

**International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
Latin America and Caribbean Section**

Report, August 2010 – August 2011

<http://www.ifla.org/en/lac>

As of August 2011, the Latin America and the Caribbean Section of IFLA had 124 members under the diverse membership and affiliate modalities from diverse countries of the region. This membership included: two international associations, eighteen national associations, seventy-two institutions, twenty-six personal memberships and five students.

Over the last year, we have continued working in close collaboration with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP), FAIFE and regional library associations.

At this period, most of the Section's efforts were focused on collaboration with other IFLA sections to organize satellite meetings for the WLIC 2011 to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Other key activities included elaboration of programs for sessions to be carried out jointly with other IFLA sections at WLIC 2011.

Satellite meetings and section programs for the WLIC 2011 “Libraries beyond libraries: integration, innovation and information for all”.

The Section participated in the organization of the following satellite meetings for the WLIC 2011 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Satellite Meeting: “Towards an Optimum Curriculum for Developing Countries: Prospects and Challenges,” organized jointly with the Division V, Regions, and the Special Interest Group on LIS Education in Developing Countries. The meeting was held on August 11 and 12 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Papers included in the program were only by invitation. From the LAC region, Adolfo Rodríguez Gallardo (Mexico) and I were invited to present papers.

Satellite Meeting “Cooperación entre múltiples tipos de bibliotecas y servicios de información afines de los archivos y museos para conseguir objetivos comunes [Cooperation among diverse library types and similar archival and museum information services in order to achieve common goals]”, organized jointly with the Academic and Research Libraries Section. It was held on August 10 and 11 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Organization of this meeting was supported by Magaly Portillo, Library Director of the Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala; Jorge Estrada, of the Library Science Projection and Actualization Symposium Program and Valentina Santa Cruz of the INCAP. Also, Olinda Gómez (El Salvador), member of the LAC Standing Committee, supported organization of this meeting and served as IFLA/LAC

representative in it. The program included paper proposals from Central America, which were accepted by the Academic and Research Libraries Section organizers.

Satellite Meeting “Bibliografía e información sobre arte en América Latina y el Caribe: una perspectiva reciente (las artes visuales, incluidas las bellas artes, las artes aplicadas, el diseño y la arquitectura) [Art bibliography and information in Latin America and the Caribbean: a recent perspective (visual arts, including the fine arts, applied arts, design and architecture)]”, organized jointly with the IFLA Art Libraries Sections and the Art Libraries Section of the Mexican Librarians Association (AMBAC). The meeting was held on August 20 and 21 in Mexico City. Collaborators in the organization of this satellite meeting were Hortensia Lobato Reyes (Mexico), member of the LAC Standing Committee; Jesús Lau, AMBAC President; and Oscar Saavedra, AMBAC Vice-President. The President of the AMBAC Art Libraries Section, Elsa Barberena, and several AMBAC Executive Board members, including Marisela Castro, Asunción Mendoza and Violeta Barragán, also contributed significantly to the organization and development of this meeting.

Moreover, the IFLA/LAC Section also participated in the organization of the following meetings for the WLIC 2011 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

IFLA/LAC Section program “Integración, innovación e información para todos en las bibliotecas de América Latina y el Caribe [Integration, innovation and information for all in the Latin American and the Caribbean libraries]”. This meeting will be held in the WLIC 2011 on August 15. The call for papers was drafted in English and Spanish and duly disseminated. Thirty-seven proposals were received. They were evaluated by the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee members. Many of them were found to be very meritorious, but because of time constraints for the session, only three were selected.

Program “Rare and special collections depending on history: Latin America and the Caribbean [Las colecciones especiales y raras dependen de la historia: América Latina y el Caribe]”, organized jointly with the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section. This event will be held on August 16 in the WLIC 2011. The Section collaborated in drafting the English and Spanish versions of the call for papers and in their dissemination. Twelve proposals were received. These were evaluated by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section and the IFLA/LAC standing committees. Seven papers were selected for their inclusion in the program.

Program “Educación en Bibliotecología y Ciencias de la Información en América Latina y el Caribe: oportunidades y retos [Library and Information Science Education in Latin America and the Caribbean: opportunities and challenges],” organized jointly with the Special Interest Group on LIS Education in Developing Countries. This conference will take place on August 16 in the WLIC 2011. The Section collaborated in drafting English and Spanish versions of the call for papers and its subsequent dissemination. Twenty-three proposals were received. These were evaluated in the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee jointly with the SIG on Library and Information Science Education in Developing Countries. On this occasion, the LAC Section requested the support of professors from the UNAM LIS undergraduate and graduate programs to carry out the assessment process, and six proposals were selected according to the criteria program for their inclusion in it.

Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting

The Standing Committee mid-term meeting was held on April 7 and 8, 2001, at the UNAM University Center for Research in Library Science (CIUB) headquarters. The meeting was preceded by the academic colloquium titled “Coloquio Acceso Abierto a la Información en las Bibliotecas Académicas de América Latina y el Caribe [Colloquium on open access to information in Latin American and Caribbean academic libraries]”, held on April 4th. to 6th. at the auditorium of UNAM Humanities Coordination. The colloquium included contributions of representatives from diverse Latin American countries. This academic event and the mid-term meeting were organized by IFLA/LAC and sponsored by the UNAM Humanities Coordination, the UNAM General Direction for Libraries, and the University Center for Library Science Research (CUIB). The IFLA President-elect, Ingrid Parent, attended the colloquium and the mid-term meeting. She expressed her pleasure for participating in both events and the opportunity to understand the Latin American and the Caribbean libraries context, as well as for having the opportunity to share time and understanding with the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee members. Moreover, she presented an overview of her plans as IFLA President next term, under the title “Convergence: guaranteeing access and diversity for a shared future”. Her plan will integrate libraries as an essential component to guaranteeing the development of the Knowledge Society and promotion of the citizen right to have access to information resources.

Attendance to Conferences

As IFLA/LAC Section Chair, I was invited to participate in the “Primer coloquio sobre articulación Biblioteca Pública- Biblioteca Escolar [First Colloquium on Public Library-School Library integration]”, held in Bogota, Colombia, on May 9 and 10, 2011. This event was organized by BiblioRed, la Red Capital de Bibliotecas Públicas de Bogotá, a program launched by the Bogota Mayor Office and the Education Office for the Capital District. In this colloquium I gave the conference titled: “El Papel de la Biblioteca Pública y la Biblioteca Escolar en la Sociedad de la Información [The Role of the Public and School Library in the Information Society]”.

The Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en América Latinas y el Caribe (CERLAC) [Regional Center for the Book Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean] sent an invitation to IFLA/LAC Section to participate in the work session “La contribución de las bibliotecas públicas al desarrollo de los países [The contributions of public libraries to the countries development]”, to be held from August 31 through September 1 in Colombia. Sigrid Karin Weiss Dutra (Brazil) will represent IFLA/LAC in this event.

BSLA Program and ALP Projects

BSLA Program activities in Peru continued. Peru was selected last year to organize this program, coordinate by the Colegio de Bibliotecólogos del Perú (CBP) [Peruvian College of Librarians], under the leadership of Ana María Talavera, CBP Dean, and Doris Samanez, IFLA/LAC SC member.

The first workshop of the BSLA Program was held from January 27 to 29, 2011, in which CBP Dean, Ana María Talavera, and I served as facilitators. The group attending this workshop was integrated by five CBP Directive Board members, ten participants

from Lima libraries and other four from libraries of diverse Peru provinces. Workshop included the following BSLA modules: a) “Las Asociaciones de Bibliotecarios en la Sociedad” [Library Associations in Society]; b) “Construcción de una asociación de Biobliotecarios” [Building a Library Association] y; c) “Desarrollo de Relaciones Estratégicas” [Development of Strategic Relationships].

The second BSLA workshop was held from June 16 to 18, 2011. As in the first one, Ana María Talavera and I served as facilitators. The participants were most of the same that took the first workshop, broken down as follows: four members of the CBP Directive Board, nine representatives from Lima libraries and other four from libraries of Peru provinces.

This workshop continued approaching the BSLA modules, and in this time were included the following: review of the module “Desarrollo de Relaciones Estratégicas [Development of Strategic Relationships]”, as well as the module “Bibliotecas en la Agenda [Libraries on the Agenda]”. Participants in these modules will now proceed to replicate these workshop in their respective home libraries or work places.

Likewise, the Section began to work in the selection of the second country to develop the BSLA program in 2011-2012. The invitation for bids was duly disseminated to Latin American countries for participating in this project. ALP received proposals from the following six countries: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua El Salvador, Costa Rica. An inter-American organization also submitted its bid. ALP requested to IFLA/LAC opinion on each bid and they were sent to be analyzed by the ALP Advisory Committee, which selected Argentina as the country to develop the next BSLA Program, through the sponsorship of the Asociación de Bibliotecarios Graduados de Argentina (ABGRA) [Argentina Library Science Graduates Association]. On June 29 and 30, ABGRA Directive Board met with Fiona Bradley of ALP and IFLA/LAC Regional Manager, Elizabet de Carvalho, to outline the objectives and activities for the Argentina Program.

Moreover, jointly with ALP, other BSLA workshop was organized and carried out in Panama, previously to the WLIC 2011. The main objective of this workshop was train the trainers for replicating BSLA workshops in other Latin American countries. Call for participation was drafted and duly disseminated. Twenty-five applications were received from the following countries: Argentina (1), Brazil (1), Bolivia (2), Chile (1), Colombia (1), Costa Rica (5), El Salvador (6), Guatemala (1), Honduras (1) México (3), Nicaragua (2) and Uruguay (1). The selected participants, who had the support of their home countries library associations for replicating in their home countries the workshop were: Iza Antunez Araujo (Brazil), Ana Cecilia Torres (Costa Rica), Ana Yensi Vides (El Salvador), Maria Victoria Flores Gaudel (Guatemala), Nítida Carranza (Honduras), Hortensia Lobato (Mexico), Asunción Mendoza (Mexico) and Darling Valecillo (Nicaragua). The workshop was held from August 10 to 12 in Panama City and enjoyed the support of Octavio Castillo, member of the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee, and the sponsorship of the Panama Librarians Association and the University of Panama Library System. Ana María Talavera and Doris Samanez served as the workshop facilitators, and Elizabet de Carvalho, participated as representative of IFLA/LAC.

Another train-the-trainers workshop for the BSLA program was carried out jointly with ALP for Caribbean participants. The call for applications was duly drafted and

disseminated. Held from August 10 to 12 in San Juan de Puerto Rico, in this workshop participated: Hetty London (Guyana), Lianne Leonora (Curacao), Elmelinda Lara (Trinidad and Tobago), Margot Thomas, (St. Lucia), Luisa Vigo-Cepeda (Puerto Rico), Chihfeng Lin (Taiwan), Wanda Cortes (Puerto Rico). The workshop was given in English and was led by John W. Berry and Alice Calabrese.

Regarding other projects under ALP sponsorship, it is important to point out the only project submitted by LAC and approved to be carried out during 2011 was the “Taller de Formación de Instructores sobre el Manifiesto IFLA/UNESCO sobre Internet [Train-the trainers Workshop on the IFLA/UNESCO Internet Manifesto]”. This project, was submitted by the Uruguay Librarians Association, and it was held in Montevideo, Uruguay on July 28 and 29, 2011. Standing Committee member, Doris Samanez Alzamora, led the workshop. Regarding this type of projects, it is important to point out that call for participation has been open since last May and the closing date will be September 15.

FAIFE Activities

The Section has collaborated with FAIFE in the organization of a Workshop on Transparency and Good Government, whose purpose is to stimulate consciousness regarding the key role that libraries can play in transparency issues and in opposing corruption. This workshop will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on September 28, 2011 and it will be titled: “Día del Acceso a la Información” [Access to Information Day]”. Former FAIFE Committee Chair, Paul Sturges, will be the workshop facilitator. Ten libraries from Buenos Aires and ten from Argentine provinces will participate in the workshop. Alejandro Santa, Director of the Argentine Library of Congress library and Standing Committee member Ana María Peruchena has been key collaborators in organization of this workshop.

Activities with Spanish-Speaking Caucus

The Section collaborated with the Spanish-Speaking Caucus and FESABID in drafting a report on the situation of professional associations in LAC countries to promote cooperation among them. The Section distributed and applied a survey, whose results were published in the report released on August 14, in the IFLA Spanish-Speaking Caucus meeting. This project also enjoyed the support of the IFLA MLAS Section.

Section Budget

In 2011, the Section was assigned a budget support of 700€ to help defray costs of administrative activities. A portion amounting to €230 of that budget went to the Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana [Research Institute on the Peruvian Amazon] which requested funds to publish program and posters for the “II Festival del Libro y la Lectura Verde” [Second Annual Green Reading and Book Fair]”, held in Iquitos, Peru from June 20 to 24.

WLIC 2011 Grants

Twelve grants to support librarians’ participation in the WLIC 2011 were made available to Latin America and the Caribbean Section by the Stichting Foundation. The call for applications was duly drafted and disseminated. Answering the IFLA HQ

request to nominate a people for the evaluation committee for this award, the OR and the IFLA/LAC Secretariat proposed Felipe Martinez for that committee; however, there was not answer to his nomination. As for now, there is no information available regarding the applications or about candidates that were selected.

It is important to point out that in this occasion, only because WL IC is to be held in our region, three grants were awarded to support authors of papers accepted for the section program. However, grants were not extended to the keynote speakers Estela Morales and Felipe Martínez.

Diffusion activities

For the dissemination of the IFLA and LAC section activities, the section have managed 2 mailing lists: IFLA-LAC (open) and IFLA-LAC-SC (standing committee members) and it were created profiles about the section on the social network Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/IFLA-LAC/155183447878708> and Flickr, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/iflalac/>

Regional Office

Due to Elizabet Ramos de Carvalho retiring after twenty years as the head of the OR, IFLA issued a call to institutions from Latin American and the Caribbean for a replacement, but no candidate stepped forward. At the Standing Committee mid-term meeting, held on April, this matter was approached. It was proposed the University Center for Library Science Research (CUIB) of UNAM would formally request to serve as sponsor of the OR, alluding to its history of collaboration with IFLA/LAC and leadership position in the region. CUIB accepted and suggested that person to head the Regional Office would be named at a later date, after the IFLA acceptance of the CIUB request. Because the OR would be stationed in Mexico, the Standing Committee also approved the recommendation that the incoming Section President were from a country other than Mexico. Likewise, due to the OR change, CUIB was asked to support the elaboration and printing of the January-July 2011 IFLA/LAC Newsletter. Jaime Ríos, CUIB Director and member of the Standing Committee, took charge of drafting and publishing the Newsletter.

Elections

Several elections to fill diverse IFLA positions were held during this period. Candidates for the Presidency included: Sinikka Sipilä (Finland) and Jesús Lau (Mexico). Even though the Section supported Jesus Lau, Sinikka Sipilä was elected President. Likewise, elections for Division Chairs were held with the following results: Division 1, Lynne Rudasill; Division 2, vacant; Division 3, Tone Moseid; Division 4, Anna-Maria Tamaro; and Division 5, Felipe Martínez. Moreover, Anne Okerson was elected President of the Professional Committee. These colleagues will now become members of the IFLA Board of Governors for 2011-2013. Regarding elections of members for the IFLA Governing Board, fifteen candidatures run for this election, of which ten were elected. Their names can be consulted on the IFLA web site.

With regard to the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee election, terms of twelve members of the SC were to conclude in 2011. As such, IFLA HQ issued a call for candidates to fill these vacancies. Fifteen persons advanced their candidacies and ballots were duly distributed to associations and institutions members of the Section. Interestingly, for

first time in the Section history, there were more candidates than vacancies for the Standing Committee.

The candidates running for this election were: Simone Bastos Vieira, Brazil; Adriana Cybele Ferrari, Brazil; Elmelinda Lara, Trinidad and Tobago; Jesus Lau, Mexico; Barbara Lazo Rodriguez, Cuba; Belén Martínez González, España; Silvia Prada Forero, Colombia; Jaime Ríos Ortega, México; Marcia Rosetto, Brazil; Sueli Mara Suenes Pinto Ferreira, Brazil; Ruth Helena Vallejo, Colombia; Olinda Estela Gomez Moran, El Salvador; Angela Maria Monteiro Bettencourt, Brazil; Victor Aguirre Negro, Uruguay; Emilce Noemi Sena Correa, Paraguay. The candidates eliminated by vote were: Simone Bastos Vieira, Brazil; Marcia Rosetto, Brazil and Adriana Cybele Ferrari, Brazil.

The twelve members elected and the eight whose terms expire in 2015 shall serve on the IFLA/LAC Standing Committee, which now has been integrated by the following members:

Silvia Cecilia Anselmi (Argentina)
Ana María Peruchena Zimmermann (Argentina)
Angela Maria Monteiro Bettencourt (Brazil)
Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira (Brazil)
Sigrid Karin Weiss Dutra (Brazil)
Silvia Prada Forero (Colombia)
Ruth Helena Vallejo (Colombia)
Margarita Bellas Vilarino (Cuba)
Bárbara Lazo Rodríguez (Cuba)
Olinda Estela Gómez Moran (El Salvador)
Araceli García Martín (Spain)
Belén Martínez González (Spain)
Jesus Lau (Mexico)
Hortensia Lobato Reyes (Mexico)
Filiberto Felipe Martínez-Arellano (Mexico)
Jaime Ríos Ortega (Mexico)
Doris Ivon Samanez Alzamora (Peru)
Emilce Noemi Sena Correa (Paraguay)
Elmelinda Lara (Trinidad and Tobago)
Victor Aguirre Negro (Uruguay)

In addition to these members, five corresponding members need to be elected by the SC to be included in the SC.

Likewise, according with IFLA statutes and rules of procedure, the twenty members of the Standing Committee were called for nominating candidates to fill the President and Secretary of IFLA/LAC for the period 2011-2013. After closing the nomination period, Sigrid Karin Weiss Dutra (Brazil) and Jaime Ríos Ortega (Mexico) received twelve nominations for President and Secretary, respectively. Since no other candidates came forward, the nominees were duly invested in the annual meeting of the Standing Committee, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Filiberto Felipe Martínez Arellano
IFLA/LAC Standing Committee Chair
August 2011, San Juan, Puerto Rico.