theme of the forum

is “Indigenous Wisdom and Communication”. Six meetings of staff working at tribal museums, libraries, and archives will take place in Wisconsin, USA from 2010 through 2013. The Alaska (USA) Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums will hold a 2011 summit on services for tribal library staff, steps toward developing a strategic plan, Web site and workshops.

Finally, we congratulated the launch of a new scholarship program for indigenous students through San Jose State University, CA, USA. “Circle of Learning” will support 17 American Indian/Alaskan Native students with financial support, mentoring, career advice, field experiences, and interactions with leaders.

Update: Work of IFLA SIG Task Forces

The audience at the 2009 Business Meeting of the IFLA SIG called on the establishment of five Task Forces. These task forces were formed and members from the indigenous communities were appointed. The charges and rosters for the task forces are available on the IFLA SIG Website (<http://www.ifla.org/en/indigenous-matters/taskforces-members>). In addition, the audience called on the formation of a new Task Force for 2010-2011 concerning indigenous genealogy.

Task Force: Outreach to Indigenous Librarians Worldwide
The Task Force has created a thorough and interesting outreach plan that is available on the IFLA SIG Website at: <http://www.ifla.org/files/indigenous-matters/publications/action-plan.pdf>

Task Force: Protocols

The Protocols Task Force has provided content on the IFLA SIG website (<http://www.ifla.org/en/indigenous-matters>) with links to key protocol documents including those from Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resource Network (ATSILIRN), Alaska Native Knowledge Network, American Library Association, Maatataua Declaration, and the Society for American Archivists.

Task Force: Developmental Issues/Key Questions

The Developmental Issues Task Force has created a key document that starts with a discussion of definitions for Indigenous peoples, based on the decision that “The task force recommends a broad and inclusive understanding of the term reflecting the approach of the United Nations.” The Task Force also provides fourteen recommendations to:

1. Establish trust; build relationships
2. Invite/include indigenous patrons
3. Promote reading and information literacy
4. Support performance arts
5. Teach, conduct research, and support publishing
6. Support studies of indigenous peoples through library acquisitions
7. Collaborate and consult
8. Coordinate and serve as liaisons
9. Recruit; train; educate
10. Encourage/assist publishing
11. Prepare websites
12. Develop a directory of contacts
13. Prepare guides and indexes
14. Organize workshops for non-indigenous staff

Task Force: Indigenous Languages

Work for 2010-2011 will advance supporting indigenous languages.

Task Force: Review of IFLA Documents

The Task Force to Review IFLA Documents will also make progress in 2010-2011.

Discussion/Q&A:

The audience contributed to a discussion on potential Indigenous knowledge core elements in the IFLA Guidelines for Professional Library/Information. The IFLA SIG supports this activity and stands at the ready to contribute to discussion and learn from the process.

Continuing

The IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters appreciates the support of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section. We will continue our important work which involves the development of a new IFLA Publication, “**Library Services to Indigenous Populations: Protocols and Case Studies.**”

The Work in Copenhagen for Good Public Library Services

By: *Anne Kristin Undlien*

From August 16th to 18th, 2010 a conference on libraries in a multicultural society took place in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. The conference, called “Possibilities for the Future”, was the IFLA Satellite meeting arranged by IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section.

I am going to tell about the library visits I took part in during this conference.

In Copenhagen they have a "Beach Library" as a part of their public library. They have an "event wagon" - a caravan that promotes libraries in Copenhagen urban life, where the young people are around. The greatest success for the "event wagon" has been the beach library. In 2010, the beach library was open for two months during the summer. At the beach library you can borrow books, magazines, mp3players, comics, and for the children even buckets and spades. We visited the library on a cold day, but on sunny days there are lots of people on the beach. We spoke to two young librarians working at the beach library, both very enthusiastic about their work and fond of the idea that the library of course should be where people are, especially when this also is a place for relaxation with books, music and magazines. The feedback from their services at the beach was very good.



Two librarians working at the Beach Library

We also visited the main public library in Copenhagen. The main library and the branch libraries have 3.8 million visitors each year. This puts the

Copenhagen libraries at the top of the list of the most used cultural institutions in the city, together with the famous Tivoli. The public libraries are available free of charge. The main library is situated in a building earlier used as a shopping centre. The slogan for the Copenhagen libraries is "All you could ever imagine". A slogan which certainly gives the employees of the library high aims to reach for.

The last public library I visited was a branch library at Amager – Sundby library. They work very closely with their multicultural users, who get a visit from the library when a new baby is born. The work is in a way similar to the Public Health Centre in Norway, where families are visited regularly. And they have special arrangements for the families and the children as they grow up. The library gives books and other useful games to the families to ensure that the children get a good understanding of the Danish language, and become good readers. After the first visit, the families have to go to the library to receive these gifts. I liked their professional and determined way of working.

I also visited the governmental institution SBCI. The SBCI is situated both in Aarhus and in Copenhagen. In Copenhagen they work mostly with delivering books in different languages to the public libraries. Every year they decide which languages should be focused on. This institution also does a lot of good work, but I thought it was sad to discover that Denmark now buys books in fewer languages than they did earlier.

I must give special thanks to all my Danish colleagues who took

such good care of us during the conference, and a very warm thanks to Susy Tastesen, the local coordinator from Copenhagen public library. The conference was very well organized, we even got special local guides showing us around. The social program in the evening was very nice. As my favourite highlight I have to mention the visit to the beautiful city hall where we were welcomed as important guests by the Mayor of Copenhagen, and were served their speciality, the Danish City Hall pancake for the very first time.

REPORTS FROM IFLA LIBRARY SERVICES TO MULTICULTURAL POPULATIONS' SATELLITE MEETING

**Copenhagen, Denmark
August 16th – 18th 2010**

Libraries in a Multicultural Society – Possibilities for the Future

The following reports are by students participating in the conference with thanks to Axiell who sponsored this. The full reports can be found on the conference website: <http://iflacopenhagen.com/>
Editor: Susy Tastesen

Topic: Indigenous Matters, focus on Greenland

The future of libraries in a modern and self ruling Greenland: Mette Laustsen and Elisa Jeremiassen, Nuuk, Greenland

The First Steps – sketches from a unique project: Martin Appelt,

the Ethnographical Collections, National Museum of Denmark

This topic about indigenous matters was new for me. When we spoke about multiculturalism often we think about newcomers and their integration, but what about the first inhabitants of a territory?

In Greenland, the first public library was opened in 1925. It is quite late, but there is a logical reason: the tradition in Greenland is oral. So, in Nuuk, the public library librarians develop all collections with audio books and traditional tales for children. They work in collaboration with schools.

The second speaker spoke about the Ethnographical Collections of the National Museum of Denmark. These collections include graphic novels, books about art, science... and an ethnological collection. For me, this talk was less interesting than the first one, it is certainly better to visit this museum and the unique project than to hear about it.

For me, this topic reminds us all that it is important to emphasize indigenous traditions so as to encourage new generations and to understand these traditions and share them with other people.

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Keynote speaker Mr. Jens Thorhauge, the Library Director of the Danish Agency for Libraries and Media.

Libraries in a multicultural context- an introduction in the Copenhagen library projects

The first presentation of the Conference "Libraries in a Multicultural Society-Possibilities for the Future" was made by Jens Thorhauge, The Library Director of the Danish Agency for Libraries and Media. Mr. Thorhauge spoke about the challenges of a multicultural society, specifically about the Danish example. He also spoke about the IFLA Multicultural Library Manifesto and the future role of libraries, and about new services that are supportive, proactive and inclusive.

Mr. Thorhauge presented some global challenges like the growing rate of migration, the special needs of refugees, guest workers and regular immigrants. He wondered if the library should have a particular role in reducing the conflict and the social tension that can emerge with cultural and linguistic diversity.

The official policy in Denmark focuses on developing proactive attitudes and programs for inclusion and integration in the Danish labour market and society, on fighting discrimination, offering equal rights for citizens, sustaining programs for active citizenship, respecting cultural minorities and limiting immigration. In every day life however, there is a lot of tension and conflict related to discrimination and immigrants.

In the presentation, the principles and core actions of the IFLA Multicultural Library Manifesto were also discussed. The principles are: to serve all members of the community, to provide appropriate resources, to access a broad range of materials and the staff should

reflect the diversity of the community. The question is: do these principles reflect the future library?

Core actions of the Manifesto are to develop culturally diverse collections, preserve cultural heritage, support user education and information literacy, provide access to library resources in appropriate languages and develop marketing to attract different groups to the library. I saw a very good project named Bookstart - about attracting the users in the library. The library offers books to each newborn in the neighbourhood. Then at 6, 12, 18 months and 3 years of age, additional books are offered to stimulate children's language.

The recommendations suggested for library service development include analyzing the needs of the groups to be served, specifying the services to be offered, creating partnerships with immigrant circles, clubs, churches and spokespersons, hiring immigrants on staff and most importantly marketing the services in the right places.

Mr. Jens Thorhauge presented a summary of the measures that have been used in the Copenhagen libraries to develop services for multicultural communities. I hope the minorities in Romania can benefit from these kinds of projects in libraries soon.

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**Keynote speaker professor
Knut Kjeldstadli, Oslo
University, Norway:
Unity in diversity – the tasks
of libraries**

In my opinion, this theoretical topic was an opportunity for the librarians to consider their profession in depth. The keynote speaker, Professor Knut Kjeldstadli, discussed the different meanings for the concept of nation: cultural nation, nation as territory (political meaning) and multicultural nation. As there are limits to all these concepts, he proposed a creative concept to associate unity and diversity. Namely, a better diversity but with a foundation of unity. The conclusion was enthralling because, according to him, libraries can develop this association between unity and diversity. Indeed, on the one hand libraries can help to become integrated; on the other hand they can educate the majority about diversity. But first, librarians must be educated about multiculturalism.

I think Knut Kjeldstadli presented brilliantly that libraries have a major role to play in building bridges between people. He reminds us that libraries are not only about books, they also serve people. This service to customers and meeting their needs opens libraries to everybody and helps build relations between individuals or groups.

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THIRTY YEARS OF HISTORY FOR OUR SECTION!

Speech planned to be hold at the Satellite Conference in Copenhagen, August 2010 by Benedikte Kragh-Schwarz. Because of Benedikte's illness a shorter speech was given by Susy Tastesen. Benedikte's text is edited by Susy Tastesen. The contributions by former chairs are the full text.

Dear delegates, colleagues and friends,

It is an honour for me to be here in Copenhagen today to talk to you on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the section.

It is a special pleasure for me that the marking of this anniversary takes place exactly here in Copenhagen as the very modest start of the work which eventually turned into the formation of the section actually took off here by two of the founding members, Mr. Miklos Gulyas from Sweden and myself, who at that time was head of the Danish Library for Immigrant Literature now Library Centre for Integration.

In this presentation of the section's history which I have been asked to give here today I will focus on some of the highlights during the years and I will finish off by giving you some words of greetings from some of the former Chairs of the Section who have all contributed heavily to the accomplishments and success of the section during the years.

So why was it that the very first meetings actually took place here in Copenhagen?

In 1980 Miklos Gulyas and I were appointed to form a working group under the wings of the Public Library Section, together with Mrs. Marie Zielinska from the Multilingual Biblioservice at the National Library of Canada in Ottawa. Mrs. Zielinska was in fact one of the driving forces in submitting a resolution to IFLA in 1979 to establish a formal group focusing on services to ethnic and linguistic minorities, (which was the term used at that time). The submission was supported by the chair of the Division of Libraries serving the General Public, who was then the vice chief librarian of the Danish public library of Gentofte, Mr. Johannes Daugbjerg. He was also the chair of the Public Library section, and thanks to this support the formation of the new body was approved by the Professional Board in the spring 1980. At the same time the group was given some very specific goals to be reached within a 3 year period. The primary goal was to: create a forum for collecting and exchanging information on multicultural issues, through a network of professionals, publications, meetings and – what was much wanted – by creating a clearinghouse.

Due to this abovementioned "Danish connection" Mr. Daugbjerg, the two Scandinavians in the group, Mr Gulyas and I were asked to establish the first contacts in the working group and to get the work started. The full group of the 3 of us did not meet in person until the next IFLA conference in Leipzig the next year. Here we established the group more formally with Mrs Zielinska as chair and me as secretary.

Very soon after this we had more corresponding members attached to the group to get a broader global coverage. Among others it was from Australia Professor Mrs. Radha Rasmussen, Monash University and Mr. Michael Foster from The Commonwealth Institute in London.

Our first open meeting took place at the following year's IFLA conference in Montreal, Canada and was very successful with close to 150 participants. This was early evidence for us - and to IFLA - that there was a real need for international cooperation and sharing of information and that a formal body within IFLA was the right forum. After these first 3 trial years, the group was transformed into a Round Table. Then after 3 years more and further proof the group was needed, (such as a mailing list of 170 names and 500 subscribers for our more than 50 pages quarterly newsletter and a very successful satellite meeting in 1986), the Round Table was converted into this Section.

The mission of the section was right from the beginning to serve as an international forum for exchanging information concerning the development of multilingual and multicultural services. To meet this, we established the following ways of communicating which have proved sustainable:

- The publishing of a newsletter
- Production of a variety of publications such as handbooks, proceedings from the satellite meetings, and guidelines on library services to multicultural communities – the latest revision was just endorsed by the section last year. The latest and by far

the most important publication: The IFLA Multicultural Library Manifesto was just successfully endorsed by UNESCO this past fall and is hereby an official UNESCO publication.

- And last but not least the Section organizes sessions during the General Conference and pre- or post-/ satellite meetings – these have most often been organized in partnerships with other IFLA groups. This kind of cooperation has always been seen as most essential to ensure that the multiculturalism is constantly seen as an integral part of any full range library and information services and not just something for a small group of specialists.

These three means of communication and information sharing have formed the basis for the section throughout the years. Here today I will just highlight a few of all these activities.

In 1986 when we were still a Round Table we organized the first ever library seminar on **automated systems for access to multilingual and multi-script library materials: problems and solutions** jointly with the section for Information Technology. It brought to light the importance of cooperation in the design of automated systems, it gave an overview of the present state of the art, and the necessity of developing internationally recognized standards for transliteration of non-Roman scripts.

This very first satellite meeting in Tokyo demonstrated clearly how profitable such meetings are. They allow local librarians to

meet colleagues from all over the world, get new ideas and establish valuable contacts. The international participants on the other hand have a chance to familiarize themselves with different countries and the set-up of local, ethno linguistic communities and their special needs and interests, and to visit local libraries. So you see already here in 1986 the scheme for the future satellite meetings was laid out and it has been followed more or less since.

Another important aspect of this seminar was as I mentioned that this was the first ever seminar with the focus on automated multilingual library systems and due to the partnership with the Information Technology Section, we saw after the seminar important progress and developments happen and we saw that new initiatives within the multilingual Information Technology were taken which might not have happened if we had been the sole organizers.

The impact the seminar had in Japan should not be underestimated. Had there not been a specific focus on multicultural/multilingual library services – one could say almost on the contrary - but the Round Table activities - both the seminar and the meetings organized during the General Conference brought this view on library service to light in Japan and ever since we have constantly had active and devoted Japanese representatives backing the sections work in the Standing Committee.

The fruitful and successful partnership with the IT section was continued with a follow up seminar in Madrid in 1993. The main focus of this seminar was

to review developments in technology and systems which handle and interface with non-Roman scripts, to evaluate progress in the field since the Tokyo satellite meeting and to identify areas requiring further work and international cooperation. And again we saw things move afterwards due to the seminar's focus on the subject.

The section has organized an array of satellite meetings throughout the years. It has been great to meet with all these active and engaged colleagues from around the world who have wanted to share their ideas and visions, knowledge and experiences, and by which I could be both inspired and challenged, and with whom I could discuss and learn from their best practice and new developments.

It has indeed been valuable both professionally and personally.

To day I will just mention two of these many seminars which I remember with a special warm feeling and thankfulness toward the local organizers - the satellite meetings in Riga, Latvia in 1991 and in Cuba in 1994. Here I will not focus on the professional outcome but on the more interpersonal side. Both meetings were held when these countries were facing very difficult times but despite this, in both places, we were met by the local organizers and the local participants with such an openness and welcoming warmth and hospitality – the human strength shown here is particularly what remains in my memory when looking back.

“A road map for the libraries of the 21st century” - this is how the latest and by far the most

successful accomplishment of the section, the document: *The Multicultural Library Manifesto – “The Multicultural Library – a gateway to a culturally diverse society in dialogue”* was the way one of the delegates at the UNESCO meeting described the Manifesto.

It was also noted during this UNESCO session that the Manifesto is in line with both the principles of UNESCO's Declaration on Cultural Diversity and those of the WSIS Declaration (World Summit of the Information Society).

The overriding view at this UNESCO meeting was that the Manifesto could serve as a tool for guiding policies in this area and that the UNESCO backing will give it great impetus. This is really a great and important result for the section and everybody who has been involved with this process should be very proud.

The road to this endorsement was indeed complicated and required a great deal of effort from all – Standing Committee members of the Library Services to Multicultural Populations section, but also from many other IFLA members but here I will take the liberty to point to especially one colleague, the former chair of the section Kirsten Leth Nielsen from Norway who constantly through these years kept working enthusiastically, effectively and engaged to reach this result both during her time as chair but also continuing the work after she had finished her term as chair of the section.

And I therefore will finish this talk here today by giving you anniversary greetings first from Kirsten Leth Nielsen. This will

be followed by greetings from Charles Townley from USA, chair of the section in the early 90's (1991 - 1993) and from Stan Skrzyszewski Canada, chair in the mid 90's (1993 – 1995) and I will finish off with greetings from the “mother” of the section Mrs. Marie F. Zielinska who chaired the first years up to 1985 and again from 1989 – 1991.

Greetings form Kirsten Leth Nielsen, former chair of Section for Library Services to Multicultural Populations:

Dear participants of the satellite meeting: Libraries in a Multicultural Society – Possibilities for the future and - dear all IFLA committee members of the section.

The Multicultural library is the library for the future, and library services in a multicultural context are essential for a positive development worldwide. Why? The 21st century is the century of globalization. People are travelling all around the world, and a great number of people have a trans-national personality. A person might grow up in one country, get her education in another, and get her first job in a third country. At the same time her family is spread all over the world. She has her roots in the world – not in one country. Migration is also increasing. People from poor areas try to find better living conditions in richer countries. Others are fleeing from persecution due to political attitudes and work. The globalization of the world is accelerating at such high speed that most of us have difficulties catching up.

This development has many bright elements! One of them is diversity. To me, the first and foremost resource in the world society is diversity. And among all the varieties of diversity, cultural and linguistic diversity is at the top of the list. Cultural and linguistic diversity inspire creativity and makes the world go round! But unfortunately - the development also has its dark sides. Never before has the distance between people been so small, yet so huge. Never before have cultures and languages been under such pressure and been so threatened, and never before have these pressures and threats loomed so large and been so frightening. Global warming is not the only destructive element threatening our world. The narrowing of languages and cultural identities is every bit as threatening to our human and cultural diversity – a diversity that is of at least as much importance for creativity and growth as our natural resources and climate are.

As centres for culture, information, learning and meeting, libraries have the possibility to be active initiators in a positive process of development. Collections and services in libraries that contribute to an understanding of both majority and minority groups in society are part of the foundation of the Multicultural Library. And - one of the library's most important roles is to contribute to the preservation of linguistic and cultural expression, in order to make the world's cultural and linguistic diversity available to future generations. Libraries offer services that include everyone, regardless of social status, skin colour, or religious belief. As a value-neutral arena for learning,

where access to uncensored information and cultural expression is the foundation on which services are based, libraries have a unique position.

As professionals with education and expertise in library and information services, we have a professional, social and moral responsibility for global development. We have the knowledge and insight needed to change development in the right direction. With the "IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto", we are a step further. We have a document we can use in a very real, practical way, to effect change.

I wish you an interesting and productive conference, and I wish you well in your work implementing and addressing the issues in the Manifesto.

Best regards,
Kirsten

Charles Townley:

***Greetings to my IFLA
Colleagues in the Multi-
Cultural Section!***

Congratulations on attaining the mature age of 30! The Section and its participating members are doing important work to assure library and information and access to all everywhere in the world. Your leadership is especially critical in a time where competition for resources is great and where some governments seem reluctant to provide universal access. As a mature Section, I urge you to apply your gravitas in ways that result in not only the maintenance of Section initiatives, but their advancement as well. And as you advance, always remember to share and

celebrate your victories! Enjoy the best of good fortune in the future!

Charles Townley, Chair
Section on Multicultural Library
Services
1991-1993

Stan Skrzyszewski:

***To the Members of the Section
on Library Services to
Multicultural Populations:***

As a former chair, it is with great pleasure that I send greetings to the annual meeting of the section on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the section. During these thirty years the section has done a great deal of very good work in promoting the need for services to multicultural populations and in identifying how these services should best be delivered. The standards which the section developed and the many conference sessions held over the years have been invaluable in establishing this library service in many places.

When Benedikte contacted me, she asked me to say a few words about my time as Chair. That was quite a while ago, so what I will mention instead are some of my best memories of my time with the section.

First, there was the pre-conference in Trinidad, Cuba where we explored mobile library services. We had a great time doing sequential translations for the benefit of the many Cuban librarians who attended. Robert Pestell was one of the organizers and I see he is still a member of the Executive – Greetings Robert!

Second, I remember fondly speaking to the Indians in New

Delhi, about library services to Indians in North America and even teaching them a few Indian words. How often does that happen?

Thirdly, was the opportunity to speak in Istanbul about library services to Turkish populations in Canada. I also took the opportunity to thank our Turkish hosts on behalf of Poles everywhere for being the only country not to recognize the disappearance of Poland off the map of Europe in the 1800s. I have to mention going in search of Polonezkoi with Marie and Jan Zielenska. Polonezkoi is a small Polish settlement outside of Istanbul.

Finally, there was a wonderful pre-conference in Aarhus, Denmark where they served beer during breaks. At the same time we had the opportunity to visit Benedikte at her home and spend some time with her and her family. Thank you, Benedikte!

There were more wonderful experiences, but when it comes right down to it, it was the opportunity to meet people from around the globe in places I might never have visited except for the call of the section.

Thank you and Congratulations on the first thirty years. I wish you many more!

Stan Skrzyszewski
Past-Chair, Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations
Port Dalhousie, Ontario, Canada
(stan23@cogeco.ca)

Marie F. Zielinska

A word from Marie Zielinska

Dear friends and colleagues,

I was overwhelmed, when my old friend Benedikte Kragh-Schwarz asked me to write a few words for the 30th anniversary of the Section of Library Services to Multicultural Populations. I was immediately inundated with vivid recollections of the humble beginnings and the growth and successes achieved over the years.

Although not a new idea, the interest in library services to linguistic minorities started to grow only after the Second World War and became in the seventies one of the most prominent and debated issues in librarianship. Despite this expansion in interest, the number of librarians involved in the field remained rather restricted. Some of them met personally during the IFLA Conference in Brussels and agreed that a more formal body within IFLA was needed to provide an efficient channel for sharing information, comparison of experiences and exchange of publications.

In August 1979 at an IFLA Pre-Session Seminar Jes Petersen, Library Advisor to the Danish State Inspection of Public Libraries appealed to the participants to submit a resolution requesting the formation within IFLA of a formal body concerned with services to ethnic and linguistic minorities. The appeal fell on fertile ground, the resolution was prepared and got the support of the chairman of the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public Johannes Daubjerg.

In April 1980 the Professional Board, approved the formation, under the wing of the Public Libraries Section, of a working group on Library Services to ethnic and linguistic minorities. The Group consisted of four people, but one never showed up. The three working members were: Benedikte Kragh-Schwarz (secretary), Miklos Gulyas from the Statens Kulturråd in Stockholm and me as chair. During the three year mandate a final report was to be presented at the IFLA conference in Munich. We received SPECIFIC goals to achieve, but the work was not easy without any financial resources for meeting between the IFLA conferences nor email was available at this time for speedy communication. There are however no barriers for enthusiasts who believe in their cause!

We co-opted two very knowledgeable librarians, Professor Radha Rasmussen from the Monash University in Sydney, Australia and Michael Foster, librarian at the Commonwealth Institute in London, England, and organized a group of corresponding members. It became obvious pretty soon that a more permanent body was needed to tackle all problems and provide a stable leadership in the field.

In 1983 the Working Group was given the status of a Round Table and in 1986 IFLA Professional Board changed it to that of a section in recognition of the Round Table's achievements. The new section was named Section of Library Services to Ethnocultural Populations and Michael Foster was elected as its first chairman. From then on, the road was open for further growth, development, cooperation with

the majority of other IFLA sections and the persuasion of library managements that serving the linguistic minorities in their catchments is their duty.

Although I can be with you today in spirit only I hope that you will have a great time at the seminar. I was, and always will be proud for having had the opportunity to participate actively in the conception of the Section of Library Services to Multicultural Populations and that I could be an active participant for twenty years on the council. Enjoy its 30th birthday wholeheartedly! All the best to all of you!

NEW ACTION PLAN

By: *Mijin Kim*

The IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations has a new Action Plan for 2011-2012. We have a new format for our plans this year which closely align with IFLA's new Strategic Plan.

IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section 32

Action Plan 2011-2012

IFLA Strategic Direction #1:

Empowering libraries to enable their user communities to have equitable access to information.

Section 32 Activities:

- Advance the work of the Section including its key current activities of promoting the *IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto* and *Multicultural*

Communities: Guidelines for Library Services through the Section's website and newsletter.

- Promote the work of IFLA and the section by holding conference sessions, poster sessions, Satellite and other meetings throughout the year.
- Support the work of the Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters including support for the SIG's outreach plan.

IFLA Strategic Direction #2:

Building the strategic capacity of IFLA and that of its members.

Section 32 Activities:

- Publish a new brochure promoting the work of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations.
- Continue with the section's campaign to increase membership to IFLA and the section through active recruitment by all members and the section's Recruitment Officer.
- Hold a midyear meeting each year (Seville, Spain, 2010, Alexandria, Egypt, 2011) which includes a significant amount of outreach activities to libraries and librarians in the region.
- Raise the awareness of the IFLA SIG on Indigenous Matters within communities serving Indigenous peoples.
- Secure the status of the Special Interest Group as a full IFLA Section by 2012/13 by ensuring a strong and stable membership base.

IFLA Strategic Direction #3:

Transforming the profile and the standing of the profession.

Section 32 Activities:

- Develop a marketing and distribution strategy for the newly revised 3rd edition of *Multicultural Communities: Guidelines for Library Services*.
- Revise and publish the Section's *Recruitment Strategy for Multicultural Libraries*.
- Conduct and publish research on the Indigenous library services.
- Promote awareness of relevant policy documents impacting Indigenous library services.

IFLA Strategic Direction #4:

Representing the interests of IFLA's members and their users throughout the world.

Section 32 Activities:

- Work with IFLA HQ and UNESCO to develop training tools and workshops regarding the *IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto*.
- Further promote and increase access to the *IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto*.
- Work closely with the Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters as it defines the role of IFLA with regards to the needs of Indigenous populations in a global context.

Further information on the section's plan and IFLA's Strategic Directions can be found on the IFLA website: www.ifla.org

**LIBRARY SERVICES TO
MULTICULTURAL
POPULATIONS:
30th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

By: *Tess Tobin and Fred Gitner*

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations, the section is hosting a New York City Library Study Tour from Sunday evening, August 21, 2011 through Tuesday, August 23, 2011, following the 2011 IFLA General Conference in Puerto Rico.

The group will visit libraries in the Metropolitan New York City Area including Queens Library's International Resource Center @ Flushing, Brooklyn Public Library's Multilingual Center, New York Public Library's Bronx Library Center, the United Nations Library, NYPL's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Columbia University's C.V. Starr East Asian Library.

To satisfy the gourmets among us, there will be a Welcome dinner on Sunday evening, a Chinese lunch in Flushing, a possible lunch at the UN Delegates Dining Room, and a special dinner on Monday evening celebrating the 30 year history of the section. Tuesday evening will be left free for you to attend a Broadway Show, if you wish. Come join us for a fun few days with time to explore libraries in NYC and to celebrate the work and spirit of the section. Invitations will be sent to all past members along with current members. For further information, please contact planning committee members, Fred Gitner, Yasuko Hirata or

Tess Tobin at the following email addresses:
Fred.J.Gitner@queenslibrary.org
YHirata.yasuko@gmail.com OR
ttobin@citytech.cuny.edu.

**THE 96th ALL-JAPAN
LIBRARY CONFERENCE:
ONE-DAY SESSION ON
MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY
SERVICES**

By: *Yasuko Hirata*

The 96th All-Japan Library Conference of 2010 was held in Nara-city from September 16th to 17th. The year of 2010 is very special for people in Nara and for library communities in Japan. Nara was settled as the capital of Japan in 710 and continued to function as its capital until 784. Local governments and the people of Nara have been celebrating the 1,300th anniversary since the beginning of 2010. In addition, it has been 60 years since the Library Law was issued in 1950.

At the Conference, there were more than 1,000 participants, including delegates from the Korean Library Association. In total, 16 sessions were held at several venues, such as universities and the prefectural library, followed by the general assembly.

The Japan Library Association Committee on Multicultural Library Services planned a one-day session with four presentations. The first speaker talked about the situation and practices at Echigawa Public Library, a local library in Aishocho, in Shiga prefecture. Aishocho has almost 20,000 residents, including more than

1,000 people from Brazil and China. The library has provided multilingual collections for these people. Because of the economic slump, minority people have been in a very difficult situation. The library needs to provide many services to them.

The second presentation was about the library services to culturally diverse children in Yokohama. Speakers were from the Yokohama Library Friends, which has developed multicultural and multilingual services for children. In cooperation with public libraries in Yokohama, they have implemented various programs, such as library visits, exhibitions, and book talks for children.

I was the third speaker and talked about the activities of IFLA section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations. Last year, our section made tremendous achievements, receiving UNESCO's approval of the IFLA Multicultural Library Manifesto and the publication of new guidelines. With regard to the new guidelines, I described the major differences from the previous edition. A rough translation into Japanese has been already made; hopefully, it will be completed early next year at the latest.



The last speaker was Mr. Joel Assogba, who is an African-Canadian and a writer of picture books. He is married to a

Japanese woman and has lived in Chikugo-city, Fukuoka prefecture since 1994. He talked about his life and experiences in Japan. He stressed the importance of diversity, coexistence and communication, which he thought was unfamiliar to many Japanese. His speech made a deep impression on the audience.



Our session consisted of various speakers, a librarian, library volunteers, an IFLA section committee member, and a minority resident. That made the session a great success.

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 77TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

By: *Steve Stratton*

As everyone knows this coming August we are going to be meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico for the 77th General Conference meetings. The overall theme of the meeting will be “Libraries beyond Libraries: Integration, Innovation and Information for All”.

Our section will be hosting a joint program in San Juan with the Information Literacy Section as well as the SIG on Indigenous Matters. The theme of the session is *The Importance of*

Information Literacy for Multicultural Populations: Needs, Strategies, Programs and the Role of Libraries. Tess Tobin, Lorienne Roy, and I have been working with a group from the Information Literacy Section to develop the request for proposal and the full call for papers can be found on our Website.

The joint work group for the session thought this topic fit well with the overall conference theme as well as each of our Sections goals. Some of the issues we hope to see addressed as we receive proposals include; How do we identify the needs of multicultural population in the field of the information literacy? How can librarians, through information literacy programs, help develop understanding and tolerance for cultural diversity? How have you overcome obstacles to introducing information literacy strategies among culturally diverse societies? What are the benefits of offering information literacy programs to diverse populations and which strategies have worked best in your library? What unique or interesting ways have libraries reached out to diverse communities to provide information literacy? The working group is hopeful that we will receive many proposals from a variety of libraries working to meet the information needs of many different types of people in many different settings.

Proposals were due on January 25, 2011. For more information please contact Stephen Stratton (stephen.stratton@csuci.edu) or Zuza Wiorogórska from the Literacy Section (z.d.wiorogorska@uw.edu.pl)

THE IFLA SECTION “LIBRARY SERVICES TO MULTICULTURAL POPULATIONS” NOMINATIONS

The standing committee already has members from the following countries:

Australia
Canada
Denmark
Germany
Japan
Norway
Russia
Sweden
Spain
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States of America

Some members have to leave us in August 2011 – partly because they have served two terms (eight years in total) and partly because further commitment does not fit into their life plans.

The Standing Committee provides the opportunity to get to know people from different parts of the world, to discuss topics relevant to you and find solutions relevant to all.

Standing Committee members have to bring their own budget ... or your national library associations's budget ... and/or funding from sponsors. Neither IFLA in total nor the section nor the standing committee are able to fund members.

Members are expected to attend not only the annual congresses every August (2011 Puerto Rico, 2012 Helsinki, 2013 and ff to be announced), but also our midterm meetings (2012 Alexandria, 2013 and ff to be decided by the standing committee).

The application deadline to IFLA
HQ Section Nominations was
February 9th, 2011.

If you have questions, please
contact: Mijin Kim or Volker
Pirsich.

Standing Committee Members of IFLA Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section 2011

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