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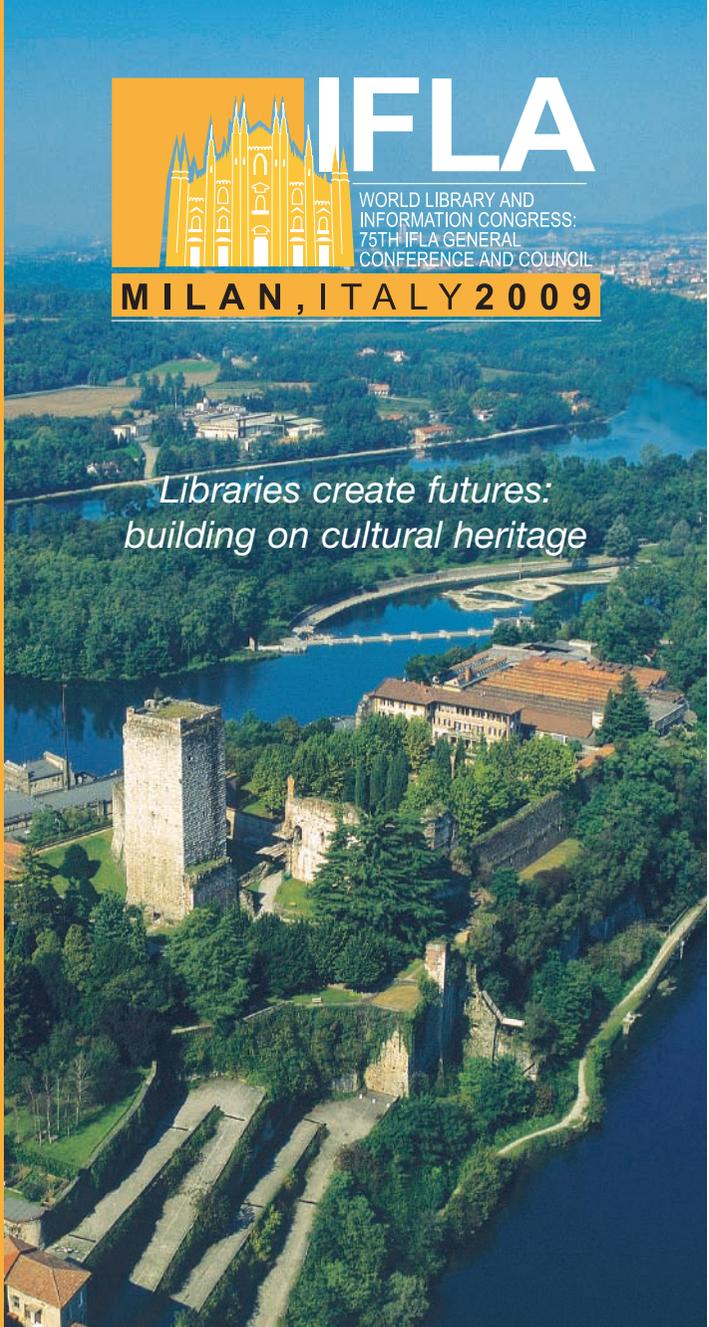
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# IFLA

WORLD LIBRARY AND  
INFORMATION CONGRESS:  
75TH IFLA GENERAL  
CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL

**MILAN, ITALY 2009**



*Libraries create futures:  
building on cultural heritage*

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

MILAN, ITALY, 23 - 27 AUGUST 2009

[www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

In 2009 we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the IFLA Conference which first took place in Rome in 1928. This represented the first meeting for the newborn International Foundation of Library Associations. It has been 75 years since that remarkable and fundamental event and 45 years since the IFLA congress was last held in Rome. The World Library and Information Congress will once more come back to Italy, this time, in Milan from 23 to 27 August 2009 at the Milan Convention Centre which is the largest and best equipped congress centre located in "Fiera Milano City".

The city of Milan has been selected to host IFLA 2009 following an extensive, intelligent and constructive effort by the Italian librarians within the IFLA research commissions. It also reflects the growing presence at the international congresses, as well as the organisation of seminars and conferences and the translation of IFLA official documentation. In particular this choice rewards the commitment of the Italian Libraries Association (AIB), which included the IFLA congress in Italy among the priorities in its main programme.

The IFLA 2009 congress is the result of the combined commitment of the major public and private institutions, including national and local, all dealing with libraries: in particular, the Cultural Heritage Ministry, the Ministry of University, the Region "Lombardia", the Province of Milan and the City of Milan. The Italian National Committee represents the best source of expertise coming from the professional community of Italian librarians and from the libraries of any kind: state libraries, academic libraries, local libraries, church libraries, research and private libraries.

Italy, because of the geographic location, serves as a bridge between cultures and civilisations with their extraordinary values, all leading to the Mediterranean sea. IFLA 2009 will represent a remarkable connection between people and culture, which will be a guarantee for a real future with peace and democracy.

## **Theme**

### *Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage.*

Thanks to libraries, civilisations have gathered and stored evidence of their manual, scientific, artistic, literary, musical as well as religious activity. Assuredly, libraries preserve the bases and the roots of human knowledge. Knowledge transmission today has radically changed: the scope of bibliography has widened immensely. Libraries therefore had to update their role:

preservation and access are still the main points to be achieved, though in a new, critical and professional way, in order to assure the adequate standard of the service. In this way libraries keep pace with the change brought about by history and technology, helping to shape the future through the resources inherited from the past for example cultural heritage. Century long traditions have created a vast and diversified context, in which mediaeval libraries (mostly in monasteries and universities), live together with Renaissance libraries as well as modern libraries, whose efficient standards promote public reading and research effectively.

Libraries keep the balance between past and present and they turn roots into vital elements for the future, paving the way to the development of society, to promote better quality of life and encourage contacts between different civilisations and cultures all over the world.

Today Italy on the Mediterranean coast is like a bridge between Europe, Africa and the Middle East and plays a leading role for peace and co-operation among the people. This enables libraries, through their rich historic tradition and their technological developments to be considered as a decisive factor to achieve this aim.

## **Invitation**

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure, as President of the Italian National Committee and on behalf of all Italian organisations represented, that I am inviting you to Milan in August 2009 to join us at the 75<sup>th</sup> IFLA Congress.



**Mauro Guerrini**

*University of Florence*

*President of the Italian Libraries Association*

*President of National Committee*

*IFLA 2009 Milan*

Milan, as well as the whole of Lombardy and Italy, will do their best to welcome you warmly and show you their most beautiful libraries - ancient and modern - as well as valuable pieces of art, music, fashion, design, landscape, food . . . all things which contribute in making our country famous throughout the world.

For centuries, artists and poets of many countries travelled to Italy to improve their personal and intellectual experience (the Italian tour), which is told through the finest of stories. In this newly born millennium, where distances and cultural

differences often seem to fade away, I hope everyone will join us and make the congress truly memorable.

We look forward to welcoming you to Milan for IFLA 2009.

### IFLA

IFLA (*The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutes*) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. With 1700 Members in 150 countries, it is the global voice of the library and information profession.

### Milan

Situated on the flat plains of the Po Valley, Milan is Italy's richest and second largest city and is best known for being the fashion capital of Italy.

Embracing tradition, sophistication and ambition in equal measure, the present and the future are invented daily in Milan, Europe's creative capital.

After being conquered three times in its history the city remained strong, regained itself and prospered. It's a city as strong as any other which successfully reinvented itself under French, Spanish and then Austrian rulers from 1499 until the reunification in 1861.

The city offers treasures of historical and intellectual heritage from the past two millennia at every corner: Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper is simply the best-known of the numerous masterpieces and has been named a Unesco World Heritage site.

Milan is the unique artistic and cultural heart of Italy and has been the ideal setting for international events for decades, attracting professionals, artists and intellectuals from all over the world.

### The Conference Venue

Designed in 2002 by Pierluigi Nicolini, enlarged twice, today the Fiera Milano, is the largest and most equipped convention centre in Italy and one of the most important Trade Fair complexes in the world.

The Convention Centre offers all world facilities: Italian design, an innovative management model designed to meet your needs with all-round services, flexible spaces and state-of-the-art technology.

Located in the heart of Milan - just a few minutes from the Fashion District and Leonardo's Last Supper - is surrounded, within a 1 km radius, by over 2,000 hotel rooms and efficiently served by public transportation.

### What's Worth Seeing

Milan is one of the most fascinating cities in the world with many beautiful and historic churches and buildings of interest: Duomo Milan's Cathedral, the world's third largest church, is the most famous artistic and religious monument.

Milan's most outstanding museum, Brera Gallery is recognised as one of the major art collections in the world. Significant museums (Leonardo da Vinci) are housed in the ancient mediaeval Castle (Castello Sforzesco), overlooking the town centre with its towers.

The city is also one of the most important centres in the world for Opera lirica, with its famous Teatro alla Scala.

### A Unique Shopping Experience

Milan is "Heaven on Earth" for shopping lovers. You can find the best of everything in this city, especially connected with fashion and design.

All the best fashion designers have opened their show rooms together with their trendiest and most sophisticated boutiques in elegant old buildings in the main shopping streets.

### A Place Of Learning

Universities often drive technological expertise, and Milan is no exception as home to seven universities and other institutions of higher learning.

Both humanities and technical education, in order to qualify engineers, architects and industrial designers, are part of the vast range of innovative courses, attracting students and scholars from several parts of the world.

A rich library system including private and public libraries meets the needs of public reading all over the place. It is certainly worth mentioning the Biblioteca Ambrosiana, opened in 1609, famous for the drawings and notebooks by Leonardo da Vinci, together with its vast stocks of early-printed books, illuminated manuscripts and drawings, one of the main repositories of European culture.

The city is also the home of the Brera Academy of Fine Arts together with the high school of musical learning (Conservatorio di musica Giuseppe Verdi).



## Milan By Night

In Milan you will find a large selection of both local and international restaurants as well as lots of marvellous “trattoria” or “osterie” specialising in local dishes: don't miss out on the chance to try some typical Italian food - and taste its authentic flavours!

When it comes to nightlife Milan has plenty to offer as Italy's clubbing capital. Most of the city's hot spots: clubs, pubs, cafes, bistros, live music bars and lots more besides, are situated around the Navigli and Brera districts.

## Transport & Accommodation

Ideally situated at the very centre of Europe, Milan is one of its most accessible cities.

Every day about a thousand direct flights link Milan with 200 destinations worldwide. Malpensa Airport is Southern Europe's most important intercontinental hub, linked to downtown Milan by a fast train service. The city is served by two other international airports: Linate, only 7 km from the centre, and Orio al Serio, used by all the low-cost European airlines.

Once you're in Milan you'll soon discover and appreciate its compact size, with everything at hand and an efficient Metro network that gets you to any part of town for just 1 euro!

With more than 21,000 rooms, Milan offers a wide range of accommodation: from spic-and-span youth hostels and cosy B&Bs, to five-star luxury hotels. IFLA will recommend a series of hotels to help make your stay highly enjoyable.

## Contact Details

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