First MLAS workshop a success
Janet Lachance, MLAS Chair

I’m happy to report that the MLAS workshop, “Library Associations Driving Access to Knowledge: Models, Management and Advocacy”, was a total success.

The workshop, held on 17 February in Stellenbosch, South Africa, was attended by more than 70 people and was well received by everyone.

MLAS members decided to conduct this workshop to take advantage of the unique circumstances surrounding its annual mid-year meeting. Holding the MLAS meeting in conjunction with IFLA President Ellen Tise’s meeting gave MLAS the opportunity to support her efforts and theme as well as provide access to a group of Africa’s library association representatives who were interested in discussing advocacy and association governance and management in a workshop format. This opportunity looked even more attractive when we learned that IFLA’s Africa Region was meeting earlier that same week.

The workshop was designed to be interactive and to explore issues such as how the Africa library associations could support and advance President Tise’s theme of “Knowing is Not Enough: Engaging in the Knowledge Economy,” how to move a library association forward, and how other library associations around the world are achieving success. As with most things, the workshop’s success resulted from the collaboration and dedication of numerous individuals and organizations and countless hours of behind-the-scenes work.

Sponsorships from Scandinavian Library Associations

Once we agreed that we wanted to conduct the workshop, we began working to ensure that those who would be attending the Africa region meeting could remain and others who would not be in the area could attend. Several MLAS members from the Nordic countries had initially conceived of creating such a workshop and directly supported it by providing sponsorships for a number of individuals to attend. The Finnish Library Association sponsored a librarian from the Namibian Information Workers Association, the Swedish Library Association sponsored two individuals from the Kenyan Library Association, and the Norwegian Library Association sponsored an individual from the Malawi Library Association.

(Continued on page 2)
First MLAS workshop a success

Support from IFLA

Next, MLAS made a special request for support from the IFLA Professional Committee. We explained that MLAS had developed a workshop specifically supporting Ellen Tise’s Stellenbosch Symposium/IFLA Presidential Meeting 2010 theme, “Knowing is Not Enough: Engaging in the Knowledge Economy,” and that it was being conducted in connection with the IFLA Africa Section meeting, the IFLA Presidential Meeting, and the MLAS Mid-term Meeting.

It was not a small request—we asked for funding of up to €3,000 to help cover the cost of two nights’ hotel and meeting expenses to ensure that all individuals attending the IFLA African Section meeting could stay for the MLAS workshop. But the request was solid, as the purpose of the workshop was to introduce attendees to different association management models and teach them how to develop strategies and advocacy plans that are measurable and achievable within the various African norms and systems. The Professional Committee approved the request quickly and efficiently, enabling many Africa Section members to remain and participate in the symposium in Stellenbosch. A special thanks also goes to Lindy Nhlapo, the IFLA Regional Manager for Africa, for doing a fantastic job of managing and making all the arrangements for the attendees who were sponsored by the IFLA grant.

Sponsorship and support by LIASA

But there were still many considerations that needed to be addressed. Where and how would this workshop take place? Who would book hotel rooms, arrange for transportation to and from airports, and work out dozens of other logistical issues, from meeting space to afternoon tea breaks? And how would we pay for all these things?

Enter the Library and Information Society of South Africa (LIASA). From identifying hotel and meeting space and coordinating meals to photocopying and delivering the meeting agenda, LIASA was there to do it all—and paid for it as well. MLAS is greatly indebted to, and thankful for, the hard work and financial support of our friends, partners and colleagues at LIASA.

(Continued on page 3)
First MLAS workshop a success (continued from page 2)

In the end, the workshop included presentations and panel and roundtable discussions on building strong library associations, the importance of global communication and cooperation, association models, association management, and advocacy. Highlights included an opening address by Ellen Tise, a presentation by Rachel More on how LIASA is promoting the theme of “Engaging in the Knowledge Economy” and being an example for other African associations, and a keynote speech by Jennefer Nicholson on IFLA’s Building Strong Library Associations Project, advocacy efforts, and the importance of global communication and cooperation. Panel discussions and roundtables focused on different library association models and how they are organized, which included presentations by Inga Lunden of the Swedish Library Association on public and research libraries and by Sinikka Sipilä of the Finnish Library Association with a public library focus. Hellen Niegaard of the Danish Library Association spoke on the Danish model to advocate on libraries. Keith Fiels of the American Library Association, Silvia Stasselová of the Slovak Librarians Association, and Tore Kr. Andersen of the Norwegian Library Association all spoke about different library association models and how they are organized.

All in all, this was truly an international event of which IFLA can and should be proud, and a wonderful collaboration for MLAS.

For more photos from the MLAS workshop see page 9, and the Picassa web album here

Key dates and times for Gothenburg

10th August
08:00-17:30: MLAS Standing Committee Meeting I
18:00-19:00: Regional Caucus sessions

12th August
09:00-17:00: MLAS main sessions. Congress track 2, Policy, strategy and advocacy; Towards national library strategy; Opening up access to research.

13th August
09:30-12:45: President-Elect planning session
13:45-18:30: Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group
16:00-18:00: IFLA Meeting with National Association members

14th August
09:45-11:15: MLAS Standing Committee Meeting II
16:15-18:00: General Assembly. Please remember to bring your voting papers. Association members, presidents and observers all welcome!
The Global Librarian
Satellite meeting 9 August 2010

MLAS and the New Professionals Special Interest Group kindly invite you to “The Global Librarian”!

This satellite meeting will be hosted by the Swedish School of Library and Information Science in Borås, Sweden, on 9 August 2010. The conference will start at 8:30 a.m. with registration, and will end at 4:30 p.m. with a networking session.

New librarians are positioning themselves as library leaders in academia, libraries, and professional associations. This event aims to address key themes and leading trends to provide library services while changing attitudes and expectations on the way.

The conference organizing committee wishes to showcase examples of best practice in how to develop new leaders, services, and inclusion of new professionals in decision-making processes through both research based scholarly presentations and experiential and practical stories of success and lessons learned. Key themes and issues:

- How to internationalize careers
- New librarian paradigm
- Mobile librarian
- Real-time librarian
- Advocating for library associations to include new professionals in their agenda

Further information about the conference can be found under http://npsig.wordpress.com/the-global-librarian/

See you in Borås!

Standing Committee elections—coming soon!

Calls for expressions of interest for various IFLA Standing Committees will be going out later this year.

Association Managers are encouraged to invite their members to participate in IFLA Standing Committees—it’s one of the best ways to contribute to the work of IFLA, and provides unbeatable international professional networking.

For information on serving on Standing Committees see http://www.ifla.org/officers-corner/serving-on-ifla-standing-committees.

For more information on specific positions contact the IFLA Membership Team on membership@ifla.org.

Meet IFLA’s President-Elect
Ms Ingrid Parent

Ms Ingrid Parent will serve as the IFLA President from 2011 until 2013, with the theme Convergence: ensuring access and diversity for a shared future.

Ms Parent is the University Librarian at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

Ms Parent’s vision for IFLA is articulated on the IFLA website as “a strong, confident and visible IFLA that will act globally in order to strengthen libraries locally.”

You can find out more about Ms Parent’s vision for ALIA and her priorities for her presidential term at http://www.ifla.org/en/president-elect
Nepal Library Association election results

At the 29th General Convention of the Nepal Library Association a new governing team was elected. The new members and positions are as follows:

**President**: Mr. Prakash Thapa  
**Vice President**: Mr. Suresh Kumar Yadav  
**General Secretary**: Mr. Bishwa Raj Gautam  
**Joint Secretary**: Mr. Mahoj Kumar Shah  
**Treasurer**: Ms. Sabitri Barala  
**Members**: Ms. Anita Bhandari; Ms. Reju Pokhrel; Ms. Manju Shrestha; Ms. Nutan Dhungana; Mr. Lal Bahadur Chouhan; Mr. Ramesh Prajuli; Mr. Surendra Duwal

The Convention also saw the presentation of the Saraswati National Award to Prem Prakash Falahari popularly known as "FALAHARI BABA". As the founder of the Trifala National Library, he is typical person, he always walks bare-foot wears simple-yellow shirts and trousers and eats only fruits.

The Saraswati International Award was presented to Room to Read Nepal. The latter award was accepted by Mr. Pushkar Shrestha on behalf of Room to Read Nepal.

http://www.nla.org.np/

Library Statistics for Advocacy
A capacity building workshop for librarians and library associations

If we want to put our libraries on the agenda, we need numbers, statistics and evidence to prove our point and underline our arguments - whenever we communicate with politicians, funding bodies or library stakeholders.

If you work with a library association, if you are responsible for library statistics in your district or country, if you work in a library agency or administration - or if you just want to learn something about the power of numbers for your own library - this one-day workshop will help you to improve your skills and build up your competences.

The workshop will cover the following questions:
* Why should we study statistics?  
* Which aspects of library work should we focus on?  
* How can we collect reliable data?  
* How can we interpret the data we have?  
* How can we present the data to make our point?

Working methods include short presentations, discussions, case studies and practical exercises in small groups and in 4 different languages.

There will be five parallel workshops in groups of ca. 15 people. Languages available will be English, Spanish, Russian and possibly Chinese.

Thursday August 12th, 9am - 5pm  
School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, Vasagatan 1, SE 405 30 Gothenburg  
http://www.hgu.gu.se/item.aspx?id=987

Registration for the workshop is required by July 15th, 2010 via http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D5LVTXS

The workshop is free of charge for registered participants of the 76th IFLA World Library Congress in Gothenburg.

For more information visit our website http://snipurl.com/vwcvu
Regional Southeast Europe Law Libraries Cooperation

Edita Bačić

shall take care of the development of law libraries and documentation centres as well as their mutual cooperation. The Association shall encompass all signing parties of the Letter of Intent and shall be open for accession of new parties accepting the agenda of association.

The objectives of the Association are:

1. to ensure future cooperation among law libraries and documentation centres in Southeast Europe;
2. to coordinate activities of the Association with a view to ensuring a high quality of information service and excellence access to legal information sources;
3. to assist librarians in search of possibilities for further education (exchange of information in conferences, seminars, etc. in the countries of Southeast Europe);
4. to stimulate other fields of professional interest for the parties of the Association;
5. to improve the use of law libraries and other law documentation centres;
6. to unify, harmonise and coordinate the interest and activities of library professionals in one important voice;
7. to improve expert knowledge of law librarians and reputation of librarians.

(Continued on page 7)

As we know, the MLAS section believes that strong library associations are a key component in the development and improvement of library services in each country, as well as the development of excellent library professionals.

Regional Southeast Europe Law Libraries cooperation started in 2003 as an informal group meeting, organized by the University of Maribor Faculty of Law (Slovenia) to exchange ideas and suggestions. The meeting was very successful and two years later the University of Mostar Faculty of Law (Bosnia and Hercegovina), in cooperation with the University of Split Faculty of Law (Croatia), established the Regional Law Libraries Round Table (Neum, 2005).

Having regard to previous communication among the parties and discussion at the Law Librarians meeting in Maribor (October, 2006) the participants agreed about the Letter of Intent on establishment of the Southeast Europe Association of Law Libraries (SEALL). The purpose of that Letter was to establish the Southeast Europe Association of Law Libraries that
Regional Southeast Europe Law Libraries Cooperation (continued from page 6)

The Association was formally established in January 2009 and registered in Croatia at the Faculty of Law, Split. The next Regional Law Libraries Round Table will be held in June 2010 (Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and future plans for formal cooperation will be on the agenda.

Membership in the Association is open to all libraries at law schools as well as other libraries specialising in the field of law. The Association comprises the following bodies:

- Council (composed of representatives of each Association party)
- Executive Board (elected for a period of three years and composed of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Immediate Past Chairman and Treasurer).

The major field of activity of the Association is cooperation in permanent professional education of law librarians, professional education exchange and development of interlibrary loan materials exchange.

Law librarians from ex-Yugoslavian countries realised a need to reinvent themselves in response to their changing environment, the proliferation of information and rapid changes in European higher education area. The main reason why they established Southeast Europe Association of Law Libraries (SEALL) was a strong professional need for mutual cooperation. As mentioned above, current structural and curriculum reforms provide an opportunity for all universities and academic libraries to reflect upon their management and to learn from each other through mentorship and partnering projects. Law librarians recognised the Bologna Process as a good framework for mobility, cooperation and possible support for law librarians and related professionals in whole region.

Searching for similar practice in international librarianship we find that many Associations that are composed of librarians from law schools, law courts and private law firms, regularly hold seminars and conferences to discuss issues affecting the profession and to learn the latest developments in law librarianship. As an example of best practice, important to further the development of Southeast Europe Association of Law Libraries, we can examine the creation of IFLA Law Libraries Section. This is a particularly good example of an electronic forum which we also established to foster communication between SEALL members, but with different international and national law libraries organizations.

Our next step will be membership in IFLA organisation.

Edita Bačić is the Chief Librarian at the University of Split Faculty of Law in Croatia, and a Standing Committee Member of MLAS. Edita can be contacted at edita@pravst.hr
Building Strong Library Associations Programme update
Fiona Bradley

Development on the Building Strong Library Associations programme continues apace as IFLA prepares to launch the programme and announce the countries that will participate from 2010 at the Congress in Gothenburg. Applications for the initial countries to participate in the programme from 2010, one in each of IFLA’s regions, closed in early April. Each of the regional sections nominated a country to participate following the regional midterm meetings in February and March 2010. The countries will be announced at the programme’s launch session at the Congress in Gothenburg.

IFLA has begun development of the online platform that will support the programme. The online platform will provide eLearning activities, download of the training materials, and discussion tools to facilitate communities of practice between associations. Content will also be available via removable media (e.g., CD ROMs) where internet access is not readily available. A meeting was held from February 8-12 at IFLA Headquarters with participants from a number of countries sharing their expertise on the ways that IFLA can use ICT to reach library associations around the world and provide high-quality learning materials to all members.

A successful expert meeting to develop the impact evaluation framework for the programme was held at IFLA Headquarters from April 6-9. Impact evaluation will provide IFLA with evidence, research, and case studies about the difference that the BSLA programme makes in the countries it works in.

Building Strong Library Associations Programme to be launched at the World Library and Information Congress, Gothenburg

At the launch in Gothenburg attendees will be able to learn more about the programme and opportunities for involvement, and to attend the announcement of the first library associations selected to take part in 2010. Speakers at the session will include IFLA, those involved with the development of the programme, and representatives of the countries selected to take part from 2010.

About the programme

Building Strong Library Associations is a comprehensive capacity building programme to be delivered under ALP. It will be available to members from September 2010. It includes a training package aimed at developing and sustaining library associations, the continued delivery of IFLA’s existing policy-based workshops, mentoring and other activities. The programme is customisable to suit the needs of library associations around the world. The programme will be supported by an online platform that will provide remote access to learning materials and resources to all IFLA members.

Fiona Bradley is the IFLA ALP Programme Coordinator, and can be contacted at fiona.bradley@ifla.org

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More photos from the MLAS workshop in Stellenbosch, South Africa

Want more? Check out the Picassa web album [here](#)
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Other Standing Committee Member details are on our website at http://www.ifla.org/en/mlas/standing-committee-members

IFLA MLAS elist

IFLA's Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS) list is hosted by the American Special Libraries Association (SLA).

How to subscribe in six easy steps:

1. Go to http://www.sla.org/content/community/lists/joinlists.cfm
2. Enter your email address
3. Enter your name
4. Create a password (optional / not required)
5. Go to the bottom of the Web page, under "OTHER LISTS", check the "IFLA Management of Library Associations Section" box
6. Click on "Subscribe"

To send a message to this list, please use the following address: ifla-mlas@lists.sla.org