



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2009 – August 2010

IFLA Section on Library Theory and Research

Mission

The IFLA Section on Library Theory & Research (LTR) 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.

These goals support the following IFLA Professional priorities:

- Supporting the role of libraries in society;
- Developing library professionals;
- Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices.

In the most recent Strategic Plan for the LTR section (the 2008-2009 Strategic Plan since the 2009-2010 was not submitted), LTR section set itself a number of goals and delivered actions on them in 2009-2010 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. The Gothenburg 2010 congress has as its theme: *Open access to knowledge – promoting sustainable progress*. LTR was involved in the following congress sessions and activities:

- 8-9 August 2010, Borås, Sweden, IFLA-ALISE-EUCLID Satellite session: *Cooperation and Collaboration in Teaching and Research Trends in Library and Information Studies Education*.
- 12 August 2010, Gothenburg, LTR Section with Management of Library Associations, Management and Marketing, Education and Training, Statistics and Evaluation, LIS in Developing Countries SIG: *Towards national library strategy: opening up access to research*. Ten papers were presented with presenters from Australia, Latvia, Chile, Croatia, UK, India, Germany. The session ended with a panel discussion on the theme *“Bridging advocacy and research: a joint agenda for filling data gaps, training research skills and enhancing visibility”*.
- 14 August 2010, Gothenburg, Library History SIG: *Library spirit in the Nordic and Baltic countries*. Four papers were presented with participants from Kosovo, Finland and Sweden.

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

Actions: This goal was achieved by the introduction of the *Researcher-Librarian Partnership* in 2009. The Partnership is a research mentoring scheme that will support the development of research skills

among new professionals in the library sector. The project commenced early 2010 and will conclude in late 2011. Through a competitive process six new professionals (7 years or less in the profession) were selected. Twenty-three applications were received. All six protégés have been matched with a mentor. Participants in the program include individuals from Fiji, UK, USA, Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria, Italy, Germany and Canada. The protégés will work with their mentors for twelve months with each protege undertaking a research project that will lead to the publication of a final report. The project is being lead by LTR standing committee members Helen Partridge, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Michael Seadle and Terry Weech.

Goal 3: Facilitating transnational networks of common research interests.

Actions: This goal was achieved by

- Encouraging participation in LTR projects:
 - In 2010 the Researcher-Librarian Partnership commenced (See Goal 2).
- Sharing LTR communication:
 - a discussion list for all interested stakeholders is maintained
 - a web presence is maintained on the IFLA web site
 - the LTR Section Chair communicates with the standing committee by email
 - all LTR section members are invited to attend the Standing Committee meetings (there were 7 observers at the 10 August SC meeting in Gothenburg)
- Encouraging membership to LTR:
 - Promotion of membership in the LTR section is ongoing. The development of a new brochure and flyers is currently being considered.

The Officers of the Standing Committee for 2009/2010 were:

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LTR Section, November 2010