

DIRECT LINE



Sue Kosse, Executive Director

1990 IFLA Conference, Stockholm

The IFLA Conference has again provided in 1990 an international focus for all those interested in libraries and information work to consider issues of current concern. Education, training, library theory and research, document delivery and inter-lending, management of library associations, national libraries, public libraries were only a small number of the broad categories again covered. However, the emphasis of the conference was on the place of libraries in culture and in the development and advancement of civilisation. As in Australia with the National Ideas Summit, there was strong acknowledgement of the value of ideas — and encouragement of new ideas, and their application, in the advancement of civilisation. Libraries were identified as having a key role to play in this process.

Like all conferences, contact with colleagues reveals many areas of mutual interest and concern. In the USA, the American Library Association has identified the need to provide a stronger focus for paraprofessional personnel in library and information work, while in the UK there are parallel developments to Australia in the area of skills audits,

identification of competencies, formal and on-going training etc. The mechanisms being put in place for this enormous change are similar to those in Australia, only the titles are different.

Political changes

The political change in Europe, the Soviet Union and Germany are also having their impact on libraries. Within Europe, there is general agreement on the need to establish a European Library Association (EURO — LA); an organisation to improve cooperation between the library and information science professional associations in the European Community countries, and to provide an improved channel of communication between the profession in Europe and the European Commission.

In the Soviet Union, there has been the establishment of library associations in Moscow and seven other States. It is likely that these may form a federation at a later stage.

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In the German Democratic Republic, libraries are feeling the effects of the general collapse within the GDR. Within Germany as a whole, there is likely to be one library association by the end of 1990, whereas at present there are two associations.

Reported to this conference was the work done by Birgitta Bergdahl on a proposal for the future of the core program Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP).

The objectives of the ALP Program are to promote the progressive improvement of library and information services in the developing countries, so as to enable them to play an active role in national development. The key areas of the ALP Program are:

- education and training,
- promotion of library and information services to the public, with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas, and
- greater identification and involvement of libraries with literacy programs.

The ALP Program is to be managed by a secretariat provided by Uppsala

University Library and the three IFLA regional centres. Funding for the first 18 months of 1 million SEK (approx. \$A220 000) has been offered by the Swedish International Development Authority and a further 100 000 SEK (approx. \$A22 000) by Uppsala. Projects under the program are still to be decided, but there would appear to be few proposed for the Asian-Pacific Region.

A third International Meeting on Research in Information Studies (IMRIS) workshop was also held following the conference. The themes of the workshop were to be:

- research, communication and promotion of research cultures with an emphasis on dissemination and involvement of practitioners,
- contemporary trends and paradigms in research, and
- developing infrastructures for research.

There is very considerable interest in these areas within Australia, and the IMRIS Workshop was to discuss the possibility of its activities being more closely tied into the formal structure of IFLA.

Dr Hans-Peter Geh to retire

The Trade Exhibition was the biggest yet for IFLA, with over 170 exhibitors. Activity in the Trade Exhibition approached maximum on each day, with the 1660 delegates moving from one session to another via the Trade Exhibition. The very compact nature of the conference complex promoted this interaction through the close proximity of conference halls, meeting rooms, the Trade Exhibition and eating areas.

1990 is not a voting year for IFLA. However, the Stockholm Conference saw considerable discussion and lobbying for candidates for the position of President and the five positions to be filled on the Executive Board.

The current President, Dr Hans-Peter Geh retires at the end of this term. There has recently been a gap created in the candidacy for President, caused by the withdrawal of Robert Wedgeworth from the USA. There are now four possible candidates for the Presidency.

Within the ranks of the Executive Board and the Professional Board there is very strong support for, and interest in, increased Australian involvement within IFLA, and particularly at the Executive Board level. The ALIA International Relations Committee have already discussed the possibility of there being an Australian nomination for the Executive Board.

In all it would appear to have been a most successful conference, and it enabled me to renew personal contact with the ALA, the LA and IFLA itself, and to establish new contact with the Swedish, Finnish and Japanese Library Associations.

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Friends of the libraries!

Jellie Wyckelsma, Secretary of the Friends of Doveton Library, recently attended the FOL State Conference in Adelaide. It seems that South Australia is where the movement started, back in 1932, and the State now has more than 40 FOL groups. Representatives of FOL in NSW and Victoria also attended the conference.

The main topics were:

- Incorporation — the Pro's and Con's
- FOL activities and Public Liability — When covered and When not
- FOL groups as Lobbyists
- Should FOL groups form a National, State or Regional body?

A key role for FOL groups is fundraising, often through sales of discarded books. The money is used for a variety of purposes: toys for the children's corner, display cabinets, a PC for the readers, talking books... or promoting the library, so reaching out to new users.

Some FOL activities involve public liability, and insurance was an important topic of discussion. FOL members can also be effective lobbyists; they have found that associations of voters can have an immediate effect on aldermen, provided that they can show that they have the numbers and can maintain the pressure.

Jellie returned to Doveton convinced that a national body for FOL organisations is needed, and hopes that a FOL group may develop in ALIA after the Perth Conference.

Baker & Taylor Literacy Lunch

A Literacy Luncheon chaired by Lynn Allen will be held at the Perth International Hotel on Wednesday, 3 October 1990, commencing at 12.30 pm, as part of the ALIA Biennial Conference.

Key speakers will be

- Mrs Margaret Whitlam AO
Chairman of the National Consultative Council for the ILY program, and
- Ernie Di Mattia
President of the Ferguson Public Library in Connecticut, USA and Chairman of the IFLA Working Group on World Literacy. (Baker & Taylor International are sponsoring Ernie Di Mattia)

For further information contact Jacqui Ecclestone on (09) 427 3327. Seats will be limited. To book send \$20 (to cover the cost of your lunch) to: 'Literacy Luncheon', Promaco Conventions Pty Ltd, Unit 9A, Canning Bridge Commercial Centre, 890-892 Canning Highway, Applecross, WA 6153. Cheques should be made payable to: Promaco Conventions Pty Ltd.

More Division elections!

Special Libraries Section, NSW Group: Committee members (12). Nominations to the National Office by 12 October 1990.

❖ Job exchanges ❖

Name of library

Kingston Polytechnic, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey, England

Position available for exchange

Library Assistant

Position required in exchange

Library Assistant in any type of library

Location desired

Open (but Australia, Canada, USA, New Zealand preferred)

Duration

1 year

Name of library

University of the West Indies School of Continuing Studies, St Vincent

Position available for exchange

Library Assistant

Position required in exchange

Library Assistant in any type of library

Location desired

Open

Duration

2 years

Name of library

The Institute of Scientific & Technical Information of China, Beijing

Position available for exchange

Associate Professor

Position required in exchange

Teaching or research in academic library

Location desired

USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, UK

Duration

3-12 months

Name of library

Parima Public Library, New Zealand

Position available for exchange

Branch Librarian

Position required in exchange

Similar in public or education orientated library

Location desired

Open

Duration

Open

Name of library

London Business School, London, UK

Position available for exchange

Library Assistant

Position required in exchange

Library Assistant in business library

Location desired

Australia, New Zealand, USA

Duration

1-2 years

For further information contact: LIBEX,

Information and Library Studies Library, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS, Wales, United Kingdom.

Location of library

London, UK

Position available for exchange

School librarian

Position required in exchange

Similar

Location desired

Sydney

Duration

1 year

Contact: Allison, telephone (048) 89 8356 evenings/weekends.

James Bennett

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