

focus

on International Library
and Information Work

Volume 37, Number 3, 2006

Editorial	83
Study Tour of UK Health Information Facilities <i>Marsha Stewart, Winner of the 2006 Anthony Thompson Award</i>	85
Unesco, IFLA and FID <i>Anthony Thompson</i>	90
A Rather Unusual Library <i>Malcolm Hacksley</i>	95
Reports on Conferences and Meetings	
<i>IFLA WLIC Congress, Seoul 2006: A First-Time Delegate's report, by Sarah Pink</i>	98
<i>The ILIG Informal about the IFLA WLIC Congress, by Catherine Phillpotts</i>	102
<i>Two Recent Conferences on African Libraries, by Chris Hagar</i>	103
<i>Two ILIG Seminars: New Technology and Electronic Copyright, by Aidan Baker</i>	105
Book Reviews	108
ILIG Business	113
<i>Chairman's Annual Report, 2005-2006</i>	115
Seen on ILIGlist	118

ISSN 0305-8468

Now you can
Advertise in *Focus*

**reaching over 1000 ILIG members,
 both individual and institutional, in 67 countries**

Focus is published three times a year, in March, July and November.
 Advertisements can be placed in any single issue or in each of three issues in any one year/volume.
 Space is available in three sizes.

	Focus 2007 advertising rates (including VAT)			
	Commercial organisation		Non-profit organisation	
Space available	<i>One insertion</i>	<i>Three insertions</i>	<i>One insertion</i>	<i>Three insertions</i>
Full page (127 mm × 187 mm)	£146.88	£352.50	£117.50	£293.75
Half page (127 mm × 89 mm)	£76.38	£176.25	£58.75	£146.88
One-third page (127 mm × 57 mm)	£44.65	£117.50	£41.13	£99.86

Deadlines and payment

Deadlines will be provided for space-booking and payment for each issue/volume.

Payment may be made at any time in advance of the space-booking deadline.

A separate deadline will be provided for the supply of copy.

If space-booking and payment is made for three insertions, different copy may be supplied for each issue as long as it is received by the copy deadline for each issue.

There are no refunds for copy not subsequently supplied or supplied in an incorrect format.

Supply of advertising copy

All copy must be supplied electronically in black and white or greyscale, in which form they will be reproduced. Advertisers are required to supply finished copy, at the correct dimensions, by e-mail as EPS or PDF files. Fonts used must be embedded in these files.

The resolution of any images included should be no larger than 300 dpi, and PDF files should be 'downsampled' to not more than 300 dpi.

EPS files larger than 500k should be Zipped (.zip) or Stuffed (.sit or .sitx).

Advertisers are encouraged to keep file sizes small!

For further information, please contact:

Kathleen Ladizesky, ILIG Treasurer, at <ladizesky@yahoo.com>

Editorial

Ah, so there are at least 35 of you out there.

That's how many responses I got to the request in the last issue for you to let us know whether or not you would prefer to receive *Focus* electronically rather than in paper form. Seven people wrote to say that they would really rather receive it in print so that they could read it on the bus, in the garden, in the bath, etc. Four were willing, reluctantly, to give up their printed copies, appreciating ILIG's need to reduce its costs. Of the 28 who indicated that they were happy to read an electronic version, 16 said that would prefer to receive it by e-mail, the others that they would rather download it from the Web.

So where do we go from here? With effect from this issue, we will send a PDF version by e-mail to those who have requested it. It will, as usual, be downloadable by members from ILIG's Web site, but we will continue to produce the print version for the foreseeable future, so those of you who are simply in favour of others receiving *Focus* by e-mail needn't panic.

In this issue we are publishing the report from Marsha Stewart, the Jamaican librarian who was the winner of ILIG's Anthony Thompson Award. Following a suggestion from one of our committee members, I agreed that it would be a good idea to learn something more about who Anthony Thompson was. I am therefore reproducing a talk he gave at the first conference of the ICLG, the forerunner of ILIG, more than thirty years ago. I hope you will find that it provides an interesting insight into both the man himself and the issues of 'international and comparative librarianship' that were current at the time.

I'll end now by reminding the other 831 of you to let me know if you would like to receive *Focus* by e-mail or not.

Roger Stringer

Focus on International Library and Information Work is published three times a year (March, July and November) by the International Library and Information Group (ILIG) of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

Editor: Roger Stringer, P.O. Box MP 1456,
Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe
Fax: +263-4-369957; e-mail: <focus@cilip.org.uk>
or <roger@textpertise.co.zw>

Associate editor and book review editor:
Ann Irving, Scarsdale Cottage, Woodhouse,
Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 8UA.
Tel./fax: +44 (0)1509 890050;
E-mail: <ann.irving@britishlibrary.net>

Annual subscription: £25.00; US\$60.00; €45.00
Orders, remittances (payable to 'ILIG'), and
advertisements to:

Kathleen Ladizesky, Glantrisant, Trisant,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 4RL
Tel.: +44 (0)1974 282411;
E-mail: <kladizesky@yahoo.com>

Abstracted in:

- Information Science Abstracts
- Library and Information Science Abstracts
- Referativnij Zurnal: Informatika

ILIG's Web site:

<<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/international>>

ILIG's discussion list:

<<http://www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/iliglist>>


Chartered Institute of
Library and Information
Professionals
(CILIP Charity no. 313014)

A Message from the Chairman

It seems many months ago that I last used these columns to let you know of your committee's concerns owing to the financial crisis in which CILIP finds itself. This, you may remember, led to the review of Special Interest Groups, of which ILIG is one. I feel it is time, with the agreement of *Focus's* Editor, to tell you how things are going so far.

You will have had the opportunity to read elsewhere of the continuing reviews and challenges of CILIP. The direct impact on ILIG is that we are still uncertain as to our future. There appears to be a greater understanding, now, that SIGs provide a lot of the value of CILIP membership for some of us. However, to what extent the financial support will continue we simply do not know. As a committee we have always had to fund-raise for the three-yearly Anthony Thompson Award. To this we have recently added the very modest annual ILIG Award. For some years our capitation from CILIP has been insufficient to entirely cover the cost of three issues of *Focus* each year and the modest running expenses of the committee and providing some members' meetings.

Library subscriptions and the recent addition of advertising means that *Focus* is actually beginning to fill part of this gap itself. Perhaps your library would like to take out a subscription? Possibly an organisation you know would like to advertise? All this will help. For a group of about 1,000 members – very roughly split into one third overseas, one third London and the South East and one third elsewhere in the UK – we should be proud of this rate of activity.

Our members' meetings, ILIG Informals, have frequently been poorly attended. Some of the committee feel it is time for a new approach. An e-working group has been set up to make some new proposals and implement them for 2007. Please e-mail me, <hazel.dakers@blueyonder.co.uk>, if you would like me to pass on your thoughts to this working group. Can you explain why you do not attend meetings? What time, place or location would encourage you to do so? Please bear in mind that we need to have sufficient members in one place to make it worthwhile! Perhaps you are a member of ILIG purely because you like to receive our journal?

To address the financial concerns, our Treasurer, Kathleen Ladizesky, convinced Secretary, Diana Rosenberg, Minutes Secretary Aidan Baker and me that we four had better arrange some income-generating seminars – on New Technologies (Web 2.0, etc.) and E-Copyright. If the Internet is not international, what is? To this end in October ran two, which have proved so popular that we are hoping to repeat next May. We will then be on a sound financial footing for the next year – provided that at least our current level of capitation from CILIP continues, currently around \$3.50 per member.

Later in 2007 it is hoped that other committee members will organise a seminar in the field of health information with an international context. It is through the support sometimes of speakers and sometimes of the venues – and our own administration – that we are able to minimise overheads and keep the rates attractively low – always with special discounts for ILIG members. We now have a rough rule of thumb that 70% of fund-raising is put towards the Anthony Thompson Award.

Please let's make this a two-way conversation and send your thoughts either to the Editor for publication or to me to be passed on to the committee. Wherever you are do enjoy the festive season!

Hazel Dakers, Chairman, ILIG

Study Tour of UK Health Information Facilities

From the Report by Marsha Stewart
Winner of the 2006 Anthony Thompson Award

SINCE ITS INCEPTION, the Anthony Thompson Award has been geared towards the study of international and comparative librarianship. I.L.I.G., as stewards of this award, arrange appropriate schedules for a librarian from outside the UK to undertake a study tour of different libraries in the hope of that person gaining insight into how to better manage their libraries. For 2006, the theme of the award was health and so the study tour was scheduled around different health information facilities.

Having been in the management of health information for a little less than a year, this award gave me the opportunity to gain some insight into how health information is managed in a First World country. In my proposal to the panel I had outlined some objectives that I wanted to achieve:

- To gain ideas of how to manage health information in a more effective efficient way.
- Networking with libraries from developed countries, so as to enhance the library services provided by the Cornwall Regional Hospital Library.
- To learn from First World medical libraries how to create a first-class library in spite of the lack of resources that hamper libraries in developing countries.
- To grow professionally, and take this back to develop not only the health information sector but the nation of Jamaica on a whole.
- To develop a viable cataloguing system (both online and card).
- To develop training strategies for clients to become more technologically savvy in their searches.



Marsha Stewart

Fulfilment of professional objectives

The first objective has been realized, as there were a number of ideas that I returned with to implement. These included setting up a document-delivery service via the British Medical Association (BMA) library. This would be done according to the needs of the client, depending whether they are willing and able to pay for such as outlined by the BMA.

I have also gained ideas on how to access free electronic journals to aid in the retrieval of reliable health information. Although the computer terminals have not yet been set up for users, it has been decided that access can be gained through the librarian's computer being carried out by either the librarian or the client; in the future, when the library becomes equipped with user terminals, then training in the use of these will be provided.

The idea of clinical librarian is brilliant and would be something to consider as soon as some internal problems have been ironed out. This idea was presented at the Cairns library by Jo Hunter, their clinical librarian. This, she says, is a great way to market the

library – it includes doing ward round with doctors, attending medical seminars, and also providing training in the use of electronic resources for medical professionals. This idea is one that would work well in the Cornwall Regional Hospital Library.

The library also had other interesting systems in place – for example, their document-supply service that makes the service so much easier. It is a very interesting concept and would be great for any library; however, being a realist I will have to let this idea pass for the time being.

Other interests were the housekeeping software, which manages all the areas within the library – cataloguing, acquisitions and circulation. One of my outlined objectives was the implementation of a cataloguing system; however, because of a lack of resources this will be kept on hold. But I have been introduced to various programs that would be essential in the management of library operations and will keep these in mind when the time is appropriate to acquire some.

The idea of knowledge management was also an area that proved quite interesting. Before my trip I had sent out circulars to the heads asking that all the information produced by the Western Regional Health Authority or the Cornwall Regional Hospital be housed in the library so that reports and other vital information regarding the operations of the hospital could be held in one central place. However, no one responded to my appeal.

Now aware of the successful operations of the Department of Health's Knowledge Management Service, I will again make my appeal. Even if I am not able to implement such a sophisticated one as that being tackled by the Department of Health, it will be a start in managing such vital knowledge so that it can be used for reference in decision-making and the daily operations of the facilities without our having to 'reinvent the wheel'.

The visit to the Northwick Park Hospital Library was quite fascinating, as they had a Patients Library, which really inspired me to implement this service in my system. The use of hospital volunteers doing rounds with book trolleys for patients is a good idea that will work well at the Cornwall Regional Hospital owing to the lack of resources. A plan is being considered to devise such a service; it will require the involvement of the Hospital Chaplin (as she is in charge of the volunteers), as well as all other necessary parties to bring this into being.

Evidence-based medicine is a key area of interest that needs greater recognition in Jamaican health facilities. It is quite evident that this practice plays a vital role in the way that facilities in the UK are operated. It is an aspect of research that I would like to encourage, and I was therefore happy to be exposed to it. Although at the moment there isn't much available to encourage such practice, I will gradually try to incorporate it into the library services, using the links established with the BMA, the Cochrane Collaboration, as well as free online journals, where access to systematic reviews and research articles is available.

Networking was one of the major elements of the tour and I am happy that the objectives outlined in my proposal were considered seriously, and that as far as possible the tour was built around them. All the visits proved fruitful in this respect, as all the people I met were accommodating, and all have furnished their e-mail addresses so that we can maintain these links. The Health Libraries Conference that I attended during the last week of my tour reaped some great rewards, as I met a Jamaican working at City University, specifically the St Bartholomew School of Nursing and Midwifery. She has mentioned the idea of twinning our libraries to her head, who has shown interest in such a feat; we

have ongoing communication regarding this matter.

Another valuable visit was to the Royal Free Hospital. The librarian of the Nursing Library furnished me with some helpful tips on how to get funding and other types of support from external bodies. These were very practical and will prove to be useful. This has proved to be a good example of networking, as ideas are shared to assist in finding solutions for problems.

Another instance was the trip to Reading, where a viable relationship was formed. The visit to the Healthcare Library at Prospect Park Hospital specifically provided another network link, as the librarian, Chrissy Allott, is trying to get some books for my library.

It is good to note that most of the objectives have been met so far. Those that have not been met are not totally unreachable but will take a longer period of time to attain. Based on this it can be said that the study tour was effective in meeting its own purpose as well as being specific in addressing the needs of the awardee.

I know that as a professional I have grown, and I do intend to do so much more by using the fruits of this visit. I am still bursting to implement new services as well as to enhance old ones. However, because of some internal difficulties I am unable to fully realize these just yet. After these have been resolved, then I will definitely accomplish all these objectives.

The cultural and social experience

Apart from the obvious academic and professional aspect of this award, another part to be considered is the social and cultural side. Having never left my country before, it was nice to be in a different place, experiencing different things and different people. There are many differences between the UK and Jamaica. However, because I am a very open

person who enjoys meeting new people, it was not a bother to me but rather a delight.

I learnt how to travel via trains, which was quite interesting and I quite liked it. The transport system in my country leaves much to be desired, and I did not miss that aspect of life in Jamaica. I got lost a few times, but it was nothing drastic – it was just that I went in the wrong direction! However, thanks to maps and signs I was always able to find my way.

I had the privilege of being a part of a London tour-bus ride that went past many famous places – including Buckingham Palace, the London Eye, London Bridge, Trafalgar Square, and Westminster Abbey, among others. It was quite an experience: the tour guide really knew the history and details of the places along the way – he was also very amusing!

The food was great as I am a food fanatic: I enjoy trying new foods. The eating styles of the people in the UK are very different from those in Jamaica, but they were foods that I really enjoyed. I also enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie.

The organizer of the programme, Gill Harris, became quite a good friend, and we enjoyed watching the World Cup together. This seems to be a universal language because we love football in Jamaica and, of course, the World Cup is treated the same in my country. Unfortunately, neither of our teams turned out to be the winner, but it was not short of excitement and fun!

Alice Ford-Smith arranged a Sunday afternoon trip to the Old Operating Theatre, Museum and Herb Garret located at London Bridge. It was amazing to see how surgery was performed back in the 19th century. It was a bit eerie, though rather interesting. We also visited the nearby Southwark Cathedral and their bookshop.

A visit to the Greenwich Observatory and Royal Park was also part of the cultural

aspect of the tour that Gill scheduled to create a balance in my visit. It was very interesting to stand where the Greenwich Meridian timeline is located. There were many tourists in the area having their photographs taken where time is 'divided'.

In Reading I was shown around by Norman Briggs, who knew the history of the place quite well. He also took me to the Henley Regatta on the Thames. We took a boat ride alongside the course: it was a wonderful spectacle to behold, with everyone in their finery. While in Reading I stayed at the Great Expectations Hotel, which is associated with Charles Dickens, hence the name. The visit to Reading was very good in all aspects – professionally, culturally and socially – as the librarians in that region dined me at the Dolce Vita Restaurant.

The Health Libraries Conference in Eastbourne also added to my visit, as it was interesting to walk along the beach and pier. It was interesting to take note of the beach: the ones in Jamaica are completely different. On the Tuesday evening of the conference a dinner was held off the conference site, some ten miles away. It was a lovely setting and the food and company was good.

Included in the evening was a wine-tasting contest: I have a very small knowledge about wines and wine-tasting, and being in the UK has broadened my knowledge of these as I recognize how keen are the people towards wines. Wine and coffee I noticed were 'staple' items for the English!

As an avid reader and someone who keeps abreast with world cultures via the different media, I did not experience a culture shock. To experience the culture and social life of other peoples, though, is something that cannot be gained from books or the media. The visit has contributed to my life holistically, and is an experience that will not be forgotten in my life.

Conclusion

The study tour organized by the ILIG was very successful in all areas. It was well organized, and most of the scheduled programmes ran without any problems; the variety of health institutions that I visited brought diverse benefits. There were a few overlapping areas, but because of the versatility in the services offered by each institution there were always ideas to glean.

The organizing committee put a lot of work into the study tour, and so it accomplished its purpose. I would encourage any librarian outside the UK to aspire to being a recipient of the Anthony Thompson Award, as it will enhance you professionally and allow you to bring back new ideas to your library and to your country as a whole in to improve the information management and hence improve the way of life.

The future is something that provides motivation for this librarian. The study tour has injected new life into my endeavours. Although, because of a lack of resources and now a hitch within the hospital, some of the desires and visions outlined in my objectives have been thrown off course, the vision is being kept in focus and will be maintained so as to ensure that the health-care system with which I am associated with will reap the desired fruits. The investment made by ILIG into the development of libraries at an international level is an excellent venture. The exposure and lessons learnt are priceless.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank CILIP, ILIG and the different organizations and individuals who accommodated me while on the study tour:

The Department of Health; Partnership in Health Information; Oxford Brookes University; Cairns Library; Radcliffe Science Library; Oxford Bodleian Library; Northwick Park Hospital Library; Bournemouth University

Libraries; Health Libraries Conference Group; Royal Society of Medicine Library; Cochrane Collaboration; Prospect Park Hospital Health-care Library; NHS Direct Hampshire and Isle of Wight; Royal Berks Hospital; Health Link Worldwide; London Fire and Emergency Authority; British Medical Association Library; Middlesex University Health Library Archway Campus; and Royal Free Nursing Library.

I would also like to show my appreciation to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for the accommodation they provided to host the presentation that I made on the final day of the tour.

Special mention must be made of Gillian Harris for her hard work in planning the schedule and accommodating me in her home, Hazel Dakers, for making everything happen and inviting to have lunch with her family, and Norman Briggs for the wonderful escapade in Reading.

It was truly a blessing being in the UK and I say thanks to every single person who made it possible.

Editor's note: Here are the Web sites of some of the institutions mentioned in Marsha's report in case you are interested in finding out more about them.

Cairns: <http://www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/hcl/about_us/find_us>

Northwick Park Hospital: <<http://www.johnsquirelibrary.org.uk/about.htm>>

Cochrane Collaboration: <<http://www.update-software.com/publications/cochrane>>

Royal Free Hospital: <<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/rfhlb.shtml>>

Prospect Park Hospital: <<http://www.berkshire.nhs.uk/libraries>>

*Who was Anthony Thompson?
On the next pages we reproduce
a talk he gave in 1974 at the first
conference of the International and
Comparative Library Group,
later to become ILIG.*

Queen's New Year and Birthday Honours

Every year CILIP is asked by DCMS to submit nominations for the Queen's New Year and Birthday Honours lists.

ILIG, as a group of CILIP, is asked whether we have any names we wish to submit through CILIP.

If any member of ILIG has a nomination which they would like to be considered by the Committee for submission through CILIP, please get in touch with the Secretary <drosenberg@gn.apc.org>.

It is essential that names are kept confidential.

In general, anyone nominated should be

“engaged in outstanding, and innovative, service to others, which can be paid or unpaid, especially self-sacrificial service to a voluntary body or to the community, or which brings distinction and quality to British life.

If the nominee is due to cease being active in the next 6–12 months make this clear and you should not recommend people who stopped being active more than six months ago.”

Awards are not necessarily restricted to British nationals.

The ILIG Committee will be looking for candidates who have contributed in the area of international library and information services.

Unesco, IFLA and FID

Their Contribution to the Development of International Comparative Librarianship

Anthony Thompson, MA, FLA, FIL, formerly General Secretary of IFLA

*Anthony Thompson, ILIG's benefactor of the award named for him, died in 1979. This paper was given in 1974 at the first, founding conference of what was then the International and Comparative Library Group of the Library Association, now ILIG.**

I WAS BROWSING the other day through the 'bible' of international librarianship written by Danton, *The Dimensions of Comparative Librarianship*, and there he wrote: 'International librarianship is sadly deficient in the area of comparative studies; international study tour and conferences, etc., are superficial.' This is true, but on the other hand, a lot is being done, and has been done. I thought the best thing I could do was to tell you something about the fields of which I have experience; either those I have worked on or which I have helped to organise.

Here, at the beginning of a talk, one is up against definitions. Some better philosophers than myself have already been busy defining international and comparative librarianship, philosophers such as Professor Danton and Sylva Simsova. But what I want to talk about is this: the three elements which will give us a framework for looking at the international work of which I have experience:

1. Study and comparison of aspects of librarianship in different countries – which will lead, we hope, to
2. Experiment on these aspects – which will lead us, in a scientific way, if we are lucky, to
3. International standardization.

Just one example, and a successful one,

with which you are probably familiar, is international library statistics. The standardisation of library statistics has now reached a very interesting situation – not a final conclusion – but at least a successful conclusion. It was started by a study of the Unesco methods of compiling statistics under M. Babic; it reached the stage of the Unesco recommendation of 1970, and finally, this year, the 150 standard on library statistics.

I want now to consider the material available for study on these lines: Here is an outline: There are many marginal subjects around the fringe of librarianship. We cannot spend much time on these, but I have grouped them like this:

- A. Cultural and educational background (production of literature). This includes such subjects as literacy, education, authorship, publishing, bookselling.
- B. Librarianship (distribution). This includes a long list of such subjects as library buildings, library statistics, terminology, cataloguing, classification, exchanges, bibliographical control, planning of library services, standards for service.
- C. Reading and learning (consumption) – reading in the wider sense.

We have to consider a number of questions: which of these can be compared usefully? Which can be experimented upon?

*Reproduced from Allan Whatley (ed.) *Proceedings of the International & Comparative Group Conference, held at Middleton Hall Conference Centre, Gorebridge, Midlothian 28th June to 1st July, 1974* (London: ICLG, 1974), 15–20.

Which can be standardised, either at all or usefully?

One must bear in mind that some subjects are difficult to compare and others are impossible to standardise, and there are some which should not be standardised anyway. For example, culture should not, and cannot, be standardised internationally. As librarians we must look rather modestly at this huge field of education, because, after all, we are mainly distributors.

I quote here a passage from the *Unesco Chronicle* of July 1970, reporting on the Inter-Governmental Conference on Cultural Policy: 'Culture is the national spirit and priceless treasure, the jealously guarded secret of each nation's personality.' It was interesting that this conference was devoted almost entirely to administrative matters, how to promote and preserve national cultures; but there was no question of standardisation. This is impossible and undesirable.

A word about Unesco's approach. Unesco is the central figure. Others have to follow, and IFLA and FID are such followers.

On the one hand we hear much about economic and social development, and on the other hand, much about Unesco's concern with literacy, or, as they say now, functional literacy. This is important to us, for it means that nations cannot exist unless they can read. In the *Unesco Courier* number on Literacy (April 1968) we read:

The map of hunger and the map of illiteracy in the world are the same. The regions where the people do not have enough to eat are also those where they cannot read – and this is no accident. People cannot produce more to eat unless they are taught to produce more. They cannot be taught unless they can read.

This is the functional approach of

Unesco, but there is another approach which goes right back to the foundation of Unesco just after the War on the top of the wave of idealism which naturally follows a terrible war. The book *In the Minds of Men: Unesco, 1946–71* (Unesco, 1972) is about the development of Unesco, in the Constitution of which is written: 'Since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.'

The general theme is thus peace and understanding and the other aim is the functional approach, because it allows people to get enough to eat.

I must come back now to Danton's book, because I disagree with something he says. He holds that one of the aims of international and comparative librarianship cannot be social and moral improvement. This conflicts with the Unesco aims which I have just shown to be very much concerned with social and economic problems, and I do hope our profession can do something to help.

And now let us come to the examples. I am going to say something about those which I know best and then I shall ask you to judge which problems you think have been tackled effectively, which have not been tackled effectively, and what might be done in the future.

As I said I am not dwelling for long on the area of culture because it is not in our field, but I am putting out some publications in the library upstairs for you to see. These are on literacy, on book promotion, on cultural policy, and this book, *In the Minds of Men*.

Let us turn to librarianship proper, and work through as many of these examples as possible.

An aspect of library building is the module or standard of measurement. In

the Anglo-American world we work still in feet and inches, and thus to some extent we are divided from the metricated world. But even within the Anglo-Saxon world, perhaps because of our tradition, all building modules tend to be different. But what do you do when you want to compare things with the metre of 39 inches? This is the sort of problem we are up against.

You may feel that complete international standardization is impossible. In Europe they are working towards a standard library module of six metres, but one of the fairly recent new buildings in West Germany, the Stadt und Universitätsbibliothek in Frankfurt-am-Main, has chosen a module of five metres. So where are we? The Frankfurt library is very much admired and, of course, other libraries are going to copy. This is a difficult case.

This leads me on to national libraries. The comparison of national libraries began earnestly with Unesco's Symposium which was held in Vienna in 1958. Since then not very much has been done until last year, when the meeting was held in Rome in conjunction with IFLA on the planning of national library buildings. This was really a continuation of the Vienna Symposium.

The question I want to ask now is 'How far has it really gone?' Has it gone beyond Stage Two, and is there any sort of beginning of international standard? We can ask these questions in each case. As regards national libraries my judgement is that it is still at Stage One. There are one or two products of the meeting in Rome in which you will be interested. The Proceedings of the Colloquium are not yet out; they should be published by IFLA later this year.

Here is a comparison which I have made of national library buildings in 23 countries, which was used as an introduction to the exhibition held at the Rome meeting. This

covers purposes, sizes, etc., of national libraries.

Next, library statistics. I have already mentioned that work has culminated in the ISO standard. The basic work done by a group was very well organised. The group contained representatives from a number of countries and from Unesco, IFLA and ISO. It was important that ISO was brought in from the start and not just used as a rubber stamp at the end. Unesco produced this publication: *International Library Statistics*, and in 1970 the General Conference of Unesco, which meets every two years, gave its approval; and this led to the ISO standard.

Terminology. In our field quite a lot was done before Unesco was created and before the war. After the war Unesco took it up and the first thing produced was the *Vocabularium Bibliothecarii* (Unesco, 2nd ed., 1962) which I edited. It selected and compared terms in five European languages: English, French, German, Russian and Spanish. The purpose, as laid down by Unesco when they gave me the task of compiling the first edition, was to create a vocabulary of librarianship in the basic languages of Unesco, plus German, which could serve as a basis for expansion in two directions.

It was to expand into other languages, added by experts in their own countries, and to expand also into the specialised field of documentation and information. This is now being tackled. It was typical Unesco policy to start in a small way, and then say 'All right, we've started something, now you've got to carry it on. If not, nobody else will.'

With the *Vocabularium Bibliothecarii* there have been some very good results. The Scandinavians have produced a translation of the whole vocabulary into Norwegian,

Swedish, Danish and Finnish, edited by a very gifted linguist and librarian, Torben Nielsen, of Copenhagen University Library. The Dutch group produced a vocabulary for their use, linked to English and French. It gives the Dutch and Flemish equivalents and has managed to unify these by careful collaboration. This is quite an achievement and was, in fact, a little bit of standardisation within the Dutch-speaking area.

In addition to these a Turkish librarian translated the first edition, the Italians have done a part of it and work is continuing, and there are two versions being worked on at present: one in Arabic and one in Hebrew.

Other developments have been made in the field of documentation and information. After preparing the *Vocabularium Bibliothecarii* in 1953, I was asked by FID to extend the work into documentation and information. I was hard pressed at the time, but produced a draft, and this has formed a basis for work now being carried on in two ways by Unesco. Two German editors have prepared this draft, of a *Vocabularium Documentationis*, to which definitions have been added.

It was efficiently done but often the English terms were inaccurate. IFLA formed a group to check up on this work and we found that 450 terms, or a quarter of the whole work, were terms on librarianship; of these over 200 were inaccurate or the definitions were wrong. So this battle is still going on. The final version is now nearly ready and will be published by Unesco.

Thus this has more or less reached the experimental stage because of the battles that are going on, but there is also other work going on in the ISO Technical Committee 46 (Documentation) Working Group 3 on Terminology. I maintain that much terminology cannot be standardised,

but the Group is determined to carry on and give essential terms and definitions – in English and French only at present. Then it will follow the same procedure as was used for the *Vocabularium Bibliothecarii*, inviting other nations to translate the terms into their languages.

Next, exchanges of publications. This is, surprisingly enough, a difficult and complicated subject. Unesco produced a handbook some years back, which was the upshot of two conventions on Exchanges of Publications in 1958, laying down precise rules in the two fields of exchange of publications in general and of official publications. These provide also guides to the various channels through which publications can be exchanged. This is the first step, not an international standard, but at least international advice.

A further step was taken when Unesco called a meeting on the Exchange of Publications in Europe in 1972 in Vienna. The proceedings cover the organisation of exchange centres, discussion of the best way to organize them, i.e. through one centre or from one big library to another; also the very difficult problem of the value of the books sent in exchange. I am sure some of you have come up against this in your libraries, especially in the case of East European countries where they ask for quite valuable books which you would have to buy for them if you were going to send them at all; and they offer you in exchange items which are often of value commercially but are in languages which we cannot easily use.

One of the conclusions reached was that you cannot really work out any equivalent value and the only recommendation arrived was that 'a generous attitude should be observed'.

In the field of classification there are two

books which I feel are very important for international comparison:

1) *Étude des catégories générales* [A study of general categories], by Eric de Grolier (Unesco, 1962). This is useful for a basis of comparison.

2) *History of Library Classification*, by E. I. Samurin, a professor of library science in the Institute of Librarianship in Moscow. He had been responsible for the Russian translation of the UDC, excepting the adaptations, e.g. where Class 2 was turned into Marxism-Leninism, which incidentally provide an argument against full international standardisation. This *History* is an extremely thorough work and as far as I know exists only in Russian, published in 1955–59, and German translation. It has been reviewed as being something more than a history, since it contains some of the essential elements which everybody should know in making comparisons.

One or two more examples: Bibliographical control. This started at Unesco in the early 1950s when it set up its Advisory Committee on Bibliography and made the survey known as the Unesco/Library of Congress Bibliographical Survey. This has developed slowly, but it has now progressed to such things as the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) – which has come in from other directions – and has ended up, as it should, as an ISO Standard. And now things are moving towards universal bibliographical control.

An interesting point was made at the IFLA meeting last year in Grenoble, that we in Britain are unusual in having a national library, The British Library, which is in two halves, one for reference and one for lending. This development is interesting for international and comparative librarianship because other nations are now seeing that probably they ought to do the same. So for once we have set an example!

This idea of two separate national libraries was hinted at in Grenoble, where the theme of the conference was international bibliographical control. A paper was read in the plenary Session by Madam Honoré of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, who, after emphasising the importance of national bibliography based on legal deposit in a national library, added (translated):

We must think of completing universal bibliographical control by a network of lending libraries, each country undertaking to make the whole of its national production accessible for interlibrary loans in a large national lending library fed by legal deposits. In this way the two roles of preservation and lending would be perfectly assured.

Finally, there is time only to mention a few more publications:

Planning of Library and Documentation Services, by C. V. Penna and completed by P. H. Sewell and H. Liebaers.

Planning of Infrastructures for Documentation, Libraries and Archives, by D'Olier and Delmas. This is in preparation for a conference to be held at Unesco in September this year.

Standards for Library Service, by F. N. Withers. (Paris, Unesco, 1970 [DocCOM/WS/151]). A more complete version is to appear shortly.

What conclusions can we reach? We can ask ourselves these questions:

- Which areas are relevant for comparison?
- Which can lead to international standardisation, or, at least, to international recommendation?
- What is already being done? We shall be helped here by ISORID (International System for Research in Information and Documentation) which will track down everything being done, in order to prevent research from overlapping and to propose further work.

A Rather Unusual Library

Malcolm Hacksley*

All collections of books are interesting, but in Grahamstown, South Africa, there is a collection with a particular claim to fame.

HOUSED IN THE National English Literary Museum, it comprises over 21,000 titles of 'literary' monographs: novels, plays, poetry, short stories, travel writings, personal memoirs ...

The criteria for NELM to acquire any publication are that it should be 'imaginative' (rather than simply factual), that it should have been published in English (either originally or in translation), and that it should have an essential southern African connection (setting, author or subject matter). This means that NELM also collects books from Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. No considerations of any putative 'literary quality' are taken into account: if a book that meets our criteria has been published, NELM will try to obtain a 'specimen' copy of it.

At present the book collection is growing at an annual rate of between 900 and 1,000 – proof, if any were needed, of the truth that 'of the making of books, there is no end'. The result is that NELM now holds the most comprehensive collection of southern African literary publications in the world.

How did this come about? Well, in 1960 a Texan professor on a tour of South Africa tried to buy up whole collections of literary manuscripts. As a counter to this act of 'cultural imperialism', Guy Butler persuaded several South African writers to deposit their papers at Rhodes University. An unstoppable process was under way. Along with authors' manuscripts and typescripts came their scrap-

books and press cuttings, their books and other memorabilia, so much so that by 1980 the collection was altogether too large for the university to handle. At that stage the national government stepped in and established the collections as a national museum with the status of a 'Declared Cultural Institution', funded directly from Pretoria.

A museum, though, is more than a library. Collections of artefacts – in NELM's case all literary – are its heart, but round this core function is a Research component, and beyond that are the all-important Education and Outreach activities, which justify the whole operation. This is not the place to expatiate on the Research and Outreach aspects of NELM, but let us see what the collections comprise.

The principal collections are: Books, Journals, Press-clippings, and Manuscripts, with subsidiary collections of photographs, academic theses, audio-visual materials, etc. Together they comprise the most comprehensive assemblage of southern African literary materials on earth.

The **book collection** is close to being definitive. It comprises all fiction genres: books for (and by) children and young adults, romances, detective and sci-fi yarns, thrillers, autobiographies, in verse and prose, in dramatic, narrative and poetic form. The little non-fiction that we take comprises mainly autobiographical writing and authors' biographies

Among the treasures are many very rare editions and several deluxe publications. Among many fascinating and unusual items is the collection of graphic literature, including

* Malcolm Hacksley is the Director of NELM, and can be contacted at <m.hacksley@ru.ac.za>.

books of political cartoons covering more than a century.

The **journals and press-clippings** collections run into hundreds of thousands of articles, all documenting the publication and reception of literary works, reviewing dramatic performances, providing biographical facts about authors, chronicling the awarding of literary prizes, etc. The 'critical' database lists well over a thousand articles on J. M. Coetzee. Items by and about Zimbabwean authors number nearly twelve hundred. There are over eleven hundred articles on children's literature. While on the topic of critical writing, it is noteworthy that NELM's masters and doctoral theses already take up some 22 metres of shelf space.

The press-clippings collection is added to every single day as NELM staff comb all the major South African newspapers and popular magazines for items of literary or theatrical interest. Already it fills 38 four-drawer filing cabinets, but as an indicator of the initial reception of new publications and plays it is an unmatched resource.

The **manuscripts collection** is a unique archive of drafts, correspondence, photographs and other graphic works, proofs, publishing contracts, authors' personal scrapbooks and memorabilia. For prospective literary scholars it is an almost untouched trove of treasure waiting to be unearthed. One professor of English described it as 'a mini-Bodleian'. Among major collections still awaiting the critical attention of scholars are those of Lionel Abrahams, Douglas Livingstone and Guy Butler.

Also in the manuscript archives are over 4,000 unpublished playscripts, which provide evidence of the crucial role played by theatres in the cultural struggle during and after the apartheid years. In fact NELM's theatre collections are among the largest and most interesting of all. They include collections by

Leon Gluckman, Barney Simon, Pieter-Dirk Uys, Paul Slabolepszy, Anthony Akerman, Malcolm Woolfson, Des and Dawn Lindberg and others, as well as copies of Athol Fugard's scripts.

What makes all this particularly useful is that every document of importance – book, journal, article, manuscript, whatever – is carefully classified, indexed using a range of keywords, and entered into the Museum's very sophisticated set of databases. This allows for highly detailed and focus-specific searches and almost immediate retrieval of documents.

Because the systems are so comprehensively efficient, literary scholars around the world – from Belgium to Brazil, from Japan to Jamaica, from Norway to New Zealand – send in requests for information in an unceasing stream, by e-mail, 'snail mail', fax or phone. Increasingly, they travel to Grahamstown to conduct their research in person, knowing that here they will find all they need under one roof. The active assistance of an informed, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and friendly staff makes undertaking literary investigations at NELM a stimulating, pleasurable and profitable experience.

Those who have access to university libraries can access all NELM's bibliographic data via the American NISC corporation's quarterly updated *Southern African Studies* disk and the annual bibliographic edition of the *British Journal of Commonwealth Literature*. All this and any further information can be obtained directly from NELM.¹

The worldwide interest in southern African writing arises from a rare complex of causes. With a history going back to the late 1700s, South African literature in English provides a remarkably accurate and detailed record

¹ Send an e-mail to <nelm@ru.ac.za> or visit <<http://www.rhodes.ac.za/nelm>>.

of the development of an unusual variety of human community. It is a given that South African society is riven with just about every fault-line imaginable: socio-economic, linguistic, religious, political, racial, class, culture ...

Through the medium of their imaginative writings in English, authors from across every divide in the country have tried, and are still trying, to bridge the gaps and increase cross-cultural understanding and acceptance. Our literature is the clearest documentation of our common humanity. With over six thousand writers – more than 1,600 of them black and not native English-speakers – our literature is the most accurate and the most complex available reflection of who we are and where we have come from. NELM's motto is 'Telling Our Story', for the very good reason that it is a shared story, told by a myriad of voices.

Many of these voices are those of women. Indeed, in every generation, from the start of serious novel-writing in southern Africa, it has been women, far more than their male counterparts, who have imaginatively

confronted the challenges of what it means to live together in so disparate and heterogeneous a society. From Olive Schreiner and Harriet Colenso, through Pauline Smith and Sarah Gertrude Millin, to Nadine Gordimer and Doris Lessing and Daphne Rooke, to Miriam Tlali, Bessie Head, Sindiwe Magona, Rayda Jacobs and a myriad others, our women writers have demonstrated how ordinary people can live together creatively in a community characterised by friendliness and mutual appreciation and honest recognition of one another's pain.

In an age when reading is increasingly becoming an 'un-cool' activity, it is as well for us to remind ourselves – and to convince the cool ones! – that it is in books that our humanity is most permanently documented and where we are most likely to be able to discover for ourselves the pathways we need to find our ways through the thickets and jungles of modern society.

For this reason, the collection and preservation of the unusual library collection in NELM is of lasting importance.



Do you need an expert to manage your e-resource collection?
EBSCO can help

The sheer number of activities it can take to source appropriate content, acquire your subscriptions and provide access to electronic content - regardless of collection size - can seriously impact the productivity of your library staff.

EBSCO is the leading service provider for electronic and print subscriptions and the world's premier database aggregator with over 200 full-text and secondary research databases.

Let us put our expertise to work for you.

Contact EBSCO today at:
mailuk@ebSCO.com

EBSCO
INFORMATION SERVICES
www.ebSCO.com

IFLA WLIC Congress, Seoul 2006

“Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society”

A First-Time Delegate’s report, by Sarah Pink*

The desire to become involved with IFLA and to attend the WLIC came initially from an interest in experiencing this Congress for the first time. The conference represents an opportunity for networking and the exchange of ideas across not only different sectors but different cultures, and from global, rather than local, perspectives. It was too good an opportunity to miss – to contribute to discussions on professional issues with overseas colleagues, and view the latest products of the information industry while experiencing something of the culture of Korea.

A GREAT MANY AREAS of IFLA’s work interest me. Having completed a degree many years ago in African & Caribbean Studies and conducted fieldwork in Nairobi for my MA dissertation on the role of the Kenyan National Library Service (KNLS) in improving information literacy and deploying a mobile library service to reach indigenous peoples, I have always had a strong interest in cultures and differing approaches to learning.

As a former committee member of the Advisory Council on Latin American and Iberian Information Resources (ACLAIIR) and a member of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM), I already had an active interest in both of these regions and had previously managed the Institute of Latin American Studies Library in London.

I was hoping that in attending I would have the chance to contribute to the work that IFLA carries out and raise awareness of those common issues facing the profession, from a global perspective.

Overall impressions of the conference

No stranger to international conferences, and having presented a paper at a large conference in Florida the year previous, I felt prepared for IFLA Seoul from my office in London.

On first arriving, however, Seoul seemed a lonely and sprawling place and, left largely to my own devices, it could be testing for me to make contacts initially in rooms full of groups. The Newcomers Session early on in the conference programme was, I believe, intended to alleviate the alienation and bring people together, but it was at best awkward and disappointing, and perhaps wasn’t helped by its physical location and lack of break-out space, until after the formal papers had concluded.

Once I began to find my feet (and my way around the city), however, things began to look up. I slowly found friends in unlikely forms – an American school librarian, a training officer from Canada, a housewife accompanying her spouse, the UNESCO director from New Delhi, and a Korean Priest. Seating myself at a group table for the Minister’s Gala Reception alongside only Korean librarians who did not speak any English was evidence enough of the hospitable and friendly nature of the Korean people as they warmly welcomed me with smiling faces, laughter and offerings of food.

* Sarah Pink is Associate Director: Planning & Resources, London Metropolitan University, and can be contacted at <sarahpink74@hotmail.com>.

For me personally, the initial enjoyment may have been enhanced if another delegate from abroad had attended, but, by the latter half of the conference, I had really begun to experience Korea, to relax and enjoy the city and all that the Conference had to offer.

Conference programme

For me the conference programme was a real joy. It combined all those elements of culture, literacy, outreach and indigenous peoples that I craved, mixing it up with a 21st century debate on the publication in a Danish newspaper of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed.

If you so wished, you could allow yourself to be whisked away into discussions focusing on the History of Korean Genealogy, Library Buildings and Equipment, and Copyright. It was easily possible to pick sessions that focused directly on your professional work back home – for me, management and strategic planning; for others, perhaps school libraries or DDA developments – and it was equally possible to learn about an area or areas of which you may be entirely unfamiliar.

The sessions I attended, by and large, had a common theme and served to remind us that libraries are facing the challenge of a digital age, with the rise of ICT, multimedia, and multi-formats that include e-books and e-resources as well as printed material.

There appeared to be an underlying theme that the role and function of libraries should be perhaps to provide some hope, reconciliation, co-operation and communication in a world preoccupied with armed conflict, terrorism and misinformation. There was a suggestion that it was dialogue and information exchange that would lead to the eradication of poverty and prevent misunderstandings. If you stayed too long you could begin to believe that it was indeed librarians who were sent to save the world.

For me, the sessions on ‘Regional Diversity: Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning’ were of great professional interest, serving to remind us all that literacy should not mean that one has to be literate and take meaning from the printed word: other forms of communication, equally valid and robust, are critical in developing indigenous peoples – such as oral communication, without any dependency on the printed form.

Elisabeth Adriana Dudziak from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, stressed the importance of oral, script, dance, and song as forms of information literacy. We were reminded that culture influences information literacy, and of the importance of this in educational design when the cultural dimensions of a country affect the manner in which its students learn to be information literate.

In short, the conference programme served to reinforce views I already held, to challenge my perspectives in other areas, to question cultural assumptions, and to open my eyes to areas of library and information work of which I have, as yet, had little or no professional experience.

Social and cultural activities

The programme of social and cultural activities on offer was both diverse and truly inspired.

The conference began with the dazzling Opening Ceremony. It was here that we were entertained with a song written specifically for the Congress entitled ‘Guiding Our Dreams’, accompanied by music and dance.

Dr Alex Byrne, President of IFLA, gave an excellent and inspiring speech, as he did over again throughout the conference, joining us at the Closing Ceremony to tempt us to visit Durban next year.

The following evening we were treated to the Minister’s Gala Reception. What at first

seemed a rather daunting and formal affair for the lone guest concluded with a staggering display of singing, dancing and rice-cake making from all corners of the room, not the least bit let down by the glorious banquet on offer.

My personal favourite, the Cultural Evening, was next, and what a treat it was for the senses! The Buchaechum, better known in the West as the Fan Dance, was truly wonderful and the 'Grand Drum Ensemble' at the finale left a memorable impression on all at this truly inspiring event and insight into Korean culture.

Last but not least, I was invited to attend the CILIP Reception in the luxurious surroundings of the Grand Intercontinental Hotel. Inspiring speeches were made and members honoured for their achievements and contributions to IFLA, CILIP and the wider profession. My fellow first-timer from Korea was praised for her contribution to the CILIP stand and took to the stage for her award.



The Fan Dance

Seoul: Temples, tours and towers

Also on offer were a range of social and cultural activities which allowed you to experience the culture, history and peoples of Korea. These were of great importance in orientation terms but also in understating the host country a little better.

I took the opportunity to visit the Seoul Tower and ascend in the lift to the Observatory, a mere 236 metres high, to enjoy the beautiful skyline at night and fully appreciate the vastness of Seoul. Tours closer to ground level included a visit to Jogyesa Temple, Changduk Palace and the serene Secret Garden.

Post-Conference Tour: Beijing and Shanghai

An opportunity too good to miss came in the shape of post-conference tours to Beijing and Shanghai in China. Walking the Great Wall, visiting the preserved body of Mao in his Mausoleum, and spending a tranquil day at Prince Gong's mansion and gardens are memories I will long treasure.

Shanghai was equally exciting – thriving, sprawling and surprising in its efforts to combine a cosmopolitan exterior with deeply Chinese roots, it remains a memorable experience.



The Secret Garden

Library visits

I was fortunate enough during my stay in Korea to visit two very different libraries. The first was a school library, the Jungang Girls' Middle and High School Library.¹ It didn't take long to realise how special this particular visit was, as it emerged that to have a library within a school is very rare indeed in Korea, so this was indeed unique.

I was most struck not by the differences but by the similarities between this library and school libraries in the UK, having started my career as a school librarian: the common sight of reams of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*; the comfy chairs nestling around a table and newspaper stand; the familiar pressures of too few staff and a librarian that must divide her time between teaching and librarianship; and, of course, the ability to search, reserve and renew your books online via the OPAC.

The staff and students of the school could not have been any more gracious and welcoming, and they really did make us feel very special indeed. Paradoxically, it really was they who were special – most of the library had been planned and designed by one teacher/librarian with little time, assistance and few resources, pulling together a service and environment for the benefit of the school children that was second to none. I was invited to return to this special place if I ever visited Korea again, and I promised that it would be the first stop on my list.

The second library I visited was altogether different from any I had experienced before. The Catholic University of Korea's Theological Library represented a way of life, a deep and profound commitment to faith and a strict order which shaped the library in its design, content and purpose.² The library provides information for future priests who

will eventually go on to lead the Korean Church. The students must stay for ten years, interrupted briefly by two years of compulsory military service, while they study to become priests. The lifestyle involved a great many personal sacrifices and any 'free' time was spent primarily in the library. I was greatly inspired by the commitment that these individuals showed and, once again, by the hospitality we experienced. We all left that visit laden down with gifts – from mugs, books and pictures to chocolates and sweets.

Making friends

As I alluded to earlier, this could be daunting for a first-timer in the Far East and so it is with heartfelt thanks that I mention the Barbican Librarian and the Chair of the IFLA section on Mobile Libraries. Without them (and their introduction to Korean dining), my experience as a whole would have suffered. Their kindness, friendship and professional experience really did enhance my enjoyment, and I would encourage first-timers to seek out colleagues with the patience and foresight to invest some time in networking with those new to IFLA Conferences.

CILIP and IFLA

As a Chartered member of CILIP working towards Fellowship, I was proud that CILIP supports the work of IFLA in the way in which it does. As IFLA embodies so much of that which library and information centres stand for, and gives common issues facing the profession a global voice, I think it is crucial that we remain supportive of the aims and objectives of IFLA, and vice versa.

I was surprised that it wasn't as easy to become involved in the work of IFLA as I had first hoped, and there was little direct encouragement to do so. As a member of the CILIP Assessment Panel and a Chartership mentor, I am particularly interested in the work carried

¹<<http://www.centerlib.org>>.

²<<http://lib.catholic.ac.kr>>.

out by the Division of Education and Research on 'Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning', and hope that I may have the opportunity to contribute to the work of this group at some stage.

The presence of the CILIP stand in the Exhibition Hall and my own 'stint' on the stand was an excellent promotional tool for the organisation and many colleagues appeared genuinely interested in discovering more about the work of CILIP.

Conclusion

Attendance at the IFLA WLIC 2006 Conference in Seoul was a great many things – it could be at once inspirational and uplifting, anonymous

and daunting, varied and exciting. Whatever your individual experience of the Congress, you will take back with you lasting memories, friendships, professional insights and a deeper understanding of the contributions made by colleagues and, hopefully, friends from other cultures and countries.

It is sometimes assumed that a 'first-timer' at IFLA is also a 'first-timer' in the profession, but, as an established information professional, I can confidently say that whatever your age, position and professional experiences, there will be something that will challenge your beliefs, ask you questions, and enthuse you to make a difference when you return to your office, wherever in the world that may be.

A Report by Catherine Phillpotts* on the ILIG Informal held on 18 October 2006 about the IFLA WLIC Congress

MARIA COTERA HAD INFORMED various e-mail lists that the October ILIG Informal meeting was to be about the IFLA Conference in Seoul, South Korea, and, never having been to an IFLA conference, I decided to go to the meeting and find out more about what happens at the conferences.

The two speakers were Barbara Spina (Faculty Librarian, SOAS) and Paul Sturges (Professor of Library Studies, Loughborough).

On arriving at the venue both Maria and Hazel Dakers, chair of ILIG, made me and the other attendees feel very welcome.

Barbara spoke first and explained that she has now been to the IFLA conference three times and that she feels she has developed both professionally and personally as a

result. She said that she found her first IFLA conference overwhelming and confusing, as there are so many attendees (there can be over 3,000) and so many parallel sessions going on. However, by the Seoul Conference, she was getting a better understanding of the conference – in spite of the Seoul venue being in a huge modern complex.

Barbara explained that attendance at the UK Caucus is vital as it allows you to meet up with UK colleagues and to network quite early on in the proceedings. You can find out what people are there for and get a better idea of which sessions you want to attend. Printing the conference programme before going, reading it thoroughly, and highlighting the events that look interesting is also useful.

As well as the conference sessions there are cultural activities, visits and tours planned. Many of these are geared to accompanying persons who may have travelled with conference attendees. Barbara advised taking

* Catherine Phillpotts is Teamleader, Social Sciences, University of London and can be contacted at <catherine.phillpotts@london.ac.uk>.

advantage of a cultural visit and also picking one that takes you out of the city as you can get a better feel for the local people and culture and see more of the countryside that way. She passed around the guidebooks and brochures of the cultural visits that she had attended.

Paul Sturges has attended many of the conferences and now has a post within IFLA which obliges him to attend. He told us that he always tries to find a local hotel so that he can experience the local culture and that as Seoul has no street names this had caused him some problems finding the hotel he had booked into.

Paul said that the conference was partly about the programme of sessions and meetings, but also partly about the networking. Paul chairs the IFLA Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (see <<http://www.ifla.org/faife/index.htm>>). This committee had decided to concern itself with a 'hot potato' at the Seoul Conference – the Danish Cartoons Affair.

The meeting discussing this topic was

packed with conference delegates. The Danish newspaper which published the cartoons had been exercising freedom of expression. Our ability to publish cartoons showing, for example, politicians as monsters, is due to freedom of expression. However, the IFLA session concluded that if something could be a threat to public order, then possibly freedom of expression needs careful thought. If ordinary people have cherished views and your expressions will upset them, this is a real problem. This needs to be balanced with freedom of expression.

Paul told us that the meeting had a really good debate on this topic and that people of many faiths were represented and had the opportunity to speak. Paul concluded by telling us that the IFLA conference is exciting, and is a social event as well as being hard work.

The meeting concluded with a brief question and answer session. I enjoyed hearing about the work of IFLA and the Conference and will certainly be looking out for the announcements about future meetings.

Information about the meetings and sessions held at the Seoul Conference can be found at <<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>>, and about the next IFLA Conference in Durban, South Africa, at <<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/index.htm>>.

A Report by Chris Hagar on Two Recent Conferences on African Libraries*

IN JULY I had the pleasure of attending, for the first time, the Standing Conference of African National and University Libraries – Eastern, Central and Southern (SCANUL-ECS) and the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Libraries (SCECSAL) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Have been recently appointed to the position of Head of Library Development at INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications; <<http://www.inasp.info>>), the conferences provided me with an excellent opportunity to meet many librarians from different university and national libraries, in one location.

Both SCANUL-ECS and SCECSAL were extremely useful in giving me an overview

* Dr Chris Hagar is Head of Library Development, INASP. She can be contacted at <chagar@inasp.info>.

of the issues and concerns affecting African national and university libraries.

SCANUL-ECS

Forty delegates attended the SCANUL-ECS Conference, whose theme was the emerging challenges and opportunities in the management of ICT in national and university libraries in the region.

The keynote address was given by Justin Chisenga (Information Management Specialist for the UN FAO Regional Office for Africa, Ghana) on Information and Communication Technologies: Opportunities and challenges for National and University Libraries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

The two key issues from his paper were: the importance of lobbying strategies to decision-makers for marketing information at every level, and bandwidth problems versus growing enrolment in universities.

The conference was divided into four sessions: policy issues on ICT; financing ICT; training in ICT, and management of ICT facilities. The SCANUL-ECS business meeting highlighted the need for a document on the linkage between library ICT policies with institutional policies.

INASP are sponsoring a publication on this topic which will be edited by Charles Lungu of the Copperbelt University, Kitwe, Zambia.

SCECSAL

SCECSAL is the largest and fastest-growing professional association in Africa. Over 400 delegates attended the conference entitled 'Librarianship as a Bridge to an Information and Knowledge Society in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa'.

The main theme of the conference was the role of information and knowledge in social change, particularly how knowledge, information and development can interact to help produce a more informed society

and accelerate the development of Africa. Knowledge management (KM) was the key focus of many of the papers.

Sub-themes of the conference relating to knowledge management included: regional and continental initiatives; challenges and opportunities facing specific libraries; libraries in specific socio-economic sectors; civil society; democracy and development of libraries; the prevention of HIV/AIDS; indigenous knowledge for the development of Africa's information systems and services; and social inclusion. About forty papers were presented on these topics during the conference.

Keynote addresses were given by Alex Byrne (IFLA President) on 'The World Information Society Concept and Africa'; by Kingo Mchombu (Department of Information and Communication, University of Namibia) on 'Harnessing KM for Africa's Transition to the 21st Century'; by Theophilus Mlaki on 'Communication, ICT and KM for Social, Economic and Cultural Development'; by Stephen Roberts (Thames Valley University) on 'Making a Contribution to the Civil Society: KM and the Information Professional'; and by Kay Raseroka (Director, Botswana University Library) on 'The African Renaissance and Libraries'.

Unfortunately, a list of delegates was not provided at either conference, which made keeping track of people's names and institutions not an easy task! It has been recommended that attendees lists be published at the 2008 conference, which will be held in Zambia.

It was privilege attending SCANUL-ECS with Diana Rosenberg, my predecessor, and being witness to the many accolades she received for her work with INASP, SCANUL-ECS and SCECSAL. It was also pleasure to be representing the organisation and to receive such positive comments about our work.

New Technology and Electronic Copyright

A Report by Aidan Baker on the two ILIG seminars held at the British Library Conference Centre, 24 October 2006

1 New Technology with Phil Bradley

Phil Bradley reckons to spend most of his time surfing the 'Net for new resources. He reports on what he finds via his Web site <<http://www.philb.com>> and his Weblog <<http://philbradley.typepad.com>>, and in professional journals such as *Library and Information Update*, and occasionally leaves the workstation for long enough to give a talk like this. His enthusiasm is infectious.

He began with questions ...

- What are the problems currently associated with providing information to users?
- Can you get to the users?
- How do you keep them up to date?
- Current Awareness?
- Are you a facilitator or a gatekeeper?
- Is geography a problem?
- Do you need more time?
- Did you reach information overload sometime last century?
- Is your job worse or better because there is so much more out there?

and he looked to Web 2.0 for answers. Wikipedia's working definition of Web 2.0, at one time, was:

a term often applied to a perceived ongoing transition of the World Wide Web from a collection of Web sites

to a full-fledged computing platform serving Web applications to end-users. Ultimately Web 2.0 services are expected to replace desktop computing applications for many purposes.

I have begun to see that myself. Since Phil recommended the online calendar Mosuki <<http://mosuki.com>> in his *Update* column, I have been using it every day; it has supplanted the calendar on my wall, along with any thoughts I might ever have had of using Microsoft Outlook®, and co-exists happily with my Filofax®.

The talk listed many more such, on a basis of 'I want things that work, that allow me to do a job better, more quickly, more effectively.' And we all scribbled down the URLs for the ones that seemed to match our own needs best.

But beware. Information from Phil Bradley is like information from a speed camera. He warned that a characteristic of Web 2.0 resources is their short life-span. The Wikipedia definition he quoted does not now appear on Wikipedia in that form. And one of the resources he praised on 24 October was added three days later to his Weblog list of 'Things I've stopped using'.

2 Electronic copyright with Graham Coult, Barbara Stratton and Ben White

Graham Coult is editor of *Managing Information*. He gave us the history and development of copyright, from its beginnings driven by the dynastic and religious squabbles of the Tudors, to the landscape of

international organisations that are involved today, together with an overview of how print and digital copyright differ.

Ben White is Copyright Compliance and Licensing Manager at the British Library.

He gave us the British Library's official view on the future of copyright, and introduced us to the Adelphi Charter <<http://www.adelphicharter.org/default.asp>> from the UK's Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce. The Charter begins, 'Laws regulating intellectual property must serve as means of achieving creative, social and economic ends and not as ends in themselves', and goes on to call for limits to the further extension of copyright, with an automatic presumption against the need for such extension.

Barbara Stratton is CILIP's Senior Copyright Adviser, and also Secretary to LACA, the Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance. She spoke on DRMS (digital rights management systems) and TPMs (technological protection measures – a sub-category of DRMS) and access to knowledge. LACA's view of this

complex field can be found at <<http://www.cilip.org.uk/laca>>. Behind the concern, she explained, lay an awareness that TPMs risked transforming copyright from control over a work into direct control over the user – with all the implications for human rights.

What was inescapable was the international flavour of the day. The Adelphi Charter's appeal is the product of an international committee and is addressed to 'governments and the international community'. Ben White's demonstration of the growth of copyright restrictions was drawn from the United States; LACA's work takes place against a background of European Union directives. And what is the Web if not World Wide?

Definitely ILIG's business, then. And people who could not make 24 October have put their names down for the next time ILIG does anything of the kind.



Ben White, Copyright Compliance and Licensing Manager at the British Library, addresses the ILIG seminar on 24 October 2006.

HIGHLIGHT: infoDev begins survey and capacity building activities in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific focusing on ICT use in education

INFODEV HAS BEGUN two related regional survey projects in Africa and the Caribbean to help answer some basic key questions related to the use of ICTs in education, and will be co-sponsoring two events in Fiji in September 2006 for policymakers from Pacific Island nations.

In general, these activities are meant to help answer the following key questions:

1. How are ICTs currently being used in the education sector in each region, and what are the strategies and policies related to this use?
2. What are the common challenges and constraints faced by countries in each region related to ICT use in education?
3. What is actually happening on the ground, and to what extent are donors involved?

Initiated at the request of infoDev's donors, the surveys are meant to document the lessons learned from the past decade's investment and activities, successes and failures related to ICT use in education, in order to inform a number of policy dialogues and project preparation activities going forward.

ICTs are widely believed to be important potential levers to introduce and sustain education reform efforts. Despite evidence of increasingly widespread use of ICTs in education initiatives around the world, however, there is little guidance available for policy makers and donor staff specifically targeted at countries contemplating the use of ICTs to help countries meet the education-related Millennium Development Goals.

Despite donor and government interest in this area, there is no consolidated documentation of what has actually happened – and is

happening – in Africa and the Caribbean related to the use of ICTs in education 'on the ground', and of how governments are responding to the challenges posed by such initiatives (when indeed they know about them). Information that does exist is highly fragmented, and often out of date.

More information on these survey initiatives can be found on the related pages on the infoDev web site:

Survey of ICT of Education in Africa

http://www.infodev.org/section/programs/mainstreaming_icts/education/ed_current_workplan/africa_survey

Critical review of ICT in education in the Caribbean

http://www.infodev.org/section/programs/mainstreaming_icts/education/ed_current_workplan/caribbean_survey

On a related note:

infoDev and UNESCO are co-sponsoring a high level forum for education ministers and a workshop for planners and policymakers in Fiji from 25–30 September 2006 to help raise awareness of ICT and education issues among small island developing states of the Pacific and to help to complement the planning processes for various regional educational initiatives.

For more information about this activity, please see the related page on the infoDev web site:

High Level Forum and Workshop for Policymakers, Planners & Practitioners on ICT and Education in the Pacific (with UNESCO)

http://www.infodev.org/section/programs/mainstreaming_icts/education/ed_current_workplan/fiji_events

Book Reviews

William Miller and Rita M. Pellen (eds.), *Evolving Internet Reference Resources*.

Binghamton, New York: Haworth Information Press, 2006, 536pp.

ISBN: 0-78903025-X; ISBN-13: 9780789030252

[Simultaneously published as *Journal of Library Administration* (2005) 43(3/4) and (2006) 44(1/2).]

... considering the random arrangement of information on the Internet, there are challenges to finding Web sites that address reference issues. According to Franco, 'while these search engines ... have strengths, their weaknesses are well known: a high percentage of nonauthoritative content mixed with quality content that when indexed together, makes locating relevant information serendipitous at best

Evolving Internet Reference Resources, p.350

The Internet – so much rubbish, so little time. What is needed is a winnow to separate the grain from the chaff and this book is such a device. Its aim is not to provide definitive lists of online subject resources, but to act as a starting point.

Many of the Web sites listed are a gateway to researching a subject. The editor states that this is the second time he's been involved in an article of this nature, so it's certainly not a first. He then goes on to provide a brief overview of each chapter and concludes with thoughts upon the direction of research now that there is so much more credible information available online.

Whether consciously or not the book begins with arts, humanities and the legal profession and sciences occupy the latter chapters. At this point a list of subjects follows for the benefit of the reader:

The format of each chapter comprises: Summary, Keywords, Article. The articles naturally vary in content and length. Many begin with a useful introduction to the subject and then go on to further break down into sub-headings ranging from the different types of resources available, subscription versus free resources, conclusions, notes and bibliographies. One area that lacks consistency is the visual layout of the chapters. Some authors have opted to embed their links in the main body of the article so that it looks like prose, whereas others have located their links on a separate line (usually in bold or italics) above a brief paragraph of description. The latter option is much easier on the eye and lends itself to quick reference reading.

As for the links themselves, the number of Web sites per chapter ranges from 14 (Film)

<i>Art</i>	<i>Rhetoric</i>	<i>Poetry</i>
Film Studies	US History	Anthropology
Lesbian, Gay, etc	Women's Studies	Asian Studies
African American Kentuckians	Blogs	Psychology
Education	Travel & Tourism	College & Career Information
ESL	Law (US)	Maps and Mapping
Environment	Agriculture	Health and Medical
Nursing	Computing	Engineering

to in excess of 250 (Law), though the average is between 20 and 30 (rising to double that for the sciences). Again, there is a lack of consistency in citing when the author visited a Web site, which is of paramount importance due to the fleeting nature of information on the Internet. (Many readers will understand the time-scales involved in the publishing process and realise that it takes time for a book to go from idea to publication, therefore the vast majority of sites were accessed in 2004!)

Some authors have selected criteria to assess the authority of a Web site, be that the number of times it is referenced by other sites, or the frequency of its updates.

The tone of writing is very readable and the text as a whole is seldom tedious. At no time is it patronising: rather, it is informative. Where the reader has little or no knowledge, the subject introductions give excellent over-views; and, conversely, it adds to existing knowledge by providing links to sites that some search engines may not list in their top ten hits.

Without exception all of the contributors are university employees and as such the book is aimed primarily at the higher-education sector. However, as a school librarian I found that many of the chapters had something to offer LIS staff in schools from ages 7 upwards, though more beneficially to public library staff. This is borne out in the range

of subjects included. It would also be useful to the conscientious student of perhaps 15+ who wants to produce original work instead of merely relying on resources provided by teachers/lecturers/Google.

This is a very US-centric text, with all of the authors working for American institutions. Each chapter varies with its inclusion of international Web sites, and even those who do largely confine themselves to Western Europe, Canada and Australia. This is a great shame given the truly global nature of the Internet, however in some cases (Law springs to mind) understandable given the volume of information out there. Nevertheless this shouldn't be a deterrent to the international LIS professional. As mentioned before this book isn't a definitive list rather it does an effective job of narrowing down a field that seems at times infinite – online reference resources – yet opening doors to more focused avenues of research.

When conducting library inductions to 11-year-olds, I define a reference book as being a book that you dip into for information, not one that is read from cover to cover. *Evolving Internet Reference Resources* is definitely an exception.

Natasha Skeen
Learning Resources Manager
St Michael's CofE High School
Sandwell, West Midlands
<natasha.skeen@ritz.edu>

Did you know that there's an easy-to-remember short-cut to ILIG's Web site:

www.cilip.org.uk/ilig

Visit our Web site and keep up to date with what is happening in your group.

A. Olden and A. Mcharazo (eds.) *Revitalizing Library Associations in Africa*. 97 pp.
Innovation: Journal of Appropriate Librarianship in Africa, No. 31 (December 2005).
Scottsville, South Africa. ISSN 1025-8892.

The journal *Innovation*, published twice a year, has as its primary purpose the publication of material on libraries, information supply and other related matters, with a primary focus on South and Southern Africa. Each issue is normally devoted to a theme. Recent issues include: Promotion of Reading in South Africa; Historical Aspects of Library and Information Work in Africa; Access Principles and Practices; Images: Digitization, Storage and Accessibility.

The issue under review examines the role and activities of national library associations in Africa. It is generally accepted that an active professional association makes a difference both to library development and to the personal career development of its members. In addition, such associations can play an important role within civil society and in furthering the well-being of their communities.

Yet library associations in many countries in Africa are currently faced with serious obstacles, including low and widely dispersed membership, low income, and reliance on volunteers to take on work that is demanding in time and effort. Perhaps the most serious problem faced is that library associations need a thriving library base and much of Africa in recent years has not offered the political, economic or social stability required for library growth to take place. The theme of this book is revitalization.

Olden's introductory overview provides both a historical background and brings together many of the issues discussed in the chapters that follow. Although each country has a different library environment, the challenges faced (if not the solutions)

are very similar. Contributions from Senegal (covering French-speaking Africa), Uganda, Botswana and Malawi examine the activities and achievements of library associations in those countries. Another chapter reviews the state of library association Web sites and e-discussion groups.

Plans and progress made for a renewal of formal library co-operation in the countries of East Africa are described and there is an account of the ways in which the American Library Association and IFLA meet their more general social responsibilities. The final chapter (based on research in Uganda) argues the need for a co-ordinated strategy between library, archives and museum professionals to better preserve natural, historical and cultural heritage.

I was hoping that this book would provide me with both an in-depth analysis of problems faced and examples of the ways in which some of these problems had been successfully surmounted – in essence, tips to follow on how to revitalize your library association.

I found the most thoughtful and stimulating contribution to be that from Botswana. The author argues that the main aim of the Botswana Library Association (BLA) (like many others in East and Central Africa) is to promote growth and development of professionalism among its members. The result has been an association that is 'self-centered and self-serving' rather than 'geared towards reaching and empowering the ordinary citizens'.

Yet the library profession itself is service-oriented and user-centered, so an association also needs to promote and engage in grass-roots information services. Because the

current mandate of BLA concentrates on the aspirations of the individual, leaders in the association often desert it after accomplishing their personal development goals and move on to set up separate similar entities. This has limited the impact of those development activities in which BLA has taken part.

The author is realistic in admitting that Botswana is a small country in terms of population and will always have a limited number of librarians and meagre funds. Whilst the way forward is to include a public, grassroots dimension in BLA activities, it is essential that segmentation of the profession is avoided and that all efforts come under the umbrella of BLA.

In contrast, the Uganda Library and Information Association (ULIA) has chosen advocacy, the building of partnerships and strategic planning as the way to a new and more vibrant association.

In 2000, it saw the necessity of transforming itself to respond to changes in society and to a government that wanted to involve civil society. It has developed strategic plans that address Uganda's perennial problems like HIV/AIDS, poverty and illiteracy, and it has contributed to progress toward new legislation (freedom of information, copyright, the National Library Act) and policies (school libraries, e-government strategy) of importance to the library and information field.

It identifies and works with local and international partners, especially in building coalitions around advocacy problems and in

joint programmes, like National Book Week Festivals. Although the final sentence of the chapter does state that it was important for ULIA to find a new identity in order to keep membership up, there is no indication that membership numbers have increased and nothing about how the obviously very active secretariat is funded.

In the preface, the editors state that South Africa has been deliberately excluded, as its library association has already been written about to a greater extent than elsewhere on the continent. But given the fact that the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) is the one association that has had a funded secretariat (thanks to a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York) and that many associations elsewhere in Africa see a permanent funded secretariat as something that would solve many of the challenges they face, it would have been interesting to read an analysis of the impact that the grant had. Is it something that other library associations should be seeking or not?

After finishing the book, I had learnt quite a lot about library associations in certain countries of Africa. I am now aware of the problems that they face but I am not convinced either that they are on the way towards being revitalised or that ways of effecting this revitalisation have been established.

Diana Rosenberg
<drosenberg@gn.apc.org>

Would you like to receive

Focus by e-mail?

If so, please e-mail <focus@cilip.org.uk>. It will be sent to you as an attachment in PDF format.

O. O. Ogundipe *The Librarianship of Developing Countries: The Librarianship of Diminished Resources*. 354pp. Lagos: Ikofa Press, 2005. ISBN 978-37579-1-6. (Available in the UK for £20 including postage from: 10B Ashgrove Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex, IG3 9XE.)

This book is a (self-published?) reproduction of 35 papers by the author, many of which I know have been previously published (two in *Focus*), though there is no mention of this in the book, nor any acknowledgement to, or citation of, the original publications. Most seem to have been written or published in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s; I could find only one that makes reference to an event after 2000.

The contents are divided into three parts. The first (168 pages) deals with 'General Topics and Issues of Librarianship Applicable to Developing Countries'; the second (48 pages) reports on specific issues from the author's 50-year career as a university librarian in Sierra Leone, Zambia and Trinidad and Tobago; the last part (136 pages) covers 'Aspects of Growth and Developments of Librarianship in Nigeria', Ogundipe's home country.

It is a pity that no indication is given of when the articles were written, as it is difficult to appreciate their original context, and many of them are therefore robbed of a value that they could have had now. For instance, the one on 'Rural Libraries in Zambia' was

published in *Rural Africana* in 1978, yet nowhere in the book is the reader told that it describes the situation in the 1970s. And 'Some Issues of Nigerian Librarianship' are those that were current when the article was published in 1980.

I got a 'bad' copy, the cover of which has not been drawn on properly, causing part of the back cover blurb to be trimmed off; pages 317–24 and 341–48 are missing and pages 214–20 and 237–44 appear again in their place. A slip is stuck on the inside back cover that says, 'We apologise for some minor editorial errors especially proofreading oversights due to a desire to reduce production costs and be affordable especially to those with diminished resources.'

This book would, I'm sure, have benefited from a more professional publication that included the author's assessment (with hindsight) of 'the librarianship of developing countries' (of Africa, really) over the past forty years or so. Otherwise, it is difficult to regard it as more than simply the collected writings of a retired librarian.

Roger Stringer

Calling all colleagues!

The ILIG Committee has been considering twinning colleagues between developed and less developed countries as a simple way to help colleagues with fewer resources to hand – a kind of electronic pen-pal scheme.

If you are in well developed country, would you be interested in volunteering to keep in touch with a less well resourced colleague elsewhere? If you are in a developing country, would you like to have an e-pal to contact?

If either appeals to you, please contact Ann Irving, the Associate Editor of *Focus*, who will try to match you up: e-mail <ann.irving@britishlibrary.net>.


 The logo features the letters 'ILIG' in a large, light grey, sans-serif font. Overlaid on this is the word 'business' in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font, tilted at an angle.

Committee News

Once again your Committee has been hard at work on your behalf. Some big changes are reported here, notably to the publication dates for *Focus* and the future of Informals.

Focus publication dates to change

The new publication cycle from 2007 will be March, July and November. We shall continue to supply print copies for the foreseeable future, but 28 of the respondents to our survey in the last issue said that they would be happy to receive an e-version, so they will start to receive e-focus from now on. See page 111 if you wish to join them.

Informals to go quarterly?

Despite a good deal of effort to promote them, monthly Informals are not well attended and a majority of committee members voted to discontinue them from 2007. The Chair proposed that we organize four longer (2-hour) meetings a year, each with several speakers, and with a charge for attendance. They should concentrate on making networking opportunities between existing and potential members. Collaboration with other groups should also be explored. To be discussed.

ILIG seminars sell out

The sell-out October seminars (see page 103 for a report) are likely to bring in a surplus of £5,000, with 70% for the Anthony Thompson Award fund (to increase the capital) and

30% for the general ILIG account. To meet expressed demand we propose to run the seminars again in May 2007.

ILIGlist grows

Membership of the list stands at 214, a rise of 5 since June.

Umbrella 2007 plans

There will be three ILIG sessions:

- Recovering from Disasters – jointly with with the Government and Career Development groups
- World Summit on the Information Society [WSIS] – also jointly with the Government and Career Development groups
- Education and Training – how the LIS curriculum has been affected by political and economic change.

E-pals twinning arrangements

From the invitation in the last issue of *Focus*, one UK and three Nigerian members are willing to twin. These will be followed up and we will continue to advertise – see page 112 in this issue.

Awards – Anthony Thompson

Follow-up has been good so far: the CILIP SE Branch is likely to pay postage to send books that Marsha Stewart selected during her visit. The total 2006 cost was £2,452, including a CILIP donation of £250 for conference fees and an OUDES (Open University) donation of £250. So the net cost to ILIG had been under £2,000. Thanks to Gill Harris for so successfully managing all the arrangements for the winner's visit, to CILIP's Jill Martin for conference fees, and to OUDES for their kind donation.

Awards – ILIG

The deadline for nominations will be 31 January 2007 – see the inside back cover of this issue.

CILIP International work

The existing level of support for ILIG is likely to continue, as this is not part of the current international budget. Future international work is likely to prioritize strategic matters with a concentration on advocacy and IFLA. Savings are likely to be made by cutting some fringe IFLA activities, subscriptions to some organizations and bilateral programmes.

Elections are coming

There are two vacancies for Committee members, together with the four officer posts. See below for full details.

Next meetings:

- 14 February, 12.30
- 20 June, 12.30 – followed by the AGM at 17.00 and a guest speaker at 18.00
- 17 October, 12.30

Ann Irving



Election of Committee

Nominations are invited for election to the committee of ILIG.
The committee meets three times a year, plus one e-meeting.

The following officer posts are due for election:
Chair, Vice-Chair, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.
Those elected will serve for one year from 1 April 2007.

Two places for committee members are also vacant.
Those elected should be prepared to serve for three years from 1 April 2007.

All nominations should be in writing and reach the Secretary of ILIG
by Wednesday 31 January 2007.
Each candidate, who must be a member of ILIG, should be nominated by two members of ILIG.
Candidates should countersign their proposal form.

Elections will take place in February/March 2007.

Send your nominations to:
Diana Rosenberg, Secretary of ILIG, Roadways, Bussage, Stroud, Glos. GL6 8BB.

ILIG Chairman's Annual Report, April 2005 – March 2006

[The wrong report was published in the last issue of Focus. There follows the correct Annual Report for 2005. Apologies to the Chairman, to ILIG members and readers – Ed.]

Committee

Each year that I have reported to you, I have been delighted to give official thanks to our very hard working committee. Every time one of these gives up an official function within ILIG – or, worse still, leaves the Committee to give time to other things in life – my heart sinks. How on earth will we replace them? Yet each time I have been heartened to discover that more very capable people come forward albeit sometimes with a little arm-twisting; and, in terms of active committee members producing services for the SIG, if anything our committee has strengthened over the years.

This year Ann Irving stood down from her very demanding position as Focus Editor to become ... Deputy Focus Editor! We are all very delighted with the new arrangement. Ann continues to be the linchpin in this country and on the committee, carrying out the mailings to 1000+ members (of whom a little over 25% are overseas) and providing all manner of other help.

Fittingly for the International Group, our new Editor, Roger Stringer, lives and works in Zimbabwe. Originally a librarian, he runs a business doing editing and desktop publishing. As such he also willingly took on the role previously carried out by Anthony Hugh Thompson who was looking for an opportunity to stand back from doing the DTP work for *Focus*.

So, a million thanks, then, to Ann for her very successful term as Focus Editor and for continuing in her new support role to Roger Stringer. Many thanks also to Anthony Thompson who has assisted us ever since the death of his friend, our long-time editor, Michael Wise.

Another loss – this time to the committee as well as to her role – is Julia Chandler. A valued member of the committee for years, Julia has been Web Officer for much of that time. Recently it has been a frustrating role. CILIP's changes to the Web site have meant that it has been impossible to maintain an up-to-date site. However, as CILIP has resolved its Web management system's teething troubles – and these have been many – so Julia has brought ILIG's Web site into the 21st century.

One member was particularly frustrated by the problems of the website. So we invited her to be trained by the CILIP Web team to become ILIG's new Web Officer. Alice Tyler has completed her training and is now wrestling with the Web site herself! Thank you Julia.

Of course, the great weight of committee work is carried out behind the scenes by Diana Rosenberg (Secretary), Aidan Baker (Minutes Secretary) and Kathleen Ladisezky (Treasurer). Thank you three for being the backbone of ILIG.

Elections

Elected unopposed were:

Chairman: Hazel Dakers

Vice-Chairman: Rachel Monk

Secretary: Diana Rosenberg

Treasurer: Kathleen Ladizesky

Members: Aidan Baker, Alice Ford-Smith, Pete Loewenstein, Maria Cotera

Full Committee: Tony Olden (to March 2007), Norman Briggs, Luigi Callegari, Gillian Harris, Alan Hopkinson, Ann Irving, Anne Powell (to March 2008), Aidan Baker, Alice Ford-Smith, Pete Loewenstein, Maria Cotera (to March 2009).

Roger Stringer was co-opted as Focus Editor and Alice Tyler as Web Officer.

Focus

I have already made reference to Focus. Our journal is published three times a year. During the last year, Russell Bowden has contributed an article reviewing the impact of the Tsunami on Sri Lankan libraries, Reginald Clarke – of the University of the West Indies, Trinidad – wrote about the West African Library Association and Ross Shimmon reflected upon WSIS. There were twin pieces on Cuba by Messrs Pateman and Kent. Alison Rudd-Clarke wrote of her experience of the Books for Life project in Eastern Cape School Libraries. It continues to be an excellent and varied read and its look has just been refreshed by Roger Stringer. Long may it flourish!

ILIG Informals

Despite the attendance of nine very stimulating speakers to address our regular Informal meetings, attendance has continued to be disappointing. The topics have ranged from WSIS to Tsunami-struck Sri Lankan libraries to libraries in the UK serving Eastern European communities. Although it is exceeding the limits of the year of this report, I will mention that the membership is being surveyed with regard to what activity it would like to be offered.

Umbrella

ILIG's contribution to CILIP's biennial conference was outstanding in 2005. Candy Janetta spoke at a joint session with Industrial and Commercial Libraries Group on 'Training issues, future proofing, and conflict management'. 'Intellectual freedom: the Palestine experience' was addressed by Joe Press. The programme that included Ross Shimmon's session on WSIS was packed out, and resulted in a press statement released by the CILIP President announcing a resolution which resulted from the session. Our efforts also resulted in our best monetary return yet of nearly \$800, which will help to cover ILIG's overheads.

ILIGList

ILIGList at last seems to have become the online community which was always our ambition. Members have put out requests for ideas to resolve issues in their own libraries and received suggestions from across the world. This is a real success. 427 messages were posted and there are 227 members. Recently the list-owner, Alice Ford-Smith, has had to suspend one member who has persistently rejected the advertised netiquette.

Web site

I believe that henceforth the Web site will be an increasingly important tool for our members. It has been a tough couple of years for those dealing with it, but the end is in sight and we look forward to it being the central information point to which members automatically refer.

Anthony Thompson Award

After the last awardee returned home, the ILIG committee agreed that the next would be chosen from South America or the Caribbean. It has been a great delight that we have raised sufficient funds to run the Award once again after our chosen interval of three years. However, during the year on which I am reporting there has been a near pause in fund-raising which we cannot afford to extend.

We decided in particular to look for a librarian or information officer from the health sector. The field was good. There were several very worthy candidates from the 38 applicants. Of those, Marsha Stewart was selected from the Cornwall Regional Hospital Library, Cornwall, Jamaica. Gill Harris is organising her visit and making a series of appointments with the types of libraries that Marsha feels will broaden her perspective. She will also attend this year's Health Libraries Conference.

We greatly appreciate a donation of £250 made by the Open University Development and Environment Society towards Marsha's visit. We hope that their members will join us at least at the Informal to be addressed by Marsha and, hopefully, at others too.

New ILIG Award

This was the first year in which ILIG invited applicants for its new award – The International Award, for making a difference in libraries and information services outside the UK.

In the future, groups may be proposed to receive the award as well as individuals. Precedence will be given to those who have not already received recognition for their work, e.g. by national organizations or publicity. This time, proposals were restricted to ILIG members. Henceforth any CILIP member may propose an awardee. It is a small award worth just £100. We plan to make it annually.

The idea is to celebrate through press releases local to the recipient the value of the work of librarians and information officers and of the worth of the library in which the recipient works.

Similarly we plan to promote ILIG to the profession as a whole as the sponsor of the award. The announcement of the first awardee will be made during the course of this AGM.

Finances

The Treasurer has advised that in the future a proportion of all fund-raising will need to be put towards the continued running of ILIG. It is never so attractive to raise money to continue to exist – to supplement the core funding from CILIP HQ. I deeply regret that CILIP Council has not seen fit to prioritise funding of the smaller groups so that the energy of their committees can be put towards services and activities for members rather than the struggle merely to survive.

Future plans

During this year as well as last, the committee has been participating in CILIP's SIG review. As well as providing written responses, when invited, it has sent a representative to consultation sessions. We are concerned that revision of the funding for SIGs may result in modest-sized groups such as ILIG becoming even more strapped for cash than at present.

Beyond survival we need to consolidate what we are already doing and be ready to change according to the wishes of the membership. We think partnering other SIGs with an interest in international work may be the way forward for future meetings.

In the meantime, Norman Briggs is leading ILIG's input into the two-year planning cycle for Umbrella 2007. We expect several sessions will be organised in collaboration with other SIGs. Eventually members may receive *Focus* electronically. In the short term, however, this will be elective rather than compulsory.

We are a small group, as they go within CILIP. We must cut our coat according to our cloth. Our Tsunami effort has been to hold a lunch in aid of the Hikkaduwa Library whose restoration is a project of the Government Libraries Group. We will continue within our slender means to stimulate the interest of our members in libraries and information services outside the UK.

Last year's AGM was followed by a panel discussion entitled 'Has ILIG lost its Way?' For those who could not attend, the essence of the packed meeting was reported in *Focus*. This year the speaker following the AGM is Ian Johnson who will speak of his recent experience helping Iraqi professionals to rebuild their libraries as part of the reconstruction of civil society in Iraq.

*Hazel Dakers
Chairman, ILIG*

Seen on ILIClist

Job: Title: Chief Librarian

Organization: Torres Advanced Enterprise Solutions

Location: Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Description:

Are you interested in putting your library science education and experience to work in one of today's most challenging, interesting and rewarding environments? Torres Advanced Enterprise Solutions is recruiting for a Chief Librarian to manage the Detainee Library, under the direction of the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In managing the Detainee Library, the Chief Librarian is responsible for providing, maintaining and developing library services and operations using reading, recreational games and puzzles, music, or electronic media. The Chief Librarian is responsible for selecting and maintaining a range of reading and recreational materials to reflect the needs of the patrons in terms of languages and appropriate/approved topics.

The Chief Librarian will supervise a staff of three (one Assistant Librarian and two Linguist/Library Assistants). The Chief Librarian will also work closely with other contractor and government staff.

To be successful in this job, the Chief Librarian will need to be creative, adaptable, ambitious and resourceful. The ideal candidate will possess a degree in library studies or a closely related field and relevant experience. We will consider extensive experience in library operations and management, in lieu of a degree. This job requires proficiency in English. Applicants must be eligible for a US government secret clearance.

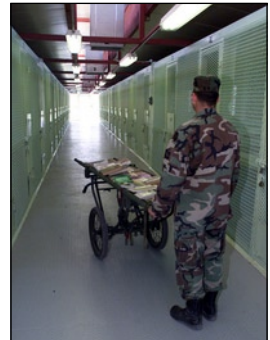
If you're interested in talking in more detail, please e-mail your resume to _hr@torresco.com (mailto:hr@torresco.com) .

Application Information:

Torres Advanced Enterprise Solutions offers a highly competitive salary and benefit package. Additionally, this job qualifies you for federal tax breaks.

Torres Advanced Enterprise Solutions is a certified Minority Owned Business and a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business. Torres Advanced Enterprise Solutions is an equal opportunity employer.

*A librarian pushes a book cart at Camp Delta, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on December 3, 2002.
DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Lewald, U.S. Army.
(Released)*



<http://www.defenselink.mil/photos/Dec2002/021203-A-7236L-008.html>

ILIG

The International Library & Information Group of CILIP

invites nominations for the

INTERNATIONAL AWARD (FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES OUTSIDE THE UK)

In 2005 The International Library and Information Group of CILIP established an annual prize to be awarded to a person, group or committee which has made a real difference to a community through their work in library and information services in countries outside of the UK.

In 2006, the first award was made to Mrs Khan QuayKin, Head of Information Services, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

The nominee will be, or will have recently been, working overseas in the library and information sector, and the award will recognize an initiative that is either current or has been completed within the last year.

Precedence will be given to those who have not already received recognition for their work, e.g. by national organizations or publicity.

Any person or group, except members of the current and immediate past ILIG Committees, is eligible.

They may be of any nationality and need not be professionally trained librarians.

Any CILIP member may make a nomination.

The 2007 award will be made in June.

There will be a cash prize of £100, plus one year's free subscription to *Focus*, ILIG's journal.

To make a nomination, complete a proposal form, which can be requested from the Secretary of ILIG

by e-mail to: <ilig@cilip.org.uk>

or by mail to:

Roadways, Bussage, Stroud,
Glos. GL6 8BB, UK.



The International
Library and Information
Group of CILIP

**The deadline for receipt of
completed nominations is 31 January 2007.**

ILIG

TWO HALF-DAY SEMINARS

MAY 2007

New Technologies and E-copyright

Concise and value-for-money opportunities to update yourself on these fast-moving areas of key relevance to all information professionals.

Seminar One

New Technologies and Library Services:
Harnessing Web 2.0 to improve information provision
Including Web 2.0, Library 2.0, weblogs, RSS, podcasting, wikis.

Seminar Two

Copyright in the E-environment
As well as providing an outline of the current position,
you will be introduced to the likely effects of
emerging intellectual property proposals.

Exact dates and cost to be advised
Generous discounts for CILIP members and concessions

Enquiries about the programme and bookings to
Kathleen Ladizesky, tel.: 01974 282411,
e-mail: <ladizesky@yahoo.com>

