

IFLA PAC

International Federation of Library Associations and
Institutions Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation

IFLA (<http://www.ifla.org/index.htm>) is a worldwide, independent, non-government organisation with a membership of over 1300 libraries and library associations in more than 130 countries. The aims of IFLA are to promote international co-operation, discussion, and research in all fields of library activity IFLANET (<http://www.ifla.org/III/intro00.htm>). IFLA has several core activities that cover internationally important issues. One of these is PAC (Preservation and Conservation). Other activities of IFLA include the annual IFLA World Library and Information Congress, held in Seoul, Korea, in 2006.

IFLA PAC (IFLA Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation, <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/pac.htm>) was established in 1986. The purpose of IFLA PAC is to focus efforts on issues of preservation and initiate worldwide co-operation for the preservation of library materials (<http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/pac.htm>). The PAC core program consists of 9 regional centres based in various National Libraries throughout the world. The international centre or focal point is the Bibliothèque nationale de France. The National Library of Australia is the Regional Centre for Oceania and Southeast Asia, and the Regional Centre for Asia is the National Diet Library in Japan.

The aims of the PAC core program are to

- Raise awareness of preservation issues, emphasising the key role of preservation

in the global management of library collections.

- Develop a policy of co-ordinated activities with PAC Centres, IFLA structures and other organisations or individuals interested in the preservation of documentary heritage.
- Encourage scientific research on the causes, prevention and treatment of the deterioration of library documents, the reformatting of information, and the development of national and international standards that support the preservation of library materials.
- Educate library staff at all levels on preservation practices and encourage the organisation of practical training programs (<http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/iflapac/pdf/BrochureIFLAPAC.pdf>).

IFLA PAC outreach activities include publication of *International Preservation News* (IPN, see <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/ipn.html>) and *International Preservation Issues* (IPI, <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/ipi.html>). Conferences and workshops are held regularly. IFLA PAC recently co-sponsored a symposium, 'The 3 Ds of Preservation: Disasters, Displays, Digitization', which was held at the Bibliothèque nationale de France in March 2006.

Why do we need IFLA PAC?

A practical example of IFLA PAC at work is the development of the 'Training in Preservation Microfilming' package. The National Library of Australia, in collaboration with the State Library of South Australia and under the auspices of IFLA PAC, produced the training package. It comprises 10 modules, 6 wall charts, a logbook, a learning guide, a glossary/index and a small kit of practical training aids. The training material was written by Heather Brown, Assistant Director at Artlab Australia, and is the result of an IFLA PAC survey on microfilming training needs in the Southeast Asia and Pacific region conducted in 2001. The material is available in several formats, including CD ROM, hardcopy or pdf. More details can be found on the NLA website at <http://www.nla.gov.au/preserve/trainmat.html>.

It is through initiatives such as this that IFLA PAC provides access to standards, guidelines and best practices in preservation and conservation of library, information and cultural heritage materials.

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Please e-mail any enquiries about the IFLA PAC program at the National Library of Australia to nipa@nla.gov.au.

Blackwell Publishing sponsors a young Chinese librarian to IFLA

Blackwell Publishing supports the continuous education of librarians in the industry. To this end, they have established an academic scholarship for a young librarian from the Chinese Academic Library & Information System (CALIS) to attend the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference, which will be held in Seoul, Korea, this year.

Liu Xia, Assistant Director at the Wuhan University Library, was named the winning librarian, and will attend the full delegate program at the IFLA Annual Conference 2006. With a solid background in reference work and research, Ms. Liu heads the Information Services Centre at the Wuhan University Library, and has published several papers addressing issues of selection and evaluation of databases. Ms. Liu is looking forward to the opportunity to gain a more thorough understanding of library industry and research trends while attending IFLA 2006.

Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society, the 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council will be held 20–24 August 2006, Seoul, Korea. For further information go to <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>.