



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

ANNUAL REPORT September 2008 – August 2009

IFLA SECTION ON LIBRARY THEORY & RESEARCH (LTR)

Mission

The IFLA Section on **Library Theory & Research** exists to:

- Provide a research-based framework to IFLA's professional priorities through a program promoting theoretical and empirical library and information science research and analysis;
- Provide and encourage international networking opportunities for library professionals engaged in library and information science research.

(**IFLA Professional priorities:** Supporting the role of libraries in society; Developing library professionals; Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices)

During this year, the section had 99 members (61 Institutional; 4 Institutional Sub-units; 1 International Association; 24 National Associations; 8 Personal Affiliates; and 1 Student Affiliate).

The section is the Sponsoring body for the **Library History Special Interest Group**, the continuation (as of 2009) of the former Library History Section. It aims to be the means within IFLA by which professionals specializing in all fields of librarianship can be made aware of the importance of an understanding of the past and of the profession's theoretical foundations to the successful provision of library services in the present and future. In particular, the SIG concentrates on universal and broad themes of library history, regional or international or local experience of general significance.

The Section's aims for 2008-2009 are clearly set out in its Strategic Plan. LTR set itself a number of goals and delivered actions on them as follows:

Goal 1. Encourage exchange between practice-based and theoretical research in LIS.

Actions: This goal was achieved by encouraging theoretically as well as empirically based papers at IFLA and IFLA sponsored conferences. In the latest period the section focused upon libraries as place and space (Quebec City session on the theoretical aspects; Milan pre-conference satellite event on the practical aspects), research into open access (Milan session), and opening up access to research, which will incorporate evidence-based research and evaluation, national research strategies, and training researchers (Göteborg).

Milan 2009: "**Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage**"

A session on "**Research *into* open access**"

Open Access (OA) has become the subject of much discussion amongst researchers, academics, librarians, university administrators, funding agencies, government officials, and publishers. Although OA has become a topic of considerable interest, with a growing body of work exploring the impact of OA on scholarly research and communication for various disciplines, surprisingly *very little* rigorous research has been conducted *into* or *about* OA itself.

At its session in Milan, the section focused on research that explores the reality of providing OA. The intention of the session is to provide a forum for library professionals to critically discuss key issues related to developing, managing and sustaining OA across the world.

Library students from around the world were invited to make a submission. A Best Paper Award of €500 was awarded to Kiran Kaur, University of Malaya.

Specific papers accepted:

Open Access Initiatives in Academic Libraries : Challenge to the User
KAUR KIRAN (University of Malaya, Malaysia) and YIP PING CHIA (University Tunku Abdal Rahman, Malaysia)

Subject Librarians' Perceptions of the Institutional Repository as an Information Source
JAMES T. REVELL (University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand) and DAN DORNER (Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand)

Citation impact of open access IFLA Annual Conference papers: a methodological approach
KAYVAN KOUSHA (University of Teheran, Teheran, Iran) and MAHSHID ABDOLI (National Library & Archives, Teheran, Iran)

The challenges of advocating for open access through institutional repository building: experiences from Makerere University, Uganda
MIRIAM KAKAI (Makerere University Library, Mampala, Uganda)

The **Library History SIG** took as its session topic "**Library collections throughout the ages**", Papers scheduled for presentation are:

Serbian books and libraries in Kosovo and Metochia
GORDANA STOKIĆ SIMONČIĆ (Belgrade University, Belgrade, Serbia) and ZORAN Č. VUKADINOVIĆ (University Library Pristina, Kosovo i Metohija, Serbia)

Lost libraries of Transylvania: some examples from the 15th and 16th centuries
ADINEL-CIPRIAN DINCĂ ("George Barițiu" History Institute of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

The Henrik Database: reconstruction of lost collections in 18th century Finland
JESSICA PARLAND-VON ESSEN (Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, Helsingfors, Finland)

The library of Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753): creating a catalogue of a dispersed library
ALISON WALKER (British Library, London, UK)

Pre-conference satellite event on **Libraries as Place and Space**

In cooperation with Public Libraries, Library Buildings and Equipment, Management and Marketing, and Academic and Research Libraries, the Library Theory & Research section helped organize and present a very successful Satellite Even in Turin, Italy, August 19-21, 2009 on "**Libraries as place and space**". It extended the theoretical aspects of the section's session in Quebec to the practical.

Göteborg 2010: Theme "**Open access to knowledge – Promoting sustainable progress**"

- A session on **Opening up access to research** is planned. This will address issues surrounding formulating national research strategies, evidence-based research and evaluation, obtaining empirical data, and training researchers beyond the classical framework.

- LTR to communicate with other IFLA Sections and library schools regarding this program.

San Juan, Puerto Rico 2011 Theme "**Libraries beyond libraries: Integration, Innovation and Information for all**"

- LTR to extend the idea of opening up access to research to applied research.

Goal 2. Assisting in the development of expertise and knowledge in useful research methods

Actions

- Evaluate conference papers for possible inclusion in IFLA and other journals.
- Recommend IFLA publication of papers delivered during pre-conference satellite event in Turin on Libraries as Place and Space.
- Completed Ragnar Audunson's project on *IFLA's role in diffusing professional norms*. It should be published or posted on the IFLA website soon.
- A project, led by Terry Weech, Helen Partridge, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, and Michael Seadle on mentoring for new professionals is under consideration.

Goal 3. Facilitating transnational networks of common research interests

Actions

Sharing LTR communications via our newsletter and discussion list, encouraging attendance at Standing Committee meetings, and promoting membership in LTR contribute to this goal.

The Officers of the Standing Committee for 2006-2009 were:

Chair

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