

IFLA WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION

CONGRESS 2017 ROUND-UP



On the train to WLIC in Wrocław, Poland. Photo credit: Kerry Smith

'The WLIC in Wrocław had a very warm and personal feel. For me this was encapsulated by an encounter at the tram stop between an American university librarian and fellow Australian Monika Szunejko. Both Monika and our US colleague are of Polish descent, and they fell into deep conversation, oblivious to everything around them. This immediate connection highlighted to me the universality of what we do and the bonds that are forged through IFLA.' — Jan Roberts



Monika Szunejko and an American associate. Photo credit: Jan Richards

'For me it was the fabulous venue, Centennial Hall, and its surrounds, including a Japanese garden. The quote I took away was from the Plenary Speaker, Ewa Bartnik, from the University of Warsaw (*True or False – Science in the Media*), who was talking about how research is reported in the media and reminded the audience that some research has not yet been tested on humans and that "man is not a big mouse." It was also great to bump into colleagues from the other side of Australia and a former student from Vietnam.' — Gaby Haddow



A river view in Wrocław. Photo credit: Kerry Smith

'So much was built and rebuilt after World War II bombings of Wrocław, so walking around different parts was always interesting. When I arrived at the conference venue at Centennial Hall in Wrocław and saw the venue for the Library History Special Interest Group session that I convened, I did wonder if perhaps it was a little large. The Library History SIG's session on *Libraries in times of crisis: Historical perspectives* was early in the conference program and was well attended as you can see from the photos on the SIG's website at (bit.ly/2fyt4R8). The presenters all recounted inspirational but, at times, harrowing stories. There is so much that libraries can do in times of crisis. From the feedback I had after the session and in the remainder of the conference, it would seem that the session was much appreciated. Of particular interest to me were the sessions on open access, copyright, documentary heritage, preservation and conservation of documents, and data mining.' — Kerry Smith



An eager crowd. Photo credit: Kerry Smith

'Most memorable for me was the incredible opening ceremony. There was so much energy, and it was such a wonderful and powerful mix of the intellectual and the physical. *Poland, what were you doing when you were so rudely interrupted?*, a history of the country delivered by Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski, was one of the best keynotes ever, followed by Wrocław's history presented in dance and light.' — Christine Mackenzie



WLIC cultural evening. Photo credit: Kerry Smith

For a more detailed summary of the event, visit the IFLA WLIC 2017 summary at (bit.ly/2xvdhJN). 



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