



IFLA Section of Science and Technology Libraries Newsletter

Autumn 2002

Greetings from the Chair

IFLA 2002 in Glasgow was by all accounts another successful conference. Over 4000 registrants had a good time and the week proved to be the highlight of this year's Scottish summer with warm and dry weather. We missed the members of our standing committee who could not be with us and we anticipate a busy year of involvement from all members as we look forward to our work leading up to Berlin.

The Open Session from all accounts and evaluations was well received and the topic of Electronic Resource Licensing was timely and relevant to a large audience. Special thanks go to the committee of Ray Schwartz, Phillippe Raccah and Mette Stockmarr who worked hard on identifying speakers and formulated this interesting program and brought it to Glasgow.

The site visit to Heriot-Watt University organized by Marianne Nordlander was flawless and host, Michael Breaks treated us to wonderful hospitality and a program of interesting speakers from his own library and other local colleagues in Edinburgh who each made interesting presentations about resource sharing and digital initiatives. Roddy MacLeod, developer of the EEVL database (Internet Guide to Engineering, Mathematics and Computing) shared insights about the current and future directions of this important and globally used database; Cate Newton from the National Library of Scotland spoke about Scottish and UK strategies for site licensing and John MacColl from the University of Edinburgh talked about distance education and outreach efforts by science libraries to diverse learning environments.

Afterwards we all went in to central Edinburgh and had a chance to visit the National Library of Scotland and see the exquisite exhibition of the "Treasures of the Forbidden City," before attending the evening's highlight at the Military Tattoo. The downpour ended as the first procession entered the stadium on the grounds of the Castle for a memorable evening.

Now, the plans and agenda for this year. A small committee to be led by Tovah Reis will proceed with our project that will examine a needs assessment of sci-tech libraries in less developed and developing countries.

Also, plans are well underway for the 2003 IFLA Conference in Berlin. Our section will co-sponsor an Open Session with the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section on Bioinformatics and share a site visit to several institutions in Potsdam for our Field Trip.

Our meetings were productive and we welcomed several visitors. We shared good insights about our liaison partners with other sci/tech library groups around the world. We want to grow those relationships and expand them. We want to cultivate new friends from South America as we begin to think of the 2004 conference in Argentina. I hope that everyone will review the minutes, participate on our listserv and contribute to newsletters and the section website during the year. Please continue to share ideas and conference plans.

With appreciation and best wishes,

Julia Gelfand

Chair and Treasurer

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Report from 68th IFLA General Conference 2002 in GLASGOW

Section of Science and Technology Libraries Standing Committee

The Standing Committee met twice, on Saturday Aug. 17th and on Friday, Aug. 23rd at the City Inn Meeting Room 1. The meetings had good representation in attendance: Jan Companjen (the Netherlands), Julia Gelfand (Chair)(USA), Olga Lavrik (Russia), Ingar Lomheim (Norway), Marianne Nordlander (Sweden), Irma Pasanen (Secretary)(Finland), Philippe Raccach (France), Tovah Reis (USA), Raymond Schwartz (USA), Werner Stephan (Germany), Mette Stockmarr (Denmark), and Andrei Zemskov (Russia) were present. As special advisors Helga Schwarz (Germany) and Patricia Yocum (USA) and as observers Anna-Marie Arnold (South Africa) and Fiona Ainsworth (UK) participated in meetings.

The section brochure has been updated and the English version is available via IFLANET. Standing Committee members agreed to organize the translations of a German, French and Russian version of the brochure. The Open

Session on Electronic licensing was successful with well over 100 participants all throughout the session. From the evaluations it was clear that it was well received and combined a progressive framework with practical advice and structure. Only one of the speakers gave a formal paper which again highlighted the difficulty of documenting the excellent sessions. Hence it was decided that the presentation slides will be made available as a PDF-file via the section homepage as a newsletter supplement at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s7/sstl.htm>. Our study tour to Heriot-Watt University outside of Edinburgh was very successful with 37 participants.

Between the Standing Committee meetings the members were active and attended among others regional group meetings (South-America, Asia and Oceania), a Publisher Relations Advisory Committee (PRAC) meeting and the IFLA president-elect's brainstorming session. Furthermore, the section project was discussed and following was agreed: the scope needs to be redefined and narrowed and work already done in the area needs to be assessed and compiled. The objective is to have this work completed by Berlin 2003 conference.

The minutes of the meeting will be available in PDF-format via the section homepage
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s7/sstl.htm>



Participants of the Sci-Tech Study Tour enjoying the hospitality of the Heriot-Watt University Library

Scientific and Technological Libraries in Less-Developed and Developing Countries by *Tovah Reis*

The project will aim to gather on a Web site information and links to reports and studies that have been done about the needs of scientific and technological libraries in less-developed and developing countries. To compile this list, we will search the library literature as well as the subject literature. Information will be gathered about agencies, foundations, associations and vendors that assist scientific and technological libraries, in emergencies or on a regular basis, with print or electronic resources. Contact will be made with such organizations as UNESCO and the British Council to find out if they have supported or published any reports on the needs of scientific and technological libraries. Within the global library community we will check with IFLA's Advancement of Librarianship Programme (ALP), the TEEAL (The Essential electronic Agricultural Library) project at Cornell University, and others. In addition, we will form contact with the IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellows Program, as the fellows submit a report about libraries in their countries before they come to Dublin, Ohio, and they maintain contact via listserv after their fellowship is over. In addition, a message will be sent out on the IFLA listserv to solicit information. If it is found that we need to narrow the scope of the project it could be limited by language (to only material published in the IFLA languages), by type of science (limit to physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, astronomy, and geology), or by region. One of the main objectives of the project is to set up the web site so that information can be added to it, after the project is completed.

The project type will be a literature survey and development of a web site to be on the Science and Technology Libraries Section's homepage. The estimated duration of the project is 11 months and the objective is to have it completed by August 31, 2003. Tovah Reis from the Standing Committee will have overall supervision of the project. Linda Watkins from the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences at Simmons College will contribute to the work and supervise the work of the Simmons student(s). The results will be disseminated via IFLANET, Sci-Tech Newsletter, IFLA listserv as well as IFLA Journal.

The members of the Science and Technology Libraries section are encouraged to share their information related to the project with Tovah and Linda. Please contact them at

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Coming up: an exciting and timely Berlin Open Session and Study Tour

BIOINFORMATICS: An Evolution of Two Decades

The last twenty years has seen the metamorphosis of a new discipline when the early days suggested that bioinformatics was defined as only data collection, analysis and dissemination. Today, the scope includes a range of applications forming a new corporate technology and infrastructure at the intersection of molecular biology and computer science. Since bioinformatics is both an enabling and enabled technology, the convergence is more specifically with biotechnology, information technology and nanotechnology, each important emphases of applied and life sciences that cross computational biology with the bioinformation infrastructure. The greatest achievement of bioinformatics methods may be the Human Genome Project and the research process may be described as biologically inspired computation known as genetic algorithms. This program will feature three speakers who will explain different research paths of bioinformatics and demonstrate the directions it may continue to take on the global horizon with implications and challenges it holds for libraries and institutions.

The Sci-Tech study tour will take us to the Geoscientific Research Institute in Potsdam.

Introduction of the Standing Committee 2001-2003 members continues

Jan Companjen

Jan Companjen is the chief librarian of the Haagse Hogeschool (The Hague Polytechnic, The Netherlands). The library is serving 16.000 students in 15 departments on 2 locations and the number of teaching staff at Haagse Hogeschool is about 1400. Jan Companjen started his career after graduation in language, literature and librarianship in library automation, working for PICA-library services. In 1981 he switched to library education, initially as lector, later as director of school for library science and information studies in The Hague. He has held his current post since 1995.

Jan is involved in activities of the Dutch library association NVB, especially in consortium initiatives of the department of polytechnic libraries.

Raymond Schwarz

Raymond Schwartz is the ILL/Serials/Database Librarian of the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Since his graduation from Columbia University's School of Library Service in 1991, he has worked in a variety of positions. Ray was a cataloguer for the National Library of Medicine from 1991 to 1993. In 1994, he was the Electronic Resources Librarian for the Library of Science and Medicine at Rutgers University. From 1995 to early 1998, he served as the Media Services Librarian for the Dana Library of Rutgers University-Newark. In his present position which he has held since 1998, he is responsible for all aspects of the interlibrary loan, serials, binding and database operations of the Institute's main and branch libraries. The database operations include the

selection, licensing, and evaluation of online resources. In addition, he is responsible for the HTML maintenance of the web-based online catalogue. In the past, Ray has chaired the SIG/Classification Research of ASIST (1995) and was a member of the ALA/ALCTS Catalogue Form and Function Committee (1994-99). In addition, ASIST awarded him the 1996 SIG member of the Year Award. Presently he serves on two subcommittees (System Interface and ILL) of the New Jersey state-wide database consortium (VALE). Ray is also a keen photographer and his contribution to the newsletter is greatly appreciated.

Andrei Zemskov

Andrei Zemskov is the director of the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology in Moscow. He made a long career in nuclear and plasma physics research before becoming the director of the Russian NPLS&T, <http://www.gpntb.ru> in 1990. Andrei is the vice-president of the Russian Library Association and president of the IARSTL (International Association of Research and SciTech Libraries); he chairs the Learned Councils of Russian NPLS&T and is a member of the Russian State Library and Russian Book Chamber and the Russian Nuclear Society. Andrei also serves in the advisory Board of ILIAC and is the chief editor of the SciTech Libraries Journal, Moscow. Andrei has published more than 70 publications in the fields of physics and librarianship. His current interests include free access to information, strategic planning, performance evaluations, copyright, electronic archives and Internet navigation. He was awarded with the Order of Merit in 1976 and the Order of Friendship in 1998, he has won the Silver Medal of All-Union Exhibition and he received the Diploma of Russian Ministry of Science and Technological Policy in 1998.

Report from LIBER 2002 by Philippe Raccach

The European research libraries league LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche) held its 31st annual conference in Graz July 2-5 2002 and the 175 participants came from 26 different countries. A good number of interesting papers on a variety of topics were presented under the overall theme *European Libraries as Portals to Information*. Research, electronic publishing and the role of libraries was discussed with a call for support to a world-wide distribution system of intelligence such as SPARC and Biomed. Virtual reference services were seen as new opportunities for libraries and a few case studies were presented. Another case, a project by the Open Society Institute, the eIFL is providing affordable access to electronic scholarly resources in nearly 40 less-developed

countries. The presentations also included case studies of recent initiatives and state-of-the-art reviews such as the "In Place" project of the British Library (<http://www.bl.uk/about/inplaceintro.html>), the revised organisation models of the Utrecht University Library in the Netherlands, OCLC-PICA and the cataloguing in the BnF (National Library of France) as well as the Blue Shield initiative protecting cultural heritage.

Report from IATUL 2002 by Julia Gelfand

The annual meeting of the International Association of Technological University Libraries (IATUL) took place in Kansas City, Missouri June 2-6, 2002 and was hosted by the

Linda Hall Library (www.lhl.mo.us/) and the University of Missouri, Kansas City (www.umkc.edu/library). The theme of the conference was "Partnerships, Consortia, & 21st Century Library Services," and about 125 persons attended from nearly 30 countries. There were several invited keynote speakers and several tracks of concurrent papers and poster sessions. Scholarly communication issues of the 21st century in a global context were explored by librarians as well as publishers, technology providers and other stakeholders. IATUL is a fully inclusive conference that runs for 4 days including a one-day field trip to area libraries. The social aspects of IATUL are nearly as important as the academic reasons to attend and the IATUL conferences are known for their very special friendly atmosphere. The conference proceedings are available at <http://www.iatul.org/conference/proceedings.html>

Report from ALA Science and Technology Section 2002 by *Julia Gelfand*

The American Library Association (ALA) met in Atlanta, Georgia June 14-19, 2002. Organizationally complex, ALA runs more than 2,000 meetings, discussion groups and programs on topics affecting all libraries. The three divisions that best support our IFLA interests are the Library & Information Technology Association (LITA), the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL - STS) and the Reference and Users Services Association (RUSA). Themes that were prevalent reinforced the universality of IFLA's interests: service to diverse user communities; digital reference; learning communities, publishing standards; access to and economics of library collections. STS Open Program was on "Old, New, Borrowed and Blue: Science & Technology Intelligence Property Issues in the Digital Age." A poster session followed. There were many relevant discussion groups and the tradeshow is always very useful. STS issues a number of publications including Issues in Science & Technology Libraries (ISTL) and I encourage you to visit <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/>

Report from EBHL 2002 by *Fiona Ainsworth*

The 9th annual meeting of the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) Group took place in 23-24 May 2002 in London. This two day meeting comprised a mixture of talks and tours. There were around 50 delegates from the various European botanical and horticultural libraries and one guest from the EBHL's North American counterpart, CBHL (Congress of Botanical and Horticultural Libraries). The first day was held at the RHS's garden at Wisley in Surrey. After a brief business meeting, there were interesting presentations on cataloguing of nursery catalogues, the photographing of watermarks using light transmission techniques and using the watermark to date the paper. After the presentations there was a tour of the beautiful gardens at Wisley. The second day

included a visit to the library of Westminster Abbey, an old library where the shelves are uneven and the books big, heavy leather-bound books. The Abbey also has a tranquil garden, a real oasis in the bustle of Westminster. Presentations included the Flora Graeca Project (which aims to digitise images from the Flora Graeca), xylotheke (wooden boxes made to look like books and containing tree material), and seed catalogues (creating holdings information for all EBHL members). Library statistics and trends in visitor numbers were also discussed. The meeting closed with a tour of the recently refurbished library at the RHS and a visit to the Chelsea Flower Show. (<http://www.ub.gu.se/Gb/ebhl/home.htm>).

Fiona Ainsworth is a librarian & information officer at the Millennium Seed Bank Project at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK.

Report from NCSC 2002 by *Irma Pasanen*

The Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication was held in Lund, Sweden and in Copenhagen, Denmark October 22.-24. 2002. This conference with some 200 delegates was the first of an intended series of biennial events. Lund University Libraries together with the Denmark's Electronic Research Library, Danish Research Library Association and Novo Nordisk Library and Information Centre hosted the conference. A number of excellent speakers had been invited to discuss current issues regarding scientific information dissemination and electronic publishing. The presentations were a good mix of opinions, case-studies and ongoing projects. After the intensive three days it was clear to all involved that scholarly communication is a lot more than journals, open access is an ambiguous concept, author behaviour will guide the publishing process and user education is needed. The presentations will be available through the conference website at <http://www.lub.lu.se/ncsc2002/>

Report from ASEE/ELD 2002

ASEE/ELD met in Montreal, Quebec June 18-21, 2002 and by all accounts this was a very successful conference. Always an interesting and relevant conference this year's appeared to be no exception. This brief listing invites you to find additional documentation about some of the sessions: *By the Bootstraps: Building an Engineering Collection from the Group Up* (<http://www.yorku.ca/jdupuis/asee2002/>); *Biology for Engineers: Progress on a New Text* (<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/Bioreng/johnson.htm>); *CrossRef Collaborative Reference Linking Service, Adaptation by Publishers of New Information Technologies, and Role of XML, Metadata Standards, Simultaneous Search and Local Reference Linking* (<http://dli.grainger.uiuc.edu/idli/asee02/index.htm>); a Collection Issues Forum and a Digital Libraries Forum rounded out the meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IFLA 69th IFLA General Conference and Council *Access Point Library: Media – Information - Culture*. August 1st - 9th 2003, Berlin, Germany. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla69/index.htm>

IATUL (International Association of Technological University Libraries) The 24th IATUL Conference "*Libraries and Education in the Networked Environment*" in Ankara, Turkey, June 2-5, 2003. The Middle East Technical University is proud to host the conference. <http://www.lib.metu.edu.tr/iatul03>

SLA (Special Libraries Association) 2003 SLA Annual Conference in New York City, N.Y., USA. June 7-12, 2003. *Theme: "Putting Knowledge to Work"*. <http://www.sla.org>

ALA (American Library Association) ALA Annual Conference jointly with the Canadian Library Association CLA in Toronto, Ontario, Canada June 19-25, 2003. <http://www.ala.org> and http://www.cla.ca/conference/cla_ala2003.htm

LIBER (European Research Libraries) 32nd Annual General Conference "*Extending the network: partnership and cooperation*" in Rome, Italy. June 17-20, 2003. <http://www.kb.dk/liber/>

EUNIS 9th International Conference of European University Information Systems "*Beyond the Network - New Innovative Services*" July 2-4 2003, Amsterdam, the Netherlands <http://www.ic.uva.nl/eunis2003>

ASEE/ELD (American Society of Engineering Education - Engineering Libraries Division) 2003 Conference is in Nashville, Tenn, USA, June 22-25, 2003. <http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2003>

IFLANET NEWS

There are several new documents available via the section homepage <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s7/sstl.htm>:

- minutes of the Glasgow meetings
- presentation slides of the Glasgow Open Session: Negotiating with Friends or Foes
- section brochure in English

These documents are all in PDF-format.

Forum of the IFLA Science and Technology Libraries Section

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The Sci-Tech list forum continues to grow and currently there are 78 members on the list from all over the world. All interested in the work of the Sci-Tech Section are welcomed to join. Please see <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/stl-sc> for instructions to join.

North American mirror of IFLANET now launched

IFLA is very pleased to announce that the IFLANET North American mirror site, hosted by Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, New York, USA, is now up and running. Please visit at: <http://ifla.queenslibrary.org/>
Or simply click on "North America" on IFLANET homepage at: <http://www.ifla.org/>

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