



MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS SECTION

Annual Report

January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

Scope Statement

Within IFLA, the Management of Library Associations (MLAS) Section advocates for the interests, aspirations and concerns of the library associations that are represented among IFLA members. There is a continuum of resources available to library associations: some have paid staff and others are run by volunteers, both possessing a wide range of experience and expertise. The Section addresses the needs and promotes interests of all types and sizes of library associations and brings together staff and elected leaders and representatives of these associations to:

- foster and improve leadership skills;
- share experiences;
- develop useful publications and to offer workshops, seminars and programmes that address their needs and interests;
- support IFLA's Core Programmes;
- advocate within IFLA for the promotion and development of effective library and library association practices worldwide.

Library associations provide many valuable services to librarians. They work to develop effective library programs and services that meet the needs of library users and advance societal objectives and interests, ensuring public access to information, and preserving and protecting cultural resources.

The Section will promote the mission of library associations in setting and maintaining standards for the provision of library services in all types of libraries, encouraging the professional development of librarians through effective training and education programmes that promote lifelong learning. The MLAS is the meeting place of all library associations and welcomes the participation of all library associations, both IFLA and non-IFLA members.

Membership

As of the end of this reporting year, the Management of Library Associations Section has 157 members. The membership consists of international (16), national (127) and other (4) library associations, institutions (9) and 1 student affiliate that are members of MLAS. At the beginning of this reporting year, the MLAS Standing Committee (SC) had 20 elected members representing individual library associations.

Of the 20 members of the Standing Committee, 10 members are serving their first term and are eligible for reelection in 2007. The other 10 members are serving their second term and are not eligible for reelection.

The list of members serving their first term from 2003-2007 and eligible for reelection and those

-serving their second terms, and not eligible for reelection appears in the *IFLA Management of Library Associations Section 2004 Annual Report*.

Officers

Chair: Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611 U.S.A. Phone: 1-312-280-1392 or 1-800-545-2433 Ext. 1392; FAX: 1-312-944-3897; E-mail <kfiels@ala.org> was elected Chair at the 5th MLAS Standing Committee meeting in August 2005 to serve the 2005-2007 term. He had been Interim Chair.

Secretary: Jill Martin, Director, Knowledge and Information CILIP, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AE, United Kingdom Tel. +(44)(20)72550642, Fax +(44)(20)7255050, E-mail: <jill.martin@cilip.org.uk>. She was elected Secretary at the 5th MLAS Standing Committee in August 2005 to serve the 2005-2007 term, replacing Arlene Cohen, Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives.

Treasurer: Carla Funk, Executive Director, Medical Library Association, Inc., 65 E. Wacker Place, Suite 1900, Chicago, Illinois 60601, USA. Phone: 1-312-419-9094; FAX: 1-312-419-8950; E-mail <funk@mlahq.org>. Carla Funk agreed to stay as Treasurer.

Information Coordinator: Jennefer Nicholson, Executive Director, Australian Library and Information Association, P.O. Box E441, Kingston 2604 AUSTRALIA. Phone: 61-2-6285-1877; FAX: 61-2-6282-2249; E-mail <jennefer.nicholson@alia.org.au>. Jennefer Nicholson agreed to stay on as Information Coordinator.

Meetings

There were two meetings held this year. The 4th MLAS SC meeting was held in Canberra, Australia, February 3rd to February 5th with 8 Standing Committee members and 9 observers present.

The 5th MLAS SC meeting was held August 13th and August 19th, 2005 in Oslo, Norway during the IFLA Conference. There were 15 Standing Committee members and 17 observers present for the first session. The second session had 17 Standing Committee members and 15 observers present.

Financial Report

As of December 31, 2005, the MLAS Section account had \$ 4,977.99 USD.

Projects

1. Global Library Association Development (GLAD) program

The MLAS initiated GLAD Program was approved by the IFLA Governing Board this year (Document GB 04-186), culminating several months of work by the GLAD Program Committee, chaired by Sylvia Piggott, with Elizabeth Watson, Jill Martin, Keith Michael Fiels, Janice

Lachance, Michael Dowling and Kelly Moore.

The GLAD program proposes partnerships between participating and sponsoring national library associations and IFLA, and MLAS implementation and management with the support of IFLA Headquarters. The importance of these partnerships lie in their being peer-to-peer and not just paternalistic mentoring, such as only paying for IFLA memberships.

Kelly Moore and Michael Dowling are developing a database of library associations, which will be used to promote the program and also be used for benchmarking and planning purposes. It is planned to combine directory information (which is currently collected by the American Library Association in conjunction with IFLA) with statistical, as well as organizational information.

A list of those associations that did not renew their IFLA membership are the first groups to reach out to with the GLAD Program as potential twinning partners. It is hoped that this outreach will encourage these library associations to rejoin IFLA.

The GLAD WWW site is hosted by the American Library Association with links to the IFLA WWW site and already contains the Mentor and Mentee application forms. The current URL is <http://cs.ala.org/iro/GLAD/>.

2. IFLA New Professionals Discussion Group (NPDG)

The MLAS agreed to co-opt Stuart Hamilton and Loida Febo-Garcia of the MLAS supported NPDG to be members of the MLAS Standing Committee.

The NPDG held a successful Open Session, *New Professionals, New Experiences and New Ways of Working*, at the 71st IFLA Conference in Oslo, Norway on Monday, August 15, 2005, drawing approximately 90 people. There was a lot of interaction between the participants during the session. Many people attended who were just interested in the work of the group, as well as those new to the profession. One of the biggest topics discussed was job exchanges and how IFLA could take a role in implementing an international job exchange project.

The NPDG also has a listserv with over 400 subscribers.

3. National Library Associations Meeting

At the suggestion of the IFLA MLAS to IFLA Headquarters, all representatives of national library associations were invited to meet at the IFLA 2005 Conference in Oslo to discuss mutual concerns and needs. The meeting was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2005 at 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. at the Christianiasalen in the Christiania Hotel. The meeting included the IFLA President, Secretary General and Governing Board representatives, and represented a formal recognition and acknowledgement of the importance of library associations to IFLA. About 120 people attended the meeting.

4. Regional Workshops

With ALP working directly with the three Regional Offices in funding regional projects, and a network in place to reach librarians and library associations in developing areas, the MLAS is

supporting projects to present regional workshops focusing on issues in library association development.

Two project proposals for regional workshops designed to develop and strengthen library associations were submitted to ALP. The Pacific Islands Association of Libraries Archives (PIALA) proposed one for an advocacy workshop for November 2006 in conjunction with the PIALA Annual Conference. The other proposal was in conjunction with the Tanzania Library Association hosting the 17th Standing Conference of East, Central and Southern African Librarians (SCECSAL) conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in July 2006.

The MLAS Executive Board agreed to allocate \$ 2,000 to support the PIALA Conference and \$2,000 to support the Tanzania workshop. They will also support these workshops by participation and other appropriate ways.

5. IFLA MLAS Section Review

In response to IFLA's request, a *MLAS Section Review* was completed by the end of this reporting year.

6. IFLA MLAS Strategic Plan 2006-2007

The *MLAS Strategic Plan 2006-2007* workgroup, Jennefer Nicholson, Alicia Ocaso, Sabine Stummeyer and Winnie Vitzansky, distributed the final draft of the plan for approval. The plan has only three goals and relies on using the IFLA infrastructure and mechanisms that currently exist to implement our actions. Regional library association, as well as national association development is included in the plan. Also included are stronger working relationships with ALP, the Regional Sections and Division 8.

7. MLAS Listserv

The successful *MLAS* listserv continues to be hosted by the Special Libraries Association in Washington, D.C., USA, and is constantly growing in members and postings. The MLAS discussed moving the list to the IFLA listserv software but decided against it as there is no capability for archiving messages.

At the end of this reporting year, the MLAS list had 386 active subscribers. This was a growth of 63 active subscribers from last year.

8. Electronic Communication Plan

The group discussed the need for an electronic communication plan. This plan will be based on the 2006-2007 *Strategic Plan*, and will be developed after the *Strategic Plan* is approved.

9. IFLA MLAS WWW site

Updating of the IFLA MLAS WWW site continued this year, including the posting of additional completed IFLA MLAS library association guidelines brochures in several languages.

Publications

The *2005 MLAS Membership* brochure was published this year and printed in English.

In 1998, the *Library Association Resource Kit* project became an effort to publish brochures based on chapters of the 1989 *UNESCO/RTMLA Guidelines for the Management of Professional Associations in the Fields of Archives, Library and Information*. After several years, the seven brochures are written, most translated into the working languages of IFLA and appear on the IFLA MLAS www site <<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s40/index.htm>>.

With the support of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), some of the existing brochures were redone into more readable .pdf files. Some new translations were also done in Australia, with the formatting done through ALIA and financial support coming from the MLAS account.

Conference Program

The MLAS sponsored an Open Session at the 71st IFLA Conference in Oslo, Norway on Monday, August 15, 2005. The session, *Strong Associations Make Stronger Libraries*, proved quite successful, drawing an audience of 119 people. It began with Keith Fiels speaking on “Why Do We Need Associations?: The Value of Library Associations to Libraries and Librarians,” which laid the foundation for Sylvia Piggot and Janice Lachance to present “The Global Library Association Development (GLAD) Program and GLAD 'Twinning' Program: A New Tool for Global Library Development.” The final paper, “Empowering Library Associations in Asia – South-South cooperation,” by Susanne Ørnager discussed specific regional strategies for library association development.

The final part of the Open Session was small group discussions where the participants discussed what would help them to develop their library associations. An MLAS SC member led each small group and took notes of the discussion for further publication. The outcomes of the discussions were sent later to MLAS SC.

Relationships with other Bodies

Keith Fiels, MLAS Chair continued his co-opted position on the Governing Board.

The MLAS SC discussed *IFLA's Three Pillars* document at their February 2005 Mid-term meeting in Canberra and provided several recommendations. The MLAS supported the document, with some stipulations, including that IFLA needs to reallocate resources specifically for advocacy and information policy issues, establish a position at IFLA Headquarters with prime responsibility for the “society” pillar functions and look at modifying the organizational structure. The full text of these recommendations can be found in the 4th *MLAS SC Minutes*, dated February 3rd – February 5th 2005.

Throughout the year, many MLAS Standing Committee members, members of our MLAS section and people representing national library associations throughout the world have continued in support the work of the *World Summit for the Information Society*.

We continue to work with *Advancement of Librarianship Program (ALP)* to develop joint programs and identify funding resources.

In addition, the MLAS has had other relationships described throughout this report.

Author

Arlene Cohen, Former IFLA MLAS Secretary
October 14, 2007