

International news

Protecting cultural property

The International Committee of the Blue Shield has issued a statement urging the governments concerned to do all they can to avoid damaging and destroying cultural property during war in Iraq. It also reminds them that international humanitarian law prohibits using cultural property for military purposes or to shield military objectives. It presses governments which have not yet signed up to The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols to do so.

IFLA is a member of the Blue Shield, along with the International Council on Archives, the International Council on Museums and the International Council on Monuments and Sites. The full statement is available at: <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/statement-iraq.htm>.

IFLA news

The IFLA Governing Board has approved a statement on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. It calls for libraries to collect, preserve and disseminate traditional indigenous knowledge resources. It urges governments to exempt media recording indigenous knowledge from taxes and encourages the proper protection and use of such knowledge through the recogni-

tion of the principles of intellectual property. The full statement is available at <http://www.ifla.org/III/eb/sitk03.html>.

UNESCO have awarded a contract to IFLA and the Department of Information Management at the Aberdeen Business School for the preparation of guidelines for e-reference services provided by libraries to support distance learners and other remote users. The work will be undertaken at The Robert Gordon University by Ian Johnson, Robert Newton and Peter Reid, and is expected to be completed before the end of the year. The Department's website can be viewed at <http://www.rgu.ac.uk/abs/>.

The IFLA Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) Core Activity and Office for International Lending will close at the end of March. Some of the successful UAP initiatives will continue. Responsibility for the Interlending & Document Supply International Conference series has transferred to the IFLA Document Delivery and Interlending Section. The next conference will be held in Canberra, Australia from 28–31 October 2003. Details can be found at: <http://www.nla.au/ilds/>.

The popular International Interlending Voucher Scheme will continue. In the short term redeemed vouchers and order for new vouchers may continue to be sent

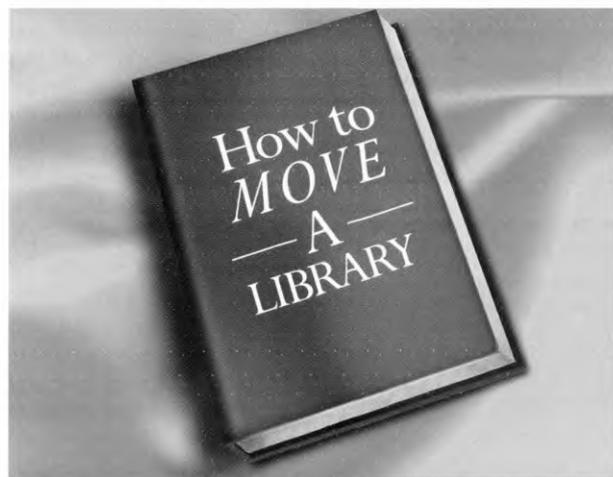
to the British Library and enquiries to usual e-mail address: ifla@bl.uk. The sale of the IFLA International Loan/Photocopy Request Forms will continue to be handled by the British Library for the time being.

Bill to exempt libraries from Patriot Act

Legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives 6 March to rescind the provisions of the *USA Patriot Act* that allow the government to secretly view library and bookstore records without obtaining a probable-cause search warrant. For details see <http://www.ala.org/online/news/2003/030310.html#sanders>.

State Library of Florida

The Governor of Florida, Jeb Bush's budget for 2003–2004 has raised concerns in Florida. It is proposed that the State Library of Florida's collection be transferred to the Florida State University, and at the same time recommends cutting \$11.5 million from university budgets across the state. As part of the library relocation, up to fifty-five jobs would be lost. Hundreds of protesters, including representatives of the Florida Library Association, the Florida Historical Society, and the Florida Genealogical Society, gathered on 4 March to protest the move. ■



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