Welcome to the “SOCRS” newsletter, in which we hope to offer some interesting articles and profiles of members of our committee. We welcome questions and comments and look forward to seeing readers in Göteborg!

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SERIALS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: NEW CONCEPTS, NEW CHALLENGES

By Zuzanna Wiorogórska

Summary of the Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section Open Session, Milan, Italy, 26 August 2009

Let me begin by saying that the new concepts and challenges of the title are the natural consequences of developments that have been happening for some years in our little “serials domain”. Which of course is not that little; on the contrary, when I finally found the Red Hall where our session was to be held, I noted with satisfaction that IFLA had chosen (quite appropriately, I should add) one of the largest halls in the Milan’s Convention Centre, where you entered to feel immediately that important topics must be discussed here.

And important they were indeed, at least from the serials librarian’s point of view, and at least at first glance. I am an IFLA “First Timer” (green sticker still on my badge!), and this session proved to be exactly as I had imagined it, with the presentations not meant to discover new lands in serials geography, but to share experiences and knowledge, and to show the international audience that everything is possible if you want to.
Although somebody may find it disappointing, I believe that from such a large meeting (3491 participants, according to the latest “tweets”) one cannot expect major breakthroughs but just fair reports on ongoing projects, meant to motivate and encourage us all.

Our session consisted of five presentations featuring speakers from China, Italy/Belgium, Sweden and the United States. And this is what I liked the best of a conference like this one: The fact that in the course of a two-hour session you have the opportunity to hear speakers from all over the world. Is this possible anywhere else in the library world?

I wonder whether we realize the advantages of not having to wait months for a conference proceedings to be published in print. As another tangible sign of the evolution I mentioned before, most conference papers are now available online, weeks before they are actually delivered. A few clicks of the mouse and you can read them all. What a relief for “IFLA reporters” like this one! Rather than having to summarize each one of them, I can simply choose (what I consider) the most interesting papers, underline their strong points, and for the rest refer readers to their full texts online.

And there were quite a lot of papers to read this year. So, let’s start with a vintage topic… Owen Tam (Lingnan University Library, Hong Kong), in his paper New Wine in New Bottles, described how to preserve Beaujolais Nouveau (i.e., e-books) in new bottles (new forms of access) that are stored in old “wine cellars” (libraries). He illustrated this issue with examples from his university, such as the Subscription Management Solution (SUMAS), which made it really interesting to me, since our main problem in Poland is that we provide access to several types of e-resources but we do not have the tools to manage them well.

As we all know, good management tools are not enough: We also need people to manage these tools, and this may turn in a vicious circle. Karin Grönvall, from the Karolinska Institutet (KI) University Library in Stockholm (“Adapting Workflows for Acquisition of Electronic Resources”), showed a possible way out by stressing that new type of holdings require staff properly trained to handle and manage them. She presented a case study that showed how her library managed to smoothly and effectively introduce this kind of transition. As a result, now 96% of KI librarians work on e-media and only 4% on paper.

Once you have solved the problem of e-resource management, and convinced your staff that it is worth working with “new wine” (although, from a manager’s point of view, it is better if such advice is not taken too literally), you can think about library users.

Aline Soules from California State University, East Bay (“New E-sources, New Models: Reinventing Library Approaches to Providing Access”) described user behavior, needs and expectations. She identified strengths and weaknesses of library services today, concentrating on OPAC, federated searching and structural organization. We cannot talk of users without mentioning Google, she said. It is like a “librarian’s nightmare,” an irresistible enemy. But is it really an enemy? In trying to answer this question, she offered some good ideas on how to persuade users that something other than Google exists. Really.

And for those who may doubt it, Maria Cassella, from the University of Turin, in a paper co-authored with Licia Calvi of the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium (“New Journal Models and Publishing Perspectives in the Evolving Digital Environment”), reminded the audience of initiatives such as ROAR (Registry of Open Access Repositories) and DOAR (Directory of Open Access Repositories), explained the definition of overlay journals and interjournals, and provided some interesting examples. I found it very inspiring. I like presentations that are keen on terminology and provide topics and ideas for further research. Maria’s and Licia’s paper also convinced me that Open Access and Web 2.0 are really serious initiatives and librarians cannot neglect them. On the contrary, we should advocate for them, especially since new technologies like these cost us almost nothing in comparison with the amount of money we spend on consortial purchases of e-resources.
Rick Burke, Executive Director of the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC) in Los Angeles, reminded us of this complex and costly aspect of a serial librarian’s work in his provocatively-titled presentation “Are Library Consortia Your New Serials Manager?” On hearing about all the steps involved in the acquisition and management of electronic resources, you realize the extent to which your work resembles that of an accountant in a big commercial firm, rather than your idealized picture of a librarian surrounded by books and smiling users… Even so, we still love our job, don’t we?

Overall, this IFLA Session convinced me that I am on the right professional path. A lot has been done already, but more needs to be done. So much more, in fact, that I am sure I will not get bored until retirement. And so I am waiting impatiently for the next IFLA Annual Conference, to learn about any new developments in the serials domain. I also noticed with satisfaction that others have reported on our Open Session already. For example, I found a brief summary posted on the Senegalese blog SENBIBDOC (in French), and I think it would be nice to learn about, and link to, any other such relations. So, if you know of any postings (in different languages), let us know.

2010 PRECONFERENCE & SATELLITE MEETING – PLAN TO JOIN Us!

Measuring Usage and Understanding Users! E-resources Statistics and What They Teach Us


Sponsors: IFLA’s Serials and Other Continuing Resources; and Statistics and Evaluation Sections

The IFLA Section for Serials and Other Continuing Resources, in collaboration with the Section on Statistics and Evaluation and Stockholm University Library, are organizing a pre-conference and satellite meeting in Stockholm on August 8th, 2010. This is held in conjunction with the IFLA annual conference, which takes place in Gothenburg (Sweden), the following week.

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

- Chiratidzo Chatikobo, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
  What use is made of usage statistics?
- Smita Joshipura & James Carvalho, Arizona State University, USA
  Usage statistics for collection assessment and decision-making
- Tiziana Morocutti & Federica Zanardini, University of Milan, Italy
  Managing the electronic collection with qualitative and quantitative data
- Tina Chrząstowski, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
  Longitudinal study of e-journal use at a U.S. academic chemistry library
- Niklas Willén, National Library of Sweden
  Statistics and Google Motion Chart
- Birgit Parding, Stockholm University, Sweden
  The use of Verde usage statistics service
- Leonidas Konstantelos & Milena Dobreva, University of Glasgow & University of Strathclyde, UK
  Two user studies in the area of digital libraries for cultural materials
- James Shulman, President, ARTstor
  Evaluating usage of non-text resources: usage, value, and what COUNTER statistics can’t count
- Chiara Consonni, Master DILL Student (Digital Library Learning), Estonia
  Non users evaluation of digital libraries: a survey at the Università degli studi di Milano
The Serials Collection of the Biblioteca de Catalunya

By Maria del Tura Molas Alberich

The Biblioteca de Catalunya celebrated its centenary in 2007. Founded in 1907 as the library of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans, with the vision of being the National Library and the mission to collect and preserve the bibliographic record of Catalonia, it acquired the official status of national library and legal deposit for all materials printed in Catalonia in the early 1980s.

The Biblioteca’s periodical collection dates from the very beginning of its history, and it includes materials that are crucial for the study of Catalan history and culture, such as (to mention only a few titles): manuscripts (Il Tiberio, La Bugadera) and early printed publications like Gazeta (issued in Barcelona in 1641 by Jaume Romeu), Relación diaria del Sitio de Barcelona (printed in Girona in 1714), Caxon de Sastre Cathalan (1761) and Lo Pare Arcàngel (1841); newspapers (La Veu de Catalunya, El Telégrafo, El Diluvio or El Poble catalá); and magazines, the latter of various kinds: humorous (Lo Noy de la mare), literary (L’Avenç); Modernist (Luz, Quatre gats, Pèl & Ploma), children's (En Patufet), general interest (D’Ací d’allà) and weeklies (Destino).

In his fundamental Bibliografia Catalana Premsa (1931), the philologist and Cervantes scholar Joan Givanel described over 3000 Catalan periodicals published from the end of the eighteenth century to 1925. Most of them are now accessible through the Library’s online catalog.

As mandated by the Legal Deposit Act of 1981, the Biblioteca de Catalunya receives one copy of each periodical printed in Catalonia. These include: newspapers, magazines, scholarly and research journals (including weekly supplements and comics); professional, trade and industry publications (newsletters, bulletin, reports, etc.); and official publications. Since January 2008, it is also responsible for assigning an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) to all periodicals published in the Comunidad Autónoma.

Collection development focuses on human science publications, particularly those focused on Catalonia, with selective retrospective acquisition intended to fill gaps in the bibliography of Catalan serial publications. The periodical collection is managed by the Serials Department, which is one of the four units responsible for the management of all Library collections.

As a member of the Consorci de Biblioteques Universitàries de Catalunya (CBUC), the Biblioteca de Catalunya participates in the cooperative acquisition of electronic journals and magazines, thus providing online access to a large collection of scientific publications. The Serials Department collaborates closely with other Library units, in the effort to streamline processes and maximize results. Cataloging, for example, is done simultaneously in the Biblioteca’s catalog and in the Collective Catalog of the Universities of Catalonia (CCUC). Since 2008, the Library has been using the Innovative Interfaces’ Millennium integrated library system (ILS) and has also adopted the MARC-21 format. Since 2005 the Biblioteca de Catalunya has been leading and coordinating, with support from CBUC, the ARCA (Arxiu de Revistes Catalanes Antigues) portal, providing free access to Catalan historical journals and magazines that are no longer published. The Serials Department also maintains an inventory of Catalan periodicals that have been or are being digitized elsewhere in the country. Available on the Biblioteca’s Web site, it is particularly useful to serials librarians, since not all these titles have been included in online catalogs.

Services. In the year 2008 the “Biblioteca de Catalunya” assumed the management of assigning the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) in Catalonia by the Royal Decree 1405/2007 of 29 October of 2007, although the relation with the International Center is a competence of the Spanish National Center. The cession of this domain is relevant because it allows an administrative procedure closer to the publishers and it also allows bibliographical management to our country and more international reach. It is a pioneering initiative in all the Spanish State.

The Periodical Collection in Figures (2008)

- Bibliographical records: 51,552
- Holding records: 50,479
- Current serials: 12,158
- Online Serials access: 8,300
- New titles (Catalan Bibliography): 562
- Assigned ISSN: 256
MY PRECIOUS EXPERIENCE @ YALE

By Affra Al Shamsi

In the summer of 2009, I joined a three-month internship program as the tenth information professional at Yale University under the auspices of the International Associates Program, a Library-funded initiative launched in 2005. At Yale I worked in the Electronic Collections department. I received training and prepared summaries of license agreements to be entered into the Library’s Electronic Resource Management system (ERMs), Verde, tested and evaluated a new version of this service and reported my findings to members of the Committee on Digital General Electronic Resources (CoDGeR). I also worked with the Medical Library, reviewing their core print journal collection, and drafting a document that identified journals that, based on existing licensing agreements and information provided by the Library’s serials agent, could be moved to e-only. This project helped identify approximately US$60,000 in cost savings by changing these titles to e-only for 2010. I also compiled COUNTER-compliant usage statistics for key biomedical databases to allow, for the first time, a comparison of user sessions and searches with cost-per-session numbers across these resources. In addition, I revised and updated the UpToDate usage data spreadsheet used by the Library and Hospital to track the utilization of this important, and expensive, clinical resource.

My observation of Medical Library operations and collection development included meetings with the Clinical Support Librarian to learn about the library’s history and its current engagement with the provision of clinical information resources via mobile technologies – such as PDAs and Smart Phones – to physicians, residents and other health care professionals working at Yale and the Yale-New Haven Hospital.

This experience expanded my thinking and gave me a chance to compare and taste the professionals' day-to-day work, problems and challenges; it also made me more aware of what real team work is, as well as the challenges and disappointments of the job and how these can be converted to success through the determination of professionals.

I also had the chance to be behind the scenes of an important project: the meeting of the Research 4 Life group, a highly successful public-private partnership of the WHO, FAO, UNEP, Cornell and Yale Universities and the International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers. (I had heard of the group before but had never imagined the time and effort involved in such projects.) Together with their technology partner Microsoft, the partnership's goal is to help international development by supporting developing countries’ information needs in education, health, nutrition, the environment, and to reduce the scientific knowledge gap between industrialized countries and the developing world. I would like in the future to be involved with projects such as these, where information professionals can make a real difference to the wider world.

Hemeroteca Digital (National Library of Spain): the digital collection of serials and newspapers has reached four million pages and 729 titles

By Luisa María Landáburu Areta

The Hemeroteca Digital has reached 4,000,000 pages and 729 titles in April 2010, three years after opening. The access figures - 7,000,000 reached in April 2010 - confirm its success among users and international researchers. The copyright-free collection is now accessible on the Hemeroteca Digital Web site (http://hemerotecadigital.bne.es/inicio.htm) and represents a wide spectrum of serials and press from 1683 to 1933, covering a variety of subjects (political, satirical, technical, literary, sports, religious, etc.). There is a brief overview to present the titles. The database can be searched by title, place, and date of publication; full-text search is possible since the papers have been converted to digital images that are scanned by OCR. Users can further link to other digital collections and to individual bibliographic records in the National Library database. An e-mail address is provided for questions or suggestions.

The serials collection of the National Library of Spain comprises nearly 110,000 titles and a collection of press estimated at nearly 20,000 newspapers.
The current Serials Department of the National Library has its origin in the creation of a section exclusively devoted to serials in 1933. In 1957, the date of enactment of the legal deposit law, the Library had about 3,000 titles of magazines. Among them were the main European scientific journals of the XVII-XIX centuries. Annual growth is about 3,000 periodical titles, entering on paper and electronic valuable documents for historical research. As part of the national collection, which covers the entire national printed output, are Spanish Government publications, which are preserved. Also are retained and served in the National Library, as depository library, are the publications of certain international organizations such as the European Community, UNESCO, UN, FAO, ICAO. The National Library maintains the largest collection of Spanish print media. In the national collection there is also a large collection of foreign press, basically the main newspapers from around the world.

**Member Profiles**

**HELEN ADEY (CHAIR) (UNITED KINGDOM)** – I am currently working as Information Resources Services Manager in the Libraries and Learning Resources (LLR) at Nottingham Trent University, in Nottingham, United Kingdom. My major responsibilities include the management of the teams that handle all print and electronic journal subscriptions; cataloguing and classification; collection management and the implementation of the University’s Information Resources Policy. My involvement in IFLA came about almost by accident. The Director of our Library, then Chair of the Academic and Research Standing Committee, asked me to accompany her to Seoul in 2006, and on the last day I had a morning free. I remembered the words of the IFLA Secretary General at the Newcomers welcome meeting, where he said that the key to enjoying IFLA was to meet with the people and groups that share your interests, so I joined the Serials and Other Continuing Resources Standing Committee, and the rest is history. Away from work, I live in Loughborough, Leicestershire, with my husband and nine year old son who love accompanying me to IFLA conferences and get to see much more of the host country than I do!

**PHILIPPE CANTIÉ (SECRETARY) (FRANCE)** – I was born and educated in southwest France. After 18 years in secondary and higher education, in France and abroad, in 2005 I graduated from the École nationale supérieure des sciences de l’information et des bibliothèques (Enssib), the French National Library School in Lyon, and started working in the serials cataloguing section of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF). In 2007 I was appointed director of the Centre ISSN France and, during the IFLA conference in Durban, I joined the Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section. After the reorganization of what used to be the National Bibliographic Agency (now Bibliographical and Digital Information), I supervise a unit hosting various centres with a national outreach (bibliographic products, Centre ISSN, RAMEAU). Following a new law, I am involved in developing a platform helping French publishers provide digital access to visually-impaired citizens. My publications include a book on the impact of the US Patriot Act on libraries (*Au nom de l’antiterrorisme : les bibliothèques américaines face à l’USA Patriot Act*, 2006).

**AFFRA AL SHAMSI (OMAN)** – I am Head of the Central Medical Library, Royal Hospital-Sultanate of Oman, since 2005. I have also worked (2004-07) as part-time Arabic teacher for non-native speakers in the Gulf Arabic Programme. In my current position I am responsible for preparing a strategic plan for the library’s and the hospital’s information resources; developing the library’s collection; building relationships with other medical institutions in the country and abroad; increasing awareness of the effects of biomedical information on medical research/education and healthcare provision. As medical librarian and information professional, I introduced new services such as CMEIS (Continuous
Medical Education Information Service) and EBMRS (Evidence-Based Medicine Reference Service); organize regular workshops, seminars and lectures on computer & internet skills, evaluation of information on the Web, including medical resources and search tools; organize an annual conference/exhibition for medical librarians and healthcare professionals; designed the library Web portal; expand the Library’s electronic resources and support remote access to them; and edit the library’s newsletter. I am also coordinator of the Omani Medical Resources Sharing Consortia, which I started in 2009. I am very active in professional organizations such as the Library and Learning Resources Training Committee (LLRTC), the main forum for Omani libraries under the Ministry of Health, the Omani Library Association (as board member and president of its Medical Library Chapter); and the Special Library Association-Arabian Gulf Chapter (board member and chair of Professional Development). I live in Oman with my husband and one son, although I am currently (until the end of 2010) enrolled in the Information Management (M.Sc.) program at Sheffield University (UK).

MARIA DEL TURA MOLAS ALBERICH (SPAIN) – I was born in Barcelona, where I currently live. I have a bachelor’s degree in Library and Information Science from the Universitat de Barcelona, and since 1995 I am Head of the Serials Department at the Biblioteca de Catalunya, Catalonia’s national library. I have represented the Biblioteca de Catalunya in the Grupo Español de Revistas during its three years of life (1995-1997), and in the working group of the Catálogo Colectivo Español de Publicaciones Periódicas. I am also a member of the Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris-Documentalistes de Catalunya since its beginning in 1985.

HELEN HEINRICH (UNITED STATES: Corresponding Member) – I have been serving as Cataloging Coordinator at the Oviatt Library of the California State University, Northridge (CSUN) since 2005. Prior to CSUN I have worked at the Getty Research Library as Serials Cataloger. My library career spans two countries: My native Russia and the Untied States. I have a bachelor’s degree in Library Science from the St. Petersburg State Academy of Culture and a MLIS from the University of California, Los Angeles. My professional interests include international librarianship, automation, electronic resources, and workflow analysis. I write and present regularly on a variety of topics related to Technical Services.

MIDORI ICHIKO (JAPAN) – I am currently Operating Director (Head Librarian) of the Information and Media Center for Science and Technology at Keio University in Yokohama, Japan. Prior to that, I worked at three other KU media centers (i.e., libraries), Shinanomachi Media Center/Kitasato Memorial Medical Library (as reference librarian from 1987-2000), Shonan Fujisawa (manager, 2000-02), Hiyoshi (manager, 2002-05), and Kitasato Memorial Medical Library (Operating Director, 2005-07). I hold a bachelor’s degree in Literature (1980) and an M.L.S. (1985) from Keio University, where I also completed the Ph.D. program in Library and Information Science (2008). One of my responsibilities as an “ABD” (All But Dissertation) is writing “assessments of Information literacy education”. I have two flat-nosed dogs, Mao and Hanako, and in my free time enjoy scuba diving, swimming and golf.

LUISA MARIA LANDÁBURU ARETA (SPAIN) – I was born in Madrid, Spain, where I currently live. I have three degrees in Art, Medieval History and Ancient History from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. I subsequently earned a master's degree in Library and Information Science. I am a member of the Cuerpo Facultativo de Bibliotecarios of the Spanish State (organization of professional librarians). I have worked as researcher (CSIC), librarianship teacher and as a librarian in public and academic libraries. Over the past ten years, I have been the Head of the Normalization Section in the Serials Department at the National Library of
Spain (Biblioteca Nacional de España), developing currently the Project Hemeroteca Digital (digitized serials and newspapers). In 2009 I worked on the translation into Spanish of FRAD (Functional Requirements of Authority Data), published by IFLA.

**Morwamalekala Abraham Harry Nkdimeng**, commonly known as Harry (SOUTH AFRICA) – I was born in 1962 and I am married with 3 children, one son and two daughters aged 25, 21, and 13, respectively. I hold Library and Information Science degrees from the University of South Africa (UNISA). I started working for the National Library of South Africa in November 1990, first as library assistant and then as librarian, senior librarian in the Document Supply section, and finally (since February 2008) as principal librarian (Project Manager) in the Serials department.

**Ann Okerson** (UNITED STATES): I have been Associate Librarian at Yale since 1996, after service as senior/founding program officer for Scholarly Communications at the Association of Research Libraries in Washington, DC. My chief responsibilities are to Collection Development and International Programs. In 1996, I organized from Yale the Northeast Research Libraries Consortium (NERL), a group of 27 large and over 70 smaller libraries negotiating for electronic information and engaging occasionally in other cooperative activities. With funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources, I created the online educational resource about library licensing of electronic content: LIBLICENSE, whose extensive website is complemented by Liblicense-l, an international, moderated online discussion frequented by over 3,500 librarians, publishers and attorneys. I have done training of librarians around the world, both in forming consortia and in licensing, for example though eIFL, an international NGO working for access to digital information for developing countries. My real passions are in fine dark chocolate (worldwide), French macaroons, cupcakes, and murder mysteries.

**SimoneTta Pasqualis dell’Antonio** (ITALY) – I have been serving as Library Head of the Biblioteca di Scienze dell’Antichità e Italianistica of Trieste University since 2002. I graduated at the International School for Interpreters and Translators in English and Dutch, and my first job was Assistant librarian at the International Centre for Theoretical Studies for 3 years. Then at the International School of Advanced Studies I ran the Serials department of the Library till 1998, when I moved to the University of Trieste Psychology Library. In 1999 I got a master's degree in Library Management from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, and from that year to 2001 I was in charge of starting the Measurement and Evaluation system of our Sistema Bibliotecario di Ateneo. I am married to a mathematician and have two daughters (19 and 11 years old), enjoy travelling, swimming and cooking.

**Françoise Pellé** (FRANCE: Corresponding Member). – I am Director of the ISSN International Centre. The ISSN International Centre is the maintenance authority for two ISO standards – including the ISSN standard, which defines the international identification system for serial publications and other continuing resources worldwide for a network of 86 member countries. My other current responsibility is as Chair of ISO/TC 46 (the ISO Technical Committee for information and documentation). I am a professional librarian, specialized in planning processes and computer science applied to information systems. I had earlier experiences at (among other places): the French
Ministère de l'éducation nationale, de la recherche et de la technologie (Department of Higher Education, Research and Technology), in the office for the modernization of libraries - responsible for the planning process of the network of libraries serving higher education.

HILDEGARD SCHÄFFLER (GERMANY) – I studied English Language and Literature, History and Education, passing my final State Exam in 1993. Subsequently, I obtained a Ph.D. in English Linguistics (1997) and a Degree in Library and Information Science (1998). I have been working at the Bavarian State Library (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, BSB) in Munich since 1998. My current position is Head of Serials and Electronic Media (includes head office of Bavarian Consortium and negotiations for national licences on behalf of the German Research Foundation). I chair the Bavarian E-books Working Group, am deputy chair of the German, Austrian, Swiss Consortia Organisation (GASCO), and I am a member of the Working Group on National Licences, the Knowledge Exchange Licensing Working Group, and the Licensing Working Group of the Alliance of German Science Organisations.

STEPHANIE SCHMITT (UNITED STATES) – When I was appointed to the Serials Section of IFLA, I was the ALEPH (i.e., library catalog) Manager for Five Colleges, Inc., a “nonprofit educational consortium established in 1965 to promote the broad educational and cultural objectives of its member institutions, which include Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.” A career-long serialist, I am an advocate for innovation in libraries, including open source solutions and technologies that bring library resources and services to the reader wherever he or she is. Previously, I worked at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and at Yale University. In January 2010, I pulled up stakes and once again fed my sense of adventure by taking a position at the new American University of Afghanistan's Bernice Nachman Marlowe Library. There I work in cataloging, acquisitions, and library systems. The integrated library system is Koha, and the Library has a contract with Liblime. My blog records my initial adventures and various highlights; a May 13th posting summarizes the first 5 months in Kabul. [For fascinating reading, Step's blog URL is: http://stepschmitt.blogspot.com/].

EDWARD SWANSON (UNITED STATES) – I am currently in the third year of my second four-year term as a member of the Standing Committee of IFLA’s Serials and Other Continuing Resources Section. During my first term I served as Chair of the Section, and member of the Coordinating Board of the IFLA Division of Collections and Services, which I also chaired during that time. From 1995 to 2003 I was a member of the Standing Committee of the Section on Classification and Indexing, including four years as the Section Secretary and Secretary of the Division of Bibliographic Control. Since 2001 I have served as the manager of the Minitex Library Information Network Contract Cataloging Program, which provides supplementary cataloging services to libraries with backlogs, temporary staffing shortages, special collections, or materials in languages or subjects in which they do not have expertise. Prior to that I spent 31 years as, successively, Head of the Newspaper Department, Head of the Technical Services Department, Head of the Processing Department, and Coordinator of Library Cataloging and Principal Cataloger at the Minnesota Historical Society, before retiring in 1999. My special interests include descriptive cataloging and access and serials cataloging. From 1978 I was extensively involved in the introduction of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, Second Edition, in the United States and its continuing revision. I also served member and editor of the ISBD(S) Revision Work Group from 1997 to 2002 and as editor of the ISBD(CR), International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials and Other Continuing Resources.

MARIE JOËLLE TARIN (France) – After an early career in scientific and other specialized libraries, I now work (since 2001) in the Library of Sorbonne in Paris (serving five Paris universities) as head of periodicals. I am also in charge of negotiations in the fields of social and human sciences for the French consortium Couperin (comprising more than 200 institutions) and I do a lot of agreements with the publishers, as well as work on important issues such as national acquisition of scientific archives and establishment of systems for non-commercial dissemination of IST. In France I am the General Secretary of the Paris section in the Association of French Librarians (ABF); I have participated in the activities of IFLA since
1991. First, I was elected in the Section “Acquisition and Collection Development” and since 2003 I have been elected in the section: “Serials and Other Continuing Resources”.

**JINA CHOI WAKIMOTO** (UNITED STATES) – I am the Faculty Director of Cataloging and Metadata Services at the University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries. I hold a B.A. from the University of Maryland and an M.L.S. from the University of Chicago. Since joining CU Boulder in 2005, I have changed the name of the Department to better reflect its activities and re-organized the Department to a team structure to respond to changing needs of the researchers more efficiently. The Cataloging and Metadata Services Department provides intellectual access to information resources to promote client self-sufficiency in finding, identifying, selecting, and obtaining resources via Chinook Library Catalog and Digital Asset Library. I am responsible for overall management of the Department with 10.5 faculty and 18 staff members. Since starting my career as a librarian in Serials Records Division at the National Agricultural Library in 1980, my experience has been in serials cataloging and my particular expertise is with all aspects of electronic resources, including management, provision of access, link resolver and metasearching. I moved to the U.S. with my family from Korea and experienced a total culture shock at the age of 16. My subsequent assimilation into American society, living in the Washington, D.C. area, Chicago and Los Angeles among diverse, multi-ethnic populations, and appreciating the unique aspects of each culture I encountered, helped form the fabric of my character. I am happily married and have two grown-up sons and two cats.

**ZUZANNA WIOROGÓRSKA** (POLAND) – I started working at the University of Warsaw Library in 2003, two weeks after obtaining an M.A. in Literature and Linguistics, and since 2008, I have been an Acquisition Manager in the Serials Department. In the meantime, to be a “well educated librarian,” I gained a postgraduate degree in Information Science. I was lucky enough to enter the profession at the same time Poland became a member country of the European Union, an event that created new opportunities for education and professional development. Thanks to European funds, I was able to expand my professional experience through longer and shorter internships in libraries in France, Germany and Great Britain. As an active member of the Polish Librarians’ Association and the Association Internationale Francophone des Bibliothécaires et Documentalistes (AIFBD), I found IFLA to be a natural next step. In my opinion, when you are serious about librarianship as a profession and a lifelong commitment, are willing to make a difference, and speak one or more foreign languages, participation in international professional associations is the best way to fulfil your potential and achieve your goals.

**ALICIA WISE** (UNITED KINGDOM: Corresponding Member) – I have a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and studied the Roman invasion of Scotland (and, more interestingly, resistance to it!) Prior to joining the publishing industry I worked first as an academic archaeologist, then in a digital preservation service, and from there I joined the UK's Joint Information Systems Committee. At JISC my first role was to lead national negotiations for access to a broad array of content, and my second role was to direct research and development programmes to stimulate the innovative use of information technology or education and research. As we go to press, I am once again in transition, leaving the Publishers Licensing Society (PLS), where I have been Chief Executive for six years, and also the Publishers Association, where I have been seconded part-time as Head of Digital Publishing for the last year. My new role should be very challenging and exciting. I will move to the newly created role of Director of Universal Access with Elsevier, and this will be my first experience working for a commercial organization and proper publishing company.