

IFLA news

Work accomplished, work in progress and new initiatives under the sponsorship of the IFLA Section on Cataloguing are summarised in its Annual report and *review*, 1988/89.

ISBD development and standardisation, the section's major activity for more than a decade, together with the whole Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) Program, is undergoing examination 'in the hope of facilitating its "acclimatisation" ... to a changing environment and ensuring its ongoing effectiveness'. There is a gradual shift from the development of standards towards implementation of universal bibliographic control in a climate of technological innovation and economic restraint.

Indeed, there is under consideration within the section a draft from the Library of Congress proposing a simplification of the standard ISBD for most 20th century books. It was decided at the IFLA 55th General Conference, Paris, 1989 to form a working group which would concentrate on 'abridgment/simplification/shortening of records in a standardised way'.

Nevertheless, the revised ISBDs for Printed Music (PM) and Antiquarian (A) are reported to be in the final stages of preparation, while the ISBD for Computer Files (CF) was published in 1989. The ISBD General (G) harmonisation process is described as 'part of the concluding phase of the ISBD Review'.

Australian input is evident in the final draft UNIMARC/AUTHORITIES. Diana Dack of the National Library was a member of the Steering Group for this standard, a draft of which was circulated for acceptance by the Section on Cataloguing and the Section on Information Technology. The preceding *Guidelines for authority and reference entries* (GARE), which covered the content and display of data in such entries, were the work of the IFLA Working Group on an International Authority System, 1979-1983. The National Library's Warwick Cathro served on this earlier group.

Among the new initiatives is a planned IFLA Conference satellite meeting to be held 15-16 August 1990, in Stockholm, organised by the Sections on Cataloguing and Bibliography. This seminar on the Bibliographic

Record could be very significant. It will review requirements for bibliographic information and alternative ways of fulfilling them, in the context of rising costs, increasing involvement of the private sector and changes in technology.

The first section of the seminar will define the needs of libraries, publishing, bookselling and research, et cetera, for bibliographic data. The second part will examine 'the information chain' from authors/editors, through publishers, abstracting and indexing services and libraries to the reader/researcher, the relationships of one link to another and the way that technology is affecting these. Warwick Cathro has been invited to give a paper in this section.

The theme for IFLA in Moscow, 1991 is expected to include the principles of the catalogue in an automated environment, including display and retrieval.

If further information is required, please contact Eugenie Greig, Corresponding Member of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Section on Cataloguing, c/- Macquarie University Library, NSW 2109.

AIMA & NLA

The Australian Information Management Association (AIMA) is a 'not for profit' organisation founded in 1984 with the principal objective of improving library management in Australia.

AIMA offers an extensive range of Management Institutes and Special Focus Workshops throughout Australia and New Zealand.

AIMA has been giving considerable thought in the last year to its long-term future.

Following an initial approach by AIMA, discussions have taken place over the last 6 months between senior AIMA officers and the Director-General of the National Library concerning the possibility of AIMA's eventual incorporation into the library's operations.

In the initial discussions both parties were of the view that if AIMA were to be incorporated into the National Library that this should be as a company or trust rather than a regular library line operation.

If negotiations meet both parties' requirements it is expected that a formal transfer would take place in 1991.

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