



IFLA Section of Science and Technology Libraries Newsletter

November 2004

Letter from the Chair

The 2004 IFLA World Congress held in Buenos Aires stands out as a very memorable experience. We missed those of you who could not attend and hope that this newsletter summarizes the work we did and the activities we participated in. The first conference held in the southern hemisphere and an unusual time when attendees had to bring and wear heavier clothing than when conferences are held in the traditional summer months. The wonderful hospitality of our Argentine colleagues as they planned this week of festivities and conference programs that left us all with a deep appreciation of Argentine culture, history, and the role of libraries in South America.

The Science & Technology Section had a most interesting experience of becoming acquainted with its local speakers. I attended the 2004 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle and attended a reception hosted by L'Oreal, the French Cosmetics group which honors women scientists throughout the world. Our first speaker, Dra. Marianne Weissmann was such an honoree as a physicist and materials scientist and we became introduced via that publicity. Nancy Gomez was already a colleague through her earlier work with the Special Libraries Association chapters in Argentina. Dr. Camila Alire is the Dean of Libraries at the University of New Mexico, which has pioneered relationships with librarians in South America through the Ibero American Science & Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC) that the campus sponsors (<http://www.istec.org/index2.htm>).

The Section had the wonderful experience to sponsor the Librarian, Diana Pallini from the Argentine National Academy of Sciences and we had so much fun meeting her. The following letter sent on September 9 from the President suggests how grateful colleagues were for our generosity and support and I share it with you:

Dear Ms. Gelfand,

I would like to express our recognition and thanks for your cooperation and support to our Academy for the participation of our librarian Mrs. Diana L. Pallini in the "World Library and Information Congress - 70th IFLA General Conference and Council".

The attendance of Mrs. Pallini to the meeting was extremely important to help us to start to update the Library of our Academy and to contact her with a number of expert colleagues in library activities.

Our best wishes and regards.

*Dr. Alejandro J. Arvia, President
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1014 Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Now we return with our memories and continue our work and plan for the 2005 meeting in Oslo. The theme for 2005 is likely to be about open source content in the sciences. We also are planning some special visits and hope that you are counting on joining us then. Preliminary plans for 2006 in Seoul are also underway. In Oslo, we will also have an election for new officers and look forward to your continued and renewed participation.

With best wishes,

Julia Gelfand
Chair, Science & Technology Section 2003-05

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WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 70th IFLA General Conference and Council, Buenos Aires, 22-27 August 2004

The World Library and Information Congress: 69th International Federation of Library Associations General Conference and Council met in Buenos Aires, Argentina in August of 2004. Close to 4000 participants from 121 countries attended the “Tango Conference” with the theme, “Libraries: Tools for Education and Development”. The conference was held right in the middle of Buenos Aires, in the beautiful Puerto Madre area by the river Rio de la Plata. There were lots of interesting cultural distractions in this wonderful city. On Tuesday afternoon August 24th, the Science and Technology Libraries Section organized the open session *Promoting scientific literacy and professional development for science librarians*. The session was bilingual with two papers delivered in Spanish and one in English. The interpreters in their booths did a wonderful job enabling all session roughly a hundred participants to follow the presentations. Dra. Mariana Weissmann from the Argentine National Research Council, Buenos Aires, presented a view of a physics researcher. She shared the concern of librarians in the way science is presented in the various media and how it is important to be able to distinguish science from opinions. Nancy Gomez, the science librarian of the University of Buenos Aires talked about the information seeking behaviour of the physicists. For science librarians it is important to know how information is searched and used among the users and this issue was further explored by Dr. Camilla Alire, Dean of Libraries at the University of New Mexico, USA. She called for multi-skilled librarians who should have their core knowledge of the sciences supplemented with mastery in one of the science disciplines, or at least some depth with confidence or familiarity in a science subject. The debate that followed the session's presentations was very lively and comments concerning the requirements of tomorrow's science librarians were many.

The section Study Tour to the University of Buenos Aires Science Faculty and Medical Faculty was organized together with the Health and Biosciences Section. The group was met at the Hotel Hilton early on Thursday morning by Nicolas Rucks, the reference librarian at the Science Library that kindly provided our group with bus transportation. The bus took us through a scenic route following the Rio de la Plata shoreline to the northern part of Buenos Aires where the faculty of science has a campus right by the river. Nancy Gomez had organized a wonderful tour around her library and together with her staff they made the visit one to remember. Under Nancy's leadership the library has recently undergone several renovations and the achievements are very impressive, particularly in preservation. The next stop took the group back to the inner city, to the Medical Faculty. Again we were very welcomed, by library director Maria di Vietro and her staff. The library tower inside the building echoed the voices of architectural design of the 1950's. The rarities of the medical library are very beautifully displayed in a faculty study room. The discussions with the library staff made us all much more aware

of the current problems in Argentine libraries. Both the visited libraries benefit greatly from the national electronic library of Argentina whereby a good number of recent scientific information is accessible on the university campuses.



The Argentine flag was always there in front of the presidential palace Casa Rosada.

Report of the Buenos Aires 2004 Standing Committee Meetings

The Standing Committee met twice, on Sunday Aug. 22nd and on Saturday Aug. 28th. Present at the meetings were Julia Gelfand, USA, Olga Lavrik, Russia, Irma Pasanen, Finland, Jean Poland, USA, Raymond Schwarz, USA, Werner Stephan, Germany, and Anne-Mette Vibe, Norway. We had two observers in the first meeting, Maja Jokic, Croatia and Christine Stotzenbach, France.

Among the division of special libraries the assessment of sections will begin from the art libraries section and the social sciences section. The Science and Technology Libraries section assessment will commence in December 2006 and will run until August 2007.

IFLA 2005 World Library and Information Congress will be held in Oslo, Norway, and the theme of the conference is “Voyage to Discovery”. Irma Pasanen, Jean Poland and Rivkah Frank together with Julia Gelfand will continue the planning of the section programme. Anne-Mette Vibe will pursue the planning of the local study tour.

The minutes of the meetings will soon be available in PDF format via the section homepage <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s7/index.htm>



The fabulous view of Buenos Aires from the meeting room El Aguila where the Standing Committee had its meetings at the Sheraton Tower hotel.

Section Project update

Work has been in progress regarding the section project “Survey of Scientific and Technological Information Needs in Less-Developed and Developing Countries”. While the project results are available at IFLANET (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s7/index.htm>) experiments have been made with the data. Greg Youngen at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champlain has reorganized the data into a MySQL database enabling search and retrieve functionalities. Web-based search forms have been tested during the fall 2004. The content updates and project marketing initiatives have been planned as well.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER ENQUIRY

The readers of the newsletter are urged to give their feedback on this important issue. The newsletter has been available over the IFLANET in PDF format since 2001. The print version of the newsletter has been sent via mail to all section members. The production and distribution costs of the newsletter come from copying and mailing of the roughly 150 printed newsletters. The cost is covered by the administrative budget of the section. In recent years the mailing costs have gone up. Furthermore, the using of colors in the newsletter has influenced the rising production and distribution costs.

Unfortunately there is no statistical information available about the usage concerning the section newsletter on IFLANET. According to the IFLA Rules the newsletter may be produced in electronic format, but hard copies must be provided, if requested. We would like to get your feedback on this issue.

Please let us know how you feel about an electronic only newsletter. Also, please let us know if you would like to continue to receive your membership copy of the newsletter in printed format.

There are three options:

1. Electronic only. An e-mail notice to all members and all stl-list members would be sent alerting the readers about the new issue once it is up on IFLANET. Members would then print their own print copies themselves from IFLANET.
2. Electronic only. An e-mail notice to all members and all stl-list members would be sent alerting the readers about the new issue once it is up on IFLANET. The printed copy will be produced later by on demand and mailed to members specially requesting the printed copy.
3. The section will continue the current practice whereby the members are sent one printed copy of the newsletter. Electronic version on IFLANET is supplementary and it will be produced after the print copy has been mailed.

Please let us know your preferred option. Please respond to Irma Pasanen, the section's Information Coordinator. E-mail: irma.pasanen@hut.fi, Fax: (358) (9)4514132

Introducing New Standing Committee 2003-2007 members

Suk Young Kim is the director of the information services at KISTI, the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information where she has been working for the past 25 years. Suk Young Kim holds a PhD in library and information science from Yonsei University. In 1997 she spent a year as a research fellow at the University of Illinois

Library at Urbana-Champaign, USA. Suk Young Kim is interested in all aspects of information policy matters and she is very excited about having the World Library and Information Conference in Seoul in 2006.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council. August 14 - 18, 2005, Oslo, Norway. Theme: "*Libraries - A voyage of discovery*" <http://www.ifla.org>

ACRL 2005. Association of College & Research Libraries, 12th Annual Conference. April 7-10, 2005, Minneapolis, MN, USA. Theme: Currents & Convergence: Navigating the River of Change. <http://www.ala.org/acrlconftemplate1.html>

MLA 2005. Medical Library Association. May 14 -19, 2005. San Antonio, Texas, USA. Theme: *MLA '05 Futuro Magnifico!* www.mlanet.org/am/am2005/

IATUL The 26th Annual Conference May 29 – June 3, 2005. Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada. <http://www.iatul.org>

SLA (Special Libraries Association) Annual Conference June 5 - 8, 2005 Toronto, Ontario Canada. <http://www.sla.org>

ASEE/ELD (American Society of Engineering Education - Engineering Libraries Division) 2005 ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition. June 12 -15, 2005. Portland, Oregon USA. Theme "*Exploring the World of Engineering Education*" <http://www.asee.org/about/events/conferences/annual/future/index.cfm>

ALA (American Library Association) Annual Conference June 23 - 29, 2005 Chicago, Illinois, USA <http://www.ala.org>

LIBER (European Research Libraries) LIBER 34th Annual General Conference. July 5 - 8, 2005 at the Bibliotheek der Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands. Theme: '*Strategic choices: current thinking*' <http://www.kb.dk/liber/>

EUNIS 2005. 10th International Conference of European University Information Systems. EUNIS 2005 June 21th-24th Manchester, UK <http://www.eunis.org>

IFLA NEWS:

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS was issued in October 2004. Invited are nominations for

- IFLA President-elect
- Elected members of the Governing Board of IFLA
- Members of Section Standing Committees of IFLA are now invited.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is close of business on **Wednesday, 2 February 2005**.

Details have been posted by mail to all qualified Members of IFLA and these details are also available on IFLANET at <http://www.ifla.org/announce.htm>

All voting Members of IFLA who have paid their membership fees for 2004 and who are not in arrears are eligible to nominate for these positions and to vote in the subsequent elections. In addition, Personal Affiliates who have paid their fees for 2004 and are not in arrears are entitled to nominate for the positions of President-elect and the elected members of the Governing Board.

Forum of the IFLA Science and Technology Libraries Section

***** stl-sc@infoserv.inist.fr *****

The Sci-Tech list forum continues to grow and there are 104 members on the list from all over the world. Anyone interested in the work of the Sci-Tech Section is welcome to join. Please see <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/stl-sc> for instructions. If you change your e-mail address, please update that with the listserv as well.

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