



Newsletter e-36 2009

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Editor's chat

Welcome to the first e-newsletter. It was agreed with the Public Libraries Section Committee that we will now produce two newsletters per year. To keep costs down however one copy will be only available on-line. This is our first e-copy and so I will call it e-36. The next issue Number 37 due around September will be in hard copy and numbered 37.

The IFLA Public Library Section tries to help promote and improve libraries round the world. Therefore, it is good to be able to report a success. We have sent money to Burkino Faso for more caterpillar box libraries.

However the picture from Muhajj Ntakirutimana in Burundi shows there is a long way to go in some countries.

Some of the articles in this edition are translated from other languages , by either local librarians or by internet translating programmes so please bear with me if the English is not up to University standards

Ian Stringer, Editor



Updating the IFLA Public Library Guidelines

The Public Library guidelines are being updated. I hope that they will be re-launched in March 2009. Many of the websites are now out of date, and technology continues to alter basic library requirements. Watch this space for further details.

Editor

Public Library Section Programme for WLIC Milan



La Scala Milan

Wednesday 13 August from 13.45 - 18.00

Title of Open Session: to be confirmed

Proposed Programme Outline

Introduction by MLS Section Chair

Keynote presentation by Vicki McDonald and Sharon Thein

Presentations on the chosen tracks/topics - 1 speaker on each track (Community, Collections, Creativity, Capabilities) - from invited speakers

Roundtable Discussion for each track (30 min) - this offers more opportunities for other participants to contribute actively

Summary presentation by appointed representative or facilitator/moderator of each roundtable (5 min each; total: 20 min)

Concluding Remarks by PL Section Chair (5 min)



Public Libraries Section

We want to attract and many people a possible to participate in the roundtable - to enable many people to speak up.

**PRE-CONGRESS SATELLITE FOR THE IFLA WORLD LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION CONGRESS IN 2009**



University of Torino

Theme: Libraries as Place and Space

Target Audience: All library and information professionals interested in space management for libraries in the digitised environment or concerned with planning library spaces, new buildings and services in new buildings and spaces.

Location: National University Library of Torino, Italy

Dates of conference: Wednesday 19 August (midday) to Friday 21 August (midday) 2009

Dates of cultural tour: Friday 21 August (pm) and Saturday 22 August 2009

Organisers and partners:

Section 2 Academic and Research Libraries
Sue McKnight & Rossana Morriello, Andrew McDonald (A.Mcdonald@uel.ac.uk);
Stephan Werner (werner.stephan@ub.uni-stuttgart.de)



Public Libraries Section

Section 8 Public Libraries

John Lake and Barbara Gubbin. (Suzanne Payette for advice at first meeting in Quebec, August 2008)

Section 24 Library Theory and Research

Ragnar Andreas Audonson and Marydee Ojala

Section 20 Library Buildings and Equipment

Andrew Cranfield & Karen Latimer

Section 34 Management and Marketing Section

Angels Massisimo & Trine Kolderup Flaten

Regione Piemonte, Biblioteche Civiche Torinesi (Turin Public Libraries)

AIB Piemonte (Regional part of the Italian Library Association)

Cost of registration: Free of charge Find more details and how to register at www.aib.it/aib/ifla2009/stur-e.htm3

An Opportunity

Subject: ILibrary Conceptualization Study and Development of Comprehensive Facility Plan

I would like to record our interest at Municipality of Al Ain in developing a public library. Al Ain Municipality provides distinguished municipal services and advanced infrastructure for Al Ain City (Emirates of Abu Dhabi) and related areas. We are currently planning for setting up a public library to serve the city community in knowledge services and promote reading culture in the city. We are seeking proposals from library consulting firms highly specialised in conducting development studies for libraries from inception until completion. The request for proposals is being developed by our project team. Presently we are in the consultants' prequalification phase in which we are looking for potential specialised consulting firm to participate in the project.

We will highly appreciate your assistance and support in recommending us potential candidates who might be interested working with us on this project. In this context we are pleased to enclose a brief description about the RFP for your consideration.

Please feel free to forward this information to whomever you think might be a valuable contributor for this project and we will welcome and appreciate any contact any address given to us by your esteemed organization.

Please feel free to call me on my cellular phone (+ 971 50 8796119) at any time for any further clarification.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.



Public Libraries Section

Best regards,

Omar ALSaket
Strategic Investment Expert
ALain Municipality
P.O. Box: 1003 – Al Ain
EMIRATE OF ABU DHABI
omar.alsaket@am.ae

A Request for help

We received the following from Muhajj Ntakirutimana in Burundi

Request for information about available grants to support library in Africa

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a representative of EDA (a local NGO in Burundi), I would like to ask information about available funds to support the construction of libraries in a province where there is no single public library.

I advance my thanks for your cooperation

Sincerely

M. Ntakirutimana

We sent some thoughts back but were unable to really help him
However Muhajji wrote back and sent us a small picture of his library



Dear John;

I appreciate a lot for your effort in helping us find funding for our project and I hope that we will one day be able to get the funding in order to help thousands of helpless kids who go to school but never have the chance to own or even use a book.



Public Libraries Section

As advised by Viviana; I contacted Rose in Bujumbura but the information I received was not very helpful. They advised me to write to the ministry concerned but in fact the government has never helped in building libraries.

I also regret the fact that I was not very clear about what kind of assistance we are seeking. We don't seek funding for a new construction but for the transformation of an existing building into a library. I noticed that some of the persons you contacted mentioned the unlikelyness of getting funding for building a library.

Attached you will find a photo of the building we plan to transform into a library by adding walls; windows; doors and refurbishing the floor..

Thanks again for your effort and time,
Muhajj

The Recession: Is it all bad news?

The media are being quick to point out all the down sides to the current recession hitting many parts of the world. But is it all bad news? Low interest rates, less people buying new cars etc before the old one is worn out could be seen as good news. More people are using public transport and far more relevant to us it would appear that in some places more people are using the public library service. Here is a piece from CBS in the USA.

'In a town used to lining up for celebrities, these days the long lines in Los Angeles are forming outside an unlikely place: the public library. CBS News correspondent Sandra Hughes reports.

In tough economic times, it is becoming the hot spot for just about everyone.

It's standing room only during children's programs. Many of the people who attend are regulars, like Melanie Jarvid and her son, Aaron.

"Now with how the economy is, we've been coming more often and checking out books more often," Jarvid said.

In 2008, 18 million people visited Los Angeles public libraries. That's two million more than the previous year.

Many are recently unemployed and coming for help: every computer terminal is being used and librarians have become job counsellors.

Meydani Perucho makes frequent trips to the L.A. public library, but says it's the only one.



"This is actually the first and only library I've been to," Perucho said.

For Zach Pond, who graduated last April with an MBA - but no job - the library is his office and job center.

"It's quiet it's a place to work," said Pond. "You feel like you are moving forward"

Is it a place to be productive? "Absolutely, absolutely," Pond said.

Nationwide more people applied for library cards last year than anytime since they started keeping records in 1990.

The Public Library Section Language database

Following my article on the language data base I received the following message

Dear Ian,

I read about your plans creating a language database in the newsletter Nr. 35 of the IFLA Public Libraries Section. It's a very good idea, and I think we can add to it from the German side. The Expert Group on multicultural library services of the German Library Association just launched a wonderful database on useful phrases for our work. It's basis is German, of course, but I think it may help your project as well. Please have a look at:

<http://www.bibliotheksportal.de/hauptmenue/themen/bibliotheskunden/interkulturelle-bibliothek/sprachenportal/>

If you need more information about it, please contact the colleagues from the expert group:

<http://www.bibliotheksverband.de/ex-interkulturell/mitglieder.html>

Good luck and best regards,
Hella Klauser
German Library Association
Network of Excellence for Libraries

Update

I would still welcome more, so if your language is not listed send it to me at
E-mail: ianmstringer@googlemail.com



Public Libraries Section

English

We have books in Polish

This library has books in French

This library has books in German language

This library has books in Estonian

We have books in Danish

This library has books in Malay

This Library has books in Russian

Translation

MAMY KSIĄZKI PO POLSKU

Cette bibliothèque possède des livres en français

Die Bibliothek hat Bücher in deutscher Sprache

MINU RAAMATUKOGUS ON EESTIKEELSE RAAMATUD

Vi har bøger på dansk"

PERPUSTAKAAN INI ADA BUKU DALAM BAHASA MELAYU.

у этой библиотеки есть книги по русскому языку

I have also found two very useful sites for help with different languages

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pls/multicultural/>

http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/consumption/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=260

Ian Stringer Editor

Translations

Whilst on the subject of translations we are pleased to announce a couple of updated translations

Japanese Translation

Yaeko Kakiguchi is translating IFLA Professional Report Nr 108 (109) into Japanese.

Georgian Translation

The IFLA Library Manifesto is now translated into Georgian



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Living Librarian

Following Gunilla Konradsson Mortin's success with her Living Library project in Malmo Sweden, this has been taken up in the UK. Bournemouth is one of the 4 library authorities who were involved in piloting the "Living Library" concept earlier this year. An article about a recent "Living Library" event at Bournemouth Library was in the UK Daily Paper The Guardian. If you want to know more about it, and listen to "books" and "borrowers" describing their experiences, please access this link. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/dec/03/living-library-communities>

The Global Literacy and Reading Fair

Sharing good library practices in support of the United Nations Literacy Decade
2003-2012

A half-day session of the Literacy and Reading Section in co-operation with the
Public Libraries and Multicultural Sections

IFLA, Quebec City, August 11, 2008 **By Lorraine Jackson**

Laughter

Excited shouts and sounds of laughter filled the broad hall in the Quebec Convention Centre. Crowds of librarians squeezed between the round tables (literally) spilling with colourful brochures and literacy lures from Africa to Singapore – Norway to Indonesia. The opening session of the Global Literacy & Reading Fair launched noisily underway, with a host of literacy programs and reading enhancement activities from around the world.

Conference goers clustered around seated exhibitors, listening to the innovations

- How librarians from Namibia involved parents in their Holiday Reading Adventure;
- how the French librarians working with very large books, successfully targeted women, immigrants, and refugees.

Interspersing the roundtable exhibits were panel presentations of programs and campaigns, demonstrations of reading activities and special storytelling sessions. One of the most moving was the report of Patricia Aldana of IBBY, who told us of the power of books to heal adults and children alike after disasters occurred. She cited the tsunami in East Asia and the landslides of Venezuela after which volunteers would take books and read them wherever they could, to people whom had nothing left. Each evening more and more people would come together to share their sorrow with one another and hear stories of hope and courage, and feel the encouragement to face a new day.

Increased confidence

In Senegal, small budgets go a long way towards helping adults and children learn to read. With the assistance of volunteers, classes of 60 to 90 students are



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divided up into smaller groups. One book is then shared out on the ground where the students can look at the pictures and discuss them in their own language. Later, the teacher reads the story in French. After only 3 sessions the students have more confidence and start to speak in French. The students' increase in self-confidence and change in attitude towards learning continues to amaze their teachers.

"Take those books and library materials directly to the people," exclaimed Locker Room Librarian Stig Elvis Furset from Norway. In his lively presentation, Furset talked about his experiences with the groundbreaking project Sports and Reading, where librarians promote literature by direct contact with sports enthusiasts. Comparing the similarities between books and football (soccer), Furset stated that librarians must be persistent, keeping their eyes on the goal ahead and not become discouraged by what may seem like insurmountable odds. "Sports fans can become avid readers," he exclaimed. "We just have to be able to supply them with things they want to read."

Taking books to the people is a similar approach of Kiang-Koh Lai Lin from Singapore. This nation-wide library system ferrets out special islands on non-readers and unites them in an avid curiosity with the printed page through its Taxicab Drivers Book Clubs, Beauty Parlor Book Clubs, the ever-expanding 10,000 Fathers Reading Program, and more.

Success with dialect books

"Seeing books on familiar themes in their own language truly draws children into reading," stated Kathy Knowles, Director of the Canadian-based Osu Children's Library Fund. "We've had tremendous success in Ghana with these native dialect books that we've had published in Canada, and would encourage all African-serving librarians to purchase them." This is a fine example of how reading material custom-published for the audience's own environs really hits home.

The importance of global literacy cannot be overstressed. One speaker cited that 42% of residents in Canada were illiterate. Another noted that 20 percent of Austrians were not literate enough. These are the progressive nations, which poorer countries are seeking to imitate. The figures worsen around the world.

Yet despite the statistics, this Global Literacy and Reading Fair struck many sparks of hope. As the impatient custodians were ushering out the reluctant conference goers, we heard remarks like

"They said 'Leave with at least one idea for your library'; I have a whole bagful!"

"We really had a wake up call. We haven't been to sleep since Silk Air of Singapore offered its passengers 'coffee, tea or a book'".

"The work for literacy is joyful"

Hope springs through reading.

Lorraine Jackson
Member IFLA Public Library Committee
November 2008



Summer exhibit at Jacksonville Public Library Florida USA

On June 4, 2008 preschool students from a local daycare were lined up in front of the Main Library in Jacksonville, Florida to meet Ben Franklin

Historical figure, Dr. Benjamin Franklin was many things. An American patriot and founding father, an inventor, a philanthropist, a scientist, and a diplomat, Franklin lived in the 18th century and is known for many accomplishments. He founded the first public library and volunteer fire company in America, signed all three documents that declared the United States as an independent nation, uncovered the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean and invented the lightning rod and bifocal lenses, among many other achievements.

Dean Bennett, an actor from Philadelphia, has travelled throughout the United States and overseas professionally portraying Dr. Benjamin Franklin. Bennett was in full Franklin costume and persona in Jacksonville to help the Main Library officially open the "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" travelling exhibit.

The exhibit was funded by a grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). NEH is an independent government agency of the United States dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities. The Jacksonville Public Library was the only library selected to host the exhibit in the state of Florida and the exhibit was for the public to view from June 4 to July 24.

Upon his arrival to the Library, not only the few dozen curious students, but also the Deputy Director of the Library, Carolyn Williams, library customers and employees, and local news media greeted Bennett as Dr. Franklin.

Christa Snow, Librarian, had been looking forward to his arrival and dressed appropriately in her colonial tri-corner hat. "I lived in the state of Pennsylvania for 25 years, and I wanted him to feel at home," said Snow, "He greeted me as a patriot." The real Dr. Franklin spent much of his life in the state of Pennsylvania.

In the Library's children's theatre, Bennett gave an interesting lecture to attentive preschool ears. He began by teaching the boys how to bow, and the girls to curtsy, as a sign of respect for each other. "It is something that kids may be lacking a little, today," said Bennett, "I want them to know that this behaviour was just common courtesy back then."

That evening, at the exhibit's opening reception, Bennett performed an hour-long lecture as Dr. Franklin to an adult audience. "He not only knew the material, but was living the part, not just reciting facts about somebody else," said Snow.

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As a part of the exhibit's closing program on July 23, Bennett travelled to Jacksonville, again, for an encore performance. This time Cecilia Brauer, one of only 14 glass armonicists in the world, joined him.

"I'm not sure if I made up the word armonicist, but that is what I am when I play the glass harmonica," laughed Brauer, "As long as the cellist is someone who plays the cello, I guess I am an armonicist, right?" Brauer is a classically trained pianist from New York, who believes fate led her to extend her talents to the rare harmonica in 1990.

The glass armonica (not harmonica which is totally different - editor). is an instrument invented by Dr. Franklin in 1761 that makes music upon the same principle as stroking the rims of crystal wine glasses. Her \$25,000 instrument created by a master glass blower in Massachusetts is now almost 20 years old and has been played for dozens of audiences. "Eyes widen. People can't believe the noise they are hearing. Children look as though they're witnessing magic and I believe that they truly are," said Brauer.

Brauer said she enjoys entertaining through talent and creativity in the same way people did in the days before radio and TV. "I mean, Ben Franklin invented it, the French queen, Marie Antoinette, took lessons on it, and Mozart composed with it," said Brauer, "It's very pleasing to play a part of that history."

The Jacksonville Public Library was very pleased to have Brauer play for library customers, since it was the farthest she has ever travelled with the instrument. "I was a little bit edgy about it," she said. "The shipping company picked it up after I packed it perfectly in cardboard, sheepskin, and foam." Brauer is always willing to drive with the armonica in her vehicle, but had never shipped it before. "It was just too far to drive this time, but I didn't want to deny myself the opportunity to come to Jacksonville and be a part of this exhibit," she said.



Cecilia Brauer and Ben Franklin visit Jacksonville

Barbara Gubbin IFLA Public Library Section

You can play the armonica at
<http://sln.fi.edu/franklin/musician/virtualarmonica.html>
(editor)

**My Personal view of WLIC Quebec
WLIC 2008 Quebec Canada
IFLA Congress Quebec Canada 2008
or
Quebec 2009
By Ian Stringer**

By a strange coincidence I had a family wedding to attend in Canada two days before the WLIC. Unfortunately it was in Regina about 2000kms from Quebec

So after the family wedding in Saskatchewan on the Friday I dashed across Canada to arrive at the Public Library Section meeting on Saturday a mere 45 minutes late. I had good reason to make sure I made the meeting as I had invited a librarian from Burkina Faso to attend and present her case to be the second recipient of the sections 'Caterpillar project' money.



Boardwalk in Quebec

The next day I arrived early and sorted out my memory stick for my presentation at the Disability Section presentation. First, there was the Opening Ceremony. This proved to be disappointing. Unlike most opening ceremonies, it was verbal rather

Public Libraries Section

than visual. As my French was not up to the Quebecoise dialect I didn't enjoy it as much as Durban or Seoul



Conference Centre

Claudia Lux was a bright spot giving her speech in clear German, English and French.

After a quick lunch I went along to Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons and gave my presentation. There were 180 people present and I got a lot of positive feedback, much of it during the rest of the conference. Allan Klieman from New Jersey USA was my fellow speaker and we managed to raise the spirits of the audience who had arrived full of complaints about the opening.

Suitably uplifted I went to the exhibition and its opening session. As usual, this gave me useful networking opportunities.

Monday saw me at the Officers' briefing, sharing notes with Elizabeth Melrose, a fellow information co-ordinator and compatriot from North Yorkshire, UK. Its useful to have a second person to help work out what we should be doing as some of the workings of IFLA are quite complex.

We spent a long time Monday evening trying to get a hotel for a Nigerian delegate who had been delayed by visa problems. As she arrived late her hotel room had been sold on. We finally got her to stay with a fellow IFLA colleague

Tuesday was spent at 'Libraries serving the public' sessions and then I helped with the sections poster section. This is good PR and means you meet many different delegates. I met up with Barbara Cesar from Slovenia. She has done a lot of work on mobile libraries, and had volunteered to help me update the IFLA Guidelines on Mobile Libraries. We spent a couple of hours working out our course of action to present to committee on Friday.

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The evening's activity a party was better than we had had so far, and most delegates seemed to enjoy it. I met up with librarians from Slovenia and Croatia, where I did some presentations a couple of years ago. It was good to catch up news from two countries where things are going well.

Wednesday was spent in the Public Library Section programme. We had some excellent presentations. The pick of them for me was the speech by NGIAN LEK CHOH (National Library of Singapore, Singapore). Who gave us a good insight into the problems she faces in such a densely populated country.

I was also impressed by the presentation by Dr. Hesham Azmi of Egypt who stood in at short notice for Emad Mohammad Abueid of Dubai, gave a good presentation, and was able to answer all the questions.

After the session, I recruited a few more people to help with the Mobile Guidelines. In the evening, I went to the launch of PLAM Research Report presented by the last three PL chairs Barbara Clubb, Torny Kjekstad and John Lake. This was a very successful event supported by the IFLA President and other dignitaries.

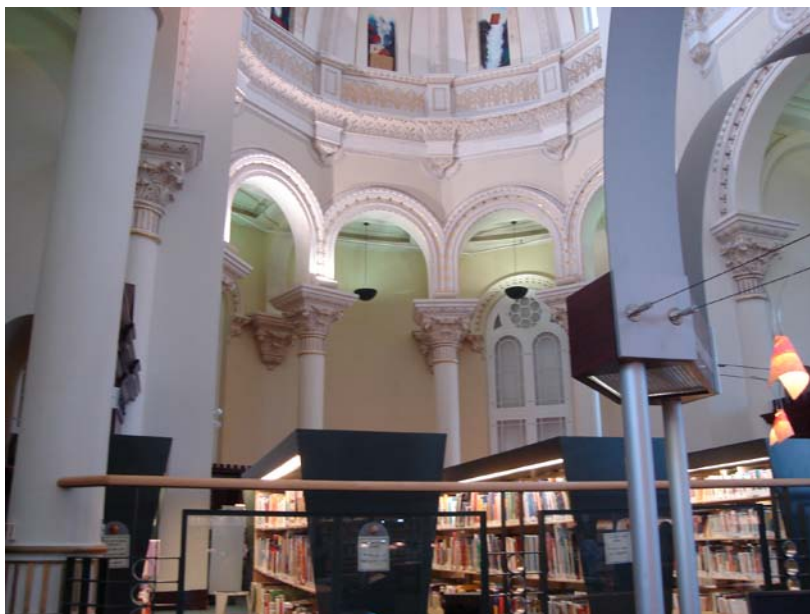
Thursday was visit day and I had a good time visiting the converted churches at Levis and at the old Anglican church in Quebec itself.



Quebec Library in an Anglican Church

Both libraries had been sympathetically altered for their new use and the Anglican church still has services at Easter and Christmas.

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**Library in a Church at Levis**

My final IFLA day was at the PL section meeting where I got permission to go ahead with the mobile library guidelines project. The caterpillar project funding was awarded to Burkina Faso.

We also planned some mobile library events for Milan and Brisbane.

Ian Stringer

Mobile Library News Caterpillar Report

Following our advertisement on the website, we had some replies, which the committee sorted out into genuine applications and then made a choice on merit. The successful applicant was Burkino Faso. Thanks to a good proposal by librarian Oumou Ouedraogo. She has now received the drawings and has submitted the following report:

The public library section of IFLA granted money to help with the framework of the installation of libraries in the rural communes of Burkina

EVOLUTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Education for all is the master key for access to knowledge; however, we noted that in Burkina Faso the majority of the villages do not have libraries. The villagers do not have the means to reach libraries. The Caterpillar project is a means for them to reach books. The first library is established with the CEG of Dapelgo, a rural district located 35 km from the town of Ouagadougou. Using the books is free; the children do not have the means to pay for a subscription library.

Public Libraries Section

The inauguration of the library took place on February 7 in the presence of local chiefs and of the population of Dapelgo who are delighted and they testified to the need for such a work. The books were bought by taking account of the expressed needs. We initially carried out the construction of the Caterpillar cases by the carpenters by taking account of the model described by Ian Stringer. Then we bought the books, which meet the needs of the population.



Oumou Ouedraogoshows the Caterpillar Box to community leaders

Finally, we proceeded to the provision of the case of books, which was received with enthusiasm. The population testified that it is a relief for them. Their pupils will be able to improve their knowledge at the school. It was also an occasion for us to make a display on hygiene and cleansing which constitutes a main issue in a rural environment. From February to June, the case is at the disposal of the pupils and as from August, it will be at the disposal of all the population. The total sum spent rises with more than 700.000 francs CFA.



Oumou Ouedraogo presents the first caterpillar box to the community



PROSPECTS

We intend to set up another Caterpillar case for another locality if the means allow it to us. Using model described by Ian Stringer. Then we will buy the books which meet the needs for the population.

OUEDRAOGO Oumou

Burkina Faso

Mobile Library Guidelines

Whilst in the midst of updating the Public Library Guidelines for development, the Section has been asked to up date the Mobile Library Guidelines first published by Robert Pestell way back in 1991. Barbara Cesar, from Ljubljana, in Slovenia used the existing IFLA Mobile Library Guidelines for her service and translated them into Slovene. However, after discussion we decided not to accept them as official IFLA papers but to update them and then translate into various languages. I met with Barbara in Quebec at the annual congress and we made an action plan, which was accepted by the Public Library Section Committee.

We now have a team of about 12 mobile librarians around the world. We have involved Robert Pestell the original author of the guidelines and he has given permission for us to publish an update.

The project has seen the original document circulated to all the participants and additions and amendments made. We intend to give a progress report in Milan in August 2009 and have the new guidelines ready to be launched at Congress in Brisbane in 2010. Brisbane conveniently is Robert's home city.

Ian Stringer

Kiruna is the Bokbuss (mobile library) of the year in Sweden!

. Bokbuss of the year award in Sweden went to Kiruna for." "for a flexible and creative activity."

." The Explanatory Memorandum provides the jury with information that "Kiruna mobile library means that all residents in their region have access to good library service. In the vast area that the bus operates, visitors are offered opportunities to see exhibitions, listen to lectures and take part of the cultural. Bokbuss is a arena of information, knowledge, literary and musical experiences, and also a place for meetings and rest. Bokbuss Kiruna is a Bokbuss in the present and for the future. "



Public Libraries Section

. The Swedish Bokbuss meeting celebrated their 60 years anniversary. The American Library Association instituted a prize "Net Bokbuss" 1998 The winner of the year Bokbuss receive a challenge prize, which is a model of the first libraries in Sweden.

The prize was awarded in the autumn in Kiruna.

The jury concluded: Sara Bengtsson, Uppsala, Chairman, Peter Axelsson, Stockholm, Anneli Friberg, Mjölby, Magnus Torstensson, Borås, and Leif Jutengren, representative of last year's winner, Värnamo mobile libraries

. Bokbusser visits 32 villages, 4 schools, 2 kindergartens and childminders in Kiruna municipality. Each village and school is visited at least every four weeks. The bus has about 3500 media including books, CD and cassette books and newspapers and magazines, video and DVD movies.

Year built: 2008, Chassis: Volvo, Size: length 12 m, breadth: 2,5 m,

Thanks to **Peter Alsberg** for this.

Finland

In Finland they have a very prescriptive method of getting finance for new mobile libraries. Financing Mobile Libraries and Library Buildings in Finland
The Ministry of Education supports acquisition of a mobile library with 25-50 % grant depending on the economical status of the municipality.

Every year a number of mobile libraries get state subsidies, there has been years when as many as 10 mobile libraries have got state support. Usually it is a question of replacing the old bus (10-15 years old) with a new one. The Ministry maintains a perpetual 5 years list of projects to be supported -construction of new library buildings, renovation of libraries and acquisition of mobile libraries, and mobile libraries are prioritised.

From 2007 on the granting of state support for new library buildings and mobile libraries is more strongly linked to the state provincial offices.

This information was provided by Counsellor for Library Affairs Barbro Wigell-Ryynänen, Ministry of Education, Finland



To all mobile librarians

Main Text: **Ksenija Trs**, Maribor Public Library, Mobile Department, Slovenia
Translation: **Saso Bizjak**, former mobile librarian, Nova Gorica Public Library, now nurse student in Tampere

We, the mobile librarians are happy people. We are full of positive energy! We love our work immensely and everytime we go among our readers, we share our hearts with them; when we revisit them, they return us the same heart by smiling, by friendly handshake and with their words: How nice that you came again!

Through all those years of work as a mobile librarian I realized how much affection and love for both books and readers is found in every single mobile librarian. I get to know people who made an indelible impression on me with their sincerity, genuine friendship, sensibility and understanding of people whose work will be seen for ever and is precious to all of us.

I am happy to have had the opportunity to work in mobile library. I met many people there that became friends, as well. They are also friends of books and our library. Being a mobile librarian is the best thing that has happened in my life.

Visitors to our mobile library are not only our readers they are our friends. They share with us their joy and at the same time they find understanding and support in their reading.

We, the mobile librarians agree that our readers are true bookworms, extremely kind and people of good will. There is nothing better than to set off on our daily mobile journeys, through the marvellous landscape of our country to meet these people.

These journeys, all around the country, also unite us! We come across all kind of stories on our travelling, the happy and sad ones. It happens, of course, that some people deprecate us, offend us, despise our work and consider it worthless, saying that there is no need for this kind of work.

But we are not stopped by these offenses! We (should) do appreciate our work and respect ourselves! Those who do not respect themselves, cannot respect others.

We are looking forward to every new mobile library, since the work of mobile library is important and the work of mobile librarians a true mission. There are still too many people with no access to books or at least with difficulty to get access to them. The mission of mobile library, the mission of our work is that we have the right approach towards readers, that we are able to gain people's hearts, unite them so that the mobile library becomes a meeting point for all people who love both books and people. There are never enough this kind of meeting points!

New mobile library in Denmark
sent in by **Irene Villumsen** of Bibliotek Randers



And finally one of my favourite places in the world Coromandel in North Island New Zealand. Mercury Bay library near Thames /Coromandel





Useful addresses

Chair:

John Bruce Lake
Librarian
Barbican Library
Corporation of London, Silk Street
LONDON EC2Y 8DS
United Kingdom
Tel. +(44)(20)73827098
Fax +(44)(20)76384141
E-mail: john.lake@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Secretary:

Barbara Gubbin
Director
Jacksonville Public Library
303 North Laura Street
JACKSONVILLE, Florida 32202
United States
Tel. +(1)(904)46301994
Fax +(1)(904)6301343
E-mail: bgubbin@coj.net

Treasurer:

Klaus-Peter Boettger
Director General
Public Library Mülheim an der Ruhr
Friederich-Ebert-Str. 47
D-45468 MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR
Germany
Tel. +(49)(208)4554141
Fax +(49)(208)4554125
E-mail: klaus-peter.boettger@stadt-
mh.de

Information Co-ordinator / Editor:

Ian Stringer
3 Spring Garden
Hensall, Goole DN14 0QL
United Kingdom
Tel. +(44)(1977)663143
E-mail: ianmstringer@googlemail.com