



WELCOME FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

Dear colleagues

As Chair of this section, it's a great pleasure for me to contribute to this edition of our new look enewsletter.

I would like to warmly thank Public Library Section members who last August in Milan, asked me to act as Section Chair. As city librarian of a small town of 75,000 habitants on the south shore of Montréal, I was honoured and accepted this task with humility.

The section's mid term meeting was supposed to be held in May in Brno but unfortunately we had to cancel, as you all know, a volcano was speaking loudly and aircraft could not fly! I think we all know the tremendous amount of work that is needed to put together a session and I would like to especially thank Libuse Nivicka from Brno for the organisation and considerable effort as she worked to convene this event.

While we were not able to meet face to face important work like the review and update of the *Public Library Guidelines* continues and we are confident the new edition will be available for IFLA 2010 conference.

During the last weeks, I have received studies and news from many countries, I am always reminded that the planet gets smaller each day, news travels faster and faster, but so too the way we do things across the world is also often

similar. I would like to share with you some of that good information.

First, an inspiring study from United Kingdom "The modernisation review of public libraries:a policy statement" http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/libraries/default.aspx

Then a week ago Montreal Library's Director presented to Montreal Cultural Commission members a plan to bring Montréal libraries into the digital world of the 21st century The report is available in French at <http://encyclo.bibliomontreal.com/actualites/html/commission/commission-biblio-XXI.pdf>.

And what about the wide range of studies telling us more about return on investment done by the American Library Association. The evaluation of Pittsburgh Public Library especially kept my attention, but honestly, it is a mine of good ways to say how many valuable libraries are. <http://www.ala.org/ala/research/librariystats/roi/index.cfm>

I could not conclude this note without inviting you to visit the website of the [Metlib](#) 2010 conference in Zagreb where I was invited to participate. I would also like to catch this opportunity to say how much I appreciated attending the conference, library visits and how well the organisation of this meeting was. The week in Zagreb was stimulating and left me inspired.

Meeting colleagues from around the

world makes collaboration easier, makes distances shorter, and give an impulse to our profession, so I sincerely hope that many of you will be able to join us in Malmo and Goteborg in August.

I would like to see your Swedish smile, so come and join us!

Suzanne

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On your way to IFLA Gothenburg

I'M READING...

Kent Skov Andreasen is reading three books concurrently - confusing?, He says not!

The first is a book about the American avant-garde musician and artist Captain Beefheart/Don Van Vliet, the next is a book about the old myth of Saint George and the Dragon by a Danish historian Erling Agergaard and a third one *Mit danske album (My Danish Album)* - an autobiography with photographs by the Norwegian novelist Lars Saabye Christensen who grew up in Denmark.

I'M READING...

Monica Medina-Blanes has two books on her bedside table; Nick Cave's novel, *The death of Bunny Munro*. As well as highly acclaimed graphic novel *Box Office Poison* by Alex Robinson.

NEW LIBRARIES

Pushing boundaries

[A glorious mud library in Timbuktu](#) West Africa.

[Urban Commons in Sydney, Australia.](#)

Join the satellite meeting "Building strong communities: unleashing the potential of public libraries to build community capacity, engagement and identity" in Malmö 7-10 August 2010.

We offer you plenary sessions with keynote speakers, sessions for discussions, networking and sharing of knowledge/experiences. The discussions are organized around five themes - Place, Product, Promotion, Participation and Politics.

The conference offers a choice of 5 different study tours in Region Skåne and in Malmö and bus transport (including library visits) from Malmö to Gothenburg.

To register please visit <http://www.satellitemalmo.org/>

IFLA Gothenburg 2010 Open session

Learning Library, Connected Community

The place to be on Thursday 12 August at 9.30am is the combined Public Libraries and Metropolitan Libraries Section Open Session. You will hear five targeted papers showcasing user-driven innovation. Speakers from around the globe will present a program that will be of interest to all public library services. For further information please visit <http://www.ifla.org/en/conference-sessions/4661>

Disasters shatter public library services

You can still donate to the American Library Association's Chile relief fund following the devastating March 2010 8.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Chile, Donate at [Chile Relief Fund](#). *American Libraries* news, Mar. 10

[Red Cross International](#) is still accepting donations to the City of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, following the earthquake with a catastrophic magnitude measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale.

Thank you to John Lake

Previous Section Chair



John Lake (previous Section Chair) and Suzanne Payette (new Section Chair) in John's home town (London)

On behalf of the Public Libraries Section a very special thank you to John Lake for his stewardship as previous chair of the Section. John spent eight years on the Section Committee, also serving some of that time as secretary. John also served as Secretary to the Division III group, "Libraries Serving the General Public."

He supported the publication of the "Public Libraries, Archives and Museums" although it began some years before when Barbara Clubb, who was one of the authors, was Section Chair. This publication was launched during the Quebec City conference in 2008 and has been translated into a number of languages including Spanish, French and Chinese. John was also supportive of and a contributor to the new edition of the "Guidelines for Public Libraries," the significant project which Barbara Gubbin had been leading and which will be published later this year.

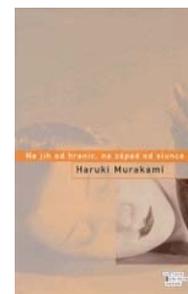
One of his most recent IFLA contributions was the pre-conference on "Libraries and Places and Spaces" held in Turin before the 2009 WLIC in Milan. John worked with colleagues from three other IFLA divisions to plan, organise and deliver this outstanding and inspiring satellite event.

While I'm sure we will see John at future IFLA Congress, we wish to acknowledge his significant contribution to the Section. In his non IFLA life John is Librarian Barbarian Library, City of London and he welcomes library colleagues to drop in for a visit when in the next Olympic city.

Thank you John.

I'M READING...

Reading matter roundup



Libuše Nivicka is reading *South of the Border, West of the Sun* by Haruki Murakami.

Neil Davies is reading *Solar*, the new Ian McEwan novel.

Ian Stringer is reading the *Autobiography of Baroness Betty Boothroyd*.

Barbara Gubbin is reading *The Lost City of Z* by David Grann.

Rebekka Pilppula is reading *Ihmisen osa* by award winning Finnish author Kari Hatakainen and Jane Austen's *Emma*.

Marian Morgan Bindon is reading the *Time Traveller's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger and *Addition* by Toni Jordan.



Caterpillar project — Ian Stringer

The Caterpillar project aims to implement Mobile Library services in rural African communities where access to library facilities is extremely limited. Now in its third and final stage this project has provided a book service to over 100,000 people, most of whom had no previous access to books.

The most recent and third phase of the project, led by Lorraine Jackson of New Jersey USA has been achieved through the co-operation of the Presbyterian Relief Service and Development group and sees us now in Ghana. Books have been made available for adults and children living in remote villages in Ghana, (particularly West Akyem, Kwahu, Akwapim, Dangme Tongu, Akyem Abuakwa and Brong Ahafo) using the IFLA Caterpillar Program and the circulating Presbyterian church pastors to deliver the needed materials. The projects were handed over to the beneficiaries on Thursday 6 May, 2010.

The Caterpillar Book Box is a folding case, build locally to IFLA Public Library Section specifications), is 1.8m high and sits on castors for ease of movement. The shelves accommodate approximately 100 books supported by a crate depot of approximately 500 books to replenish the stock in circulation.

The first box is located in Koekenaap, South Africa, a very poor farming area where 60% of the adults are illiterate and only 30% of nine year olds can read. They are too poor to travel the 20 miles to the nearest library. The adults are nomadic as they earn a living during the grape season, which lasts only three months a year before they move in search of other work. The Caterpillar Book Box is the only access that this community of 70,000 people has to books. The children have been very excited by the existence of the first Book Box, which bears the IFLA logo. The project has been used by an Adult Basic Education group who are using it at night, and a very small school group in the daytime. Twenty of these very practical Caterpillar Book Boxes were launched in February and given to pre-schools attached to primary schools.

The second stage is located in Burkina Faso following a successful proposal by librarian Oumou Ouedraogo. She received the specifications and has had some boxes built. This project phase has been reported previously.



Mr Emmanuel Ankamah, Co-ordinator of PRESED inspecting the cabinets for the books during the preparatory stage.



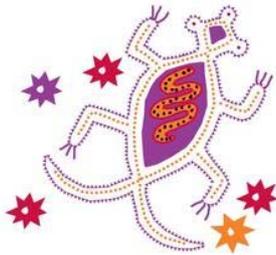
Oumou Ouedraogo
(Librarian) Burkina Faso



Library Books for Timor - Leste

Patti Manolis

Library Books for East Timor now known as *Library Books for Timor—Leste* (LBTL) began in 2004 out of a desire to assist the development of Timor Leste's libraries. LBTL is made up of volunteers largely drawn from Victoria's public library network in Australia.



Library Books for
TIMOR-LESTE

The people involved have a strong belief in the power of public libraries to contribute significantly to social, cultural, educational and economic development of communities and that the library's role in facilitating the free flow and exchange of ideas and information is fundamental to democracy.

LBTL's primary activities are fundraising and awareness raising. The group has so far raised over \$90,000. This amount has been raised through three trivia nights (2004, 2005 & 2006), an Intrepid Librarians event (2008) and a public lecture (2009) held at the State Library of Victoria featuring Kirsty Sword Gusmao (Goodwill Ambassador for Education in Timor-Leste) and former Victoria Premier Steve Bracks. Planning is underway for a fourth LBTL Trivia Night to be held in Geelong, Victoria on Saturday 30 October 2010.

STANDARDS

Take a look and compare Standards, Guidelines and Benchmarks for Public Libraries in Australia and overseas [here](#)

The funds raised are transferred to Timor Leste's libraries enabling library staff to determine the selection and purchase of library and literacy collection materials relevant to their respective local communities and in the languages they require. We do not collect or send second-hand English books.

Libraries, literacy and educational projects that have received funding over the last five years include: The Xanana Gusmao Reading Room; Manatuto Library; Haburas Moris Library on Atauro Island; UNTL Timor's National University Library in Dili; Lolotoe Junior High School and Community Library; Baucau Public Library; Baucau Friendship and Learning Centre; Friends of Same Schools Literacy Project; and Dili Institute of Technology Library.

NO SMALL SUCCESS

Library Journal has named Glen Carbon Centennial Library the best small library in the USA this year. See what the excitement is about - and maybe get a few ideas [here](#)

Most recently LBTL has supported Timor's first ever Certificate II in Library Studies provided at the Dili Institute of Technology. Over 25 students have completed the course to date. We have established a formal partnership with ABITL - Timor's first ever Library and Information Association.

Further information about Library Books for Timor-Leste is available on our website at www.librarybooksforeasttimor.org.au or by contacting Patti Manolis at patti.manolis@geelonglibraries.vic.gov.au.



Mobile Library News

UK Branch and Mobile Group Annual Mobile Meet - Ian Stringer

Photos on pages 6-9
courtesy of Ian
Stringer



Interior East Riding
Mobile Library



Oxfordshire's Children's Van

At the crack of dawn on 8 May 2010 the members of the Branch and Mobile Library Group (BMLG) had a quick breakfast and set off in convoy to the Rams Arena, home of Dewsbury Rams Rugby League Club. Posters and guidance were set up, chairs laid out and the IT system set up. Soon mobile libraries and delegates were arriving.

Eventually about 150 people and 30 vehicles were assembled. The Mayor of Kirklees (the local authority for Dewsbury) arrived along with Baroness Boothroyd, former Speaker of the House of Commons who were welcomed by Chair Ian Stringer and local organiser Dianne Hird. The meeting was formally opened and Baroness Boothroyd gave a delightful speech to an enthusiastic audience.

The next event was the eagerly awaited award ceremony for the UK Mobile Library Champion of the Year. At last year's mobile meet we had a special guest Pete Maher from New South Wales, Australia. He inspired the audience by telling them about his mobile library adventures in the outback. But he also interested them in details of the "Australian Mobile Library Mongrels Club", and an award to the Mobile Library Operator of the Year.

This was adapted for use in the UK and during the winter months entries with testimonials flooded in from all over the UK. A winner was chosen and so John Townsend of Warwickshire Library Service was able to receive his award and cheque for £50 from Baroness Boothroyd. After calling out Order! Order! as she used to do in Parliament Baroness Boothroyd made the presentation to John who was accompanied by his wife, line manager and Chief Librarian.

The theme of the meet was "*Libraries are good for you*". Committee member Jon Davis from Kirklees showed us that libraries are good for your finances as he told us of a scheme run by Kirklees Libraries to get benefits officers into the homes of housebound readers. One reader was £50 better off per week.

Darren Smart another member of the BMLG committee told of a similar scheme in Essex, but working with blind people. Premilla Gamage gave a moving account of the after effects of the Tsunami in her home country of Sri Lanka. The afternoon's entertainment was provided by 'That Poetry Bloke' Craig Bradley who gave a humorous account of his work with slow learners and prisoners.



Mobile Library News (cont)

Closely allied to the main theme Catherine Morris from Kirklees told of her work as a pioneer in the concept of Bibliotherapy. Her work in this field now has lots of followers and in the beginning she was rather overwhelmed by the media attention, being asked to appear on national TV.

Then there followed the excitement of award winners. Three members of the committee Mark Bryant, Annie Canan and Karen John had worked hard and had the unenviable task of choosing winners. The winners were as follows:



Mercedes-Benz Delegate's Choice Award:
and Best Livery Award

North Tyneside
Mobile Library

Mobile Library Champion Runner Up 2010

John Townsend,
Warwickshire

Martin Radley,
Rutland

Highly Commended

John Bullock,
Quaker Homeless Action
Annette Shewan,
Shetland



Quaker Homeless Action

Vehicle Awards

Mercedes-Benz Delegate's Choice Award:
North Tyneside

President's Shield for Best Small Van
Sheffield's 'Little Library'

Concourse d'elegance
Quaker Homeless Action
'The Phoenix'

State of the Art
Oxfordshire's Children's Van -

Best Livery
North Tyneside



The Right Honourable Baroness Boothroyd meets BMLG Chair Ian Stringer outside the Kirklees House-bound Library that has delivered books to both their parents.



President's Shield for Best Small Van Sheffield's 'Play pen'

Germany Library Association Annual Conference and Leipzig Bookfair



Dortmund Library



One of the biggest book fairs in the world!



Conference Delegates

I was delighted to accept an offer from Bibliothek and Information International Deutschland to be in Leipzig for the Germany Library Association Annual Conference (BID).

The conference was held in the Congress Centre Leipzi (CCL). It is a spectacular venue, quite breathtaking and forms only a small part of the whole Messe complex. The Leipzig Bookfair follows immediately after the library conference.

I met up with other members of the international group at the very convenient hotel, right in the middle of the publishing district. There I also met up with fellow UK speaker Paul Sturges who will be well known to IFLA WLIC delegates as the previous chair of FAIFE (Committee on the free access to information and Freedom of Expression). It is great to report that Paul has just been awarded one of the top UK honours - Order of the British Empire (OBE) and will receive his award at Buckingham Palace from our Queen. I met up with a few friends from IFLA including Aldo Pirola from Milan and Gloria Perez Slameron from our Public Library Section committee.

The opening ceremony featured the literature of Spain and was followed by a meeting for the International guests with the Oberburgermeister, and then the opening party. I used the next day to view the exhibition and chat to on-line providers about helping African libraries get information on-line. I particularly enjoyed the very good presentation from Paul Sturges on Library ethics.

My presentation "Mobile libraries around the world" followed the next

day . As an experiment I was slotted in after the German Public Libraries Section AGM. With such a difficult act to follow and having sought Claudia's Lux's advice I injected a fair amount of humour in the speech and it worked a treat. Everybody left on a high and I was questioned in the coffee bar for a long time afterwards.

That evening we attended the opening ceremony of the Leipzig Bookfair at the Gewandhaus. The Bookfair's primary audience is members of the public (as opposed to Frankfurt's which is mainly a traders' fair) and attracts 135,000 delegates of all ages, many of them were at the opening ceremony. It was fabulous to hear the orchestra playing Bach in the city where he is buried.

On the final Friday of the Conference we were again taken into the Bookfair, it's mind blowing. The Information Technology and Games hall was not to be missed and was packed with school-children. This was a big magnet for them and most of them also visited the book sections as well.

Finally we attended the Conference's closing ceremony and said farewell and thanks to our new found friends. I can definitely recommend attending the BID conference and the Leipzig Bookfair. A special thank you to Hella Klauser for initiating my invitation.

Ian Stringer

Post script

The Public Library Section's mid term meeting had to be cancelled (see President's report). I had made it to Brno and also have included photos of the very impressive Brno Public Library (next page).



Ifla Milano 2009 Delegate Report

After all the preparation it was good to have a trouble free journey via Schipol to Milan Malpensa followed by a an easy train shuttle to City Centre. My hotel turned out to be friendly, extremely clean and just by the metro to the conference centre.

On my first full day I went by Metro to the Centre and I was one of the first there. The IT systems weren't quite in place I had the opportunity to walk down the road to the famous San Siro stadium. It's a fabulous stadium, with spiral ramps that provide for disabled access. It's great how we can always be inspired from innovative features in the public and private section that could well be adapted for use in large libraries.

As an experienced IFLA delegate I had arranged to meet up with various delegates from my Section Committee and those from the UK. As we didn't know the city we had arranged to meet at Central station steps (location sourced from the Internet of course - definitely a librarians' way of doing things).

As expected everyone turned up and soon Mussolini's grand station entrance stairs were vibrant with librarians. The meal out was a sobering indication of how the pound has fallen. €15 pizzas and €8 beer were a foretaste of things to come.

Saturday took me to the first Public Library Section Group Meeting. This was the last chaired by John Lake who has done an excellent job leading the Section. A great moment for me was the appearance of Oomoo Ouranga from Burkino Faso, recipient of money for Caterpillar Book boxes from the project I have led for 5 years. A very enjoyable UK Caucus gave a good opportunity to meet all the UK contingent and set up meetings for later in the week.

Sunday was the opening ceremony, off to a good start with Nessum Dorma. The enthusiasm from the Italians was contagious and the exhibition while smaller than some previous Congresses, included some smaller suppliers such as *Opening the Book*. Those who know me won't be surprised when I say the big highlight for me was the appearance

of a mobile library from Tampere Finland. Elina and Ari had travelled three days to attend the Congress and would be returning via Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Latvia and Estonia. I had attended a previous conference with Elina in Croatia so I helped her deal with the crowds.

Monday was the day of the Public Libraries Section session held in conjunction with Metropolitan Libraries. Despite having to make some late substitutes it was a really good session. The problem with getting speakers for an IFLA conference is the long advance booking required. In the 18 months since booking, some of our speakers changed jobs, countries, left libraries or their training budgets had been limited as a result of the recession and could not travel to the Congress.

As per other Congresses the library tours are long anticipated. Tuesday saw me on a library visit with Ayub Khan, a UK colleague. We went to the Angelo Mai Library which was good and we crammed as much as we could into the time allocated. I also made good contacts from library colleagues from Serbia and Spain.

Our Section's second Public Library meeting clashed with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Award announcement, so the meeting was a little delayed. Then as part of the social program, onto the excellent evening concert, classical music in the cathedral played on a Stradivari Violin and an excellent meal shared with members of the Multi cultural section.

Wednesday was the day for a meeting with Ayub Khan and German librarians from the Goethe Institute. Then a long session for web editors. Finally back to help Tampere mobile pack up and set off on their epic journey home.

All too soon it was the closing ceremony. We learned about the next two conferences and then learned that Helsinki would host 2012. The highlight of course was Bob McKee's Italian speech with much gusto and hand waving.



Elina and Ari, library staff from Tampere, Finland, travelled three days and drove the famous Netti Nysse to Milano travelling over 5000 kilometres including the return journey. Delegates who had seen the vehicle previously could view how the vehicle and the programs offered from Netti have been adapted to residents' needs.



The very impressive Brno Library



Next Edition - Call for contributions

Content, containers and customers

Do you have a program to showcase or a story to share!

The next edition of the newsletter will showcase examples of all things collections, programs and activities that promote customers' engagement with our collections.

So if you would have something to share whether it be how you manage the budget tension between electronic and physical resources or an exciting program that engages customers with your collections or how you promote reading...

We would love to hear from you!

Please email your story to our editor ianmstringer@googlemail.com.

Articles from as little as 300 words are welcome and should be received by **5 Jan 2011**.

Just in time to complete your New Year's resolutions or be inspired by a new one.

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".

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>

Mobile Library News

Our very own information co-ordinator has written an article on green mobile libraries for the American Library Association. You can read it at <http://olos.ala.org/columns/?p=139> . If you are planning a visit to Australia you will find information on the latest Australian Mobile Muster and a lot more at <http://www.mobilelibraries.com.au/>. You will also find information of "Mobile Library Operator of the Year" which Ian refers to in the Mobile Library news.