



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions

## ANNUAL REPORT

September 2011 – August 2012

### 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 2011-2013 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 Helsinki 2012 congress has as its theme: *Libraries Now! - Inspiring, Surprising, Empowering*. The LTR, with Education and Training and the LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG, organised a session on Monday, the 13th of August: *International and comparative librarianship: toward valid, relevant and authentic research and education*. The four hour session included an opening and closing address plus seven papers were presented with presenters from the USA, Australia, Jamaica, New Zealand, Canada, Italy, Norway, South African and Brazil and between 100 and 150 people attended.

#### **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 completion of the *Researcher-Librarian Partnership*. Partnership was a research mentoring scheme that supported the development of research skills among new professionals in the library sector. The project commenced early 2010 and concluded in December 2011, with the final report submitted early 2012. 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 developed a detailed research proposal, implement a research study and write up and present the results of the study via a final report. Final reports from the protégés were made available via the LTR website in April 2012 (<http://www.ifla.org/news/final-reports-by-three-candidates-from-the-researcher-librarian-partnership>). The project was led by LTR standing committee members Helen Partridge, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Michael Seadle and Terry Weech. Two protégés, Sara Chiessi (Italy) and Christina Nilsen (Canada), were selected to present their work at the LTR sections session at the 2012 Helsinki congress.

### **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 concluded in early 2012 with the submission of the final report (See Goal 2).
- Sharing LTR communication:
  - a web presence is maintained on the IFLA web site
  - 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 9 and 5 observers at the 11 August and 14 August SC Helsinki, respectively)
  - a Twitter account (@IFLA\_LTR) was established in February 2012 to promote LTR activities and news. There are currently 124 followers of the account.
  - a newsletter was re-introduced in 2012, to communicate key activities of LTR to the broader LIS community. The newsletter is available via the LTR website. Two issues have been published, January and June 2012. Published in both English and French. Current LIS students provide support in the development of the newsletter.
- Encouraging membership to LTR:
  - Promotion membership to the LTR is ongoing
  - The LTR section leaflet has been translated into French, Spanish and Chinese.

The Officers of the Standing Committee for 2011/2012 were:

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Submitted by: Helen Partridge, Secretary and Terry Weech, Chair  
LTR Section, January 2012