



## FROM THE CHAIR

Suzanne Payette

Dear Colleagues

August seems already far away behind us, though discussions and sessions we had are still very pertinent. So if you were not in Göteborg with us or did not have time to read the follow up IFLA 2010, I warmly invite you to visit IFLA's website, and look at papers from Public Library and Metropolitan sections that provided the opportunity to share and learn about some great experiences coming from around the world. (IFLA Programme, session 89) <http://www.ifla.org/en/conferences-session-day/2010-08-12>

After years and months of members' work we had the pleasure, during this conference, to assist IFLA launch the complete revision of two noteworthy guidelines by our section members: *IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines* and *IFLA Mobile Library Guidelines*. Please join me in recognising the great work of Barbara Gubbin, Christie Koontz and Ian Stinger for their significant contribution to producing those important publications.

The Section already has commenced a number of projects to translate the *Guidelines* in other languages and also into the Daisy Format. You are able to purchase an English copy At: <http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla-publications>

*Rethinking the role of public libraries*

Members of Public and Metropolitan Libraries Section are already working to plan a rich program for 2011 Puerto Rico conference. Rethinking the role of Public libraries seems to concern every one, so we are joining our efforts to track and provide the best speakers that are sure to stimulate, inspire and even challenge you. Facing the challenge of digital technologies we should ask ourselves some questions: If the *library* has never been invented, will it be invented TODAY?

What *role* and *form* will and can the public library play and take? What will be the *positioning* or *branding* of the future library? Will there still be a need for public libraries especially in an increasingly e-and-globalised age?

What are the implications on future collection strategies and impact of Digital Rights Management & e-copyright issues?

Answering to all those, need a bit of imagination and a lot of vision with a grain of good practice and knowledge of library business

We could not imagine the world without the public library and what we all want and need is to stay relevant for the next generation library users and readers. Will they look for print or digital books or a community center? At this moment, no one could predict our future. But obviously we have to reframe what library means to our communities. We all know the richness of our mission, but we should find new ways to deliver our services, to promote our competencies and let everyone better know the value of our institution and the contribution they make to our communities.

So please join us in Puerto Rico in August 2011!

Suzanne Payette,  
Section Chair



## *Malmö - satellite (Sweden)*

The Section's satellite meeting "*Building strong communities: unleashing the potential of public libraries to build community capacity, engagement and identity*" held in Malmö 7-10 August 2010 was a great success.

For those of you who were not in Malmö, I hope you will take the time to enjoy the presentations of Bert Mulder and our other keynote speakers, Sari Feldman and Barbara Gubbin. Their presentations can be found at

<http://www.satellitemalmo.org/index1.asp?siteid=1&pageid=17>

Sincere thanks to Ruth Ornholt and our co-sponsors, Region of Skane, City of Malmö and the Swedish Arts Council for the providing delegates with the opportunity to take part in such a dynamic program.

## *Special Guest contributor*

Sari Feldman, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library, (USA) was one of our keynote presenters at the Malmö conference. Cuyahoga County library service is currently ranked the number one library system in the nation among libraries that serve populations of half a million or more and is the top rated library system in the nation in Library Journal's five star rating system.

Sari is immediate Past President of the Public Library Association (PLA) with more than 11,000 members nationally. Its mission is to strengthen public libraries' contribution to the communities they serve and to enhance the development and effectiveness of public library staff and service.

Her article on Bert's Mulder's presentation at the Malmö satellite appears next page.

## *Mobile Libraries don't need to have wheels!*

Sjoerd Koopman (IFLA's Professional Programmes Director) asked section member Ian Stringer to help out UNESCO with IFLA Mobile Library Guidelines., which he did. One of the things he emphasised was that a mobile library does not necessarily have wheels.. Here is the principal put into practice in Haiti. [http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=30605&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=30605&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

This is a great story!

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*Building Strong Communities: Think Globally, Act Locally*  
By Sari Feldman (USA)

The 2010 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) satellite meeting held in Malmö, Sweden opened with a powerful presentation by key note speaker Bert Mulder, Associate Professor of Information, Technology and Society at The Hague University (Netherlands). I was in attendance to give a presentation on the digital outreach efforts of public libraries in the United States and to reflect on my recent experience touring public libraries in Shenzhen, China. Mulder set the stage for the satellite meeting with his presentation entitled "Libraries at the Heart of a Vital Society," which explored exciting new ideas about the role of libraries in responding to the information needs of an increasingly technological society.

In the United States, many public libraries have been taking advantage of web content, e-government and social media tools to reach new audiences. But even though we have embraced these technologies, Mulder contends, our pace of change may be inadequate. With provocative slides and tremendous energy he raised several important questions about the future of public libraries. How will we remain true to our vision and mission, advance our role as social hubs at the center of community life and maintain environments that are meaningful to our customers?

While Mulder acknowledged the legacy of public libraries as organizers and collectors of materials to support reading and information, he argued that in order to stay relevant, libraries must move from a service model centered on reading to one centered on inspiring. In other words, a move from collecting materials to providing customers with access to digital

tools for creating content; from offering traditional media to connecting customers with digital sources. In the future, Mulder said, the value of public libraries will be to foster the synergy of people and ideas.

Traditionally, public libraries have provided their users with access to knowledge, programs and library tools. But in years to come, our users will be the ones creating knowledge, programs and tools – all of which may become part of our repositories.

Our continued success will depend on the experience we create for our customers. People already have unlimited choices for learning and social environments. To stay relevant, we must offer them something unique and memorable.

Mulder suggested that one manifestation of this new library/customer relationship would be for individuals' personal information collections to be linked to the library and accessed by others. Our future as centers of community life could be built around the creation of networks of community-based resources.

We tend to think of the web as a place of unlimited access to explore the world at large, but Mulder sees a particularly important role for the digital environment to serve us at the local, neighborhood level. Take, for example, [buurtlink.nl](http://buurtlink.nl), a digital environment for sharing activities and interests within one neighborhood.

Mulder's vision of the future is an intriguing one in which "the potential of public libraries to build community capacity, engagement and identity" is unleashed.



## *German public libraries*

By Cordula Noetzelmann, Cologne Municipal Library

Email: [noetzelmann@stbib-koeln.de](mailto:noetzelmann@stbib-koeln.de)

Internet: [www.stbib-koeln.de](http://www.stbib-koeln.de)

German public libraries are about to discover web 2.0 tools for their own benefit – for both internal collaboration and marketing purposes regarding their patrons. This development is strongly promoted and supported by a group of library innovators called the Zukunftswerkstatt.

The [Zukunftswerkstatt Kultur- und Wissensvermittlung e.V.](#) (transl: Future Workshops for cultural and knowledge transfer) is a non-profit-organisation aiming at connecting people who are active in public institutions and private enterprises dealing with cultural and scientific change. It is the aim of this organisation to develop and realize concepts that will help to establish a basis for knowledge society and culture society. The Zukunftswerkstatt was founded in Germany in 2007 by Julia Bergmann, Christoph Deeg and Jin Tan and has been building up an international network of partners and supporters ever since. By now, more than 100 members are registered in the [Zukunftswerkstatt online community](#).

As the dividing lines between learning and playing, between education and entertainment become blurred and as interacting multi-optional, individual and global communication systems are gaining ground, the negotiation and utilization of knowledge in the fields of science and culture will become essential. This fact is about to open up unique possibilities of co-operation and communication between institutions dealing with both educational and/or recreational aspects of information and knowledge such as public libraries, museums or archives.

To activate, teach, attend and support those public institutions and private enterprises the [Zukunftswerkstatt Kultur- und Wissensvermittlung e.V.](#) has started a number of different projects:

As exhibitors on conferences and trade shows such as the German [Bibliothekartag](#) where

the visitors are invited to try out the manifold aspects and possibilities of new media, computer games and diverse web tools to gain a better idea of the vast potential of these devices for the development of their institutions. Additional workshops and presentations of best practice examples help the visitors to form their own opinion about those new services, and to identify the potential risk and rewards for their organisation.

The [Zukunftswerkstatt](#) initiated and moderates the contact between libraries and the games industry (e.g. by inviting a group of librarians to the [gamescom fair](#)) and thus enabling library staff and executives to gain valuable insight and to produce new ideas about future possibilities of cultural and knowledge transfer as well as raising the games industries' awareness for the specific structural needs of libraries regarding the new media.

A large impact on public libraries has an ongoing series of [web 2.0 trainings](#) held by members of the [Zukunftswerkstatt](#). These trainings are designed to help employees of public organisations and private enterprises to comprehend the emerging culture of online co-operation and communication and to teach them how to use computer games and the current Internet as part of their daily business. As a result, many of the public libraries involved almost immediately started public weblogs and weblogs for internal co-operation, they opened and filled delicious-accounts and dispread their news and services via facebook and twitter with great success.

Here are examples from Cologne:

<http://twitter.com/stbibkoeln>

[http://de-de.facebook.com/  
Stadtbibliothek.Koeln](http://de-de.facebook.com/Stadtbibliothek.Koeln)

<http://stadtbibliothekkoeln.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.delicious.com/stbibkoeln>



## Short news Quebec (Canada)

### I'M READING...

Barbara Gubbin is reading *Googled;:The end of the world as we know it* by Ken Auletta's *Five Skies* by Ron Carlson: and *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski.

### I'M READING

Neil Davies is reading

*The Siege of Krishnapur* by J.G. Farrell.

### I'M READING

Hanna Vogt is reading John Irving *Twisted River* and can highly recommend it.

Montreal hosted the Library and Information Community of Quebec's conference, *Imaging New Partnerships* from 3-5 November. Members of nine professional associations including libraries, archives, professional and technician, from public, university or school libraries met during three days.

By the end of the event we can conclude that this event was a success - meeting main interests of participants.

Thousands of professionals coming from all parts of Quebec province had the opportunity to hear about digital with Jon Orwant from Google Books and Patrick Bazin, Director of Centre Pompidou in Paris giving us his view of the digital world in the library practice.

We're already planning next year meeting which will be held in Montreal Conference Center again, 30 Nov –2 Dec 2011.

Suzanne Payette, bibl. prof. is our Section Chair but also

Directrice  
Bibliothèque de Brossard,  
Brossard (QC)

[e suzanne.payette@ville.brossard.qc.ca](mailto:suzanne.payette@ville.brossard.qc.ca)

Those were only two of the great speakers present.

The inimitable Germaine Greer has her say on Public Libraries and their role in society today

***In an over-crowded, muzak-infested world, reading rooms are an oasis ....***

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/sep/05/>





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*Linking people and resources*

Mats Hansson (Swedish Arts Council)

*The following is taken from a revised editorial from the Scandinavian Public Library Quarterly no 3 2010 in by Mats Hansson (a section committee member)*

**I'M READING**

Ruth Ornholt is reading Karl Ove Knausgård "My Struggle - Fifth Book", the fifth volume of a total of six autobiographical novels, which are being published 2009-2011.

The Norwegian title of the book is "Min Kamp", the same as Hitler's "Mein Kampf". The books have caused massive controversy, and whether Knausgård goes too far in exposing the private lives of his friends and family has been much debated in Norway. The books have nevertheless received almost universally favorable reviews and are, already before the final book is published, one of the greatest publishing phenomena in Norway ever.

On my Kindle I have just downloaded the "Tin Roof Blowdown" by James Lee Bruke and a sample of "Nomad" by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Cultural policy should provide conditions to enable everyone to participate in cultural life regardless of whether the aim is education, to experience culture or to engage in creative activities. It must be possible to take part in cultural facilities that are characterized by diversity and high standards regardless of where in the country one lives.

Culture is to be a dynamic, challenging and independent force based on freedom of expression. Everyone is to have the opportunity to participate in cultural life.

And societies need a strong cultural life. Culture contributes both to strengthening the individual and developing society as a whole.

Public libraries are open institutions, where people have access to information, technology and training on an as-needed basis. With digital information and greater outreach, libraries are transforming the way they interact with the public. They are becoming much more proactive and collaborative, contributing in a variety of ways to a stronger local development.

They are part of formal and informal community networks that support reading, learning, jobs, cultural activity and civic pride. Public libraries are building stronger communities.

A good library inspires and strengthens its visitors; it offers the users tools and support that can make possible an active, engaged and meaningful life. Visitors will be the driving force and the librarian the supporting.

Public libraries are now being defined by their ability to relate to patrons in a sensible manner. Public libraries contribute most to society and social progress through collecting (people in) networks - not through collecting books in shelves.

*Linking people and resources (cont)*

Public libraries have a special responsibility to create and reinforce reading habits, and to be a resource in searching for and evaluating information. Libraries for children and young people have long been a high priority area. Municipalities have had years of experience in successfully developing and maintaining library services for children and young people.

Effective models for cooperation between public libraries, schools, child care centres and youth clubs have been developed. Through the diversity of library collections and activities children can discover for themselves the joy of reading and the excitement of exploring new knowledge. In this way libraries contribute to strengthening children's and young people's personal growth and their development into active members of society.

Another challenge for the public library is to reach the low-educated and people with different linguistic and cultural background. Public libraries are part of a larger infrastructure able to deliver a variety of services for lifelong learning to people of different backgrounds with different needs and goals. Many public libraries initiated active cooperation with local learning centres, university colleges and adult education organisations.

A third challenge for libraries today is to be proactive in identifying the ways in which the library can complement local development plans!

Public libraries are important in local and regional development, a development that takes place in cooperation with the surrounding community. Cooperation with partners, cooperation with users. Close cooperation is rewarding and natural since the inhabitants frequently cross municipal borders for work and recreation. Close cooperation is rewarding and natural since the inhabitants frequently use the internet for information and sharing.

For the best local development you need to see the best way to organize local resources and local expertise. The library in the middle of society. Municipalities, regions, citizens, education centers, museums, job centers, societies of trade and industry, etc. are all partners. The keywords: Network. Interactivity. Collaboration.

If libraries are to broaden their role in the local community local strategies for communication should be formulated together with the local community and local surroundings. Cooperation should be developed within the municipality and with other municipalities in the region. The library's profile should reflect local conditions. Public libraries are a dynamic activity. The more society changes, the more libraries fit in. We build libraries for people and the changing society, not for books

Mats is a Senior Advisor  
with the Swedish Arts Council

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*Co-operation between Finish Local Libraries,  
Museums and Archives - by Rebekka Pilppula*

Liv Sæteren, director of City Library of Oslo, Norway, had in Gothenburg WLIC a very interesting presentation about the innovative strategies in large public libraries. Sæteren pointed out that major strategic lines in European public libraries are improving reading skills and connecting people with contents. I was very impressed by the presentation especially because many of her statements were equal to the new strategy of Finnish public libraries.

At the end of her presentation she briefly mentioned that the co-operation between public libraries, museums and archives is not based on the customer-oriented ideas. This argument raised questions among the audience. There was also a presentation on the MLA-co-operation in Gävle at the Genealogy and Local History section's session. The MLA co-operation group was founded in 2003 in Gävle. It deals with the collaborative issues in the fields of museum, libraries and archives; eight institutions together. One reason to start the co-operation was that the staff of the different organizations were not enough informed about the resources of other organizations. The MLA Group has prepared materials on their collections, had projects together and organized all kind of happenings together. The MLA Group has been able to improve information retrieval on local history and the process itself has been made easier for the clients.

The merging of the municipalities is a political trend in Finland and it might lead circumstances where citizens are more concerned about their past and the history of their village than in other circumstances. There is also a best practice example from the city of Joensuu of the successful project about improving the availability of the local history material. After the merging of three municipalities the city library and local museums started a small co-operation project. A small village museum was closed and replaced by the exhibitions at the local branch library. Actually, three different exhibitions were made from the photographs and museum items. The library staff will be able to change the exhibition when needed. After the project the local history is more visible and accessible than earlier. Two teaching material packages of the local history were also made during the project. The schools and the kindergartens have diligently been using the packages.

Rebekka Pilppula is Director of Libraries Joensuun seutukirjasto - Pohjois-Karjalan maakuntakirjasto Joensuu Regional Library - North Karelia Provincial Library, Finland





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## *The Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library - Australia*

The Australian Library and Information Association, (ALIA) Letter of Recognition is presented to a person or organisation who/which has rendered a significant, special or specific service to

- Librarianship, libraries or information management,
- The promotion and development of libraries or library services; or
- The Australian Library and Information Association; or
- For demonstrating such service over a period of time.

Sarah Garnett and her initiative – *The Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library* <http://www.footpathlibrary.org/> certainly fulfils the above criteria.

Started in 2003 in Sydney, following the death of Sarah's friend Benjamin Andrew, the charity takes its name also in part, from the wonderful 'library' it opens once a week in Sydney's CBD.

Books donated by publishing companies and ordinary people are unceremoniously laid out on the footpath and the homeless help themselves. No bookshelves, no Dewey system, no return dates, in fact no returns at all.

The Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library installs and stocks libraries in hostels, refuges and community organisations in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, giving away around 2000 books a month.

These books are carefully selected based on the wish list of each hostel, and cover a vast range of genres from fantasy and self-help to dictionaries and poetry.

Sarah's initiation of *The Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library*, whilst an unconventional library service, supports ALIA's objects and core values, fundamentally through helping some of Australia's most marginalised and disadvantaged community members remain connected and engaged in the society and democracy around them; indeed to *engage and inspire* this part of our community.

ALIA congratulates Sarah Garnett and *The Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library* on their achievements.

<http://www.alia.org.au/awards/>

Sue Hutley is Executive Director Australian Library and Information Association

Sarah's work has inspired a host of library services to consider initiatives that serve homeless folk and those who are in crisis accommodation. Gold Coast City Council runs a program call "Books set free" These materials are marked so it is obvious they are not required to be returned to either the library service of the hostel or shelter.



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## *IFLA 2011 Puerto Rico Open session*

### ***Rethinking the role of public libraries***

If the *library* has never been invented, will it be invented *TO-DAY*? What *role* and *form* will & can the library play and take? What will be the *positioning* or *branding* of the future library? Will there still be a need for public libraries especially in an increasingly e-and-globalised age? What are the implications on future collection strategies and impact of DRM & e-copyrights issues?

### **STANDARDS**

New *IFLA Public Library Guidelines* launched in Goteborg now available for purchase at:  
<http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla-publications>

This joint session by the Public Libraries and Metropolitan Libraries Sections will invite speakers to provide possible answers and stimulate further discourse.

### *Kittiepillar - Caterpillar Project Gift*

*By Ian Stringer*

In 2006 I gave a presentation on the Caterpillar Project to delegates at the WLIC in Durban, South Africa. Unknown to me there was a librarian in the audience who lives only 40 minutes from me in the UK. Her name is Annie Everall and she is Children's librarian in Derbyshire. Annie was so moved by the project that she went away resolving to help out. Since then she has collected small amounts of money at various children's library events.

Despite a long illness she continued collecting and she contacted me at WLIC in Goteburg and so I eagerly went along to Derbyshire to collect a gift of GBP400 (€470, \$640). She asked that the money be spent on boxes and books for children.

So with committee approval the money was sent to the two projects that have not yet had money for children's boxes; GBP200 each to Burkina Faso and to Ghana. They will both spend the money on Kittiepillar boxes and books to fill them. Watch this space for photos!

Thank you Annie!



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## Poster Session - IFLA 2011

### Submissions due 11 Feb 2011

World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Council

An alternative approach for the presentation of projects/new work will be available for conference participants. An area on the conference premises has been designated for the presentation of information regarding projects or activities of interest to librarians.

#### I'M READING...

Suzanne Payette is reading *Les écuriels de Central Park sont tristes le lundi* by Catherine Pancol, Albin Michel .

I only have few times to read it will probably be my side bed book for many months.

My professional reading is the passionate *Bill C32* !!! a new bill that plans to bring a lot of modification about copyright in Canada, it's actually a big battle with a lot of people oppose to it.

The theme may be presented by a printed poster or by photographs, graphics and texts attached on the given panel. All IFLA official languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish - are welcome. Presenters of a poster session will be expected to be present on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 August 2011 in order to explain their poster and to hand out available leaflets and other information material. Further advice on poster sessions may be obtained from IFLA Headquarters.

Colleagues interested in presenting a poster session are invited to complete the application form and send it together with a brief description of not more than 200 words of the poster (we would appreciate receiving a summary in English with your proposal). The deadline is 11 February 2011, after the deadline applications will no longer be accepted. A jury comprised of 2 members of the Professional Committee of IFLA will review all submissions. The application form can be found at:

<http://www.ifla.org/en/ifla77/call-for-poster-sessions>

Please send the completed form and description to: Lidia Putziger [lidia.putziger@ifla.org](mailto:lidia.putziger@ifla.org)



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## *Mobile Library News*

### Mobile Libraries at WLIC Goteborg -August 2010

Ever since the enormous mobile meet in Glasgow 2002 at the IFLA World Library and Information Conference in 2002 I have made sure there was a mobile library presence at each Congress. This year's too was a great success thanks to Ruth Ornholt, from Norway, and Anders Gistorp from Falkenberg, Gothenburg.

The Swedish Mobile Librarians arranged for a 9 different mobile libraries to visit the conference during the three main days of the week. Vehicles from Mölndal, Kungsbacka, Ljungby, Stenungsund, Säffle, Falkenberg (2 vehicles), Höganäs, and Värnamo were available for viewing to delegates.

They were given prime parking places right by the main entrance so every one of the 3,500 visitors had to pass them. These vehicles represented mobile libraries from 3.5 -18 tonnes and each reflected a different emphasis in their daily work. They were mainly new ones, the oldest being four years old. As well as the static display the "Mobile International Library" in Gothenburg invited visitors to see them "in action" on their regular stops around the city.

On Friday four mobiles lined up on the concourse. The two Falkenberg vehicles had people counters on board and it was interesting to see that the small one right in the middle of the group received most visitors at a count of 700, highlights the interest in this particular vehicle. Interestingly the other vehicle behind only attracted 450 visitors which shows the value of perfect siting.

As well being involved in the mobile meet I was pleased to launch the IFLA Mobile Library Guidelines at the conference. I have worked on these for the last two years with a team all round the world and the copies left the printers a mere 72 hours before the conference, to be taken by the IFLA staff up to Gothenburg by road. It was not wasted effort we sold 10 copies to 10 different countries at the conference. The first one was bought by the Chair of the Ghana Mobile Library section.

I also caught up with lots of delegates via the Caterpillar Project poster session as Oumoo Ourago from Burkina Faso was unable to attend IFLA this year. We had worked on the posters together and I was able to send her photographs. The posters were well received and I was particularly pleased to get praise from former CEO Peter Lor from South Africa. It was also a pleasure to hear that my speech on the project in Durban had inspired a UK librarian, Annie Everall from Derbyshire to collect on behalf of the project. Through generosity of local librarians she collected £300. [There is information of how this funding was spent elsewhere in this newsletter].

Photos on these pages courtesy of Ian Stringer

#### **I'M READING**

Ian Stringer is reading Roddy Doyle's *Deportees*









## PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION CATERPILLAR PROJECT #3 IN GHANA

A unique partnership was formed for the third award of the Public Library Section's 2009 Caterpillar Program.

At the IFLA Milan conference the Section awarded the Public Library of Accra and the Department of Development and Social Services of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana a 1500 Euro award for this mobile pilot project. Everyone worked feverishly to choose the selected Presbyteries, work on the collections and their containers, and map out the logistics for the delivery of the rotating collections.

On Thursday, May 6, 2010 this third committee *Caterpillar Project* was launched, the beneficiaries received the collections and began service delivery. Four Presbyteries through the southern portion of Ghana were chosen as bases for the travelling collections. The pilot participants included the Kwahu Presbytery on the Afram Plains, West Akyem, Brong Ahafo, and Akyem Abuakwa. The Ghanaian

Public Librarians assisted in the selection of the materials collections. Each Presbytery, which serves 4-6 villages and communities, is responsible for a collection, which is in the custody and management of one minister, who visits each village in the hinterlands on a

regular circuit basis.

None of these communities has a library, so each collection serves hundreds of various folks of all ages.

Our project helped to stimulate library services to the rural reaches of the country. Hundreds of folks who had never received, or even looked at books were thrilled to have this opportunity.

Over 1300 people visited each of the collections as the minister transported them to and fro in his assigned district. Although several people couldn't read, those who could, read to them. And everyone enjoyed the pictures in the books.

What excitement! What interest and enthusiasm was shown! These collections helped stimulate a greater interest in education and learning but also brought whole communities together to help one another as they found that they could get answers for themselves in these books.

The project also brought several important entities together to provide very necessary services for the Ghanains. The Ghana Library Board in Accra, the General Assembly Office of the

Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Adwinsa Publications and the Bible Society of Ghana all supported the project in cash or in kind.

Several public librarians assisted, and will continue to assist with title selections of materials and preparing them for circulation. It is hoped that as use of the materials expands, the local librarians will also begin reaching out to both the ministers and their congregants to help them answer reference questions and provide other resources of aid as well as more books.

And as the word spreads about this project more requests from all over the country have come flooding in for similar collections.

We hope that this project has shown how important books and reading are to everyone; that they can be provided in the rural areas as well as the urban centres.

We hope that the collections and the services that we have initiated here will continue to grow. And, hopefully, that more collections can be assembled and carried to other communities throughout the country. Truly this represents the real mission of IFLA.

By Lorraine Jackson  
Information Initiators

## Caterpillar 3

*Emmanuel Ankamah - Project Co-ordinator( Ghana)*

*story and photos*

The Presbyterian Church of Ghana is known for its holistic approach to developing the soul, mind and hand of its target populace and society as a whole. As part of its developmental activities, the church through its Relief Services and Development collaborated with IFLA to implement a Mobile/ Caterpillar Library project in May, 2010 in Ghana. Our target populace was rural communities in six Presbyteries of the Church who lack access to educational materials especially books.



The beneficiaries of the project were students from the basic to the Senior High Schools mostly in the deprived and marginalized communities where access to library facilities has been a challenge. The age bracket was therefore 6-20 years.



The organization in collaboration with local publishers, beneficiary communities, opinion leaders and other partners selected the relevant reading materials. The selection was based on the demand, relevance and to address the various gaps in their respective communities.



During the long vacation, patronage was very high especially the Senior High School students who had returned to their respective communities where these facilities were stationed.

The project has so far benefitted the following;

- 476 Primary School Pupils
- 359 Junior High Pupils and
- 108 Senior High Students

On the whole, patronage has been very impressive. Listening to feedbacks from the youth, teachers, community and opinion leaders, the project has been very beneficial since it has enhanced the academic work of children in the catchment areas

### Projections

- The organization intends to expand the facility to cover 5 more Presbyteries in the early part of 2011.
- Deepening our relationship with the Ghana Library Board to expand and sustain such services.

### Conclusion

We are grateful to IFLA and other partners for such a wonderful and laudable gesture. Because of the community members' appreciation to this gesture, it is our dream to expand it to cover more communities where such facilities are lacking



## Nordic Mobilemeet 4 - 5 September 2010 - Ribe, Denmark

I was invited to attend the Nordic Mobile meet in Ribe in early September to present a presentation on mobile libraries of the world and to introduce the new IFLA Mobile Library Guidelines.

Thank you to Swedish Librarian Anders Gisdorp who arranged transport from the airport with Kenneth Ihfors of Coman Coach-builders of Bengtsfors Sweden.

We shared the 5 hour drive across Denmark which included a spectacular drive across the Great Belt Bridge a 7km drive across the sea between Zealand and Funen.

Another crossing took us to Jutland and finally to the lovely historic town of Ribe which is celebrating its 1300<sup>th</sup> birthday. And what better way than as host of the Nordic mobilemeet.

We joined a number of other delegates from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Germany in a reception party and then retired to our hotel where there was live music until 1.00am.

However we were up bright and early and went down to the riverside to see the mobile libraries arriving. This is mobile library meet that most mobile library staff would love to attend given the size and number of the vehicles available for viewing. A beautiful sunny day saw lots of photo opportunities and lots of time to make new friends.

We moved on to the Cultural Centre and were welcomed by the Mayor. After an interesting paper from a

local Esjberg librarian, I was invited to do a my presentation and then fielded lots of questions about the guidelines which proved very popular and I sold eight copies to all five countries represented.

Following a splendid lunch we all went out to the great range of vehicles on display and spent 4 hours visiting them all. This is always a much valued session of any Mobile Meet. There were some fine examples of modern technology.

Also there was a great emphasis on access with some very neat low 3 axle vehicles.

A very Danish attribute is that nearly all of the vehicles have some sort of Lego set for children including Lego bricks the size of real bricks. They are made of rubber and ideal for in a vehicle. Also very Danish is that many had coffee available to the public and outside seating areas with seats that stacked neatly on the vehicle. This makes the village mobile a centre of attraction at the evening halts.

After the mobiles open session we had an hour or so to get changed and then had a wonderful meal followed by live music and dancing till the small hours.

Every one was up bright and early Sunday morning for a parade of mobiles in the sunshine into the regional capital at Esjberg and so ended a fine Nordic meet.

By Ian Stringer







## *Innovative Public Library Services in New Jersey (USA)*

### I'M READING

Lorraine Jackson is reading *The Unbearable Lightness of Scones* by Alexander McCall Smith,

*The Way of the Traitor* by Laura Joh Rowland, and *The Scots Fiddle* by J. Murray Neil.

### I'M READING

Marian Morgan Bindon is reading *Let me sing you gentle sons* by Linda Olsson and *Rescue* by Anita Schreve.

Perhaps it's because I have recently retired that I've become much more aware of public library services to senior citizens (as we Americans call them). Nevertheless, I want to report to you that there are several innovations taking place in the libraries in my area with such folks in mind.

#### Spaces for Seniors

Retirement communities have become a recent phenomenon in my state of New Jersey. These are newly built gated sections of existing communities where the occupants must be aged 50 or older. They generally consist of townhouses or apartments and frequently have at least one building which houses seniors who may need close medical attention. Most of these groupings have some library facilities or room with a computer or two. But usually there is no librarian, and other services are limited. Therefore, everyone must go to his or her local library, and in New Jersey, their special needs are being innovatively met. This new influx of elderly patrons to some towns has led those libraries to establish "Senior Spaces"; these

are particular places outfitted with older folks in mind. Larger, comfortable, but firmer soft seating is now available in these well-lit sections of the library. Large print collections, as well as other materials and assisted

reading and hearing devices are grouped closed-by for easy access. Sometimes, a variety of such devices are also on display so that one can try them out to see which one would be best for an individual user.

The collections available for older readers have been greatly expanded with a variety of both fiction and nonfiction large print books readily on hand. Other material formats are now available too, with new and classic CDs and DVDs available with a wide variety of selections. My hometown library of Plainsboro just introduced a new Health Center, where patrons are encouraged to come in and check their own blood pressure, place the latest diagnosis they received from the doctor, or try out the new Wii Fit program. Of course, the latest medical information is readily available on-line, and with the ready assistance of the librarian my questions on the latest disease or medications can be quickly answered, or at least she knows who to call to get the answers if they are available.

A whole raft of programs aimed at the older audience is now available too. Lectures on how to simplify my life by de-cluttering my house and down-sizing the home now that the kids have grown





*Innovative Public Library Services  
in New Jersey (cont)*

and moved away from home; discussions on investments and programs and activities. Another what to do in these crazy economic times; and classes on using the latest computer software and how-to-do email have been offered during the day to accommodate those who are now retired. Other activities such as concerts and movies have been good opportunities to bring library users of all ages together in the community.

Inter-generational programs, including such activities as "help clean-up the library buildings and grounds" and "Oral history recordings on Cranbury Township" have also helped build a sense of community. This has become ever more important as our communities become more diverse ethnically. Sharing cultural celebrations, and learning of other cultures and peoples helps keep the library the center of the community, and enables it to become an important entity in enriching the lives of all of its users.

By providing all these services, the library retains its importance in the lives of its users, and they in turn support the library when and where it's needed. As our libraries find it increasingly difficult to fund anything but the basic services through its town's taxes, more of them are turning to the private sector for assistance. More frequently now, the seniors have been the one to supply the leadership for our Friends of the Library groups, who have provided

funds for some of these special group who has become an invaluable resource for providing some of these extras is the Library Foundation. While I was the Director of the South Brunswick Township Library I worked with a small group of citizens to establish the Library Foundation, who worked soliciting funds from the business community and other foundations for the library's capital building program and to support special programs and projects.

Their funds freed the Township to supply the basic library services we needed to operate. (In New Jersey, the local taxes supply the bulk of the funds for the library, with the State also providing a small amount of money to help operations.) The other sources of funds for some of our libraries are donations and grants from individuals and corporations. Old Bridge Public Library was able to design its Senior Spaces thanks to a grant from the local library cooperative and the State Library. Bristol-Myers Squibb helped provide funds for Plainsboro's Health Center.

In short, New Jersey's Public Libraries, by specifically identifying special patron groups, seniors, businesses, etc., have been able to define new ways to serve and new sources of aid. This lesson we might all learn.

By Lorraine Jackson  
Information Initiators

## *Biblioteques de Barcelona: (Spain)*

### *10 years +. New challenges, New commitments*

The network of Libraries of Barcelona is made up of 36 public libraries situated in the 10 districts of the city of Barcelona. The Libraries of Barcelona Plan 1998-2010 established the planning and the aims for this period.

The Futures of the of the Public Library Conference held at Jaume Fuster Library, in Barcelona from 13-15 October 2010 was designed to establish the aims for the period 2011-2020 with all the necessary flexibility and adaptability to face these constant changing times. The Conference focused on three main subjects: Users and services; Digital Content and Spaces.

The next stage will see the development of the draft strategic plan presented in December 2010 that outlines the main subjects of work for the future (facilities and services).

Mònica Medina Blanes  
 Biblioteca Sagrada Família. Direcció  
 Provença 480 - 08025 Barcelona  
 A/e: medinabm@diba.cat

## *De Gruyter Saur / IFLA Research Paper Award 2011*

This is an annual award for the best research paper on a topic of importance to publishing and access to information.

*This year's topic is "Use and Users of Digital Libraries"*

with subthemes:

- access to digital information; user behaviour in digital libraries;
- improving interactivity in digital libraries using web 2.0 technologies
- reaching out to the wider community through digital libraries

The award is aimed at encouraging research and publication by those relatively new to the profession. The award is an amount of EUR 1,000 (one thousand Euros)

The selected paper must have been written no earlier than January 2010 and not yet to have been published. The paper's maximum length should be approx. 5,000 words and should be submitted in **English**.

The recipient of the award will be announced at the IFLA President's Lunch during the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Puerto Rico, August 2011. Papers, accompanied by the completed application form, must be submitted by **31 March 2011**. Incomplete application forms will not be considered and the decisions of the jury are final. For more information and to download the application form visit: [here](#) .

## *John Lake 2nd career - Ian Stringer (UK)*

After a distinguished career in libraries John Lake celebrated the next chapter with a celebration at his library.

Ian represented the Section at John Lake's (previous section Chair) retirement party at the Barbican Library in London. It was a very successful evening with lots of his colleagues, former colleagues, committee friends and a large number of readers. It was interesting to see so many readers including some in wheelchairs who had travelled a fair distance by tube (metro, subway) Amongst the readers was a famous British actor Kenneth Cranham a friend of John's. You may have seen Kenneth as he is in many UK detective series such as Poirot Sherlock Holmes. He usually plays the bad guy but often is the decoy. That is the person you think did the crime, but then the famous detective shows it was the librarian who did it! Here's a picture of three villains!

Interesting  
Developments  
Future of screen  
technology.

[http://  
www.youtube.com/  
watch?  
v=g7\\_mOdi3O5E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7_mOdi3O5E)





## *Join us - IFLA Public Library Section*

"IFLA is the global voice of libraries, information centres and information professionals worldwide. It is the main platform for formulating goals, exerting influence as a group, protecting interests, and finding solutions to global problems. IFLA offers an international network to exchange ideas and to promote international cooperation, research and development in all fields".

If you would like to contribute as an IFLA Public Libraries Section Standing committee member for the next term 2011-2015 please ensure your nominations are completed and received by 9 February 2011.

There are seven vacancies for the next term 2011-2015. Of the existing 20 Standing Committee members , four members have served two terms Kent Andreasen (Denmark), Li Jingzia (China), Monica Medina Blanes (Spain) and Ian Stringer (United Kingdom) and as such are ineligible for re-election. Annick Guinery (France), Lorraine Jackson (United States) Magdalena Reyes (Uruguay) are eligible for re-election.

For more information or to join the IFLA Public Library Section please visit <http://www.ifla.org/en/membership/benefits>.

Don't forget to visit the Public Libraries Section pages <http://www.ifla.org/en/public-libraries>



## *Important IFLA dates*

### January 2011

- IFLA/HQ distributes forms to Officers: Satellite Meeting Enquiry Form for the 2012 conference (Helsinki) + 2nd part of the 'Programme Enquiry Forms' for final confirmation of plans for meetings at the 2011 conference (San Juan).

### February 2011

- Deadline for applications to present poster sessions at the conference 2011 (San Juan)
- Deadline for applications for standing committee members

### May 2011

- 15 May -Deadline for conference registration at a reduced fee.

### August 2011

- Standing Committees elect Officers (Chair and Secretary) at first meeting in San Juan

## *Stories to share*

Contributions to our newsletters are most welcome.

Please contact

Ian Stringer [ianmstringer@googlemail.com](mailto:ianmstringer@googlemail.com)

Marian Morgan Bindon [mmorganbindon@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:mmorganbindon@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

Rebekka Pilppula [Rebekka.Pilppula@jns.fi](mailto:Rebekka.Pilppula@jns.fi)

for further information.