

Acquisition and Collection Development Section

ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

REVISED SEPTEMBER 2010

Background information

The Acquisition and Collection Development Section focuses on the methodological and topical themes pertaining to the interrelated processes of collection development (planning and building a useful and balanced collection of library materials over a period of years) and acquisition.

Collection development is based on ongoing assessments of the information needs of library clientele, usage statistics analysis, and demographic projections, and is normally constrained by budgetary limitations. The processes of collection development include:

- formulation of selection criteria
- planning for resource sharing (i.e., cooperative decision-making within library consortia or with other libraries)
- planning for new collections or collection areas
- replacement of lost or damaged items
- routine selection and de-selection decisions
- evaluating options for access (e.g., format choice, ownership v licensing)

These processes are guided by a Collection Development Policy which establishes priorities and facilitates decision making

The activities associated with the acquisition of materials (print, other traditional format library materials, and electronic resources) by purchase, exchange, gift, or legal deposit, include:

- ordering, receiving, claiming, and payment
- selecting and evaluating supply sources
- negotiating pricing
- licensing of electronic resources

Specialized interests of the Section include collection development policies, collection development methods, techniques and practices for collection assessment, usage statistics, materials pricing issues, ownership vs. access issues, the open access movement, format duplication, scholarly

communication, librarians' relations with publishers and vendors, and utilizing emerging technologies to enhance access to information resources. As access to materials becomes an increasingly viable alternative to ownership, the Section finds itself working more closely with the Sections on Serials and Other Continuing Resources, Document Delivery and Resource Sharing, and any advisory committees within IFLA that facilitate discussions between libraries and publishers and/or producers of electronic resources. Also of concern to the Section are the impact and application of technological developments that underlie many of the changes observed in library procedures, patron-initiated practices, and partnering arrangements for acquiring materials (such as electronic data interchange (EDI), licensing agreements, and cooperative and collaborative collection development). In formulating its Goals the Section strives to be flexible and responsive to changing conditions in the professional environment as well as in the information industry. The Section is especially cognizant of the need to integrate its Goals with the IFLA thematic focus and professional priorities.

Mission

The mission of the Section on Acquisition and Collection Development is to serve as a forum for the broader discussion and dissemination of information on evolving acquisition methods and for promoting strategies for successful and effective collection development in an evolving information environment in libraries around the world.

Goals

1. Monitor and evaluate the evolving nature of library collections, both print and electronic, including the increasing importance of consortial and cooperative acquisition and exchange programs. In addition, the Section is interested in the acquisitions function in libraries worldwide, including ordering and payment for materials electronically.

IFLA Professional Pillar

Professional Priorities: Promoting resource sharing; Developing library professionals; Promoting standards, guidelines and best practice

Actions:

- 1.1 Develop annual programmes and satellite meetings (jointly with other sections, as appropriate) on a broad range of topics with application to all library types and to all geographic areas of the world. Publish a call for papers and select appropriate speakers, both regional and non-regional.
- 1.2 Ensure that conference papers are translated into IFLA languages to promote a wider dissemination.
- 1.3 Develop and maintain a "Continuing Issues Agenda" of topics of interest to the Standing Committee which will serve as a reference list for potential programmes. Append updates of the "Continuing Issues Agenda" to each iteration of the Section's Strategic Plan.
- 1.4 Continue to hold Mid-Term meetings to focus on the on-going activities of the Section, including preparations for the Annual Conference, and to present seminars for local colleagues on matters of local professional interest.

1.5 Sponsor conferences worldwide on relevant topics, such as the conference on repository libraries in Kuopio.

1.6 Participate in the planning of the 2011 Interlending and Document Supply Conference.

2. Provide information on collection development activities, such as guidelines on collection development, e-resources, gifts, and de-acquisition and weeding of library collections.

IFLA Professional Pillar

Professional Priorities: Providing unrestricted access to information; Promoting resource sharing; Preserving our cultural heritage, Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices

Actions:

2.1 Focus on completion and electronic publication of the first version of the IFLA Electronic Resources Guidelines.

2.2 Ensure that the Section's publications are translated into IFLA languages.

3. Develop working and cooperative relationships with comparable acquisition and collection development focused groups outside of IFLA.

IFLA Professional and Members Pillars

Professional Priorities: Promoting resource sharing; Developing library professionals; Promoting standards, guidelines, and best practices; Supporting the infrastructure of library associations

Actions:

3.1 Initiate formal and encourage informal contact with the various acquisition and collection development organizations of the American Library Association, with the Collection Development Division of LIBER, and with the global scholarly and commercial trade publishing marketplace.

3.2 Maintain awareness about related conferences, such as the annual Charleston Conference, and about the activities of IFLA Sections that focus on subject content and specific library environments.

4. Provide information about the work of the Section and the Standing Committee on IFLANET via Newsletters, publication of papers given during IFLA conferences or at Mid-Term meetings.

IFLA Professional and Members Pillars

Professional Priorities: Developing library professionals; Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices

Actions:

4.1 Publish electronically two issues of the Section's Newsletter each year in January/February and June/July, with focus on the ongoing activities of the Section, reports/news from libraries and institutions worldwide, and book reviews.

4.2 Maintain the Section's webpage, ensuring timely updates with news, events, publications, minutes of meetings, and useful addresses

4.3 Maintain the ACQUIS-L and ACQUIS-NEW (with the latter to facilitate the exchange of files) restricted discussion lists for all Standing Committee

members and encourage discussion and information sharing through these two channels.

4.4 Disseminate significant Section documentation and announcements to the COLLDV-L, CHIEFCDO and LIBER discussion lists, at a minimum.

5. Strengthen the Section by pursuing measures to increase membership.

IFLA Professional and Members Pillars

Professional Priorities: Developing library professionals, Supporting the infrastructure of library associations

Actions:

5.1 Promote membership in the Section, identifying which countries are under-represented and emphasizing a broader geographic representation of the Standing Committee.

5.2 Provide information on how to become a member of the Section on major collection development-related electronic discussion lists.

5.3 Maintain the policy that the Chair welcomes in writing all new Section members.

APPENDIX: Continuing Issues Agenda

The Continuing Issues Agenda documents, for future reference and possible action, topics of continuing interest to the Standing Committee. See 1.3 of this Strategic Plan.

- A. The endangered species of print
- B. Scholarly communication
- C. Open access
- D. Guidelines for digitization projects
- E. Electronic licensing issues and concerns
- F. Developing and managing hybrid collections
- G. Possible cooperative projects within IFLA with Copyright and Other Legal Matters and/or Preservation and Conservation
- H. Counting our digital assets
- I. Impact of economic recession on collection development

Adopted by the Standing Committee of the Acquisition and Collection Development Section of IFLA (Division II), November 2009.