



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2010 – August 2011

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.

They also support the IFLA Strategic direction “Transforming the profile and standing of the profession”.

The strategic plan for 2010-2012 will be used as the basis for this annual report. LTR set itself a number of goals and delivered actions on them as follows:

Goal 1: Stimulate a high degree of membership participation and engagement through encouraging the sharing of practice-based and theoretical research methodologies in LIS.

Actions: This goal was achieved by encouraging theoretically as well as empirically based papers at IFLA and IFLA sponsored conferences. The Puerto Rico 2011 congress has as its theme: *Libraries beyond libraries: Integration, Innovation and Information for all*. The LTR was involved in the following congress session: 12 August 2010, Gothenburg, LTR Section with Statistics and Evaluation Section: *Data Collection in the Service of Libraries*. Five papers were presented with presenters from the USA, Serbia and Singapore and between 150 and 200 people attended the session.

Goal 2: Assisting in the development of expertise and knowledge in useful research methods whilst developing, maintaining and adhering to the highest professional standards that support high quality practices.

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 December 2011. Through a competitive process six new professionals (7 years or less in the profession) were selected. 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. From late 2010 the protégés commenced work with their mentors. As part of their twelve-month program they will develop a detailed research proposal, implement a research study and write up and present the results of the study via a final report. The final report is due October 2011.

The project is being led by LTR standing committee members Helen Partridge, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Michael Seadle and Terry Weech. A final report on the project will be available December 2011/January 2012.

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 and continued in 2011 (See Goal 2).
- Sharing LTR communication:
 - a web presence is maintained on the IFLA web site
 - The discussion list has been discontinued because of lack of use and the Section Newsletter will be re-established in 2012
 - the LTR Section Chair uses email to communicate with the standing committee on administrative matters.
 - all LTR section members are invited to attend the Standing Committee meetings (there were 7 observers at the 16 August SC meeting San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- Encouraging membership to LTR:
 - Promotion membership to the LTR is ongoing
 - The LTR section leaflet has been translated into French, Spanish and Chinese; it is currently being translated into German.

The Officers of the Standing Committee for 2010/2011 were:

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LTR Section, December 2011