



**International Federation of Library Associations  
and Institutions**

**Library Services to People with Special Needs  
Section**

# NEWSLETTER

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## Contents

Editorial . . . . .	1
IFLA Conference: preview . . . . .	2
Article	
The ultimate place for a cultural centre . . . . .	3
News	
Libraries and Autism . . . . .	5
UK JISC TechDis Award . . . . .	6
CLA Licence to Help People with Print Disabilities . . . . .	6
LSDP Standing Committee . . . . .	7

## Editorial

In this issue of the Newsletter we look forward to the 76<sup>th</sup> World Library and Information Congress and IFLA General Conference and Council in Gothenburg, Sweden. Library Services to People with Special Needs Section is holding a joint session with Libraries Serving People with Print Disabilities entitled, "The right to read" - How to include excluded citizens in the knowledge society? See page 2 for more information about our Section's contribution to the main Conference and also information about a pre-conference event being held in Oslo, Norway.

Following this pre-conference event, there is an opportunity to visit three different libraries of relevance to LSN members, *en route* to Gothenburg. One of these is BUS children's library at Queen Silvias Hospital, Gothenburg. The staff in this library are involved in an impressive range of art and music therapy activities throughout the hospital, building on an excellent partnership between Sahlgrenska University Hospital and the Regional Library of Västra Götaland. Read Librarian, Karin Graube's article in this issue for more information (pp.3-5).

IFLA - LSN, Library Services to People with Special Needs now has a page on Facebook! Please add this page to your "favourites" if you have a Facebook account or visit the site for up to date news about this group.

Margaret E S Forrest, Editor

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## IFLA Conference Preview



World Library and Information  
Congress: 76<sup>th</sup> IFLA General  
Conference and Council

*"Open access to knowledge -  
promoting sustainable progress"*

10-15 August 2010  
Gothenburg, Sweden

This year the LSN Section is holding a joint session with Libraries Serving People with Print Disabilities in Congress Track 1: Open access and digital resources. The session will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August and is entitled, "The right to read" - How to include excluded citizens in the knowledge society?

The full text of a number of the presentations will be available from the IFLA Conference website at <http://www.ifla.org/en/conferences-session-day/2010-08-13>

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## IFLA Pre-Conference Programme

What is reading? Why is it important to secure the right for all to access knowledge and information and to active participation? This pre-conference event is on libraries as driving forces to promote reading for all - about IFLA's role in advocacy for building a global library, about DAISY, Easy-to-read and new technology - and much more!

Read more about the pre-conference here:

<http://www.abm-utvikling.no/bibliotek/ifla-pre-conference-programme.html>

- and note that new deadline for registering is 1<sup>st</sup> July.

On Monday we offer bus transport from Oslo to Gothenburg - and invite you to visit three different library on the way:

- Halden new prison library, Norway
- BUS children's library at Queen Silvias Hospital, Gothenburg
- Torshov Public Library in Oslo - "The accessible library"

The number of participants for these visits is limited, so please register as soon as possible!

Also note that the International Easy-to-read network will arrange their annual meeting in Oslo Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August, which provides a great opportunity of combining the two events!

## Articles

### The ultimate place for a cultural centre

Karin Graube, Librarian  
BUS-biblioteket, Queen Silvia  
Hospital for Children and Young  
People, Gothenburg

The BUS-library is a hospital library for children and young people and their relatives. It is situated at the Queen Silvia Hospital for Children and Young People in Gothenburg. It is the largest children's hospital of northern Europe and every day there are 550 children with their parents in the hospital. Some of them are staying there for weeks and months and some are there only during the daytime. These patients and hospital visitors have an opportunity to experience something more and something different from the present focus on illness and medical treatment.



Art in the entrance hall

Within the hospital, the library is situated beside the play therapy area and the hospital school. This clinical-free zone is very different from the rest of the hospital environment and functions as a window to the world outside: a meeting place with close

relations both to the hospital and to the cultural life and society outside. The library functions as a driver for change, providing the hospital patients and their families with a wide programme of cultural activities. Inspiring and imaginative worlds are being created all over the hospital - in the entrance hall, in the waiting rooms and wards, outside and inside the elevators, in the garden and wherever possible.

Through the library service this hospital has a link to the cultural life of the City of Gothenburg and the Region of Västra Götaland. Everything that is going on in town could also take place in the hospital. In fact the great institutions of arts and culture in the region, like the museums, theatres, opera, ballet, symphonic orchestra, film festivals, academy of music are now regarding this hospital as one of their natural stages. Performances and workshops are being planned and especially designed to fit the hospital's way of working. The library also has built up its own "stable" of art workers, who are coming on a regular basis to do workshops and different cultural activities, often in a drop-in form for the children and young people who are isolated in nursing rooms. The hospital now even has an artist dressing room, filled with stage light equipment, audience tip-up chairs and other useful props.

During the last week in May this year the art programme included the opening of a photo exhibition in the library and play therapy area as well as many other events: an art

workshop for young people in the psychiatric ward; two days of dancing rounds with “the dancing doctors” in the wards; an art workshop with children’s book illustrators in the play therapy area; an art workshop in the anorexic ward; an actor telling African stories in the wards; a drop-in music day in the rehabilitation centre; a children’s book writer meeting in the library; a music studio workshop day with a studio musician; a carpentry workshop day in the garden.

The original idea behind the cultural centre in the hospital developed from events in the library and an art project called BUSKUL! which took place 2005-2008. The project was developed in partnership between the Sahlgrenska University Hospital and the Regional Library of Västra Götaland and aimed at giving access to cultural programmes and different kinds of media for all children and young people in every unit of the Sahlgrenska University Hospital. This was a programme of making books, other media and different kinds of cultural interventions, an integrated part of nursing care and rehabilitation for young patients. It developed new methods, new technology and new ways of cooperation both from the regional and national perspective. As a theoretical background United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Aaron Antonovsky’s theory of SOC (sense of coherence) were used. This creative project showed among other things how art can become a part of hospital treatment for children and young people, how cooperation on many

different levels can lead to new working methods and sustainable networks. It also puts more emphasis on the importance of individual ideas and beliefs of children and young people and how a hospital library can be a meeting place for cultural action and art.



Music therapist in Physiotherapy

Two years after the project has ended much of the project is still running with the energy and enthusiasm of many people. The hospital staff have become accustomed to the art events, cultural activities are now known and visible and in demand. Nursing staff make plans for nursing treatment that fit into the cultural programme. When making plans for a new hospital building, the medical staff intend to ensure that building plans for cultural activities are integrated from the very beginning. The new interdisciplinary research centre for culture and health at the University of Gothenburg have shown an interest in researching the benefits of the programmes. Positive research results could be very important in securing financial support to continue these cultural activities

which are in competition for funding with clinical therapy.

Cultural activity has a value itself, but in the hospital context it can provide a more holistic approach in supporting individuals. Cultural and arts activities help to inspire hope, imagination, play, joy, amusement, breathing-space, meaning, identity, empowerment and creativity. Does this art lead to a better hospital treatment? The answer to that question is definitely yes, as hospital staff focus on the holistic “whole-person” approach to healthcare.

### Notes

The Queen Silvia Hospital is a part of the Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

The acronym BUSKUL! stands for library and culture in the hospital environment, but the word “buskul” is also a children’s word for “great fun”.

The BUS-library was awarded “Library of the Year” in 2009.

More information about the every day activities on the BUS-library’s website:  
<http://www.sahlgrenska.se/busbibliotek>

Contact the library:  
[barnochungdomsbibl.su@vgregion.se](mailto:barnochungdomsbibl.su@vgregion.se)

## News



### Libraries and Autism

If your library is planning special needs programming for autistic children you may want to check out [Libraries and Autism, We're Connected](#), a joint library project by two New Jersey public libraries, Scotch Plains Public Library and Fanwood Memorial Library.

The web site contains resources to help library staff provide good customer service to individuals with autism and their families. The website includes a training video that focuses on what you need to know about autism, press releases to be used to advertise a library’s autism-friendliness, book lists, links to sites that can help librarians become more educated about autism and other disability issues, tip sheets and resources for families dealing with autism.

Free non-commercial use of any of these materials is permitted and encouraged to support autism awareness.

Website:  
<http://www.thejointlibrary.org/autism/index.htm>

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## UK JISC TechDis Award

A leading publisher has won the first ever JISC TechDis award to highlight those publishers that are improving their business processes to make resources more accessible to disabled people.

Elsevier, publisher of science and health information, was announced as the winner of the award, presented at the London Bookfair on Wednesday 21 April 2010, while publishers Palgrave Macmillan and Sage were both highly commended.

Making e-books more accessible, training technical and production teams in disability issues and streamlining the enquiries process are all ways that publishers are moving to support disabled people.

The awards were thought up by Alistair McNaught, JISC TechDis senior adviser. He comments, "Putting the spotlight on accessibility benefits everyone and now, thanks to the awards, we've created a kind of community of practice where publishers are learning from each other."

Librarians are asked to nominate publishers for this new award to highlight those organisations that by responding professionally to accessibility requests, bring significant benefits to disabled

learners. Nominate a publisher for a Library Service award by 3 September 2010. Online questionnaire: <http://tinyurl.com/y8hw9ls>

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## UK CLA Introduces New Licence to Help People with Print Disabilities

The Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) has launched a new 'Print Disability Licence'. This free licence allows organisations to reproduce copyright works in a format accessible to people with print disabilities, such as large print, braille or audiobooks, and circulate them to people with print disabilities in the community.

The licence has been upgraded to reflect a recent widening of the definitions of print disability to include not just those people who have a visual impairment but also those with another disability that prevents them from reading books as easily as others. The definitions now include dyslexic readers following a request by the industry's Accessibility Action Group and the Right to Read Alliance.

The licence is being issued to all of CLA's existing 'VIP Licence' customers and will be in use with immediate effect. For more information about the new licence or the work of the CLA, please contact [pr@cla.co.uk](mailto:pr@cla.co.uk)

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/2wptru7>

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