



**76^e congress of the International Federation of Library
Association**

IFLA

Göteborg, Sweden

2010, 9-15 August

REPORT

**« Open access to knowledge, promoting
sustainable progress »**

Lourdine ALTIDOR, Haiti

This year, I received a grant from IFLA to attend, for the first time, the annual conference of IFLA. It was so important, this scholarship, for a Haitian professional. The conference had held from August 9 to 15, 2010 in Gothia Tower Hotel in Goteborg, Sweden. All professionals in the world gathered to share their experiences and acquire new strategies. This event coincided with the art festival in Sweden. The city was hot with many entertainments. For all grantees, the congress had beginning in Boras in a Satellite meeting, August 9th.

THE GLOBAL LIBRARIAN, BORÅS: SATELLITE MEETING, AUGUST 9th, 2010

This event had held before the official ceremony in Goteborg. It was a real pleasure for me to meet all the colleagues and news professional / students of **Information Science** around the world. We have shared many messages on Facebook and mails. Therefore, it was very good to see them.

The Satellite Meeting was a way to welcome new professionals. It was a moment to share, together, our experiences as new Professional. During this meeting, we learned how the student makes many efforts to experiment and make discoveries about the News Technologies. I was so late. I arrived around 15 PM to Boras that day. However, I was able to attend the session of the German students and the last meeting before living this country. Their presentation talk about the internationalization and mobility in the library's university (Diana Muller: University Library Marburg). They share with us how the challenge is become a truly mobile, real-time library.



grantees at IHM Hotel

Before the official conference, I went on a library trip to Uddevalla, a town about 85km outside of Gothenburg. The township is also about three and half hour's drive from Norway. I saw how the professional manage the library to facilitate access to information and make users self.

August 11th, was the official opening of the general conference in Goteborg. The President Ellen Tise welcomed all of the librarians and repeated once again the theme of the general congress “**Open access to Knowledge - promoting sustainable progress**”. In this session, Danielle Minccio talked about the work which started in Haiti after the earthquake. “The Ark” is a project to help Haiti restore libraries, treat documents that have been damaged in the earthquake and to teach Haitians how to do it themselves. Danielle encouraged everyone to join the project, by volunteering or by helping to fund in whatever way possible.



Evelyn Quartey (Ghana), Lourdine Altidor, Erick Toussaint, Rose Nirva Pinchinat (Haiti)

Thursday 12 august, I attended Preservation and conservation's session.

I was so happy during this session. I found something very important. I was thinking that my country should have a document retention policy. They talk about how to understand the conservation and preservation, how to manage disasters. We saw a specific case: Croatia Library. They had a war in their country. What they learned after the war? Management disasters; 1991-1995. The direct and indirect consequences of disasters caused by war were not enough changes the preservation or practice of disaster management in libraries in this country. After that moment, I didn't stop to think about Haiti. I said "Haitian professionals should rethink about a new strategy to preserve documents."

Friday 13 august, first, I attended the session of the Libraries for children and young adults with school Libraries and Resources Centers (Room F1-2). My interest is for children library. I participated in almost all sessions on Libraries for Children. The interest was to share experiences with the others and see how they manage different situations, how to encourage children to read. Because it is important to “**READ TO LEARN, LEARN TO READ**”. One point to generate debate is the reading of children outside of lessons and homework. Reading in the class period. I learned how to

encourage and educate parents and make them understand its importance for the children.

In the afternoon, I attended the Update session on Haiti (room: congressen Hall. 13:45). Ingrid Parent, President-elect of IFLA visited Haiti together with Ellen Tise, President of IFLA six weeks ago and spoke about how impressed they both were to see the Haitian dedication in rebuilding the destroyed buildings. During this visit, the IFLA President, representing ICBS, co-signed an agreement with the Haitian Government to support restoration and initiatives for temporary library services and improving of professional skills in Haiti.

The director of the National Library of Haiti, Françoise Thybulle and Elisabeth Pierre-Louis, Director of the Library Program / FOKAL described the situation and showed pictures of the different damages during the earthquake.

Daniele Minccio, once again, talked about THE ARK's project. She found 40 containers to do that. The center should open next November.

Jeremy Lachal, Director of Library without Borders, talked about BSF's project. Public reading project with Yanick Lahens foundation, creation of a digital library with State University of Haiti (Universite d'Etat d'Haiti - UEH) and a county library with the support of Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF). Training of academic librarians. The most urgent project is to send a mobile library (September) in Haiti to help continuous with reading in refugee camps.

After those presentations, many people / organizations who assist asked about the way to help, send the money or buy materials or books? I was so happy to see how the others librarians wanted to help those Haitian colleagues in this difficult moment in Haiti.

During a first session, a Haitian Colleague, Erick TOUSSAINT, FOKAL, created a blog to inform partners and volunteers how is the evolution of those projects: <http://haitireliefinfo.blogspot.com>

See also: <http://www.ifla.org/en/haiti-earthquake-2010>



Ellen Tise, Elisabeth Pierre-Louis, Marie-Françoise Thybulle B., Danielle Minccio, Christophe Jacobs (Update session on Haiti)

In the night, I was, with all the grants in the DANCE NIGHT. It was so great. We danced all the night and shared our culture together. I really enjoyed the party.

Every night I went to the Nightspot. I think that it was a good idea to plan these parties every night. I met many friends and colleagues as Sebastian from Germany with whom I want to work for the NPSIG's project



Grantees at the Dance night

The last day, Sunday 15 august, I attended the Libraries for children and young adults with library services to multicultural populations's session.

I learned something very new. How books can help with the multicultural populations. I really appreciated the presentation of sister libraries." <file:///F:/papers/147-quinones-en.pdf>
<http://sisterlibraries.wordpress.com/>

All posters session was a great moment for me to see how the international colleagues work hard to develop our profession.



Conclusion.

This experience was very good for me. I learned many things. I am glad for this opportunity this year. I really want to join the Standing Committee for Children Libraries. My first IFLA conference was a success for me. I never want to miss a conference after this unforgettable moment. I want to thank Mrs Josche Ouwerkerk and Mr. Sjoerd Koopman for their supports. I can not forget Mrs Fiona Bradley who where with us in Boras and continuous to help us in Goteborg. A big thank to IFLA for the grant. I want to serve with those experiences to manage the Library program better. I acquired a lot of new digital skills that I will use in my place of work. I was able to meet new people with whom I will network. Thank you so much for your help. Hope to see you all in Puerto Rico.