



Press Release

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IFLA Section on Education and Training

Gothenborg, Sweden

ICL Communitas Launched: A Web Resource for Teaching and Learning International and Comparative Librarianship Through International Collaboration

The IFLA Section on Education and Training (SET) <http://www.ifla.org/en/set> is pleased to announce the launch of the **International and Comparative Librarianship Communitas (ICL)** <http://www.ifla.org/en/set/projects/icl>, a project that brings together an international multilingual community interested in the education and research on international and comparative librarianship. Its development is funded by an IFLA Projects 2010 grant and resources from the UNCG Department of Library and Information Studies. <http://www.uncg.edu/lis/>. ICL facilitates communication and resource sharing among educators, librarians, researchers, students and others interested in teaching and learning of ICL through a variety of tools (forum, wiki, databases, calendar, blogs, etc.) that support the international exchange of ICL ideas, opportunities, practice, scholarship and knowledge. The website content is available in all languages that can be translated by our Google Translator powered tool.

ICL addresses the vital need for a resource guide for the teaching and learning of international and comparative librarianship from a truly international perspective. Although a few new books have recently been published, these and past works often have a Western perspective, and the comparative aspect has not been rigorous, tending to be more descriptive accounts, often from a visitor's (i.e., non-local) perspective. Clara M. Chu, IFLA SET Member, is coordinating and editing ICL with the help of a research assistant and volunteer editors. Its development is guided by the following principles: Collaboration, Multilingualism, Access, Adaptability, Authenticity and Authority. As well, ICL:

- addresses IFLA's Professional Priorities: A: Supporting the Role of Libraries in Society, H: Developing Library Professionals, I: Promoting Standards, Guidelines, and Best Practices, F: Promotes Resource Sharing, and
- supports IFLA Pillars: members, profession.

"This IFLA SET project is uniquely open and international, taking advantage of local experts from around the world to speak in their own voices about librarianship," says Anna Maria Tamaro, SET Chair. She adds, "We are tapping the expertise of IFLA members, and are looking for volunteer regional editors to work on the project, and others to contribute to make the ICL Communitas a vibrant one."

IFLA SET welcomes and invites you to view and join ICL Communitas! <http://www.lisuncg.net/icl/> Explore the forums, blog your views and news, discover teaching (e.g., syllabi, speakers/experts) and research resources and opportunities, share your own work/expertise and ICL opportunities, and participate in the collaborative effort (wiki) to develop a model syllabus for an ICL class.

For further information, please contact Clara M. Chu cmchu@uncg.edu, SET Member and ICL Coordinator.

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