

## 76. IFLA World Library and Information Congress 10 -15 August 2010 Gothenburg, Sweden

Elisangela Alves Silva, from Brazil

### 1) Introduction

First of all, I would like to thank IFLA organization for this wonderful opportunity. It was impressive to meet so many librarians from different places, cultures, but at the same time, with so much in common. The time spent with experts from various fields, meetings with people who made an impact, shared the same concerns, and had the distinct ability to make things happen, broadened my perspective and re-instated my confidence towards excellence in the field.

By interacting with different colleagues and living side by side with other grantees from different regions of the world, my intellectual and cultural horizons broadened within a short time spent.

Besides the Congress planning to happen at the same cultural week at the Gothenburg City and also the opportunity to visit the Main Library until midnight was a wonderful demonstration about how well organized this event was.



Grantees

### 2) Press-conference, Boras

#### **New Professionals Special Interest Group - NPSIG's satellite meeting, The Global Librarian**

After more than 30 hours travelling I arrived in the beautiful city of Boras and I met some of my new and good friends at the wonderful First Grand Hotel, where we could talk and share some experiences and curiosities about our countries.



Grantees in the hotel

On Monday morning began the press-conference, whose meeting themes is officially present at the meetings preceding the IFLA Congress since 2004 and, while reflecting the concern of the IFLA with new generations of librarians in order to perform on the professional associations, also seeks to provide an opportunity to network and share learnings with professionals from diverse countries and experiences.

The presentations from this day were related to issues such as library associations and the librarians, case studies from different countries, the school library in the Netherlands and community of new professionals, mobile libraries, and how to become a global librarian.

In the morning, the speakers Boekjestein Erik and Jaap Van De Geer told their experiences with their Shanachie tour, a trailer that serves as home and office where they can travel through the developed countries in order to identify best library actions and collect different interviews about the library users and workers. The project started in 2006 in London and aims to "preserve the good and build the best means to share best practices in the library world." Interviews, texts and images are stored on a site <<http://www.shanachietour.com/>>. Through the eyes of Shanachie tour, libraries are places of leisure and pleasure, places full of surprises and fun, where the librarian has a key role in ensuring access to information, knowledge and new technologies. In this sense, Erik Boekjestein, librarians should help people to the ideal of "thinking is sexy."

A criticism made by me and other participants is the possibility of speakers find interesting stories in other countries outside the United States, Australia and New Zealand, however, the duo has sponsors and is likely to meet certain demands.

Another lecture that deserves mention concerns the mobile libraries: some concepts have been presented by a pair of librarians from Germany, as the definition of mobility and society today, because there are records of mobility related to libraries since the use of trains and wagons in Switzerland at the end of the eighteenth century library boats in Bangladesh, the Colombian Biblioburro, libraries in the subway, among other means of transportation. We also discuss the challenges related to this work before the modern information society and the different devices.

We mentioned some advantages as delivery and removal near the residence of users, however, stressed the necessity of diversified technology and furniture design and committed to quality, since mobility also makes them potentially more fragile compared to devices that are in fixed location.

The mobility of the libraries also guarantees the approximation of the librarian (roving librarians) with its actual and potential public and required careful management of mobile collections.

During this morning, I presented a poster about the reality of Brazilian libraries, Internet access, strengths and needed improvements. I reinforced that is not just open libraries in all municipalities, but also is necessary a professional prepared to promote ownership and a qualified collection.



Pôster Presentation

At the end of the day, Pernille Drost, President of the Danish Union of Librarians, presented: "How library associations and library decision makers could work things out to retain, meet expectations, and needs, and involve new members in their work". In the context of the challenges of participation in library associations around the world, the presentation gave us valuable information about their experiences in Denmark, raised some inspiring ideas and points to consider about marketing and, at the same time, transparency about the information to their members.

After a long day with many good presentations, we were invited to join a food and drink at the lobby of the University in an environment conducive to exchange of views and contacts with other participants. That same afternoon we took the bus to Gothenburg.

### 3) OFFICIAL VISITS

3.1) Tuesday, August, 10th:

#### **Falköping Public Library (8h30 - 16h30)**

During this day I visited Falköping Public Library with other five colleagues from different countries (Finland, Norway, Canada and Estonia) in the train ride we exchanged some impressions and information about libraries and contexts in our countries of origin.

Falköping is a small town, one hour from Gothenburg and this library is characterized by being a modern, multicultural library with particular interest in accessibility and promotion of inclusion through audio-books.

There are also, computers with audio option, others that can increase the size of letters and pictures from books, some of them, have the technology RFID which we can know the title, author, abstract, to conclude there is greater autonomy for users with disabilities, or who has difficulty reading. Also there are many Daisy books (audiobooks).



Equipment for people with reading difficulties Equipamentos para pessoas com dificuldades de leitura



Demonstration of RFID technology to "read" the book's label



Daisy books

As others libraries visited in Sweden and in others Scandinavian countries (information from Norway and Finland fellows), some are paid services, such as a second library card, the "loan" of DVDs and a tax for late return of borrowed materials – I have already known that in some countries is common to pay for some public services and even in my country, when we pay taxes we also pay for these services, but it is not so explicit. So, I have to confess that I was a little shocked. Other interesting aspect is that everybody can enter in all areas of the library with bags – in my country, unfortunately, it is not possible.

The classification system is very complex in Sweden, but many librarians told that they are moving to Dewey system. In all libraries, like others in European and North America countries we can find a cafeteria, library store, Xerox, a "self-service" loan and return books automated (without the presence of an employee), a section for kids with educational games, many computers and free wifi.

### Gothenburg City Library (18h30 - 21h)

I made a spontaneous visit with some new friends to the main city library and, currently one of the world that I most admire: Gothenburg City Library.

Is the cultural place more visited in the city, with more than a million visitants per year. It was impressive by their different events, games, computers and a collection of 290,000 books in over 60 languages (including Portuguese!).

The hours of attendance also varies with the seasons and in this magic place, more precisely in the party room and garden took place the IFLA Night Spot.



Entrance of the library



Reservation área: free access



Express check in



## 4) IFLA CONGRESS

### 4.1) August, 11th - 14th

The Opening Session began with some speeches: Agneta Olsson, from the committee that organizing the event, Ellen Tise, IFLA President and Jan Eliason (former President of the United Nations General Assembly) about the power of words, often referring to his earlier activities as a diplomat and personal experiences.

At the end of the session we had a big surprise: an ABBA cover band entered the stage and played all their greatest hits – it was impossible not felling good vibrations.

In the early afternoon I attended the Newcomers Session addressed to all IFLA first timers. The main purpose of this session is to give us an introduction to the structure of IFLA and also some tips about how to enjoy the Congress. This Session was really important for us and the way that some issues was presented impressed me positively.

At the late afternoon, I visited at the exhibition of products and poster area. It was an opportunity to meet some new features, answer questions and meet colleagues.



Every evening, before coming back to the hotel, I went to the IFLA Night Spot, at the Gothenburg City Library – it was a wonderful opportunity to talk and know more about other cultures and the library world, moreover, the IFI A Party was amazing!



IFLA Night Spot – Latin American Librarians



IFLA Party

At the others days I tried to concentrated myself at the public library sections, however, I visited many sections about architecture; knowledge management and the Latin America and Asian sections.

Generally, the image of the library in the big cities of Europe and the United States beyond the traditional concept of a place of silence and study, or a temple, but also the place where we can find professional development courses and a variety of information media. The library is seen as a gallery and a performance space. The speaker also mentioned the importance of ownership of public space in the library for the entire population, including those suffering social exclusion.

One of the sessions that impressed me more was the IFLA actions at the Haiti: the fact that natural disasters undermine lives and infrastructure, but also the cultural heritage of a people. Recover these cultural values is crucial to restore human dignity. As the speakers said, the cultural heritage disappears, will result in the absence of the foundations for rebuilding the lives of individuals.

Between many presentations and plenary sessions, one that I didn't like the way that the issue was treated was on Friday, with Hans Rosling, in the Plenary Speaker. He hardly spoke developing countries and, in my opinion, seemed to prejudice and mockery.

On Saturday, later in the afternoon, I joined the storytelling section lead by Claudia, a sweet librarian that gave us moments in a friendly atmosphere of interaction and fantasy.

In the last day, we watched a video clipping of Puerto Rico and have already received prior to scheduling the next event (it is noteworthy that there was a committee of Puerto Rico following the event and also another group from Finland for the show in 2012). After the acknowledgments, Agneta Olsson (Sweden Chairman of the Committee for organizing the event) closed the session with a slide show of photos of the week accompanied by the music of ABBA "Thank you for the music" - the song of farewell to this ideal great IFLA Congress 2010.

### **Photos:**

Press-conference: [http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA\\_PreConferencia#](http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA_PreConferencia#)

Official visits: [http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA\\_VisitaOficial02#](http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA_VisitaOficial02#)

IFLA Congress – open session: [http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA\\_Abertura#](http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA_Abertura#)

Wednesday: [http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA\\_ApresentacoesDe4aFeira#](http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA_ApresentacoesDe4aFeira#)

Thursday: [http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA\\_ApresentacoesDe5aFeira#](http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA_ApresentacoesDe5aFeira#)

Friday: [http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA\\_ApresentacoesDe6aFeira#](http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA_ApresentacoesDe6aFeira#)

Saturday and Sunday:

[http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA\\_ApresentacoesDeSabadoEDomingo#](http://picasaweb.google.com.br/redeleitura/IFLA_ApresentacoesDeSabadoEDomingo#)