

IFLA REPORT

by

SARAH AKINOLA (IFLA GRANTEE, 2010)

**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT,
OBAFEMI AWOLowo UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE
NIGERIA**

INTRODUCTION

The 76th international Federation for Library Association and Institutions general conference and assembly was held at Gothenburg Sweden from 10th to 15th of August 2010. The theme of the conference was “Open Access to Knowledge-promoting sustainable progress. This is the fourth time IFLA has converged in Sweden for the congress.

The congress might have come and gone, the wonderful memories of the world event still linger. I was privileged to be at the congress through a grant that was awarded to me by IFLA, which am everyday grateful for. I arrived landvetter airport in Sweden on the 8th of August and continued my journey to Boras, the venue of the preconference seminar (Boras is about thirty minutes drive from landvetter airport.). As one of the grantees, we were lodged into first grand hotel, indeed just as the name implied, it was grand.

PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: THE GLOBAL LIBRARIAN

The pre conference programme which started on the 9th of August titled “The Global Librarian” took place at the University of Boras, Sweden. It started with registration of delegates from 8.30am to 9.30am, this was closely followed by the welcome and opening key note by the shanachies Erik Boekjestein and Jaap Van De Geer. The duo presented their tour which showed how they have been travelling around the world and affecting lives with their work.

There were other interesting presentations. We were given the choice of attending the ones that was of particular interest to us. I listened with keen interest on the presentations of Dr. Petra Hauke (Berlin school of library and information science and Michaela Jobb (Hertie school of governance) on the “You are the future: Library associations and Librarians”. The new librarian or the librarian of the future needs to keep developing herself to acquire new skills that will make him relevant especially because new technologies are evolving. The future librarian should keep looking at what is going on in their communities, know what they need and how to solve those needs.

The pre-conference ended with closing keynote address by Pernille Drost, President of the Danish Union of Librarians on how library associations and library decision makers could work things out to retain, meet expectations and needs and involve new members in their work.

I develop new ideas from the global librarian programme which I intend to put to work in my library and that is: Plan a programme to improve the use of my Library; Put my library on face book (NACETEM library), put a video shot of NACETEM activities on the library website and introduce game into the Library.



At the University of Borås with a participant



The 2010 IFLA grantees their leaving Borås for Gothenburg after the Global Librarian conference

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE

The main conference started with Professional committee meetings, governing board and Divisional Leadership meetings held at different rooms in the congress venue on Monday 9th, 2010. The conference was structured into different sessions, participants were able to choose using their area of interest or the type of library they work.

Library visits: On Tuesday 10th August 2010, there were so many planned visits to different libraries, I joined the tour to Chalmers University of Technology library, the library is open to everyone specializing in technology and natural sciences, I was particularly interested in this Library because I work for a library that organizes similar collection with the Chalmer's library, although a small library, the National Centre for technology Management. The visit was indeed very enriching as I gained a lot. What thrilled me most was their open access policy which i intend to explore.

There were so many standing committee meetings and so I joined the one of the science and technology libraries. I was welcomed into the group by Janet Webster, the chairperson.

Welcome Ceremony

The welcome ceremony was on Wednesday 11th August at 10.30am. The ceremony had about three thousand three hundred and thirty four (3334) participants in attendance from 128 countries. Abba a popularly group, known all over the world thrilled us with their popular tracks, "we are the dancing queen" and other tracks.

The IFLA president, Ellen Tisse welcome all participants to the conference and gave a resounding speech in which she mentioned that access to knowledge is unfairly distributed and so open access is a way of sharing information resources with everybody all over the world and that there are no diminishing return in the use of knowledge.

We were also treated to a presidential lunch at 12.30 as part of the welcome ceremony.

Newcomers Session

The newcomers' session was attended by librarians that were coming to IFLA for the first time. It had an interesting line up programme in which started at 1.45pm and ended at 2.45pm. We were told how to keep updated with the conference as it happens, taught few Swedish words and also encourage to participate in the new professional special interest group.

Exhibition

There was exhibition of different product during the conference. Publishers, book sellers and software vendors displayed their products and also interacted with participants. Some even gave gifts to participants that visited their booths.

Departure

The conference ended on Saturday, 15th, 2010, delegates traveled back to their various country from Sunday 16th.

OVER ALL SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

I gained valuable experience that I brought back with me to be implemented in my organization. The experiences I garner at IFLA conference cannot not be compared to any professional experience have ever had. It was so enriching.

The conference gave me the opportunity to meet participants from all over the world, I was among the thirty five (35) grantees that was given the IFLA grant to attend the conference. The grantees stayed in same hotel at Boras (First grand hotel) and Gothenburg (IHM hotel & Konferens). The networking experience was very beneficial.

We had a meeting of all Nigerians present at IFLA, coordinated by Ms Victoria Okojie immediate past president of Nigeria Library Association. I met a Swedish woman, Barbro Svenner who invited me to her lovely home, she works with Goteborgs Universitet. I also visited the Lieberg amusement park not too far from the conference venue, it was a very beautiful sight to behold



In front of Liesberg Amusement park

Appreciation

I want to use this medium to appreciate the entire IFLA body and the sponsors for giving me and the other grantees the opportunity to attend the 2010 IFLA conference and be a part of IFLA.